

**TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH  
2022**

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on the 16 July 2014 (as amended by Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016).

**Structure, Governance and Management**  
Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2000 and registered as a charity on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2003. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute the amount not exceeding £1.00.

In addition, the Trustees have complied with the duty in section 4 of the 2006 Charities Act to have due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purpose of charity law and under company's Articles is known as the Trustees. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, co-opted Trustees hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

Karl Greaney was elected as Chair in 2012, Paul Townley, Phil Moy, Ron Abbey are all-eligible to offer themselves for re-election. Steve Field was appointed in May 2018. Sandra Christie and Phil Moy stepped down in March 2020 and chose not to be re-elected. Jackie Walters, Helen Collinson and Louise Carter joined the board in July and August.

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Leasowe has 4 superout put areas within its boundaries, these all have different rankings for levels of deprivation. The area rank in order LSOA-009A ranked 400<sup>th</sup> most deprived area in England, LSOA-006B is ranked 3,562 most deprived area in England, LSOA-006C ranked 2,152 most deprived area in England and LSOA-006A ranked 22,001 most deprived area in England. We have in the past 10 years seen a shift with levels of deprivation with levels of multi deprivation decreasing across the whole of Leasowe, however there is still some pockets that are very deprived. Current Board of Trustees: Cllr Karl Greaney (Chair), Paul Townley, Ron Abbey. (Company Secretary), Steve Field, (Vice Chair), Louise Carter, Cllr Helen Collinson and Jackie Walters

**Covid-19 Statement**

**Whilst the country was still under certain restrictions due to the COVID 19 pandemic, Wirral Development Trust was able to keep supporting local people in Leasowe, we were able to ensure people were seen face to face at office appointments and phone calls with DWP and PIP assessments. The employment service also was able to operate supporting people looking for work this was either done by appointments with the advisor or via social media. Leasowe Library remained closed due to the ventilation issues; however, we were able to redeploy the member of staff to another role. The continuing issues with the opening of the building due to ventilation issues, have hindered the trust in being able to run the community events we would normally have run. For example, we were unable to run the children's activities within the building. There was also a number of events we were unable to run at Leasowe Millennium Centre. However, by working in partnership with Leasowe Adventure Playground and Leasowe Community Centre, we were able to deliver the Holiday activity programme during the 3 children's holidays. We were also able to provide free school meals hampers for 250 household's during the Easter holidays in partnership with NEO and Wirral Council. Wirral Development Trust also held its annual family fun day, which took place at Leasowe Recreation centre field and the adventure playground, which was attended by over 300 people and had to operate with strict COVID guidelines. WDT has adapted to the current restrictions within the building by operating an appointment only system and ensuring that all rules are followed around COVID. As we have been unable to open leasowe Library and therefore**

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**undertake the health and wellbeing activities that is a requirement in our SLA, we have worked with Cre8ting Careers to put on a number of courses for the local community, these courses were focusing on mental health.**

**Charitable Status**

The trustees consider that the charity meets the public benefits test as it is for the betterment of the people living in Leasowe and its surrounding area, without limit to any interests.

**Objectives and Activities**

The company's objects and principal activities are;

Objective

Object 1

**Promotion and Provision of Education and Training Opportunities**

Activities:

- Within Leasowe Millennium Centre we provide informal and formal education and training facilities appropriate to the needs of people in the area. We continue to offer the well-established Education, Employment, Advice and Guidance centre supporting residents into Employment and training opportunities,
- Work closer with job centre plus and training providers to assist a client's journey to work
- Liaison with providers to ensure provision meets community needs, particularly organisations that can complement our offer and support our clients directly with practicalities such as clothing for work or travel expenses for adjustment period of moving from benefits to paid work.
- Developing the trusts provision of training to residents in areas not met with other providers.
- Work with organisations to maximise job seekers income in the transition from not unemployment to employment.

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- Promotion of education and training opportunities undertaken in Leasowe.
- Developed a Digital Offer for clients during the pandemic to provide a service for people looking training or education opportunities.
- Undertook training in partnership with Lifelong learning to develop further skills for staff such as Equality and Diversity and Safeguarding.
- Staff attended Mental Health First Aid course and are qualified mental health first aiders
- Staff all undertook Managing stress course and mental resilience.

Object 2

**Protecting and Preserving Good Health and Wellbeing**

Activities:

- With partners we provided 36 families with food support at Christmas in partnership with Prima Group and LYPCA, this was in the form of Christmas meal and gas and electricity vouchers to help with the cost of living.
- Undertook the hampers scheme in partnership with Neo to provide 130 hampers for children on free school meals for the Easter Holidays.
- Undertook welfare phone calls to isolated community members throughout the pandemic
- Supported Leasowe Community Centre with the household support fund, this fund was used to support the social supermarket
- Wirral Household support fund also provided money for a scheme to support people with gas and electricity. This fund helped support over 200 families across Leasowe
- Worked in partnership with, LYPCA to deliver activities and food for 150 children on free school meals during the summer holidays.
- Ran the annual family fun day which was attended by over 300 people

Object 3

**Addressing Unemployment**

Activities

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- Working with local business to promote the skills of Leasowe residents to discourage “postcode” discrimination.
- Working with residents to promote volunteering opportunities.
- Provision of a dedicated drop-in centre providing advice and guidance for the people of Leasowe, this service was moved online due to the pandemic, and we used Facebook and telephone to communicate with clients
- Advisors met clients outside for crisis support as the building was closed
- Dedicated Welfare Benefits worker to provide impartial advice, this service was continued through COVID however was moved online and via the telephone.
- Undertook benefit assessments, tribunals, and medicals online to assist clients
- Worked with Raise Debt advice company to provide impartial debt advice for local people, via telephone or online.

Object 4

**Encouraging enterprise, particularly Social Enterprise**

Activities

- Working with other development trusts across Merseyside and the Northwest through Locality, we have helped develop good practice in terms of successful management of community enterprises.
- Working with Locality we have helped identify potential funding to support community enterprises.
- Developing the capacity of the community to identify opportunities and to manage activities through facilitation of community groups, providing quality-volunteering opportunities.
- We continue to act as a signposting, referral, and mentoring organisation for potential new businesses.

Object 5

**Recreational and Environmental Facilities**

Activities

- Encouraging the involvement of local people in the protection and preservation of their local environment.

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- Facilitated the use of the litter picking equipment for community members
- Ran Leasowes Annual family fun day which was attended by over 300 people
- Took part in the nationwide in Bloom initiative, which gave us a level 2 award, this was the first time we had entered this.
- Plans to take part in the Bloom competition in future.

Object 6

**Community Development and Partnerships**

Activities

- Continue to contribute to local partnerships such as LYPCA.
- To facilitate a local strategic partnership which will seek to attract and allocate regeneration funding in line with local action plan.
- To develop the skills and capacity of the local community to enable them to sustain improvements made.
- To provide a bank of knowledge and expertise around regeneration which community groups can access easily.
- Wirral Development Trust continues to be an active member of the Locality regional committee and regularly feeds into strategic plan for the organisation.
- Worked closely with Prima group to develop strong local partnerships to promote cohesion and avoid duplication.
- Wirral Development Trust has continued to foster partnerships with other development trusts in Wirral.
- Assist in the application and compliance for smaller user groups receiving grant funding.
- Developed partnerships with Leasowe primary schools to promote positive strategic working relationship across the estate.
- Continued running the FED-UP Wallasey Network for social supermarkets and food provision.
- Undertook partnership work with Leasowe in Bloom.

**Work achieved during the year**

Library

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Due to the COVID-19, Leasowe library was closed to the public along with all other local authority libraries. The library service remains closed as of March 2022. However, Wirral Development Trust continued to support children and young people along with Leasowe Adventure playground, with receiving money from HAF, we supported Leasowe Adventure playground to run activities for 100 children. During the winter holidays we were also able to support Leasowe Adventure Playground with Hype to deliver activities to over 200 children.

Community Development

Wirral Development Trust continues to listen to its clients and the residents of Leasowe and is reactive to local community ideas and developments. WDT continues to work with local schools, churches, charities, and community groups to develop a cohesive working relationship and partnership strategy for funding applications. This has been even more important during the pandemic and Wirral Development Trust regularly engaged and contributed to the councils Humanitarian response to the pandemic. Developed our relationship with Wirral Council even further by providing food support for local people who were shielding, self-isolating or were financially affected by COVID-19. We have continued to develop initiatives to support our local community, this involves the local household support fund administered by Wirral Council, this fund has enabled WDT to support the local social supermarket, this enabled us to get low cost, quality food to our area. We have developed an energy service, were people in need and crisis could receive vouchers from ourselves for the value to £30 per family, this scheme supported 200 families within the Leasowe area.

Training

Due to most of the training organisations closing or moving training online, this year, we did not support as many people into training as in previous years, however through the employment advisor several local people have undertaken their CSCS training for the operative's card. Staff and volunteers undertook equality and diversity training, safeguarding training and food hygiene training to ensure we are fully compliant with regulations.

Health

Wirral Development Trust supported people's health throughout the pandemic by focusing on food and people's immediate welfare. We kept in touch with our local community through social media, phone calls to support isolated or vulnerable people. Access to low-cost food and energy is extremely important to people, we focused on

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supporting people with food and energy vouchers. We were able to run some events throughout the year albeit smaller and with restrictions on activities. The family fun day was attended by over 300 people, and this was our first event of the year, we proceeded to then run the Christmas event this was attended by over 100 families, where we provided food, party and a visit from a reindeer and Father Christmas. This event was done in conjunction with Leasowe Adventure Playground and LYPCA.

Youth

This has again been challenging due to COVID restrictions within LMC, however working in partnership with LYPCA, we were able to facilitate children's activities and parties. We have been applied for to the Henry Smith Foundation for funding for a designated Youth Liaison Worker to work with young people in Leasowe to develop a sustainable and meaningful youth offer.

Transport

Wirral Development Trust continues to work with partners to develop sustainable transport for the local community. We have supported many disabled people to apply for their renewal of their blue badge.

Environment

Whilst we were unable to undertake litter picks and community events, however we worked with residents to plan an environmental project with young people around recycling and the impact of waste on our oceans.

Risk Management

Like most small charities the continuing risk to the Trust is lack of funds. Every effort is made to ensure that the Trust has secure funds and reserves for the coming year, however the Trust accepts that if it is to survive and grow well into the future and continue its work, it needs to be self-sustainable. With the larger public-sector grants being delivered regionally by private sector organisation, the Trust is unable to attract big contracts. The Trust continues to have an excellent working relationship with Prima Group who are still our main funders. We continued to work well with Wirral Borough Council delivering services to our local community on their behalf. With funding from the Henry Smith Foundation, we have received we will be employing an Enterprise and Business Development Worker, the role we be to work with the local community and develop business ideas and strategies for the trust and local community.



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Achievement and Performance

- People moved into Employment-60-100% of our target
- Benefit gains of £400,779.10
- 200 families supported with gas and electricity support
- 150 hours of volunteering given by local people
- Supported 200 families with food and household items.

Financial Review

Regardless of the various setbacks both financially and operationally, Wirral Development Trust continues to strive to be self-sustainable, increasing its own provision of services that will provide more employment opportunities and generable income, thus reducing the need for grants and funding initiatives that are becoming less reliable and competitive.

It is unlikely that we will ever be in the position to be fully independent of funding due to the nature of services we provide, especially in an area of low income and high incidence of debt/loan culture, which makes it difficult for people to be able to afford the true value of service provided.

COVID 19 has greatly hampered WDT's ability to develop a sustainable income stream, plans to develop a community shop as an income stream for WDT are still in the planning stages. The trust plans to recruit an Enterprise and business development worker, this role will work with WDT and the local community to develop sustainable business models.

**The accounts have been prepared on an on-going basis**

Investment policy

Apart from the prudent level of reserves maintained by the charity, there are few surplus funds available for long-term investment. However due to certain funding cycles where grants were received some months in advance of expenditure, funds can be invested short term in high interest deposit accounts.

Reserves Policy

The management Committee has examined the charities requirement for reserves considering the main risk to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted

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funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be six months of its expenditure.

Plans for Future Periods

Wirral Development Trust plans on continuing its activities but is looking to contract with local social housing projects, serving their needs whilst maintaining its own objectives. Such work will provide a more stable form of funding and allow the trust to focus on the issues that matter rather than those driven from a top-down process by Central Government. Wirral Development Trust will be concentrating on expanding its reach and services into other communities in Wirral. Wirral Development Trust continues to develop relationships with funders and partners, locally regionally and nationally to strengthen our ability to grow and sustain itself. Wirral Development Trust still aspires to develop an income stream that could pay for some activities ran by the Trust.

Other

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

Name change

Leasowe Development Trust Limited changed its name to Wirral Development Trust Limited at Companies House and The Charity Commission on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The reason for this was because the area of activities had widened to cover the Wirral and not just the Leasowe area.

Responsibilities of the Trustees/Management Committee

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Wirral Development Trust Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102)
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The trustees (who are also the directors) who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

**Auditors**

Hailwood and Co offer themselves as auditors of the Charity, although under current Charity Law they no longer need to report on the accounts in this capacity.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) 2015 (FRS102); and in accordance with company regime of the Companies Act 2006.

..... Mr K Greaney (Chairman)

..... Miss Jennifer Jones (CEO)

Date .....