

ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



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# MISSION STATEMENT

Trees for Cities is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods – whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.



# **MESSAGE** FROM THE CEO



Over the past year we have seen a striking upsurge in the appreciation of the value of our urban trees and green spaces. From an organisational viewpoint, the engagement at and demand for our volunteering events has been extraordinary - weekend after weekend turnouts have been record breaking, and requests for our corporate volunteer projects grow and grow. Seeing any army of volunteers stepping out on a drizzly November morning to plant thousands of young trees - equipped with spades and smiles - is always a humbling and deeply rewarding experience.

From a wider viewpoint, the Covid-19 pandemic has thrown up unprecedented challenges and uncertainties - as it will have done for all charities and organisations - yet it has also shone a very bright light on how vital access to the great outdoors is to our quality of life. The pandemic and the months of lockdown have demonstrated how our physical and mental health are inextricably linked to the natural health of our cities. For the 83% of people in the UK who now live in towns and cities, green spaces have been a vital refuge. Yet vast disparities

exist within and across our urban regions: those with least access to quality green space are often those most in need. There is much work to do to redress this balance.

It is these areas of most need, where social and environmental deprivation overlap, that Trees for Cities aims to focus its efforts. the resources, know-how and inspiration for individuals and community groups up and down the country to be able to pick up the mantle for planting trees in their local spaces. In this way, our impact is not just achieved by what we can arrange, but by how we can equip others. Creating a 'bottom up' movement that taps

## THE PANDEMIC AND THE MONTHS OF LOCKDOWN HAVE DEMONSTRATED HOW **OUR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH** ARE INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE NATURAL HEALTH OF OUR CITIES.

The communities we work with are our partners in achieving change. Environmentalism demands universal action and activism; it cannot be something that exists in the fringes or for some sections of society. We are hence proud that our volunteers are of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities and beliefs, and that inclusivity is at the core of our values.

Over the coming years, one of the main aims of our 'Generation Tree' strategy is to provide

into this surge of interest will be vital in achieving a step change for our urban environments.

An enormous "thank you", as always, to our staff, trustees, volunteers, partners and supporters – your combined commitment has again allowed us to have such a successful and impactful year.

### DAVID ELLIOTT. CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# **OUR HIGHLIGHTS**



## **RECORD-BREAKING NATIONAL TREE WEEK**

In just a week, we planted 29,000 trees with 1000 volunteers across the country! To kickstart National Tree Week, we planted close to 15,000 trees in Goodmayes Park in London, with hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers and local community groups. The week also included planting new urban woodlands in Bradford, Nottingham and Clacton-on-Sea with our partners.

**HAVING DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND** SET AN AMBITIOUS TARGET OF **BEING CARBON NEUTRAL BY** 2030, ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO **HELP OUR ENVIRONMENT AND OFFSET OUR EMISSIONS HAS TO** 

**BE A GOOD THING. THIS NEW WOODLAND WILL HELP TO CREATE A GREEN LUNG FOR** CLACTON, AS WELL AS AN **OPEN SPACE FOR PEOPLE** AND WILDLIFE TO ENJOY.

**Councillor Alan Coley, Tendring** City Council in Clacton-on-Sea

Our 'grand finale' event in Beckton District Park broke our volunteer record with nearly 500 people getting stuck in to make the capital greener! This work has all been made possible thanks to partnerships with local councils, funders, and the support from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Guardian Families plant an urban forest to

### IN THE NEWS

Trees for Cities was selected as one of four charities in The Guardian and Observer's Christmas climate emergency appeal. Over 13,000 readers donated a total of £1m to the appeal that will be spent on initiatives promoting social and climate justice through natural climate solutions.

7,280 **VOLUNTEERS GOT** STUCK IN.

16,456

SCHOOL KIDS LEARNT **ABOUT TREES AND HEALTHY EATING.** 

### **WE PLANTED TREES IN**



FROM NEWCASTLE TO NAIROBI.

1,117,899

TREES PLANTED TO DATE.



## TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD

We are incredibly proud to be the UK lead on the Tree Cities of the World programme, connecting cities around the world to create a network dedicated to sharing how we all manage urban trees and forests to make our cities greener and more robust.

The programme is founded by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Arbor Day Foundation, and Trees for Cities is leading the initiative to recruit and support cities throughout the United Kingdom to apply for designation. So far, Birmingham City Council, Bradford City Council,

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Camden and Ealing have all been honoured with Tree Cities of the World recognition.



WE ARE EXCITED TO KICK OFF THE TREE CITIES OF THE WORLD PROGRAMME IN THE UK. THE PROGRAMME BRINGS PRIVATE AND PUBLIC PARTNERS TOGETHER, AND TREES FOR CITIES' WORK WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE COLLABORATION THAT IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE GLOBALLY.

Dan Lambe, President, Arbor Day Foundation.

## FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE IN TOWNS AND CITIES

As part of a new grant from the Forestry Commission, we have embarked on an ambitious mission of planting 10,000 urban trees in 11 cities across the country.

Through the Urban Tree Challenge Fund we've been awarded a grant to help lead the fight against climate change in towns and cities across England. The trees offer a range of benefits including temperature moderation, flood risk mitigation, increased biodiversity and improved well-being, particularly when close to large populations.

We're excited to be working with partner organisations to deliver the tree planting in the following cities: Birmingham, Brighton, Great Yarmouth, London, Newcastle, Newquay, Nottingham, Rotherham, Stockton, and Sunderland.

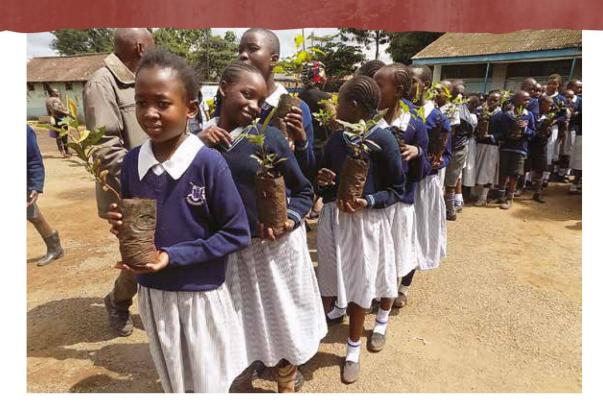




TREES PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR LANDSCAPE SO WE'RE REALLY EXCITED TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PARTNERSHIP. THE NEW TREES WILL **BRING A RANGE OF BENEFITS INCLUDING CLEANER AIR** AND INCREASE THE BIODIVERSITY OF OUR AREA. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE PLANTING PROGRAMME **GETTING UNDERWAY SO OUR RESIDENTS CAN ENJOY** THE RESULTS IN YEARS TO COME.

Councillor Mike Smith, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport

# **FOCUS BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**



### COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING IN NAIROBI

Together with our partner Centre for Community Development (CFCD), we planted 4000 trees in Nairobi with local volunteers and school children this year, which will directly benefit more than 30,000 people. Since 2011, we have worked in partnership with CFCD with the aim of greening Nairobi through tree planting, providing training on tree establishment and maintenance, delivery of educational forums in schools and strengthening of school environmental clubs. Community work is an important aspect of the project, and forums were created at several primary schools in the region to discuss the importance

of the tree planting drive in their area, especially considering the damaging effects of climate change. We're very grateful to Garnier UK for funding the project.

**BY PLANTING THESE TREES** I HOPE I WILL BE ALIVE FOR **QUITE SOME TIME SO I CAN COME BACK HERE TO PLUCK SOME OF** ITS FRUITS, AND I WILL CONTINUE PROTECTING IT. I FEEL GOOD FOR **BEING PART OF THIS ACTIVITY** FOR IT WILL NOT ONLY HELP **ME BUT ALSO FUTURE PUPILS** IN THIS SCHOOL.

Vincent, Lang'ata West Primary School in Nairobi, age 12





We couldn't do what we do without our fantastic volunteers and their community spirit. One of them is Naielah Sayed, who was crucial to the success of our planting event at Barley Lane in Ilford where we planted 40 big and beautiful trees. As well as getting stuck in with the tree planting, she was a huge help in getting the local community involved.

### Q. WHAT'S THE BEST THING **ABOUT VOLUNTEERING** FOR TREES FOR CITIES?

A. Firstly, I would say meeting new and wonderful people. Secondly the feeling of giving back to your community is amazing. Thirdly, showing my young children that we all have to do our bit and should volunteer where we can.



A. It was an amazing community event bringing lots of families together. Trees for Cities was so knowledgeable and helped with the planting of the trees every step of the way. The feedback was so positive that families were asking for more events where we could

all get together and do our bit. This also encouraged them to sign up for more community events.

### Q. WHAT WAS YOUR FAVOURITE MEMORY FROM THE PLANTING **EVENT AT BARLEY LANE?**

A. Just seeing all those smiles on the children's faces whilst planting the trees. It was tough work planting the tree, and when we finished we took photos and my husband and I looked at each and said "we can't wait until the children in 30 years' time tell their children that they planted those trees and in turn encourage their children to do the same". One of the neighbours who was helping on the day pointed to a huge tree and said "me and my children planted that tree 40 years ago" it really made the children smile.



# **FOCUS INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION**



## TREES FOR SCHOOLS

Over the four years of the Trees for Schools programme, we've helped 306 London primary schools plant over 35,000 trees to make their school surroundings greener and healthier!

Trees for Cities has been the London delivery partner for the Woodland Trust's Trees for Schools programme, funded by Defra, since its inception in 2016. Over the four years of the programme, we have ensured that 306 London primary schools have been able to gain the extra support they've needed in their tree planting activities from site surveys, planting workshops and tree species selection advice.

The schools benefit from the trees in a number of ways, from the trees' natural ability to absorb pollutant gases and filter airborne particulates, to producing havens for wildlife and shade for staying cool on hot days, an educational resource and the possibility to spark a child's interest and curiosity in the natural world.

In the final year of the programme we have signed up 129 schools, including Bowes Primary in Enfield. Bowes Primary is close to the heavily polluted North Circular and one of their pupils Ana Haliday wrote to us at Trees for Cities to see if we could help her school go greener - we were happy to comply!

I WOULD RECOMMEND FOR OTHER SCHOOLS TO PLANT TREES BECAUSE IT WILL HELP OUR PLANET AND MAKE THE CHILDREN, PARENTS AND TEACHERS MORE AWARE ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT. **EVERYONE CAN SEE THE TREES GROW** AND REMEMBER THAT THEY WILL BE THERE FOREVER.

Ana Haliday, Bowes Primary pupil



### **HOW WE'RE PLANTING HEALTHY AIR IN SCHOOLS**

Through our Planting Healthy Air programme, we've worked with three highly polluted schools in London: Christ Church Bentinck (Westminster), Tudor Primary School (Barnet) and Woolmore Primary School (Tower Hamlets). The schools were fitted with new green infrastructure, such as trees, ivy walls and newly planted areas, to help mitigate the pupils' exposure to air pollution and provide outdoor learning spaces. Educational assemblies were also given to teach the pupils about the importance of urban tree planting. We've received great feedback from the schools, with one teacher saying:



IT WAS FANTASTIC TO **GET THE CHILDREN REALLY** INVOLVED IN THE PLANTING OF THE TREES AND UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THE SCIENCE BEHIND HOW THEY HELP WITH TRAPPING POLLUTION, I THOUGH THE **WORKSHOPS WERE REALLY** POWERFUL TOO.

### **EDIBLE PLAYGROUNDS IN 11 CITIES!**

We delivered 41 Edible Playgrounds this season, up from 26 last year. What started out as a London-based project, has now become a reality in Birmingham, Bracknell, Bradford, Cardiff, Dudley, Liverpool, London, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sunderland and West Bromwich!

F SINCE ITS COMPLETION IN JANUARY 2020 THE WORLD HAS BEEN THROWN INTO TURMOIL BY COVID-19 - BUT THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS OF LOCKDOWN, THE EDIBLE PLAYGROUND PROVIDED A PLACE OF CALM AND INSPIRATION FOR THE VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND THE CHILDREN OF KEY **WORKERS WHO CONTINUED TO ATTEND** SCHOOL. WE KNOW THAT OUR EDIBLE PLAYGROUND IS GOING TO BE A **SOURCE OF INSPIRATION, ENJOYMENT** AND EDUCATION FOR THE CHILDREN OF LEMINGTON RIVERSIDE PRIMARY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

Craig Heeley, Head Teacher at Lemington Riverside **Primary School in Newcastle** 

## **FOCUS**

# **TRANSFORMING URBAN SPACES**



## **COMBATING POLLUTION AT JOLLY'S GREEN**

The 22 large trees we planted with volunteers across Jolly's Green in London's Tower Hamlets will create habitats for wildlife and add splashes of colour throughout the seasons. The park will benefit greatly from the trees planted, as it's situated directly next to the heavily polluted A12/ Blackwall Tunnel Northern Approach. Tree canopy in the ward is one of the lowest in the capital, with only 8.14% cover, far below the London average of 20% (London Data Store, 2018). Jolly's Green also holds a special place in our hearts - we planted trees here 20 years ago and they're still thriving!

Local councillor Kahar Chowdhury, who got stuck in at the planting event, said:

IT'S FANTASTIC TO SEE EVERYONE WORKING HARD TOWARDS MAKING **OUR ENVIRONMENT MORE GREEN. AND** HOW SPACES LIKE JOLLY'S GREEN CAN BE UTILISED FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. IT'S ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT TO PLANT TREES HERE AS IT'S ADJACENT TO A12 AND CAN HELP WITH CARBON EMISSIONS. I'M REALLY PLEASED TO SEE SO MANY KIDS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HERE CONTRIBUTING AND UNDERSTANDING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TREES AND HOW THEY WILL HELP **FUTURE GENERATIONS.** 



### **ESTABLISHING NEW** WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

In partnership with the London Borough of Newham, we planted 9,000 trees in Beckton District Park South with our volunteers as part of the Mayor of London's Mass Tree Planting Week. Urban woodlands provide vital food, shelter and breeding grounds for a huge range of wildlife within the urban landscape.

New woodlands like Beckton, provide wildlife corridors between fragmented habitats, increasing connectivity and helping plant and animal communities to move between areas. Urban woodlands also give people the opportunity to interact with wildlife in a natural setting, and participate in outdoor learning and environmental education.





### REDUCING FLOOD INCIDENTS IN BRADFORD

Over the last nine years we have successfully engaged more than 2,500 local volunteers to plant over 53,000 trees, which will help reduce the frequency and intensity of flood incidents in Keighley, Bradford. This planting season saw over 7,464 trees planted through the partnership with Bradford Environmental Action Trust (BEAT) and with funding from energy firm npower. By planting these trees in the hillside they will help with rain water retention and stormwater management, which in turn will alleviate flooding in the wider area. Alan Thornton, tree planting manager at BEAT said:

THE CLIMATE **EMERGENCY MEANS** THERE IS AN URGENT **NEED TO INCREASE** THE AMOUNT OF TREES AND WOODLAND IN THE KEIGHLEY AREA.



# PARTNER WITH US

We believe in creating positive change for our partners, our communities and our environment. Whether businesses aim to enhance their sustainability strategy, engage consumers and employees through their values, or create a lasting green legacy, our corporate partnerships team works with businesses to deliver bespoke solutions which are both rewarding and impactful.

Call us on 020 7587 1320 or email us at CORPORATE@TREESFORCITIES.ORG



## **CULTIVATING BETTER BUSINESS**

### WITH CLEAR CHANNEL

Clear Channel, the out-of-home media company active nationwide, has been a steadfast partner of ours for over four years. Together, we have planted hundreds of street trees all across the UK during this time. This year, their support went even further as they helped to connect schoolchildren with nature by sponsoring five new Edible Playgrounds in Newcastle. This has enabled over 1,400 pupils to learn about food growing and healthy eating in an inspiring outdoor classroom environment.

### **OTHER PARTNERSHIPS**

We're always keen to hear from landowners, trusts and foundations who might be interested to partner on a project. Get in touch to find out more:

INFO@TREESFORCITIES.ORG



## **DRIVING CHANGE** THROUGH VOLUNTEERING

### WITH BLOOMBERG

Bloomberg and Trees for Cities have been working in partnership since 2004, together making a positive difference to communities and the environment worldwide through planting urban trees and corporate volunteering days. This year, Bloomberg made an outstanding contribution to some of our community projects happening in London. 354 Bloomberg volunteers spent over a thousand hours working across 9 different projects, which included woodland creation, heathland restoration, allotment creation and park tree planting.

As part of Earth Month, another 61 Bloomberg employees have donated time to help the environment and give back to the community in 10 cities across Europe and Africa. They have helped plant trees in Madrid, Warsaw and Johannesburg and have pruned trees, cleaned up and planted community gardens all of which will increase biodiversity and improve air pollution and access to green space for local communities.

## **CALLING ALL COUNCILS: HAVE YOU DECLARED** A CLIMATE EMERGENCY?

The demand for credible action to tackle climate change is high, and many Councils have stepped up by declaring a Climate Emergency. The challenge is to translate your declaration into meaningful action. Planting trees brings people together to take positive action that creates immediate change in the local environment and has undeniable long-term outcomes for the health of the planet and its citizens. Get in touch to find out how we can help you to deliver real change in your local authority. Our versatile partnership packages unlock opportunities for match funding and are tailored to meet the needs and concerns of your borough. Together we can tackle the climate crisis.



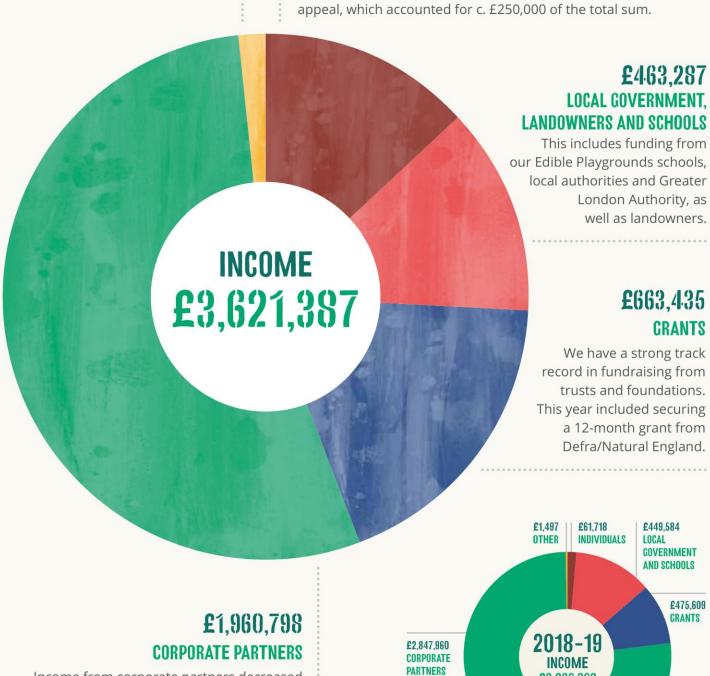
# **OUR FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

## £52,350 **OTHER**

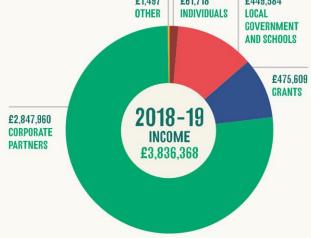
We received £52,350 from investment income.

## £481,518 **INDIVIDUALS**

This year, we engaged more people than ever before, from fundraisers to volunteers and donors. We're grateful for the donations from individuals through the Guardian Christmas appeal, which accounted for c. £250,000 of the total sum.



Income from corporate partners decreased largely due to the Covid-19 lockdown impacting the delivery of projects to be completed towards the end of the financial year. Major partnerships with Investec and Clear Channel continue.



## £1,869,274 **EDIBLE PLAYGROUNDS**

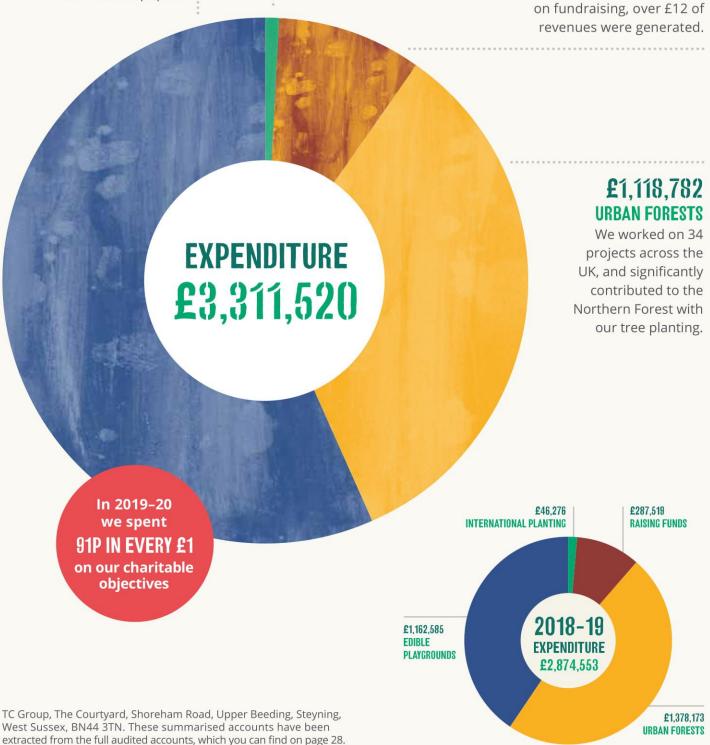
We delivered a record 41 Edible Playgrounds in 11 cities, engaging over 14,000 pupils.

## £34,379 INTERNATIONAL **PLANTING**

This year, we planted 17,060 trees in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana and Rwanda with local partners.

### £289,085 **RAISING FUNDS**

Our fundraising teams have kept busy, enabling businesses and individuals to connect with our cause. For every £1 spent



# **SUPPORTERS** AND PARTNERS

## £15,000 AND ABOVE

Arcadia Charitable Trust Bloomberg L.P. **Bulb Energy** 

Burton Clear Channel UK Ltd **DocuSign International** (U.K), INC. Department for Education

Department for Food, **Environment and** Rural Affairs (Defra) **Dorothy Perkins** The Dulverton Trust **Ekornes Ltd Forestry Commission** 

**Greater London Authority** Heathrow Communities Fund **Investec Bank plc London Borough of** Barking & Dagenham London Borough of Ealing

## £10,000 - 15,000

**All Saints Educational Trust Allen and Overy Foundation** 

Be First on behalf of LB Barking & Dagenham **Eastbury Community** School **Ernst & Young LLP** 

**Gemma and Chris** McGough Charitable Foundation Ham Dingle **Primary School** 

Hermes Investment Management **Insight Investment** Services Limited **Investec Asset** Management Ltd

## £500 - £9,999

4way AAT Accenture UK Ltd **Across The Pond** Aderant Agria Pet Insurance **All Aboard Charity Shops Limited Allianz Capital** Partners GmbH Alpha UK (Apha Financial Markets Consulting) **Amadeus IT** Services UK Ltd **Andrew Currie Arcus Infrastructure** Services LLP Artfinder **Authentic House Aviva B Lab UK** Beaconsfield **Primary School** Bill & Melinda Gates **Foundation** Birch Hill Primary School **BMO Asset Management** (Services) Ltd

**Brian Woolf Trust Brindishe Green Primary School British Land Burtons** Businesses donations (misc) C. Hoare & Co. **Chris Huggins** Christ Church Bentinck **CoE Primary School** City of Trees Clayton Village **Primary School CLS Services Ltd** Coed Glas Primary School Columbia Threadneedle **Foundation** Copyright Licensing Agency **Cultural Innovations DAS Services Limited David Gold** Dept. for Bus., Energy & Industrial Strategy Dormer's Wells Infant School East Acton Primary School **Ecology Building Society** Edenred (UK) Group Ltd.

**Education Services 2010** eight&four Limited Elise Shackleton Eltham CoE **Primary School EMCComputer** Solutions Ltd UK **European Bank for** Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Faith Primary School **FAST-UP M&F** Services Limited Fedrigoni Giveacar Ltd **Glyncoed Primary School Grosvenor Britain** & Ireland Hamstead Junior School **Heartwood Investment** Management **Heathfield Primary** and Nursery School Heathrow **Community Fund** Hiroshi Sheraton Hiya Car Holmleigh Primary School **Invicta Primary School** ISG plc

James Fitzherbert-**Brockholes** Jamie Pawliczek **Jessica Matthew** Iulia Bauer loe Browns Ltd **Kate's Hill Community Primary School KEEN Europe Outdoor BV** Kennedys **Kensington Primary** School, L B of Newham Kindred (London) Limited KKR & Co. Partners LLP **Kudos** Lawyers on Demand **Leo Paper Products** (UK) Ltd. **Lexington Reception** Services Leyton UK **Lockton Companies LLP London Fields Primary School London Legacy Development Corporation** LS Productions **Lyng Primary School** Margaret Howell Marsh Corporate Services

We are hugely grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their generosity. It is their support that enables us to cultivate lasting change in towns and cities.





**London Borough** of Newham **London Borough** of Redbridge L'Oreal (UK) Limited **Honest Organic MOJU Ltd** 

Mothercare UK Ltd National Lottery Community Fund **Natural England** npower Ltd Oliver Wyman Ltd Players of People's

Postcode Lottery awarded funds from **Postcode Green Trust PWC UK Ruth Smart Foundation RSM UK** Sustrans

The Kusuma Trust The Prince of Wales's **Charitable Fund** The Woodland Trust The Guardian **Tower Brook Foundation UK Power Network** 

J.P. Morgan London Borough of **Tower Hamlets** Miscellaneous customers and suppliers

**Peter Stebbings Memorial Charity** Society of the Holy Child Jesus CIO SSA Regional Services Pty Ltd - DHL

Tessella Ltd The Charlotte Heber-**Percy Charitable Trust** The Jabbs Foundation **Tower Hill Trust** 

**Trusts Donation** Woodmansterne **Primary School Woolmore Primary** School

Mark Baker Metal Developments Ltd (Woodwarm Stoves) Mintel Group Ltd **Moorland Primary School Moorlands Primary School MSCI-Morgan Stanley Capital Investment** MuleSoft Narendra Karnani **NBBJ Ltd NBCUniversal** International Ltd **Network Access Associates Limited Newhall Park Primary School** Ninja Tune Records Ltd Oak Lodge School (Special School) Oaktree Capital Management (UK) LLP Ocee Ogilvy UK O'Neill Family Trust OneTreePlanted Our Lady & St. Brendan's **Catholic Primary Sch** Our Lady of Lourdes Oyster Images Ltd

Parkside Primary School Patrick Morrello Payden & Rygel **Investment Management** Peter I Iones CBE Peter Moore Petts Hill Primary School Phillips 66 Ltd P M Bennison Heating Ltd Polkadot Plumbers **Prof Selena Gray** Ranelagh Primary School Reckitt Benckiser (RB) Group plc Remarkable Television Reward Gateway (UK) Ltd **Robin Chowdhury Rowan Trust** RSM UK Group LLP Sabina Sutherland **Charitable Trust** Sacred Heart, Liverpool Sage Publications Ltd Saint and Sofia **Sapling Spirits** Seedrs Ltd Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur Simon and Suzie PearsonSky UK Ltd

Smartsheet Inc. SMBC Nikko Capital **Markets Limited** Sonnedix UK Services Limited Span Trust **Special Treats Productions** St James Hatcham **CE Primary School** St Mark's Primary School St Mary's Catholic **Primary School** St Stephen's Church of **England Primary School** Sunovion **Pharmaceuticals Europe Ltd** Tableau Foundation **Tanner Trust** The Daniell Trust The Future Kept The Link School Springwell Dene The Panton Trust The Price Family The Random House **Group Ltd** The Rowan Trust The Schroder **Charity Trust** 

The Shadow Robot Company The SMB Charitable Trust The Team Thorpe Primary School **TINCTURE** TNEI **Todd Doors** Tortoise Advisors UK Ltd **Travel Matters** Tubular Labs UK Limited **Tudor Primary School Urban Village Homes** Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd Viridian Nutrition Vivobarefoot Voxbone **Warner Media** International Ltd Weiden + Kennedy London Whistle Punks (UK) Ltd White Stuff Clothing Willem Sels Work for Good **WPJ** Heating Ysgol Y Berllan Deg **Zouk Capital LLP** 





# TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

Charity Registration No. 1032154. Company Registration No. 02874642 (England and Wales). Trees for Cities (a company limited by guarantee)



# **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE** INFORMATION

### TRUSTEES

J Capon (Chair) S Chapleau C Harper-Harris S Gray

**B** Miller A Shah

D Woodbine S Workman

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

D Elliott

### **CHARITY NUMBER**

1032154

### **COMPANY NO.**

02874642

### **PRINCIPAL ADDRESS AND REGISTERED OFFICE**

Prince Consort Lodge Kennington Park Place London, SE11 4AS

### **AUDITORS**

TC Group, The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, **BN44 3TN** 

### **BANKERS**

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c. (main day to day bankers), P.O. Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ

Triodos Bank, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The Trustees are pleased to present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 2 to the accounts and comply with the Trust's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, Charities SORP (FRS102).

### **OUR MISSION**

### 'Planting trees and greening cities worldwide'

We are the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. We get stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods whether it's revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy food.

### **OUR CUIDING PRINCIPLES**

In parallel with our mission, all of our work is grounded within the following guiding principles:

- People-led: Although our reach is global, we value the importance of a local focus. We always work through and within local communities to strengthen them and empower their members.
- Quality: Both the quantity and quality and location of the trees we plant are at the forefront of our planning so that we constantly strive to maximise the impact of our projects to the environment and society.
- Delivery: We are an organisation that gets things done. What we talk about, we do effectively, efficiently and on-time.

### **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING** ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE)

Trees for Cities works with local communities to deliver tree planting projects. Our aim is to create high quality green spaces in the more socially and environmentally deprived parts of cities and towns, enhance social cohesion, and beautify our cities through tree planting and community and education initiatives.

Our objects, as set out in our governing document are:

"The Charity is established to advance the education of the public in the appreciation of trees and nature, particularly with regard to their social and environmental value by the planting, protection and promotion of trees and green spaces everywhere and in particular in towns and cities."

The public benefits that shape our annual activities continue to be environmental protection and improvement, education, and health.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the trustees have given consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'.

### WHAT WE ACHIEVED IN 2019-20:

- Planted almost 90,000 trees in cities and towns across the UK.
- Delivered 41 Edible Playgrounds in London, Newcastle, Cardiff, Birmingham, Bradford, Nottingham and Sunderland, engaging 16,500 pupils.
- On the back of the first successful 'Planting Healthy Air' project last year, delivered a further 3 projects in high impact schools.
- Planted circa 15,000 trees in cities outside of the UK.
- Engaged 5,564 community volunteers and 858 corporate volunteers in London, the UK and internationally through our tree planting and greening activities.
- Led on rolling out the Tree Cities of the World programme in the UK and supported the first cohort of UK applicants.
- Developed a new organisational Theory of Change model to support our 'Generation Tree' strategy.

### **COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

There will no doubt be a financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic due to the greater uncertainty in securing future income. As a response, Trees for Cities directors, trustees and auditors have worked closely to ensure that systems are in place to monitor the financial situation at all times and have a clear strategy for dealing with any shortfall in budgeted income, including potential use of free reserves:

Due to the lockdown in March, we were unable to complete some of our planned projects at the end of the tree planting season, however these have all been deferred to FY20/21. We were able to successfully introduce working from home measures across the organisation and have used the Government's furlough scheme where appropriate. We are planning to complete as many projects as possible in the earlier part of the season that starts in autumn, as well as maintaining a flexible schedule, in order to reduce the risks and impacts of possible further periods of lockdown towards the end of the year.

Whilst there has been increased financial uncertainties this year, we have been able to secure three quarters of our planned income by the midyear point, and expect to secure the following quarter over the second six month period. We will continue to monitor our financial performance and future reserves position.

Accordingly, we consider that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and we believe that we continue to be a going concern.

There is a significant likelihood of a severe recession/ depression meaning that the funding environment for future years will be very challenging. Consequently we will be taking the following steps over the coming period:

- Increase focus on multi-annual planning via the securing of more and larger multi-annual grants and partnerships.
- 2 Ensure a strategic approach is taken to key funder relationships.
- Grow and develop services and programmes to provide more funding options.
- 4 Aim to reassess our reserves policy and grow unrestricted where possible.
- We have committed to multi year planning in our strategy process and will commit to this in our operational plans.

The current fundraising environment is clearly challenging. Whilst some funding opportunities have dropped away this year, we are seeking alternative funding opportunities to offset losses in income. We have long running, stable

relationships with our partners and believe we are in a reasonable position to raise funds in the longer term. The trustees review the financial forecast and current reserves position when they meet each quarter and are provided commentary on the latest forecast versus plan.

Since the lockdown restrictions have eased we have begun to open our offices on a limited basis and introduced measures to ensure any risks from the virus are mitigated. This has included restricting working hours for those using public transport, maintaining a limit on the number of people who visit our offices and ensuring all office surfaces are deep cleaned on a regular basis. We have undertaken a detailed review of all health and safety measures practiced at all project planting sites, ensuring all equipment is thoroughly cleaned and that social distancing measures are understood and acted on by all staff and volunteers. We will continue to monitor these measures over the coming months.

At the start of the new financial year we were unable to start work on our Edible Playgrounds projects due to the closure of schools. Since lockdown restrictions eased we have been able to work with schools to revise our plans and we are expecting to meet our target of delivering 28 Edible Playground projects by the end of FY20/21.

Our Corporate Volunteering Programme has been particularly affected by the Covid pandemic, but we are expecting to restart activity in the second half of the financial year.

As the lockdown occurred in the last month of our financial year, the financial and operational effects of the virus and the control measures relating to the virus meant we had to defer some projects that we planned to deliver in March. This particularly impacted our income from corporate partners.

We have been able to introduce measures which should not impact our ability to deliver projects for the coming year. If there is a return to the lockdown measures implemented by the Government in March then this will have an adverse impact on our ability to deliver on our planned and future projects particularly if this occurs in our peak planting periods over autumn and winter.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

A selection of our plans for 2020-21 are:

- Plant 35,000 trees in London across 13 woodland, estate and park projects.
- Plant 100,000 trees across projects in other UK cities and towns, with a particular focus on further developing our 'forgotten places' programme and completing the second year of the Defra Urban Tree Challenge Fund programme.
- Deliver 28 Edible Playground and 3 Planting Healthy Air projects in primary schools across the UK, as well as the first year of the Guys and St. Thomas' flagship Active Green Playground project.
- Create a new sub-strategy for our international programme.
- Roll out the second year of our 'Generation Tree' strategy, including the implementation of a new 'community hub', the launch of a new street tree funding platform, and a new communications campaign.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA), Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP FRS 102 (2019).

Trees for Cities saw a decrease in our income by 6% to £3,621,388 (2018-19: £3,836,368). The driver for this decrease was the impact of the Covid-19 lockdown impacting our ability to deliver projects towards the end of the financial year and therefore our ability to recognise the income.

The charity spent £289,085 on raising the charity's total income of £3,621,388. Therefore, for every £1 spent on fundraising, over £12 of revenues were generated.

The charity's strong track record in fundraising from trusts, foundations and landowners continued, increasing to £1,126,772 (2018-19: £925,913), mainly from Central Government contributions of £214,857 (2018-19: £750).

There was strong growth in general donations as a result of our investment over the last two years increasing to £184,936 (2018-19: £61,718). In addition, we received £251,102 from the Guardian's charity appeal.

2019-20 saw income from corporate partners decrease by 32% to £1,960,798 (2018-19: £2,847,960) largely due to the Covid-19 lockdown impacting the delivery of projects to be completed towards the end of the financial year.

Total expenditure on urban tree planting across London and the UK decreased by £259,390 to £1,118,783 (2018-19: £1,378,173).

Edible Playgrounds expenditure was £1,869,273 (2018-19: £1,162,585). The number of Edible Playgrounds created in schools was 41 in 2019–2020, compared to 26 in 2018–19.

### INVESTMENT POLICY

Trees for Cities may invest funds at the discretion of the board (as per the Memorandum and Articles of Association).

The trustees review the charity's cash levels, and investment opportunities on an ongoing basis.

The investment objective for short-term investments (funds accessible within 12 months) is to allow funds to be readily available, and with the minimum risk.

In line with this objective, cash is held in bank accounts that allow instant access. During the year funds were held with The Co-operative Bank and CAF Bank. Cash was also held with Triodos Bank under a 33-day notice period.

Should the trustees consider that cash reserves sufficiently exceed the level required to finance the charity's forthcoming activities in a sustainable way, funds may be invested on a longer-term basis to generate further cash for the charity.

The investment objective for long-term investments (funds not accessible within 12 months) will be to generate a return in an excess of inflation over the long-term, and to minimise risk by spreading investments across more than one asset class.

The trustees have set ethical criteria for long-term investments, primarily that Trees for Cities will not invest in companies whose actions run counter to the charity's own charitable objectives.

We opened a discretionary investment portfolio of 100% government backed bonds with Quilter Cheviot Limited Jersey, investing £500,000.

This investment is very low risk and the cash can be withdrawn with a few days notice.

### **RESERVES POLICY**

Trees for Cities holds unrestricted reserves in order to:

- mitigate against unexpected reductions in income
- provide working capital
- allow for operational deficits when future planning
- assist with cash flow
- purchase capital items
- allow for possible future expansion.

Our reserves policy is hold no less than the cost of winding up the organisation in regards to meeting financial obligations such as redundancy, rent and contract payments.

The maximum level of unrestricted reserves that the organisation will hold will be the equivalent cost of six months of core operating expenditure (e.g. salaries, rent, contracts) plus the cost of winding up the organisation.

The planned level of unrestricted reserves that the organisation will hold will be the equivalent to the cost of three months of core operating expenditure (e.g. salaries, rent, contracts) plus the cost of winding up the organisation.

If the unrestricted reserves exceed the maximum level, the management team will put in place a plan to spend down the additional amount unless such an amount has been ring-fenced for future investment or expansion.

The amounts for 2020/21 of the abovementioned reserve levels are:

Minimum: £550k Planned: £980k Maximum £1,420k

The management team and Trustees will monitor the unrestricted reserve level at quarterly intervals to ensure that it does not fall below the minimum level.

The amounts for each level will be recalculated at the start of each financial year.

Whilst there has been increased financial uncertainties this year, we have been able to secure three quarters

of our planned income by the midyear point, and expect to secure the following quarter over the second six month period. We will continue to monitor our financial performance and future reserves position.

Accordingly, we consider that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and we believe that we continue to be a going concern.

The trustees' policy, after assessing the above requirements and calculating the costs of winding up, is to hold unrestricted reserves of between £550,000 and £1,420,000. As at the end of 2019 - 20 unrestricted reserves held by the charity were £1,176,088.

A designated fund has been set aside by the Trustees for future food growing in schools. The £848,232 fund at 31st March 2020 has been funded by our corporate partner Bulb and is planned to be expended by the end of 2021/22.

At the end of 2019 - 20 total funds held by the charity were £2,108,740 (2018-19: £1,811,775). This consisted of unrestricted funds of £1,176,088 (2018-19: £675,633), restricted funds of £84,420 (2018-19: £105,000) and designated funds of £848,232 (2018-19: £1,031,142). The charity's unrestricted free reserves were £654,830 (2018-19: £647,332). The difference between the unrestricted funds and the free reserves is due to the organisation holding £483,716 of bonds which for accounting purposes is treated as a fixed asset.

The Trustees are responsible for authorising the application of the charity's reserves. At all times they will have regard to restrictions placed on the application of these reserves and are responsible for ensuring that they are applied in accordance with the stated restrictions.

### SENIOR MANAGEMENT PAY POLICY

Trees for Cities is an equal opportunities employer and applies objective criteria to assess merit. The Board sets the terms and conditions for staff on an annual basis. A benchmarking process is undertaken periodically to assess each role in the external market, to ensure that the charity is paying all employees, including senior management, fairly and competitively for similar roles within the sector.

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

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

The trustees are directors for the purpose of company law. In the event of the company being wound down members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The charity's trustees are:

J Capon (Chair) D Woodbine (appointed S Chapleau (appointed 4 March 2020)

on 14 March 2020) S Workman

S Gray

C Harper-Harris J Bevan served during **B** Miller the year and resigned A Shah on 24 April 2020.

### STRUCTURE

The board of trustees administers the charity.

The Chief Executive is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day running of the charity and delegates as necessary to the senior management team. The board of trustees are responsible for governance, and assist with strategy and policy.

The Chair of the board of trustees is appointed by the trustees.

### TRUSTEE RECRUITMENT, INDUCTION AND TRAINING

A Board Skills Audit is undertaken approximately every three years, in line with the development of the strategic plan. The audit is used to determine if any new skills and knowledge are required to deliver the new plan.

Should any gaps in skills or knowledge be identified and a new trustee position is required, a recruitment process will be undertaken. Recruitment is open to all sections of the community, and candidates are interviewed by existing trustees and appointed on merit based on a majority decision.

New trustees are made aware of their legal obligations, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charity's history, culture and

philosophical approach, the current year's business and financial plan. New trustees also receive a copy of the most recent Annual Report and statutory accounts, and appropriate leaflets published by the Charity Commission with the opportunity to discuss them.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees and senior management team identify and agree the key risks facing the charity at the start of each financial year and these are entered onto a risk register. Each risk is assessed according to its likelihood and potential impact, and appropriate actions and procedures are agreed.

At each board meeting the trustees review the risk register and agree future actions. Should any additional key risks be identified, the trustees will agree how they should be managed and if appropriate will be added to the risk register.

At year end we conducted a detailed review of our operational risks with a particular focus on those amplified by the pandemic.

### DATA PROTECTION - CENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS

The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) became law in May 2018. The regulations set out the responsibilities of all organisations in relation to the personal data that they collect and hold, and are designed to enhance the rights of individuals in controlling their own data.

Trees for Cities places great importance on the security of supporter data and personal information. The charity is registered with the Information Commissioners Office and has introduced a programme that will enable demonstration of compliance with the spirit and intention of GDPR, with the required management structures in place to manage data risks and integrate governance of these risks into daily management.

For information on how the charity uses and protect personal data, please see our Privacy Policy: https://www.treesforcities.org/privacy-policy.

### INFORMATION SECURITY

The confidentiality, integrity and availability of information, in all its forms, are critical to the charity's work. In 2018 the information security policy was updated to bring it in line with GDPR legislation.

### ANTI-FRAUD. BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION POLICY

Strong internal and financial controls and robust financial management are essential to protect the charity against growing threats from external fraudulent activities and from any internal risk of funding misappropriation. Trees for Cities' system of internal controls is based on an ongoing process designed to identify the principal risks, to evaluate the nature and extent of those risks, and to manage them effectively.

The charity's anti-fraud, bribery and corruption policy specifies the controls and procedures required to prevent and detect fraud and dishonesty, investigate any allegations that arise, and take appropriate action where necessary. It also stipulates procedures

for due diligence and verifying the end use of charitable funds to minimise exposure to risk when passing charitable funds to external partners.

### STATEMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

On behalf of the board of trustees:

D Woodbine, treasurer. Dated: 30 Oct 2020.

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees who are also the directors of Trees for Cities for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

# INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TREES FOR CITIES

We have audited the financial statements of Trees for Cities for the year ended 31 March 2019. 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 charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year 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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable 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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or

the trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charitable company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

### OTHER INFORMATION

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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 trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements: and

the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

### MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which 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.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 25, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 trustees determine is 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 trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **AUDITOR'S 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 an auditor's report 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-andassurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-andguidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/ Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### **USE OF OUR REPORT**

This report is made solely to the charitable 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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Mark Cummins FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of



TC Group, The Courtyard, Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3TN

Date: 1 Dec 2020

## **STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
INCOME FROM:	Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and leg	acies <b>3</b>	503,653	435,556	-	939,209	259,667
Other trading activ	vities 4	284,952	5,156	-	290,108	162,984
Investments	5	18,229		-	18,229	1,497
Other	6	34,187	-	-	34,187	Ξ
Charitable activi	ties					
Urban forests	– London	92,107	430,089	-	522,196	783,533
	– Other UK cities	172,755	211,796		384,551	839,354
	– International	31,500	26,500	-	58,000	44,000
Edible playground	ls	867,855	507,052		1,374,907	1,745,333
Total charitable activities		1,164,217	1,175,437	_	2,339,654	3,412,220
Total income		2,005,238	1,616,149		3,621,387	3,836,368

## (INC. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020)

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
EXPENDITURE O	N: Notes	£	£	£	£	£
Raising funds	7	228,789	60,296	-	289,085	287,519
Charitable activit	ies					
Urban forests	– London	258,826	521,430	-	780,256	919,456
	– Other UK cities	56,505	282,021	-	338,526	458,717
	– International	1,379	33,000	,-	34,379	46,276
Edible playground	S	946,382	739,982	182,910	1,869,274	1,162,585
Total charitable e	expenditure	1,263,092	1,576,433	182,910	3,022,435	2,587,034
Total expenditure	е	1,491,881	1,636,729	182,910	3,311,520	2,874,553
Net income/(exp before investme		513,357	(20,580)	(182,910)	309,867	961,815
Net gains/(losses on investments	14	(12,902)	-	-	(12,902)	-
Net income/ (exp and net moveme		500,445	(20,580)	(182,910)	296,965	961,815
Fund balances at 1	April 2019	675,633	105,000	1,031,142	1,811,775	849,960
Fund balances at 31 March 2020	21	1,176,088	84,420	848,232	2,108,740	1,811,775

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006. All activities are classed as continuing. There are no recognised gains or losses other than those reported on the Statement of Financial Activities.

## **BALANCE SHEET**

## **AT 31 MARCH 2020**

		2020		2019	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13	37,968		28,301	
Investments	14	483,716	_		
			521,684		28,301
Current assets					
Debtors	15	1,369,088		621,008	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,516,601	_	2,062,155	
		2,885,689		2,683,163	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,298,633)	_	(899,689)	
Net current assets			1,587,056		1,783,474
Total assets less current liabilities			2,108,740		1,811,775
Income funds	21				
Unrestricted funds		1,176,088		675,633	
Designated funds	19	848,232		1,031,142	
Restricted funds	20	84,420	_	105,000	
			2,108,740		1,811,775

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. The accounts were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 Oct 2020.

D Woodbine, treasurer.

Company Registration No. 02874642

## **CASH FLOW STATEMENT**

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

		202	.0	201	9
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Net income/(expenditure)		296,965		961,815	
Loss on investments	14	12,902		-	
Depreciation	13	17,939		25,044	
Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	6	(34,187)		-	
Interest receivable	5	(18,229)		(1,497)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	16	398,944		444,552	
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	15	(748,080)	_	64,861	
Net cash flows generated from operating activities			(73,746)		1,494,775
Cash flows from investing activities					
Interest receivable	5	18,229		1,497	
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	13	(50,003)		(13,598)	
Payments to acquire fixed asset investments	14	(538,618)		-	
Proceeds for disposal of tangible fixed assets		56,584		-	
Proceeds for disposal of fixed asset investments	14 _	42,000	_	-	
Net cash flows from investing activities			(471,808)		(12,101)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalent			(545,554)		1,482,674
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		_	2,062,155	_	579,481
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year			1,516,601	_	2,062,155

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020**

### STATUTORY INFORMATION

Trees for Cities is a charitable company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The charitable company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the legal and administrative information page.

### 2 **ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

#### 2.1 **BASIS OF PREPARATION**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2015) - Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Trees for Cities meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and Liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s). There are no material uncertainties about Trees for Cities' ability to continue as a going concern. The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

#### **COING CONCERN** 2.2

At the time of approving the financial statements, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the Trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Their assessment includes taking into account any potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is further detailed in the Trustees' Report.

#### INCOME 2.3

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy, except as follows:

When donors specify that incoming resources given to the charity must be used in future accounting periods, the income is deferred to those periods.

When donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income, the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

When donors specify that incoming resources are for particular restricted purposes, which do not amount to pre-conditions regarding entitlement, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

#### 2.4 **EXPENDITURE**

Costs are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis inclusive of irrecoverable VAT and are allocated between expenditure categories on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, others are apportioned based on estimated usage as a proportion of directly attributable expenditure. Expenditure is provided for when a legal or constructive obligation exists. Expenditure is analysed as follows:

Expenditure on charitable activities comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support the activities of the charity.

Expenditure on raising funds are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the audit fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity. These costs are now included within support costs as required by the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

#### 2.5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Plant and machinery 33% on cost Fixtures, fittings & equipment 20% and 33% on cost Motor vehicles 33% on cost

#### **INVESTMENTS** 2.6

Fixed asset investments are stated at fair value. Realised and unrealised gains and losses are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities. Gains and losses are calculated on a quarterly basis.

#### 2.7 **DEBTORS**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

#### 2.8 **CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments. The Trustees seek to use short and medium term deposits where possible to maximise the return on monies held at the bank and to manage cash flow.

#### 2.9 **CREDITORS AND PROVISIONS**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

### 2.10 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments. Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Basic financial instruments are recognised at amortised cost.

### 2.11 LEASING AND HIRE PURCHASE COMMITMENTS

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

### 2.12 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Termination benefits are recognised as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed, without realistic possibility of withdrawal, to a formal detailed plan to either terminate employment before the normal retirement date, or to provide termination benefits as a result of an offer made to encourage voluntary redundancy. Termination benefits for voluntary redundancies are recognised as an expense if the charity has made an offer of voluntary redundancy, it is probable that the offer will be accepted, and the number of acceptances can be estimated reliably.

### 2.13 PENSIONS

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable for the year are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities as they fall due.

### 2.14 ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Unrestricted funds are to be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees.

Restricted funds are to be used for particular restricted purposes within the objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Designated funds comprise monies set aside out of unrestricted general funds for specific future purposes or projects.

### 2.15 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGEMENTS

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

The trustees do not consider that there are any critical estimates or areas of judgement that need to be brought to the attention of the readers of the financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Designated funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
3	DONATIONS AND L	EGACIES				
	Donations	496,142	408,556	-	904,698	246,603
	Grants	7,511	27,000	-	34,511	13,064
	Total	503,653	435,556		939,209	259,667
4.	OTHER TRADING A	CTIVITIES				
	Sponsorship of projects	284,952	5,156		290,108	162,984
	Total	284,952	5,156	-	290,108	162,984
5	INVESTMENT INCO	OME				
	Fixed interest securities	9,801	-	-	9,801	-
	Bank interest	8,429	-	-	8,429	1,497
	Total	18,229		-	18,229	1,497
6	OTHER INCOME					
	Gain on disposal of tangible fixed assets	34,187			34,187	-
	Total	34,187	-	-	34,187	-

### 7 **EXPENDITURE**

	Notes	Staff costs	Depreciation	Other costs	Total 2020	Total 2019
RAISING FUNDS		£	£	£	£	£
Investment manager fees		-	-	332	332	-
Fundraising costs		193,037	1-	58,322	251,359	257,976
Support costs	8	3,546	580	33,268	37,394	29,543
Total raising funds		196,583	580	91,922	289,085	287,519
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES						
Urban forests – London						
Activities undertaken directly		465,608	6,516	217,938	690,062	829,258
Support costs	8	8,552	1,399	80,243	90,194	90,198
Total		474,160	7,915	298,181	780,256	919,456
Urban forests - Other UK citi	es					
Activities undertaken directly		91,456	[-	229,354	320,810	440,286
Support costs		1,680	275	15,761	17,716	18,431
Total		93,136	275	245,115	338,526	458,717
Urban forests – International						
Activities undertaken directly		10,452	-	21,902	32,354	43,296
Support costs	8	192	31	1,802	2,025	2,980
Total		10,644	31	23,704	34,379	46,276
Edible playgrounds						
Activities undertaken directly		872,585	6,516	821,140	1,700,241	1,042,295
Support costs	8	16,028	2,622	150,383	169,033	120,290
Total		888,613	9,138	971,523	1,869,274	1,162,585
Total charitable activities		1,466,553	17,359	1,538,523	3,022,435	2,587,034
Total expenditure		1,663,136	17,939	1,630,445	3,311,520	2,874,553

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### 8 **SUPPORT COSTS**

Telephone

Staff meetings

Other support costs

Governance costs

### 9 **COVERNANCE COSTS**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £		2020 £	2019 £
Copying and printing		17,819	15,532	Staff costs	29,998	29,665
Legal and finance		24,323	12,386	Audit fees	9,500	9,500
Postage		1,970	2,011	Payments to auditors – other services	747	-
Insurance		21,497	11,989	Other governance costs	233	568
IT		32,699	58,442		40,478	39,733
Office maintenance		48,336	45,156			
Office supplies		8,755	9,919			
Rent		39,115	19,857			
Recruitment		10,884	7,902			

15,584

8,483

14,448

39,733

261,442

12,523

8,801

49,162

40,478

316,362

Support costs which are not directly attributable to a specific charitable activity are allocated on a percentage basis based on staff time applied to each activity during the year.

## 10 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES COMPARATIVE FUNDS - YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

			Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total 2019
INCOME FROM:		Notes	£	£	£	£
Donations and legac	cies		181,522	78,145	٠.	259,667
Other trading activit	ies	3	128,163	34,821		162,984
Investments			1,497	-	-	1,497
Charitable activiti	es					
Urban forests	– London		242,648	540,885		783,533
	– Other UK cities		628,143	211,211	1-	839,354
	– International		30,000	14,000	-	44,000
Edible playgrounds		_	690,000	281,729	773,604	1,745,333
Total charitable activ	vities		1,590,791	1,047,825	773,604	3,412,220
Total income			1,901,973	1,160,791	773,604	3,836,368
EXPENDITURE ON:		4				
Raising funds		_	267,419	20,100		287,519
Charitable activiti	es					
Urban forests	– London		291,550	627,906	-	919,456
	– Other UK cities		345,672	113,045	-	458,717
	– International		32,276	14,000	-	46,276
Edible playgrounds		_	859,345	303,240		1,162,585
Total charitable ex	xpenditure		1,528,843	1,058,191		2,587,034
Total expenditure			1,796,262	1,078,291	-	2,874,553
Net income/(exper and net movemen			105,711	82,500	773,604	961,815
Fund balances at 1	April 2018		569,922	22,500	257,538	849,960
Fund balances at 3	1 March 2019	18	675,633	105,000	1,031,142	1,811,775

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

#### 11 **EMPLOYEES**

### **NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES**

### **EMPLOYMENT COSTS**

The average (full time equivalent) monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2020 Number	2019 Number		2020 £	2019 £
Fundraising and public relations	5	4	Wages and salaries	1,468,824	1,359,713
Urban Forests – London	13	13	Social security costs	128,576	139,428
Urban Forests – UK Cities	3	3	Other pension costs	65,736	54,447
Urban Forests – International	1	1		1,663,136	1,553,588
Edible Playgrounds	25	20			
	47	41			

Redundancy payments made or committed during the year amounted to £13,635 (2018: £nil).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Chief Executive, the Head of Finance, the Projects Director, the Corporate Fundraiser and the Development Director. The total employee benefits of key management personnel of the charity were £353,158 (2019: £356,216).

The number of employees whose annual emoluments were £60,000 or more were:

	2020 Number	2019 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£70,001 - £80,000	-	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	
	2	1

### 12 **TRUSTEES**

None of the Trustees (nor any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the year (2019: none).

During the year travel related expenditure of £233 was reimbursed to 1 (2019: 1) trustees (2019: £174).

### 13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

		Motor vehicles	Plant and machinery	Fixtures, fittings & equipment	Total
		£	£	£	£
	COST				
	At 1 April 2019	68,612	14,722	53,616	136,950
	Additions	50,003	-	-	50,003
	Reclassification	(69,616)		-	(69,616)
	At 31 March 2020	48,999	14,722	53,616	117,337
	DEPRECIATION				
	At 1 April 2019	45,218	9,815	53,616	108,649
	Charge for year	13,032	4,907	-	17,939
	Reclassification	(47,219)	-		(47,219)
	At 31 March 2020	11,031	14,722	53,616	79,369
	NET BOOK VALUE		- "	, –	•
	At 31 March 2020	27.069			27.069
	At 31 March 2019	23,394 = 37,968	4,907		28,301
	ACST March 2019		4,907		28,301
14.	INVESTMENTS				
	Total fixed asset investmen	its comprise:		2020 £	2019 £
	Listed investments			483,716	~
	Valuation at 1 April 2019		-		
	Additions during the year			538,618	
	Disposal proceeds			(42,000)	
	Unrealised gain/(loss)			(12,766)	
	Realised gain/(loss)			(136)	
	At 31 March 2020		=	483,716	
15	DEBTORS				
				2020	2019
				£	£
	Trade debtors			959,423	471,490
	Prepayments and accrued	l income		409,665	149,518
			_	1,369,088	621,008

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### 16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	111,712	121,916
Taxes and social security costs	110,927	252,761
Deferred income	827,920	347,448
Accruals	236,761	158,360
Other creditors	11,313	19,204
	1,298,633	899,689

Deferred income outstanding at the balance sheet date comprises of various income streams whereby the income recognition criteria outlined in the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) have not been met.

### 17 PENSION AND OTHER POST-RETIREMENT BENEFIT COMMITMENTS

### **Defined contribution**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund as detailed below. Contributions of £10,922 (2019: £6,426) were outstanding at 31 March 2020.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Contributions payable by the charity for the year	65,736	54,447

### 18 **SHARE CAPITAL & CONTROL**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and is under the control of the board of Trustees.

### **DESIGNATED FUNDS** 19

The income funds of		Movement in funds			
Trees for Cities include the following designated funds which have been set	Balance at 1 Apr 2019		Income	Expenditure	Balance at 31 Mar 2020
aside out of unrestricted funds by the Trustees for specific purposes:		£	£	£	£
	Edible playgrounds	1,031,142		(182,910)	848,232
		1,031,142		(182,910)	848,232

A designated fund has been set aside by the Trustees for future food growing in schools. The £848,232 fund at 31st March 2020 has been funded by our corporate partner Bulb and will be expended in future years.

### 20 **RESTRICTED FUNDS**

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

### Movement in funds

	Balance at 1 April 2019	19		Balance at 31 March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Urban Forests – London	-	430,089	(430,089)	
Urban Forests – UK Cities	105,000	211,796	(246,796)	70,000
Urban Forests – International		26,500	(26,500)	-
Edible Playgrounds	F	507,052	(507,052)	-
Other trading activities		5,156	(5,156)	-
Donations and legacies	-	435,556	(421,136)	14,420
	105,000	1,616,149	(1,636,729)	84,420

Trees for Cities' charitable projects are funded by both restricted and unrestricted income.

The following list of organisations contributed significant funds (in excess of £15,000) which have been used by the charity for charitable activities:

Arcadia Charitable	Dorothy Perkins	London Borough	PwC UK
Trust	The Dulverton Trust	of Redbridge	Ruth Smart
Bloomberg L.P.	Ekornes Ltd	L'Oreal (UK) Limited	Foundation
Bulb Energy	Forestry Commission	Honest Organic	RSM UK
Burton	Greater London	MOJU Ltd	Sustrans
Clear Channel UK Ltd	Authority	Mothercare UK Ltd	The Kisuma Trust
Cote Restaurants	Heathrow	National Lottery	The Prince of Wales's
DocuSign	Communities Fund	Community Fund	Charitable Fund
International	Investec Bank plc	Natural England	The Woodland Trust
(U.K), INC.	London Borough of	npower Ltd	The Guardian
Department for	Barking & Dagenham	Oliver Wyman Ltd	Tower Brook
Education	London Borough	Players of People's	Foundation
Department for Food,	of Ealing	Postcode Lottery –	<b>UK Power Networks</b>
Environment and	London Borough	awarded funds from	
Rural Affairs (Defra)	of Newham	Postcode Green Trust	

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### 21 **ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total
	£	£	£	£
FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2020 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	521,684	-	-	521,684
Current assets	1,953,037	84,420	848,232	2,885,689
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(1,298,633)	-	-	(1,298,633)
	1,176,088	84,420	848,232	2,108,740
FUND BALANCES AT 31 MARCH 2019 ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
Fixed assets	28,301	-	-	28,301
Current assets	1,547,021	105,000	1,031,142	2,683,163
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(899,689)			(899,689)
	675,633	105,000	1,031,142	1,811,775

### 22 **COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES**

At 31 March 2020 the company had total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
	£	£	£	£
Within one year	45,750	15,500	15,323	15,969
Between two and five years	64,667	10,000	20,723	36,046
	110,417	25,500	36,046	52,015

Lease payments recognised as expenditure during the year totalled £48,319 (2019: £33,075).

### 23 **RELATED PARTIES**

Other than the trustee expenditure reimbursements detailed in note 12, there were no related party transactions in the year to 31 March 2020 (2019: none).



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