



Dundee Civic Trust
'Encouraging the Best'



Trustees' Annual Report

2020-2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report, together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's Report, for the year ending 31 January 2021.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

Charity number:

SC001399

Address (Treasurer):

Brian Smith, 9 South Tay Street, Dundee, DD1 1NU

Current trustees:

Donald Gordon	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Hugh Macrae	(Secretary)
Nick Day	
Barbara Illsley	
Roderick Stewart	
Bill Lynch	
Ken Peebles	
Stephen Brand	
Libby Simpson	

Our structure, governance and management

Dundee Civic Trust was founded on 6 February 1973. As in other towns and cities, the creation of a civic society was a citizens' response to the rapid (and not always favourable) changes then taking place in the urban environment.

Having previously assumed charitable status, the Trust was converted to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in January 2014.

Our governing document as a SCIO, the constitution, was formally approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of 20 March 2014.

The Board of Trustees forms the executive committee, which meets ten times per year. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance and management of the Trust. We have no paid staff and all work to further the Trust's aims is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Service on the Board is open to any member of the Trust who is legally permitted to act as a charity trustee. The Board must contain a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven trustees, who are normally elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. The Board may, however, appoint a member to serve as a trustee at any time should a vacancy exist.

Our aims

The charitable purposes of Dundee Civic Trust are:

- **to preserve and promote the natural, historic, artistic, cultural and social amenities and features of the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to interest, educate and inspire civic pride in the local community; and, in furtherance of this:**
- **to encourage the maintenance of high standards of architecture and town planning in the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to ensure the protection or improvement of the local environment.**

Our activities and achievements in 2020-2021

In common with every organisation in this very difficult year, many of the activities of Dundee Civic Trust have had to be curtailed or abandoned entirely. To some extent, however, we have been able to continue our important work to examine proposed changes to the built environment of the City, and to publicise, comment upon, criticise, praise and influence the actions of others, whether they be owners, developers or the local authority or national government.

Some of the Trust's activities have been able to continue:

City Scene

The delayed issue was published in March 2020, and the decision was taken by the Board to send a copy to local politicians, as well as to leaders in the business and educational sectors. All members of the Trust receive a copy, and it is also available for purchase. This seems to have been a successful exercise and will be repeated. Thanks are due to the dedicated team for producing another issue of good quality and interest. Also, the Board wishes to thank two retired members, Glenys Marra and former chairman Jack Searle, for their valuable contributions to City Scene, Newsflash, and to the work of the Trust over many years.

Events Programme

This was a casualty of the pandemic, but we held a virtual joint afternoon session with Dundee Heritage Trust, when Matthew Jarron from the University of Dundee gave a fascinating talk on "Public Art in Dundee". A number of members from both organisations attended.

Student Awards

The Trust exists, among other aims, to encourage the best standards of design in architecture and town planning. In June 2020, two fourth year students from Dundee University won the inaugural competition sponsored by the Trust, in association with the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning. We are keen to support and encourage young, talented students who are about to

embark on their careers. The judging panel was very impressed by the two winners, whose well argued, interesting and logical solutions were proposed for urban problems in Dundee and old Shanghai.

Newsflash

The email production has continued without difficulty, and in the year to 31 January 2021 six issues were published, which have included many items of topical interest. Latterly, these were sent to the same local leaders as City Scene. Again, thanks to the production team.

Website

The Trust's website has been fully updated and relaunched, to the approval of those who have commented on it. The website, at www.dundeecivictrust.co.uk, and the Facebook page, are well worth looking at for information about the Trust and our activities.

Planning Group

This important activity has continued, largely unabated. The Planning Group checks, monitors, publicises and comments upon individual planning applications within the city boundaries. The Group includes members of the Trust who are not on the Board, which widens the areas of expertise and interest. We have also been involved in a number of discussions with individual developers who have invited the consultation as part of their Pre-Application Notification Procedures for larger developments. The meetings have been held, very conveniently, virtually by Zoom. The contributors from the Trust have been able to give positive criticism and advice about aspects of the proposals, and notes from these consultations are shared with officials in the Planning Department. This part of the Trust's function is likely to develop further.

Vision for 2040

As part of our work, an important paper was published in January 2020 on the Trust's Vision as we come out of the pandemic and beyond, and issued to members. It was discussed at that time at a virtual meeting with the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council at Dundee City Council, in conjunction with their own paper on the way forward for the city centre. The Trust's Vision is available to read in the News Section of the Trust's website, and we hope that it will be regarded as a document that will influence thinking, and be a catalyst for future ideas and actions.

20 Minute Neighbourhoods

Central to our **Vision for 2040** in the city is the concept of the 20-minute neighbourhood, where essential services, work, school and play are accessible by foot, bicycle and public transport in no more than a 20-minute return journey from residents' homes. This concept has been explored in our Vision document, and is being further developed through studies of the city centre, Strathmartine and Douglas & Angus. These papers have been recently sent to the City Council for discussion.

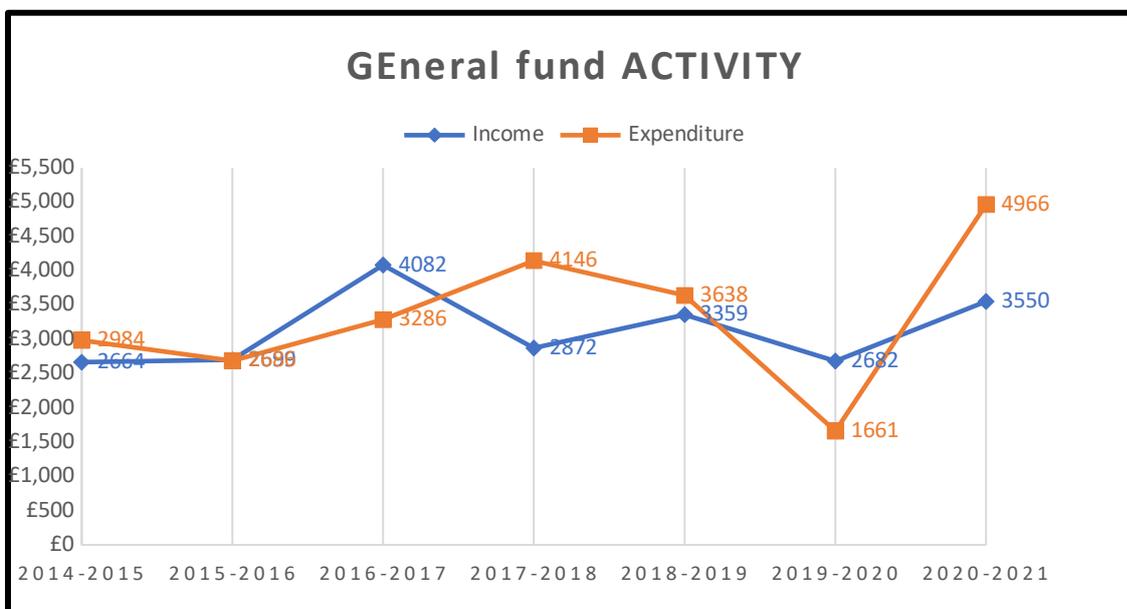
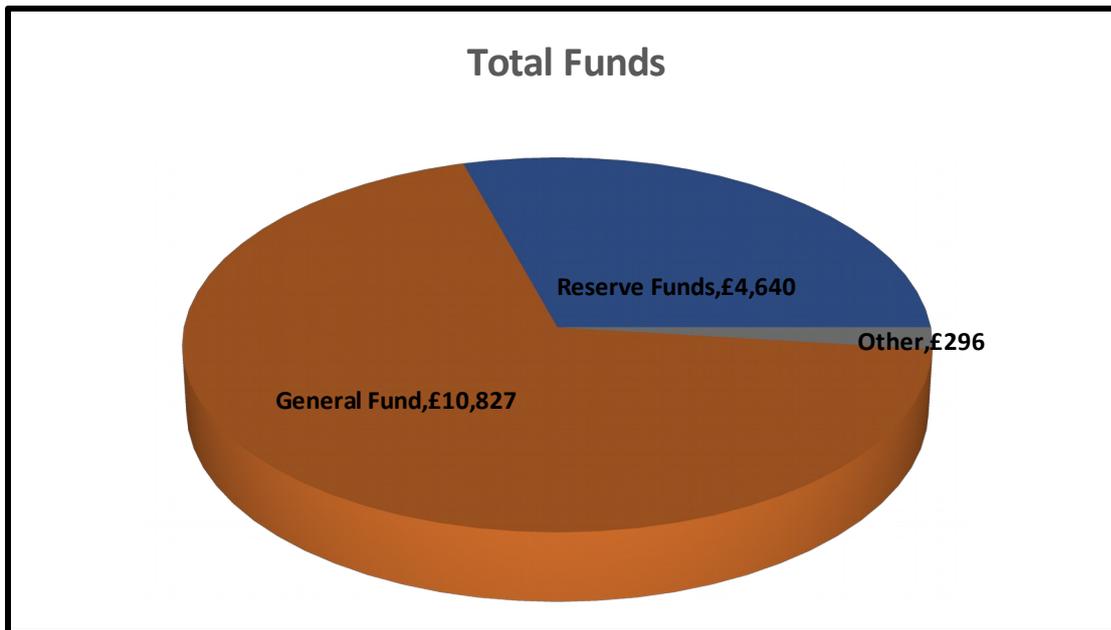
Annual General Meeting

The delayed AGM was held in November 2020.

Financial review of 2020-2021

As at 31 January 2021, our total funds amounted to £14,318 (as against £15,763 in 2019-2020). This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £513.

Income from membership subscriptions remained the Trust's principal source of revenue. This fell from £2134 in 2019-2020 to £1939 in 2020-2021. Overall income for the year was up by £388. However, expenditure increased by £3334. This was largely due to the printing costs of the delayed City Scene of 2020 (£2187) and the redesign of the website (£1750). As a result, the accounts record a total deficit of £1445 (compared with a surplus of £1261 for year ending 31 January 2020).



The General Fund remains the principal area of financial activity, whilst the Reserve Funds of Lifetime and Foundation Membership are sufficient to address any unforeseen financial commitments.

In January 2021 our membership stood at 218, of whom 60 were life members.

The Trust's finances remain healthy and the Board is committed to regular monitoring of income and expenditure.

Services donated

The Board once again wishes to express its gratitude to Bird Simpson & Co, for independently examining the annual accounts free of charge.

Sponsorship

We remain grateful to the various local businesses and other organisations who lend their sponsorship to the Trust's web pages, City Scene, and Newsflash.

McNicoll and Cairnie, Wine and Spirit Merchants of Broughty Ferry, remain sponsors of our evening event refreshments.

Looking ahead

The Board of Trustees will continue to advance the aims of the Trust by promoting participation in our programme of events, once it is safe so to do. We will also seek to broaden our membership base and to encourage a diverse range of views regarding what is best for the local environment of Dundee.

Our members will continue to be kept informed through our regular Newsflash and City Scene.

We will continue to monitor and comment on the standard of new developments and regeneration proposals in the city and to recognise those which are worthy of award or commendation so that we may live up to our stated aim: **'encouraging the best'**.

The Board has recently started considering plans to mark the Trust's 50th Anniversary in 2023, including a possible Awards competition.

This Report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Donald Gordon
Chairman
29th April 2021

Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2020-2021

- **Treasurer's report to be presented at next Annual General Meeting**

- **Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2021, including Statement of Financial Activities**
- **Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2021**