

**REGISTERED NUMBER: 14537800 (England and Wales)**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024  
FOR  
ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**

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FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

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**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**

**COMPANY INFORMATION  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

**DIRECTORS:** Mrs A M Tomlinson Chair  
Mr R S Medcalf Vice Chair  
Mrs S Chamberlain  
Mrs S Gulzar  
Mr J D Page  
Mr J L Price  
Mr G R Shears  
Mrs F Ahmed  
Mrs S Wilkinson

**SECRETARY:** Mr I N Carey

**REGISTERED OFFICE:** 1st Floor Neville House  
Steelpark Road  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B62 8HD

**REGISTERED NUMBER:** 14537800 (England and Wales)

**AUDITORS:** Folkes Worton LLP  
15 & 17 Church Street  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1LU

## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the period 13 December 2022 to 31 March 2024.

#### INCORPORATION

The company was incorporated on 13 December 2022 and commenced trading on 1 April 2023.

#### PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the charity\* in the period under review was to work with a range of local partners to inspire and enable people to lead an active lifestyle.

#### REVIEW OF BUSINESS

##### INTRODUCTION

Active Black Country Limited, is an aspiring charity\*, passionate and committed to helping local people become physically active so they can enjoy the benefits that an active lifestyle provides.

Active Black Country Limited (ABC Ltd) are seeking to operate as a charity, subject to successful registration with the Charity Commission, and aims to demonstrate that the company's activities are carried out for public benefit in pursuit of the charitable objects set out in the company's Articles of Association. In setting and reviewing ABC Ltd's strategic planning objectives, the Trustees have due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

We work across the Local Authority areas of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton and form part of the national network of 43 Active Partnerships, funded by Sport England.

Working to a shared vision of '**A future Black Country where all ages, abilities and backgrounds are able to be active, move and play sport**' we exist to create and maximise opportunities for local people to find it easier to be physically active, move more and play sport.

The Active Black Country strategy - 'Creating an Active Black Country' - aims to unite all people and partners who have a role to play in tackling the inequalities that prevent Black Country people from being active, moving more and playing sport.

We work with a range of partners to realise our vision, including - community & charitable organisations, schools, colleges & universities, local and regional government, national governing bodies of sport, community sport clubs, leisure providers, coaches & volunteers.

#### MISSION

Use the power of physical activity & sport to influence opportunities for everyone in the Black Country to lead an active, healthy lifestyle.

#### VALUES

**Freedom with Responsibility:** we recognise the potential, value and contribution all our people make. Our people are encouraged to be themselves and be a responsibility-taker making decisions everyday to achieve their goals.

**Community focused approach:** we aim to understand the unique and diverse make-up of our local communities and place their needs at the forefront of our strategy. Delivering a targeted approach, we will reach groups whom are most likely to be inactive and under-represented in sport and physical activity.

**Simplicity:** we aim to work with clarity; being straightforward, honest and transparent in our behaviours, actions and outcomes.

**Passion:** we recruit, support, motivate and develop people who all share a belief in the power of sport, movement and physical activity as a tool.

**Striving for high performance:** we have ambition to develop ourselves, our organisation, our partners and the Black Country.

#### GOVERNANCE

The Active Black Country (ABC) Partnership Board (formerly known as the Black Country BeActive Board) was established in September 2016 and operated as an unincorporated partnership under a Host Agency Agreement with the Black Country Consortium Ltd (BCC Ltd), a company limited by guarantee whose purpose was to champion the urban renaissance aspirations of the Black Country region.

## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

Following a strategic governance review by the Active Black Country Partnership Board, Active Black Country Limited (ABC Ltd) was registered with Companies House on 13th December 2022 as a company limited by guarantee under company number: 14537800.

The staff, assets, and financial resources of the ABC Partnership have been transferred to ABC Ltd as from 1st May 2023, and the Company plans to apply for registration as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

In providing a clear vision, the ABC Ltd Board of Directors enables delivery of the Black Country ABC Strategic Plan - 'Creating an Active Black Country'.

The Board has overall responsibility for establishing the governance structure, internal controls and for ensuring it is effective and focused on the key risks threatening our ability to meet our desired strategic objectives.

There are currently 8 Board Members serving on the ABC Ltd Board, of which 2 are the initial Directors of ABC Ltd.

Up to 12 directors are permitted under Company Articles 24.1. All individuals appointed onto the ABC Ltd Board of Directors are simultaneously:

- i) the Directors of the Company under company law and registration with Companies House;
- ii) the Trustees under charitable law and regulation by the Charity Commission\* for England & Wales.

As set out in Article 27.1 of the Articles of Association of ABC Ltd (ABC Ltd, or the Company, or the Charity\*), the Board of Directors:

- iii) is to manage the business of the Charity\*; and
- iv) may exercise all the powers of the Charity\*, unless the Directors are subject to any restrictions imposed by the Companies Acts, the Articles, or any Special Resolution passed by the Members of the Company.

In carrying out their remit, the ABC Ltd Directors, in their capacities as the Trustees of the Charity\*, will take account of their legal duties and of guidance from the Charity Commission\* for England and Wales, as the regulatory body for registered charities.

In carrying out their remit, the ABC Directors, in their capacities as the legal Directors of the Company, will take account of their general legal duties under the 2006 Companies Act.

The ABC Ltd Board have developed the overall strategy for our organisation and upon commencing trading in May 2023 established committee structures. Currently there are 3 committees with delegated authority:

1. Nominations & Governance Committee - to oversee the effectiveness and evaluation processes for the ABC Ltd Board and Board Committees, ensuring ABC Ltd recruitment, selection, training, and development and evaluation processes are conducted in line with the Tier 3 Requirements of the UK Code for Sports Governance.
2. Audit, Risk & Compliance Committee - to support the Board to oversee the activities of the charity\* at a strategic level with regard to financial and non-financial controls, internal and external audit, regulatory compliance, and risk management matters.
3. Strategic Investment Committee - to support the Board through robust assurance regarding the programme investment for which ABC Ltd is the accountable body. Ensuring this investment delivers maximum value, meeting the criteria determined by the committee and the desired strategic objectives and evaluation & learning outcomes for ABC Ltd & local partners.

\* At the time of signing the accounts, ABC Limited is seeking charitable status and references to "charity" and "trustees" are all subject to successful registration with the Charity Commission.

To ensure we have a clear approach that mitigates risk and ensure separation of duties and regulatory compliance there are a number of key documents:

- Terms of reference
- Matters Reserved/Scheme of Delegations
- Risk Management Framework
- Finance procedures, procurement policy & contract management process
- Internal audit schedule
- Safeguarding policy & procedures
- Assets register
- Health & Safety policy

## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

#### Internal Controls & Risk Monitoring

Annual budget approval, monthly management accounts monitoring by the Executive team and consideration of the financial position by the ABC Ltd Board at every meeting, support efficient business planning and risk management.

The Board have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the organisation is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The Board has a comprehensive Risk-Register which is reviewed on a quarterly basis at each board meeting, and risks are 'owned' by each relevant sub-committee; the register considers all aspects of risk as identified through the leadership team, and refines them regularly in light of local, regional and national context and strategic impact.

A dashboard is under development and maturing in its functionality to support monitoring of strategy and business performance.

#### Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Active Black Country's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy, launched in November 2023, includes our vision to create **'A future Black Country where all ages, abilities and backgrounds are able to be active, move and play sport.'**

We understand given our role as a partnership organisation, working to remove inequalities and address equity of access for people, that we have a responsibility to develop understanding, advocate for any injustice and to role-model organisational approaches to equality, diversity and inclusion.

In this work, we have three broad spheres of influence.

- Firstly, as a local employer. It is essential for the success of our mission to ensure we are reflective of the communities we serve & we embed the voice of local communities within our decision making. We need to recruit, develop and equip our people to support effective and meaningful engagement with communities & partners we work with.

- Secondly, through our role as a partnership-based organisation. We work with a diverse range of partners and need to fully maximise the reach of our established networks to advocate & influence other organisational cultures & practices.

- Thirdly, as a commissioner through the work that we lead on. This includes - promoting campaigns, providing grants, undertaking research & developing insight, hosting events to bring partners together and advocate.

In March 2024 we submitted our Diversity & Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which sets out the key actions to implement our strategy. The DIAP has been assessed as good by Sport England as part of the UK Code for Sports Governance compliance.

#### **Governance Review**

We complete an annual review of the ABC Board member skills, with this most recently being completed in March 2024.

Active Black Country Board members have a responsibility to learn about their role and to keep their knowledge and skills up-to-date. The Executive support them in this by providing them with an induction programme, training and development on an ongoing basis and an annual appraisal to discuss their performance and future needs.

The Board undertakes annual appraisals of its members and reviews the effectiveness of the skills and experience therein. The Chair meets with board members yearly to complete the appraisal. A combination of the information gained through the skills audit and appraisal process is informing the ABC Board development as we move into 2024/25, including future recruitment needs.

#### **2023/24 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

We continue to align our strategic work and our priorities closely with the Sport England strategy 'Uniting the Movement', which has been refreshed to have a more specific focus on places and communities who have the greatest need. As a recognised 'System Partner' of Sport England, Active Black Country have investment to lead and broker collaborative work across the Black Country, to lever investment and capacity-build the expansive and diverse delivery network of providers of sport and physical activity.

The 'Creating an Active Black Country' strategy provides a direction for all partners to coordinate their efforts and features 6 objectives:

1. Increase activity levels across the least active to support good mental and physical health and reduce inequalities in activity levels.
2. Provide Young People and families with the best start in life through a range of varied and diverse opportunities to be active, move more and play.

## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

3. Increase the range of opportunities to be active across Black Country communities. Ensuring they are inclusive, attainable and support stronger, better connected, resilient communities.
4. Champion and advocate the role being active can play in contributing to wider outcomes across the health system and tackling health inequalities.
5. Increase the diverse range of physical assets, networks, facilities and places that can get people active and take part in sport supporting wider health outcomes.
6. Lead the development of a 'People Plan' for the Black Country to inspire, motivate and guide others to be active and support the development of sport.

We seek to implement the six objectives through understanding the diverse needs and priorities of local people, places and partners, harnessing the power of working together to realise everyone's right to be active and reduce health inequalities, whilst raising the profile of Black Country assets.

Combining strong leadership with learning & insight reports, we support collaboration where it adds most value, to attract investment, influence strategy and facility development, and to spur the coordination and implementation of programmes and campaigns tailored to meet local strategic priorities.

We will be driven in our work with others by the below principles;

1. **Inclusive and Accessible:** We must create conditions and opportunities for all to feel comfortable and confident they can be active everyday their way.
2. **People & Communities First:** We believe that high quality people development is key to getting others active.
3. **System wide collaboration to create an active Black Country:** Improve the influence and connectivity of the local system, across health, education, planning and transport.
4. **Engage & Connect;** Work with partners to develop and deliver high quality messages to inspire others to be active.
5. **Priority Places:** Encourage everyone but focus on the places and spaces where the greatest inequalities exist.
6. **Learning & Insight Led:** Make learning deliberate, gather and share learnings about the things that are working, not working and why, enabling partners to embed and scale good practice.

Operationally we:

1. Undertake research with a range of local people and community partners to identify key target audiences who are the least active through gathering, facilitating understanding of priority audience needs, barriers and motivations to being physically active.
2. Develop and provide a range of high-quality health and wellbeing & physical activity intelligence reports, learning, impact and evaluation and insight services to the public and partners.
3. Provide grant investment across the Black Country on behalf of Sport England to facilitate participation in, physical activity, sport, and recreation.
4. Provide advice and guidance to the development of capital projects that can support people being active, including build of leisure centres, use of parks and open spaces, and transport infrastructure.
5. Run and coordinate volunteer programmes.
6. Provide a programme of training and professional development this includes first aid, safeguarding and other professional development courses that are identified through local needs analysis.
7. Coordinate a menu of support for local community sports clubs that seeks to strengthens and builds their capacity and infrastructure to provide sporting, recreational, and physical activity opportunities for the public.
8. Develop, support and run public campaigns to inspire people to be active and improve the physical and mental wellbeing, and individual development of our communities, raising awareness of, and promoting, opportunities for participation in physical activity, sport, and recreation.
9. Promote services for sport, play, physical activity, informal education.

#### IMPACT & PROGRESS IN 2023/24

##### **Increase activity levels across the least active to support good mental and physical health and reduce inequalities in activity levels.**

We secured over £450,000 of funding to employ a network of community connectors, hosted by partners from across the breadth of the Black Country physical activity system, to engage with local communities in the areas of greatest need. The connectors have been developing an understanding of the hyper-local need from communities and developing bespoke opportunities for activation.

The connectors work cross-thematically, engaging partners in education, community groups, planning, voluntary sector and health and social care to better connect the local system. Key highlights from this year include:

- A sustainable, community led 'Walk from a health centre' initiative from Bilston Urban Village.
- A social prescribing referral programme that provided pathways from health to physical activity and built community capacity for mental health support.

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### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

- A programme of led cycle rides in Reedswood park, Walsall.
- Pilot programme of group walks in Fens Pool Nature Reserve, Dudley.

**Provide young people and families with the best start in life through a range of varied and diverse opportunities to be active, move more and play.**

#### Pop Up Pool Programme

Thanks to sponsorship from 'Speedo' local partners took a number of pop-up swimming pools to local schools in the areas of greatest need. The impact was significant with 742 Black Country pupils taking part, accessing intensive Learn to Swim courses that increased the average length of swimming ability by over 15m in 3 weeks.

Results showed that three weeks of 'top up' learn to swim lessons resulted in 57.5% of pupils being able to swim at least 25 metres. An additional 296 pupils (90% of children) could self-safe rescue.

#### School Games

The Black Country School Games Festival hosted over 1500 children from 119 schools taking part in 89 events, over 30% of children had additional learning and physical needs and the festival helped to attract those less likely to be active.

Increase the range of opportunities to be active across Black Country communities, ensuring they are inclusive, attainable and support stronger, better connected, resilient communities

#### Together Fund

May 2023 saw the conclusion of the Together Fund, that provided grant funding to local community organisations to create opportunities for people to be active.

In the Black Country, £253,237.20 of funding was distributed to a plethora of community organisations that impacted on underrepresented groups including

- Culturally diverse communities
- Lower socio-economic groups
- People with long-term health conditions
- Younger people
- Older People

#### Get Out Active

Active Black Country has managed the initiative in Wolverhampton, tasked with exploring the potential of faith centres and faith leaders to reach the most inactive residents in the city.

#### Yoga in Gurdwaras

Wolverhampton has one of the largest Indian populations in the country. Through engaging with the Sikh community in the city, we were able to identify a need for a low intensity group-based activity for women. A yoga programme took place at six Gurdwaras, engaging over 300 Asian women in physical activity opportunities in environments where they felt safe and comfortable.

#### Faith Leaders as Social Prescribers

Inspired by a social prescribing pilot undertaken with Primary Care Networks in the Black Country, a course was developed to upskill faith leaders with the requisite knowledge to cascade positive messages about physical activity to the local community during their weekly services (which many had started delivering online). Through this model more than 200 residents began moving through utilising the position of faith leaders as trusted sources of information.

#### Inter-Faith Week Challenge

GOGA in Wolverhampton was brought to an end during Inter Faith Week in November 2023. We worked with 12 faith centers across the city who put on a festival of activity, including led cycle rides in Pendeford and East Park, gentle activity sessions in Wednesfield, pilates in Blakenhall and group walks in Bilston. In total, the challenge activated more than 250 local residents.

**Champion and advocate the role being active can play in contributing to wider outcomes across the health system.**

#### Supporting Asylum Seekers



## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

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Active Black Country works alongside the local Integrated Care System to enable pathways to activity, connecting the social prescribing system and supporting health and allied health professionals to embed physical activity within their practice. This has led to a number of initiatives over the last 12 months that demonstrated impact against both ABC priorities and those of the Black Country health system.

In spring 2023, a cohort of asylum seekers from Afghanistan were housed locally, a project was developed with a view to supporting the new cohort to feel welcome in their new community, a partnership was developed to explore the potential of engaging the young men in positive opportunities.

Sessions started in June 2023 with football and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) courses. Over 50 people attended.

#### Social Prescribing

Active Black Country has worked closely with the social prescribing system in the Black Country to support the workforce with their understanding of the local activity-related opportunities that they can signpost clients towards. This has seen over £65,000 of investment for over 25 projects providing opportunities for people to be signposted too.

A referral programme was developed in Sandwell in response to engagement with social prescribers in the borough and with a view to aligning with the Integrated Care Partnership's strategic priorities of Mental Health and Supporting the Workforce.

Insight from social prescribers highlighted that although many of their service users have multiple challenges, almost all are dealing with low-level mental ill-health. Our programme partnered with Mind to:

- Concentrate on bringing more localised provision to the doorsteps of residents and tackling the barriers which prevent them living healthy, active lives.
- Develop partnerships with Health Centres, GP Practices and other Primary Care Providers, Social Prescribing Link Workers (SPLW) and Well-being Coaches.
- Provide tailored activity provision and services with local physical activity providers, upskilling individual coaches and teams in delivering accessible sessions suited to service users with low-level mental ill-health.

Two referral routes were funded:

- Box Clever Mentoring - Box Clever delivered 12 weekly 60-minute fitness sessions at Langley Lodge, with non-contact boxing used as a recurrent theme and an end goal of a Wolf Run to motivate the group. Referrals were provided with a safe, secure, welcoming and non-judgmental environment to improve not only their physical health, but their social, emotional and mental health too. In total, 14 residents from Sandwell took part in the sessions ranging from 20 to 63-year-olds.
- Sandwell and Birmingham Age UK - Age UK delivered weekly wellbeing walks from West Smethwick Park, providing activity opportunities to inactive older Asian women. Their initiative sought to bring awareness of the importance of talking to others about mental health. The walk is now being delivered sustainably by volunteers, however it identified a pressing need around provision for older women.

Increase the diverse range of physical assets, networks, facilities and places that can get people active and take part in sport supporting wider health outcomes

In the last year, **£295,589** of investment has been granted to 24 schools across the Black Country as part of our Opening School Facilities programme.

Key strategic pieces of work have also been developed including a new Canal Strategy and a pan-Black Country built facilities assessment.

#### Canal Strategy

The Black Country is rich in both its natural and built heritage and environmental assets - including its extensive canal network, ancient geology, rich wildlife and open spaces - but too many of these assets are 'hidden', inaccessible or not celebrated by both residents and visitors alike. Our aim is to bring the canal network to the forefront of residents and visitors' minds through enhancing and adding to the natural infrastructure in the Black Country, increasing accessibility and improving active travel offers.

Working with the local authorities of Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton and the Canal & River Trust, we have created our 2024-2029 Canals Strategy, including a delivery plan, reflecting a shared agreement that the value of the canal network is greater than the sum of its parts.

#### Built Facilities

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### REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

A pan-Black Country facilities planning assessment has been undertaken to:

- Support Active Black Country and individual Black Country local authorities in their strategic planning for swimming pools and sports halls provision.
  - Inform sport-specific strategies by National Governing Bodies of sport or other organisations.
  - Provide assessments to inform investment for swimming pools and sports hall provision.
  - Inform the health and wellbeing strategies of local authorities and the role swimming pools and sports halls can play.
- The results of the assessments will assist the Black Country authorities in determining the future provision for swimming pools and sports halls.

#### **Lead the development of a people plan for the Black Country to inspire, motivate and guide others to be active and support the development of sport**

Gen22 has provided opportunities for 16 to 24-year-olds from the West Midlands to gain employability opportunities off the back of the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. Aimed at people who might otherwise have struggled to access the many games-related opportunities available on account of their circumstances, this initiative supported individuals to undertake 30-hour volunteering assignments connected to:

- Physical activity and wellbeing
- Creative
- Digital

Active Black Country led on the coordination of this programme across the region, bringing together colleagues from other Active Partnerships who were in the best position to reach young people who would be suitable for the scheme.

Participants had to satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

- From an ethnically diverse community
- LGBTQ+
- Has a disability or long-term condition
- From a socio-economically disadvantaged community
- Young person in care themselves or providing care to another child or adult
- Those at risk of being involved in crime / violence
- Any other such circumstance that would reasonably be considered to support the Generation 2022 project objective to support young people facing barriers to employment.

ABC Ltd led the six West Midlands Active Partnerships to coordinate the recruitment of 458 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Of this number, 56% were from the 16-18 age bracket, 27% considered themselves to have a disability or long-term health condition and 37% were from ethnically diverse communities.

#### CASE STUDY: Walsall Wizards

Walsall Wizards are a community basketball club who deliver basketball programmes for all age groups based in Walsall in the Black Country and were identified as a potential nominating and hosting organisation for the programme following an expression of interest.

The club had expressed the need to build its delivery capacity to enable them to offer more participants the chance to play basketball in the area but also as a result of demand from local primary schools who had requested coaching support. Whilst working with Walsall Wizards, it became apparent that their colleagues at Wolves Slam Basketball Club were also interested in being involved to a similar end.

15 Gen 22 Participants enrolled in training with England Basketball to become Level 2 qualified Basketball Coaches and Level 1 Umpires fully funded through Gen22. 12 participants from Wizards and 3 from Slam Basketball Clubs respectively. Once qualified, experienced coaches mentored the participants to deliver peer to peer coaching and session support in the club setting and at events to complete 30 hours of volunteering with aim of building confidence and hands-on experience. Once sufficiently qualified and experienced, Wizards and Slam are aiming to employ the stronger Gen 22 participants on a part time basis to fulfil the demand from local Primary Schools to deliver curriculum support basketball and extra curriculum basketball coaching sessions to develop satellite programmes to the main club function. Each Gen22 Coach will be given a set of basketball equipment to enable them to deliver standalone sessions funded through the Gen22 programme.

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

**DIRECTORS**

The directors who have held office during the period from 13 December 2022 to the date of this report are as follows:

- Mrs A M Tomlinson Chair - appointed 13 December 2022
- Mr R S Medcalf Vice Chair - appointed 13 December 2022
- Mrs S Chamberlain - appointed 3 January 2024
- Mrs S Gulzar - appointed 10 June 2023
- Mrs C A Bate - appointed 13 December 2022 - resigned 15 September 2023
- Mr J D Page - appointed 2 January 2024
- Mr J L Price - appointed 10 June 2023
- Mr G R Shears - appointed 10 June 2023
- Mrs F Ahmed - appointed 10 June 2023
- Mrs S Wilkinson - appointed 10 June 2023

All the directors who are eligible offer themselves for election at the forthcoming first Annual General Meeting.

**GOVERNING DOCUMENT**

The company is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association.

**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS**

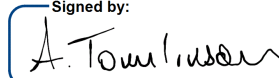
So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

**AUDITORS**

The auditors, Folkes Worton LLP, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:**

Signed by:  
  
.....5B65955A93C140A.....  
Mrs A M Tomlinson Chair - Director

Date: 12th September 2024  
.....

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Active Black Country Limited (the 'company') for the period ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its surplus for the period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Report of the Directors, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Directors for the financial period for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Directors has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Directors.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Directors.

## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

### Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page nine, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

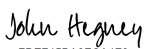
- Enquiry of management, those charged with governance around actual and potential litigations and claims;
- Enquiry of entity staff to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;  
Reviewing financial statements disclosures and testing to supporting documentations to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Signed by:



7DE745BA8FC44F8...

John Hegney FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
for and on behalf of Folkes Worton LLP  
15 & 17 Church Street  
Stourbridge  
West Midlands  
DY8 1LU

Date: 12th September 2024

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**  
**INCOME STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	£
<b>TURNOVER</b>		1,088,898
Cost of sales		555,492
		<hr/>
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>		533,406
Administrative expenses		523,420
		<hr/>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	4	9,986
Interest receivable and similar income		868
		<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION</b>		10,854
Tax on surplus		1,042
		<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL PERIOD</b>		<u>9,812</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

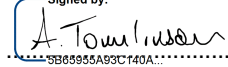
**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED (REGISTERED NUMBER: 14537800)**

**BALANCE SHEET  
31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	6		6,071
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	7	88,073	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,438,860	
		<u>1,526,933</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	8	1,461,785	
		<u>1,461,785</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>65,148</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			71,219
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	9		61,407
			<u>61,407</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u><u>9,812</u></u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Income and expenditure account			<u>9,812</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			<u><u>9,812</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 12th September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:  
  
 Mrs A M Tomlinson Chair - Director

The notes form part of these financial statements

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024****1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Active Black Country Limited is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Turnover**

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Grant income and funding are recognised in the income and expenditure account on a systematic basis over the periods in which the entity recognises the related costs for which the grant is intended to compensate.

The deferred element of grants and funded income is included in other creditors as deferred income.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Fixtures and fittings - 25% on reducing balance

**Taxation**

Taxation for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

**Deferred tax**

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

**Hire purchase and leasing commitments**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to surplus or deficit on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

**3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the period was 8.

**4. OPERATING SURPLUS**

The operating surplus is stated after charging:

Depreciation - owned assets

£  
1,796



## ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024

5.	<b>AUDITORS' REMUNERATION</b>	£
	Fees payable to the company's auditors for the audit of the company's financial statements	9,000
		<u>9,000</u>
6.	<b>TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS</b>	Fixtures and fittings
		£
	<b>COST</b>	
	Additions	7,867
	At 31 March 2024	<u>7,867</u>
	<b>DEPRECIATION</b>	
	Charge for period	1,796
	At 31 March 2024	<u>1,796</u>
	<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
	At 31 March 2024	<u>6,071</u>
7.	<b>DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	£
	Trade debtors	67,600
	Other debtors	20,473
		<u>88,073</u>
8.	<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	£
	Trade creditors	34,730
	Tax	1,042
	Social security and other taxes	11,416
	Other creditors	125,458
	Accruals and deferred income	1,289,139
		<u>1,461,785</u>
9.	<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR</b>	£
	Accruals and deferred income	61,407
		<u>61,407</u>
10.	<b>LEASING AGREEMENTS</b>	
	Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:	
		£
	Within one year	26,950
	Between one and five years	262,763
		<u>289,713</u>
11.	<b>COMMITMENTS</b>	
	The company is committed to spending in accordance with the conditions set by each of the funders and grant providers.	
	Whereby, each source of income will individually be governed by project agreements, which will stipulate terms regarding allowable expenditure, which must be complied with.	

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

**12. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY**

In the opinion of the directors, there is no ultimate controlling party other than the board of directors themselves.

**13. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

The company is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability would be restricted to £1.

**ACTIVE BLACK COUNTRY LIMITED****DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE PERIOD 13 DECEMBER 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

	£	£
<b>Turnover</b>		
Sales	17,200	
Grant income	578,074	
Restricted income funding	493,624	
	<hr/>	1,088,898
<b>Cost of sales</b>		
Sports facilities and event costs	28,850	
Direct project costs	467,513	
Grant payments to partners	59,129	
	<hr/>	555,492
		<hr/>
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>		533,406
<b>Other income</b>		
Deposit account interest		868
		<hr/>
		534,274
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Rent	20,213	
Car parking and service charge	4,669	
Rates and water	95	
Insurance	7,000	
Light and heat	1,356	
Wages	354,222	
Social security	33,535	
Pensions	38,896	
Recruitment costs	5,700	
Telephone	1,881	
Post and stationery	890	
Promotion and marketing	4,971	
Travelling	3,581	
IT costs and consumables	12,427	
Repairs and renewals	459	
Sundry expenses	1,294	
Accountancy	5,945	
Payroll	712	
Subscriptions	2,492	
Professional charges	12,286	
Auditors' remuneration	9,000	
	<hr/>	521,624
		<hr/>
		12,650
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Fixtures and fittings		1,796
		<hr/>
<b>NET SURPLUS</b>		10,854
		<hr/> <hr/>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements