



HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED
(A company limited by guarantee)

Report and Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2024

Company No : SC079712
Scottish Charity No : SC013906

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

The Directors, who are also trustees for the purpose of charity law, are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The Financial Statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Purposes

The purposes for which the Company is established shall be wholly and exclusively charitable.

In particular, the purposes of the Company shall be:

- To provide transport for disabled people who are resident within the Lothian Region;
- To provide community bus services within areas where none, little or commercial services are not viable for disabled, ill, disadvantaged and the general public to improve quality of life;
- In particular HcL is established for the public benefit for the following object: to provide transport for disabled, ill and or disadvantaged people and for health and life saving purposes.

The aim of our services is to reduce social isolation of people with mobility challenges across the Lothians, whether that be from age, disability, health issues (short-term or long-term) or geographic remoteness. By supporting people to get out and about from inside their home to inside their destination, we know that we are enabling people to get out who otherwise could not.

Activities

HcL is a charitable company that was set up in 1982 as Handicabs (Lothian) to provide accessible transport for people with mobility challenges in Edinburgh and the Lothians.

The Charity plays an important role in meeting a number of national and local policy objectives. The Scottish Government has defined a number of national priority outcomes, through the National Performance Framework of which the following are particularly relevant to the work of the Charity:

- Our people are able to maintain their independence as they get older and are able to access appropriate support when they need it.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

There is great value in the preventative aspect of the Charity's work; the value for mental health and health generally for people able to still be involved in their communities and their ability to do things for themselves and maintain a social life.

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There would be significant additional costs to public agencies should additional services need to be provided for housebound passengers. Effective services must be designed with and for people with communities not delivered "top down" for administrative convenience. The Charity, with its tradition of user influence is well placed in this respect.

HcL aims to provide a quality of service which goes above and beyond, providing door-to-door transport by providing a "through-the-door" service, ensuring that our passengers receive the assistance they need at the start and end of their journey. This may be assisting people with getting their coat on or ensuring that they are settled safely in their home after the journey. The profile of our passengers indicates a high level of mobility difficulty, with some 22% of our Dial-A-Ride passengers using a wheelchair. Many of our passengers rely on our service and cannot use buses or taxis. Our service is a particular lifeline to medical services, our trip data indicates that 11.2% of trips are health-related, and a further 1% for respite care.

By providing quality transport, our customers are able to be involved in the community by attending church, colleges, day centres, support groups, shopping centres, theatres, socialising etc. and in doing so it enables family members and carers to have a much-needed break. Our emphasis on quality of service extends to offering a 365 day a year service, evenings and weekends subject to driver availability. (For example, late night trips from the Edinburgh Tattoo are popular requests we receive and meet each year).

In addition, the Charity operates a Dial-A-Bus service on behalf of The City of Edinburgh, West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian Councils. Dial-A-Bus provides a Monday to Friday shopping service to local major shopping centres for people who have difficulty shopping using public transport. Passengers are helped in and out of their homes, to and from the bus, and helped to get their shopping inside on return if needed. 2.5% of passengers use wheelchairs. All areas of the Lothians have at least one and often 2 routes available during the week, either morning or afternoon. Edinburgh accounted for 38.2% of Dial-A-Bus passenger trips, West Lothian 35.4%, Midlothian 24.4% and East Lothian 2%.

The Charity also operates transport to Day Centres and Adult Learning Centres on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council, and Section 22 Operators Licence community bus routes in West Lothian.

With the growth in population in the Lothians, more and more people will have the need for quality accessible transport. We also play a key role in contributing to the quality of life for vulnerable groups.

HcL's customer base is any person who is restricted from using public services due to mobility reasons. These include isolated adults living in the community, people with mental health issues, disabilities, the elderly and people with ill health. In addition, HcL has secondary clients such as carers, daughters and sons of people with mobility restrictions who benefit through the provision of services to the person they care for. HcL has identified its source of referrals which include the Health Sector, Community Nursing Staff, GP Practices, Health Centre Staff, Hospitals, Social Work, Home Helps, Home Care Organisations, Good Neighbourhood Networks, and Libraries etc. All these areas are included in our mailing list for distribution of our leaflets.

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Please see comments from HcL's users below from renewal of memberships 2024 emphasising the difference door-through-door services make to the lives of people who might not otherwise be able to leave their homes:

- Your staff always give a first class service, whether on the phone or driving your car/buses. Well done and best wishes to everyone;
- Thank you for all your help and kindness to me. I'm able to book my journey and know you will always be there for me;
- Service provided is excellent; all staff are kind and patient, as I can be very slow due to back pain and arthritis;
- I hope to use you again soon! Service brilliant;
- Compliment to drivers also driver on Forever Young Club; Carrickvale Community Centre, Saughton Mains Street, Edinburgh on excellent care service and attention.

Volunteers

HcL continues to be grateful for the efforts of volunteers across all aspects of the service, management and administration. In particular, we acknowledge the Board members who volunteer their time as Trustees, responsible for the governance, financial and strategic direction of the Charity.

Achievements & Performance

The Charity operates 31 fully accessible vehicles providing door-through-door transport services 7 days a week including evenings. These services support people with mobility challenges across Edinburgh and the Lothians by providing the assistance needed at the start and end of a journey.

Summary of Achievements

1. Written HcL "Our Story" The First 40Years.
2. During the year from April 2023 to March 2024 we provided transport for over 100,000 people.
3. Extended our Service Development Manager contract to permanent.
4. HcL is proud to continue to be a member of the Scottish Living Wage.
5. Signed agreements with The City of Edinburgh Council till March 2027.
6. Rolled over yearly agreements with West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian Councils.
7. Reviewed and updated our Staff Conditions of Service with the assistance of Unite the Union and staff.
8. Reviewed and updated Executive Policies.
9. Maintained and improved Dial-A-Ride and Dial-A-Bus services - re-trained Despatchers on booking and scheduling software;
10. Raised profile of the Charity through the regular updating of the website, Facebook and Twitter; refreshed and updated leaflets; advertised COVID related support with local charities and organisations; advertised free vaccine transport through multiple routes; sought PR opportunities with several magazines and newspapers etc; published bi-yearly newsletter.

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11. Over 30 applications submitted to funders;
12. Purchased 2 community buses , one Dial-A-Bus and one Electric Dial-A-ride bus
13. Developed new services which enhance mobility – implemented a new Dial-A-Ride service in East Lothian, and West Lothian.
14. Active members of forums: Edinburgh Community Transport Operators Group (ECTO) Lothian Community Transport Services, Pilton Equality Project, South Edinburgh Amenities Group and The DOVE Centre, Community Transport Association, West Lothian Volunteer Network, West Lothian Senior Peoples Forum, Edinburgh Older Peoples Forum, Edinburgh Well Being Pact, Midlothian Older Peoples Forum, Volunteer Centre East Lothian Third Sector Forum, Community Scotland Electric Vehicles Forum & West Lothian Bus Alliance.
15. Ongoing development of stakeholder relationships and ways we can work with the City of Edinburgh Council; West Lothian Council; Midlothian Council and East Lothian Council. New services include school transport for children with complex health needs, Adult Day Centres and Community Bus Services;

Member of ECO Stars which enables us to monitor our carbon footprint yearly. Drivers are trained in fuel efficient driving;

West Lothian Dial-A-Bus changed from a Section 19 to a Section 22 operation to allow users to use their Concessionary Travel Entitlement;

- After a successful pilot in partnership with West Lothian Council, our local bus service (Broxburn & Uphall Town Service) has increased to an hourly service to 2 buses;
- Successfully tendered for the Broxburn & Uphall town service through Public Contracts Scotland.
- Midlothian & East Lothian Dial-A-Bus services changed from a Section 19 to a Section 22 operation to allow users to use their Concessionary Travel Entitlement
- Engaged with funders to fully understanding their policy priorities and to communicate effectively the contribution that HcL makes in meeting these policies;
- Partnership working - collaborated with partner organisations in the public, voluntary or private sectors where this advances our strategic aims;
- Monitoring and evaluation of our services – both statistically and qualitatively e.g. seeking feedback from passengers, members and stakeholders;
- HcL staff became Dementia Friends – Dementia Friends Scotland is part of a social action movement to increase awareness of dementia and to address the stigma experienced by many people living with the illness;
- Employed a trainer to deliver all staff training inhouse.
- Exploring the possibility of taking over a local Community Transport provider.

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Funding

We are grateful to all supporters – from members and customers who have made donations; and from the Funders, Trusts, Charitable Organisations and Local Groups who have supported us this.

Financial Review

Results

The Charity generated income of £1.96m (2023: £1.62m). The Directors are indebted to The City of Edinburgh Council, East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian Councils and the Scottish Government for the financial support they give both towards the operating costs of the Company and towards the funding of new vehicles.

Expenditure for the year was comparable with 2023 at £1.73m.

The net movement in funds, including actuarial gains/(losses) in defined pension scheme was a surplus of £121k (2023: deficit £120k).

Reserves Policy

At the year-end the charity had net assets of £1,409,402 (2023: £1,288,733), comprising of £197,069 (2023: £146,793) of restricted funds and £436,934 (2023: £462,985) designated funds and £775,399 (2023: £678,955) of general funds.

The Directors are of the opinion that an acceptable level of free reserves is 13 weeks of expenditure; based on expenditure levels this would represent c£435,000. In addition, the Directors agreed to increase the free reserves by £50,000 to provide working capital to cover cash flow requirements caused by delays in the receipt of funding, or where HcL must pay for the funded items in advance of receiving funding or to cover unexpected expenditure. The reserves policy is therefore set at £485,000. The current free reserves of the charity, being non-designated, not tied up in tangible fixed assets are £525,292. The directors acknowledge that this is in excess on the stated policy however they believe it is appropriate given the current economic uncertainties and certain increases in the Charity's costs.

If reserves fall below 13 weeks expenditure, or are forecast to do so, the board will review the budgets and financial forecasts and take measures as necessary to increase income or reduce expenditure.

Investment Policy

The Directors, having regard to the liquidity requirements of the charity, have kept available funds in an investment portfolio which is managed by Tilney, investment managers, on an advisory basis. The objective is one of a balanced portfolio subject to a medium degree of risk. There are no specific investment restrictions or limitations applied to the portfolio.

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Risk Review

The Directors conduct an ongoing review of the major risks to which the Charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities. Internal risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects and to ensure consistent quality of delivery for all operational aspects of the Charity. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the Charity.

The main risks to the Charity are:

- **Reduction in funding** – the Councils may reduce funding they currently provide to the Charity. HcL have implemented additional transport services for The City of Edinburgh Council and West Lothian Council. The Charity will continue to effectively communicate with all Councils at a political and officer level. A 5-year business strategy has been written to include these points. We employ a part-time Funding and Marketing Manager to source and secure additional funding from Trusts and Grant giving organisations. A Service Development Manager was employed in December 2022 on a 2-year contract (extended to a permanent contract) to help develop new partnerships and sources of income.

A member of staff trained to deliver all staff training in-house, will be extended to external to bring in additional revenue.

- **Dial-a-Ride/Dial-a-Bus demand declines** – as part of the 5-year business plan The Dial-A-Bus in West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian are now operating under a section 22 Operators licence. This will enable our users to travel free using their National Entitlement pass, this will encourage more passengers to use the service. Talks are ongoing with City of Edinburgh. The Charity has also implemented new booking procedures; re-trained Despatchers and use any down time to support Council projects. We have developed new services, Dial-A-Ride offers a discount of up to £6.50 off a first trip. Dial-A-Bus offers first return trip free in Edinburgh to encourage people to use the service.
- **Vehicle fleet becomes unreliable** – the Fundraising and Publicity Committee continually apply for grants and donations for new vehicles. The Charity is keen to implement a rolling programme for upgrading their vehicles, as the fleet is currently aging. The Charity aim to source low mileage vehicles to reduce replacement costs as well as seeking funding for electric/low emission vehicles.
- **Board not strong enough** – we have reviewed and implemented a 5-year strategy; one of the recommendations of the Board was to authorise the Chief Executive to carry out an organisational review with the support of the Cranfield Trust – to develop key performance indicators based on strategy outcomes; ongoing governance training for Executive Members; encourage more people to become members of HcL; review and update our image, including corporate branding. Increased efficiency, through minimising vehicle and administrative overheads and exploiting new technology fully.

Plans for Future Periods

The Charity has secured funding from The City of Edinburgh Council for the Dial-A-Ride and Dial-A-Bus services plus additional funding through the Public Social Partnership to deliver transport on behalf of The City of Edinburgh Council. In addition, we receive roll over funding from West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian Councils.

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In the next 12 months the Charity will:

- Be an active partner in the Public Social Partnership with The City of Edinburgh Council; Lothian Community Transport Services (LCTS); Pilton Equalities Project (PEP), South Edinburgh Amenities Group (SEAG) and The Dove Centre;
- Pilot and implement projects for The City of Edinburgh, West Lothian, Midlothian and East Lothian Councils;
- Work in partnership with Paths for All (Smarter Choices and Smarter Places) – this will allow us to increase our services within the area and increase active and sustainable travel throughout Scotland; which in turn will impact on the most vulnerable and isolated people within the West Lothian area;
- Explore the possibility to change Edinburgh Dial-A-Bus services from a Section 19 to a Section 22 Operators' Licence to allow users to use their National Entitlement Card;
- Strengthen our working relationship with all our funders and stakeholders. Engage with funders to fully understand their policy priorities and to communicate effectively the contribution that HcL makes in meeting these policies;
- Purchase 2 Community buses
- Upgrade our Information Technology systems;
- Introduce both low emissions and electric vehicles onto the fleet (subject to securing funding);
- Consult and update our Staff Conditions of Service;
- Tender for Community bus services in the Lothians
- Explore the possibility of a takeover of a local community transport organisation.

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Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The organisation is a Charitable Company Limited by guarantee incorporated on 10 August 1982.

The charity was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Directors and Executive Committee

The Directors of the charity who are listed on page 11 and under the Company's Articles are members of the Executive Committee. Under those Articles, the Directors are elected at the AGM to serve a period of one year after which they must be re-elected at the next AGM. The Directors have the power to co-opt not more than 2 further members to fill specialist roles. Co-opted members also serve until the following AGM.

The charity provides transport services for disabled people and therefore seeks to comply with the recognised guidelines that at least 51% of the Executive Committee should be made up of people with disabilities. Six of the current Board are users of our services.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate Directors prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring Directors and requesting nominations for the AGM.

All the current Directors retire at the AGM but all are offering themselves for re-election.

Directors Induction and Training

New Directors are briefed on their legal obligations under Charity and Company Law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Committee and decision making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Directors are encouraged to attend external courses.

Organisational Structure

The Executive Committee, which can have up to 10 members plus 2 co-optees, administers the charity and is responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. It meets quarterly and is supported by other Committees covering finance and staff matters. A Chief Executive is appointed by the Board to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity.

Pay and Remuneration of Key Personnel

Senior and operational management staff are remunerated in line with industry norms along with any increments set out at time of recruitment, or awarded as a result of any additional training, qualifications or responsibility. Otherwise, increments are usually limited to annual cost of living increases across all pay scales. The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme, open to all employees after 3 months of service, with employer contributes at 22.8%. Otherwise, the auto-enrolment schemes are available to all other employees in line with statutory requirements.

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Related Parties

The Charity is a member of The Scottish Accessible Transport Alliance (SATA), Community Transport Association (CTA), Edinburgh Community Transport Operators Group (ECTOG), Community Transport Public Social Partnership (CTPSP), Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council (EVOC), Midlothian Voluntary Action (MVA), West Lothian Social Enterprise Network (WLSN), Edinburgh's Older People's Service Providers Forum and West Lothian Senior People's Forum. We are also in partnership to provide urban and rural transport schemes in the community with West Lothian, Midlothian, East Lothian and The City of Edinburgh Councils.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name: Handicabs (Lothian) Limited (also Known as "HcL")

Charity registration number: SC013906

Company registration number: SC079712

Directors

D Wilson	Chairman
Dr K Brown TD MBChB MRCP AFOM CIH	Vice Chairman
J Bhagrath CA	Treasurer
M Harrison	
J Cameron	
M McDonald (resigned 7 June 2023)	
P Lawson	
K Kerr	
M Purdie (resigned 10 January 2024)	
L MacInnes (appointed 6 June 2023)	
S Somerfield (appointed 25 July 2023)	

Senior management team

J K Cochrane	Chief Executive
R Hutson	Operations Manager
G Toner	Assistant Operations Manager

Registered office and operational address

24/3a Dryden Road, Loanhead, Midlothian, EH20 9HX

Senior Statutory Auditor

Ingela Louise Presslie

Auditor

Whitelaw Wells, Statutory Auditor, 9 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6AT

Bankers

Bank of Scotland, 426 Morningside Road, Edinburgh, EH10 5QF

Investment managers

Tilney, Atria Two, Edinburgh, EH3 8EX

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DIRECTORS' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 March 2024

Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The directors, who are also the trustees of the charity, are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Disclosure of information to Auditors

Each of the Directors has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditors are aware of such information.

Auditor

The Board have re-appointed Whitelaw Wells as auditors and that appointment will fall to be confirmed at the Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approved by the Directors on 10th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



D Wilson
Director

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

Independent Auditor's Report to the directors and members of Handicabs (Lothian) Limited For the year ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Handicab (Lothian) Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (incorporating the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows 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 FRS102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Accounting 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 2024 and of 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, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

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 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 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 (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) 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 other information comprises the information in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. 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.

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Independent Auditor's Report to the directors and members of Handicabs (Lothian) Limited For the year ended 31 March 2024

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 directors' report, prepared for the purposes of company law and included within the trustees' annual report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report, included within the trustees' annual report, 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 charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report, included within the trustees' annual report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) 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' exemptions in preparing the director's report, included within the trustees' annual report, and from the requirements to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 10, the directors (who are also trustees of the charitable company for the purposes of charity 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 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 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 directors 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

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

Independent Auditor's Report to the directors and members of Handicabs (Lothian) Limited For the year ended 31 March 2024

From enquiries of those charged with governance, it was determined that the risk of material misstatement from fraud was low with little scope for fraud to occur. Our audit testing is designed to detect material misstatements from fraud where there is not high level collusion.

Our audit testing was designed to detect material misstatements from other irregularities that result from error where there is not high level concealment of the error. In this regard the following audit work was undertaken: applicable laws and regulations were reviewed and discussed with management; senior management meeting minutes were reviewed; internal controls were reviewed; and journals were reviewed. From this audit testing it was determined that the risk of material misstatement in this regard was low.

We carried out income testing and grants payable testing which was designed to identify any irregularities as a result of simple mistakes or human error. From this audit testing it was determined that the risk of material misstatement in this regard was low.

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. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

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, and the trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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.



Ingela Louise Presslie (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Whitelaw Wells
Statutory Auditor
9 Ainslie Place
Edinburgh
Midlothian
EH3 6AT

10th September 2024

Whitelaw Wells is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

Statement of Financial Activities (inc income and expenditure account) for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowment from:					
<i>Donations and legacies:</i>					
Donations and legacies	4	7,579	-	7,579	7,515
Membership		655	-	655	710
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Operating grants	6	989,793	92,791	1,082,584	1,050,320
Capital grants		-	109,625	109,625	100,174
Network Support Grant		124,450	-	124,450	102,348
Fares		479,998	-	479,998	319,083
Other trading activities – training		1,115	-	1,115	-
Investments	5	13,666	-	13,666	10,467
Other - pension		137,800	-	137,800	32,000
Total income		1,755,056	202,416	1,957,472	1,622,617
Expenditure on:					
Fundraising funds		(22,413)	-	(22,413)	-
Charitable activities		(1,559,033)	(152,140)	(1,711,173)	(1,797,213)
Total expenditure	7	(1,581,446)	(152,140)	(1,733,586)	(1,797,213)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	12	28,783	-	28,783	(22,037)
Net income/(expenditure)		202,393	50,276	252,669	(196,633)
Transfers between funds	15	-	-	-	-
Other recognised (losses)/gains:					
Actuarial (losses)/gains on defined benefit pension schemes		(132,000)	-	(132,000)	77,000
Net movement in funds		70,393	50,276	120,669	(119,633)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds at 1 April 2023		1,141,940	146,793	1,288,733	1,408,366
Total funds at 31 March 2024	15	1,212,333 =====	197,069 =====	1,409,402 =====	1,288,733 =====

There are no recognised gains or losses in 2024 or 2023 other than those dealt with above. All results of the company refer to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 17 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	£	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	11		362,236	267,272
Investments	12		674,846	639,429
			<u>1,037,082</u>	<u>906,701</u>
Current assets				
Debtors	13	179,730		89,207
Cash at bank and in hand		289,415		382,149
<i>Total current assets</i>		<u>469,145</u>		<u>471,356</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(96,825)		(89,324)
Net current assets			<u>372,320</u>	<u>382,032</u>
<i>Total assets less liabilities</i>			<u>1,409,402</u>	<u>1,288,733</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme asset/(liability)	17		-	-
Net assets			<u>1,409,402</u>	<u>1,288,733</u>
Total funds of the charity:				
Restricted funds	15		197,069	146,793
Unrestricted funds	15			
Designated funds			436,934	462,985
General funds			775,399	678,955
Pension reserve			-	-
			<u>1,409,402</u>	<u>1,288,733</u>

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the Financial Reporting Standard 102.

Approved by the Directors on 10th September 2024 and signed on their behalf by :



D Wilson

Director

Registered number: SC079712

The notes on pages 17 to 31 form part of these financial statements.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

Cash Flow Statement

As at 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities	114,185	(26,060)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of fixed assets	(216,752)	(167,889)
Proceeds from the sale of fixed assets	2,800	2,000
Dividends and interest from investment	13,666	10,467
Purchase of investments	(192,914)	(19,689)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	151,358	26,707
Net cash (used) by investing activities	(241,842)	(148,404)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	(127,657)	(174,464)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	420,468	594,932
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	292,811	420,468
Represented by:		
Cash at bank and in hand	289,415	382,149
Cash held as part of investment portfolio	3,396	38,319
	292,811	420,468

Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	120,669	(119,633)
Adjustments for the year:		
Depreciation charge	121,788	108,866
Gain on sale of fixed assets	(2,800)	(2,000)
Dividends and interest from investment	(13,666)	(10,467)
Net losses/(gains) on investments	(28,783)	22,037
(Increase) in debtors	(90,523)	(21,608)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	7,500	(3,255)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	114,185	(26,060)

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. General information

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (GBP) as that is the currency in which the charitable company's transactions are denominated. These financial statements are of Handicabs (Lothian) only and cover the year to 31 March 2024.

The Principal activities of Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd during the year is to provide transport for disabled, ill and or disadvantaged people and for health and life saving purposes.

Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd is an incorporated charity limited by guarantee in the United Kingdom and is registered in Scotland. It is recognised as a charity for tax purposes by HMRC and is registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) under charity number SC013906. Details of the registered office can be found in the Directors Report of these financial statements.

2. Statement of compliance

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including the Financial Reporting Standard 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) effective 1 January 2019", the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

3. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are noted below. These policies have been applied consistently to all the years presented, in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the charity's financial statements unless otherwise stated.

a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

Handicabs (Lothian) Ltd meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires directors to exercise their judgement in the process of applying the accounting policies. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual outcomes in the future could differ from such estimates.

The charity depends on grant funding from outside sources and fundraising to finance its activities. At the date of approving the financial statements in assessing the going concern position of the charity, the Board has fully considered the security of future income and net asset position in the Balance Sheet at the year end.

The charity has committed grant funding until March 2025 and, on the basis of cash flow projections, is able to meet its ongoing liabilities as they fall due. As a consequence, the Board has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

b) Income recognition

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Grants receivable, including capital grants, are credited to the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income is deferred only when the funder specifies that the funds must be used in future accounting periods or has imposed conditions that must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement, and these conditions have not yet been met.
- Incomes from service level agreements, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.
- Incomes from passenger fares are recognised when services have been received.
- Income is only deferred where entitlement conditions have not been met or related services have not been provided as at the year end.
- Donations and legacies are included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Income from activities for generating funds is recognised as earned, as the related services are provided.
- Other trading activities relates to training services. Income is recognised when the service is provided.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- The charity is grateful for volunteers and donations-in-kind, which are not recognised in the accounts as the benefit to the charity cannot be reasonably quantified. Where the donation-in-kind benefit can be reasonably quantified it is included in the accounts.

c) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. The charity became registered for VAT in the year. Where VAT is irrecoverable, it is allocated directly against the expenditure to which it relates.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs include the expenses of the statutory audit and legal and professional fees.

d) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost with assets costing in excess of £1,000 capitalised.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset in equal instalments over their expected useful life, as follows:

Motor vehicles	25%
Office equipment	20%

e) Leasing

Operating lease rentals are written off to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

f) Pensions

The charity has two pension schemes. A defined benefit scheme with the Lothian Pension Fund that provides benefit on a final pensionable pay, and a defined contribution scheme with The People's Pension. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

g) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds that have been earmarked by the directors for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure that meets these criteria is charged to the fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

h) Investments and investment income

Investments have been included in the balance sheet at market value. Realised gains and losses are recognised in the Income and Expenditure account and the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. Unrealised gains and losses are recognised in The Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Income from investments is credited to income in the year in which it is receivable.

i) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any trade discounts due.

j) Cash & cash equivalents

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

k) Creditors

Creditors 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. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Financial instruments

The charitable company only enters into basic financial instruments transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other accounts receivable and payable.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade payables or receivables, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration, expected to be paid or received. However if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate or in case of an out-right short-term loan not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially, at the present value of the future cash flow discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

l) Financial instruments (continued)

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance Sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and the liability simultaneously.

4. Donations and legacies

	Dial-A Bus	Dial-A-Ride	Other Charitable services	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General donations	-	-	7,579	7,579	7,515
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	7,579	7,579	7,515
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Donations and legacies income for the comparative year ended 31 March 2023 was £7,515 of which all was unrestricted.

5. Investment income

	Dial-A Bus	Dial-A-Ride	Other Charitable services	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Interest received	-	-	1,224	1,224	866
Investment income	-	-	12,442	12,442	9,601
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-	13,666	13,666	10,467
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Investment income for the comparative year ended 31 March 2023 was £10,467 of which all was unrestricted.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

6. Income from charitable activities

	Dial-A-Bus	Dial-A-Ride	Other Charitable services	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants received					
The City of Edinburgh Council	106,555	311,435	-	417,990	417,990
The City of Edinburgh Council - PSP	8,125	-	-	8,125	32,500
East Lothian Council	6,114	68,752	-	74,866	74,866
West Lothian Council	32,280	178,372	-	210,652	216,596
Midlothian Council	28,336	142,036	-	170,372	170,372
West Lothian Council - Broxburn	107,788	-	-	107,788	88,536
East Lothian Project	-	-	-	-	20,000
Robertson Trust	13,500	-	-	13,500	13,500
Paths for All	-	46,391	-	46,391	-
EB Scotland	-	-	15,000	15,000	-
Other Trust & Foundations (less than £10,000)	-	-	17,900	17,900	15,960
Total	<u>302,698</u> =====	<u>746,986</u> =====	<u>32,900</u> =====	<u>1,082,584</u> =====	<u>1,050,320</u> =====

Income from charitable activities for the comparative year ended 31 March 2023 consisted of £1,050,320 of operating grant income, of which £49,460 was restricted and £1,000,860 was unrestricted.

Capital grants in the comparative year consisted of £100,174 all of which were restricted.

Network Support grant in the comparative year were £102,348 which was all unrestricted.

Fares in the comparative year were £319,083 which was all unrestricted.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Expenditure

	Dial-A Bus	Dial-A- Ride	Other charitable service	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Fundraising funds					
Fundraiser wages	-	22,413	-	22,413	-
Charitable expenditure:					
Stair climber	-	-	2,035	2,035	3,920
Highland Fling Bungee	-	-	500	500	-
Administration wages	-	173,320	-	173,320	198,443
Drivers and despatchers wages	271,119	636,210	-	907,329	952,715
Relief drivers	-	2,119	-	2,119	4,343
Volunteers' expenses	185	1,904	-	2,089	1,480
Protective clothing, PPE equipment & medicals	1,744	5,900	117	7,761	7,509
Conference, training and travelling	2,003	3,532	270	5,805	26,897
Vehicle costs	109,299	237,220	17,815	364,334	359,681
Rent, rates and heating	14,736	26,847	-	41,583	43,955
Repairs and cleaning	1,677	5,427	-	7,104	4,754
Printing, stationery and advertising	2,575	7,775	-	10,350	14,101
Telephone	1,688	4,968	-	6,656	7,963
Support costs:					
Insurance	2,952	6,887	-	9,839	9,835
Computer running costs	408	4,527	-	4,935	4,736
Software support	2,936	8,807	-	11,743	13,810
Miscellaneous expenses	1,737	7,881	792	10,410	9,426
Depreciation	-	-	121,788	121,788	108,866
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	2,338
Professional fees	1,329	3,958	13	5,300	4,787
Investment management fees	-	-	5,808	5,808	5,765
Governance costs:					
Audit and accountancy	1,965	2,220	6,180	10,365	11,889
Total	416,353	1,161,915	155,318	1,733,586	1,797,213

Support costs are apportioned on an invoiced basis, other than professional fees which are allocated on a pro-rata basis.

Fundraising funds and charitable expenditure for the comparative year ended 31 March 2023 totalled £1,797,213, of which £1,684,986 was unrestricted and £112,227 was restricted.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

8. Net (expenditure)/income for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):-

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	121,788	108,866
(Gain) on sale of fixed assets	(2,800)	(2,000)
Operating lease charges – land	25,700	25,700
Operating lease charges – Other	3,410	2,608
Auditors' remuneration: - Audit of accounts	6,500	7,745
- Audit of grant claims	1,430	574
	=====	=====

9. Staff costs and numbers and related party transactions

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	920,561	854,464
Social security costs	68,615	63,201
Pension contributions	116,005	237,836
	=====	=====
	1,105,181	1,155,501

The average number of employees during the year on a head count basis was 43 (2023: 41)

One (2023: one) employee received emoluments of between £60,000 - £69,999 during the current year.

The company operates a defined benefit pension scheme as detailed in note 17.

The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Company to both the Lothian Pension Fund £106,214 (2023: £110,787) and The People's Pension Fund £6,791 (2023: £2,906), the total of which amounts to £113,005 (2023: £113,693). Contributions totalling £12,140 (2023: £11,971) were payable to the fund at the year end and are included in creditors.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees and the senior management team. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £173,293 (2023: £167,590).

No trustees received any remuneration and during the year there were no re-imbursement of expenses to directors.

Accountancy fees include £3,640 (2023: £3,720) to Henderson Loggie LLP, a firm in which Trustee, J Bhagrath is a partner. £2,500 is accrued at the year end and is included in creditors.

Six directors are members of the service and pay the same rates as other users.

10. Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

11. Tangible fixed assets

	Motor Vehicles £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	1,135,403	8,781	1,144,184
Additions	216,752	-	216,752
Disposals	(58,023)	-	(58,023)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	1,294,132	8,781	1,302,913
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	868,131	8,781	876,912
Charge for the year	121,788	-	121,788
Write off on disposal	(58,023)	-	(58,023)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	931,896	8,781	940,677
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	362,236	-	362,236
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	267,272	-	267,272
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The charity has title to land that was donated during the year ended 31 March 2020. The directors consider the cost/benefit of valuing the land not to be worthwhile at this point in time. The directors believe the current value of the land is not material to the financial statements.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
12. Investments		
Market value on 1 April 2023	639,429	657,631
Additions at cost	192,914	19,689
Disposal proceeds	(151,358)	(26,707)
(Decrease)/increase in cash held	(34,922)	10,853
Net realised investment losses	(7,994)	(2,153)
Net unrealised investment gains/(losses)	36,777	(19,884)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Market value at 31 March 2024	674,846	639,429
	=====	=====
Cost	615,546	613,925
	=====	=====

Included in investments in 2024 is £3,396 (2023 - £38,319) held as cash.

	2024 £	2023 £
Investments at fair value comprised:		
Equities	418,293	356,569
Bonds, fixed interest securities, real assets	253,157	244,541
Cash and accrued interest held within the investment portfolio	3,396	38,319
	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31 March 2024	674,846	639,429
	=====	=====

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange. The basis of fair value for quoted investments is equivalent to the market value, using the bid price. Asset sales and purchases are recognised at the date of trade at cost (that is their transaction value).

13. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	17,018	23,079
Grants receivable	127,647	61,128
VAT recoverable	35,065	-
Other debtors	-	5,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	179,730	89,207
	=====	=====

14. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Other creditors	25,802	21,951
Accruals	43,772	40,487
Pension creditor	12,140	11,971
Taxation and social security	15,111	14,915
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	96,825	89,324
	=====	=====

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income		
Balance as at 1 April 2023	-	20,020
Amounts released to income	-	(20,020)
Amounts deferred in the year	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31 March 2024	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance.

15. Movements in funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted fund:					
Minibuses & equipment	118,386	112,953	(49,200)	-	182,139
COVID equipment	15,804	-	(15,804)	-	-
Office refurbishment	6,633	-	-	-	6,633
Passenger day trips	-	13,000	(9,940)	-	3,060
Staff training	1,000	1,572	(270)	-	2,302
Staff fund	-	59,891	(59,891)	-	-
Stair climber fund	4,970	-	(2,035)	-	2,935
Greener community fund	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Unrestricted:					
Designated funds:					
Vehicle fund	348,504	-	(26,051)	-	322,453
Restructure fund	114,481	-	-	-	114,481
General fund	678,955	1,648,839	(1,552,395)	-	775,399
Pension fund	-	135,000	(135,000)	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,288,733	1,986,255	(1,865,586)	-	1,409,402
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Restricted fund:

Minibuses & equipment

This represents grants received from organisations to assist in the purchase of minibuses and related equipment.

COVID equipment

This represents donations towards COVID equipment including screens for vehicles, PPE and cleaning equipment and passenger trips for vaccination boosters.

Office refurbishment

This represents donations to enable to the refurbishment of the Bathgate office as well as new office equipment.

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Passenger day trips

This fund is to provide outings for 3 trips for 42 people resident in Edinburgh and 1 day trips residents in West Lothian.

Staff fund

During the year the charity received grants from Robertson Trust and Paths for All towards driver wages.

Staff training

During the year, the charity received donations towards staff ongoing training.

Stair climber fund

This fund supports the use of a stair climber to aid those passengers who would otherwise be housebound.

Greener community fund

During the year the charity received funding from EB Scotland in relation to the Greener Community Fund EB operates within the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund (SLCF), the funding was used to introduce EV charging points at the Bathgate depot.

Designated funds:

Vehicle fund

In 2015/16 the charity designated £150,000 towards the purchase of two new Dial-A-ride vehicles and one new Dial-A-bus vehicle. In 2018 the charity received a legacy of £210,000 from a former service user. In 2020 the charity decided to designate this legacy, together with further funds towards the cost of acquiring new vehicles.

Restructure fund

In 2020 the charity agreed to designate £120,000 towards a review of the staff structure in Dial-A-Ride and Dial-A-Bus

The pension fund represents movements in the pension deficit over the year, as advised by the scheme actuary (see also note 17 to the accounts).

Comparative figures:

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Restricted fund:					
Minibuses & equipment	76,240	109,984	(67,838)	-	118,386
COVID equipment	16,511	200	(907)	-	15,804
Computer equipment	500	-	(500)	-	-
Office refurbishment	6,633	-	-	-	6,633
Passenger day trips	1,362	3,700	(5,062)	-	-
Staff fund	-	1,500	(500)	-	1,000
Staff training	-	33,500	(33,500)	-	-
Stair climber fund	8,140	750	(3,920)	-	4,970
Unrestricted:					
Designated funds:					
Vehicle fund	360,000	-	(11,496)	-	348,504
Restructure fund	114,481	-	-	-	114,481
General fund	824,499	1,442,983	(1,588,527)	-	678,955
Pension fund	-	107,000	(107,000)	-	-
	<u>1,408,366</u>	<u>1,699,617</u>	<u>(1,819,250)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,288,733</u>
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

16. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Pension liability £	Totals £
Restricted fund	112,129	-	84,940	-	197,069
Unrestricted funds	250,107	674,846	287,380	-	1,212,333
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	362,236	674,846	372,320	-	1,409,402
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

	Fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Pension liability £	Totals £
Restricted fund	74,979	-	71,814	-	146,793
Unrestricted funds	192,293	639,429	310,218	-	1,141,940
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	267,272	639,429	382,032	-	1,288,733
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

17. Pensions

The Company is a participating employer in the Lothian Pension Fund ("The Scheme") that provides benefits based on final pensionable pay. The charity operates a defined benefit scheme in the UK that provides pensions linked to final salaries. A valuation of the pension fund is carried out triennially. Liabilities are valued on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, which assess the future liabilities of the fund discounted to their present value.

The expected return on assets is based on the long-term future expected investment return for each asset class as at the beginning of the period.

The principal actuarial assumptions used by the actuary are as follows:

	31 March 2024 % pa	31 March 2023 % pa
Rate of increase in salaries	3.30%	3.45%
Rate of increase in pensions payment	2.80%	2.95%
Discount rate	4.80%	4.75%

Life expectancy is based on the Funds Vita Curves with improvements in line with the CMI2022 model. Based on these assumptions, the average future life expectancies at age 65 are as follows:

	Males	Females
Current pensioners	20.2 years	23.0 years
Future pensioners	20.5 years	23.8 years

The major categories of plan assets as a percentage of total plan assets were:

	31 March 2024 %	31 March 2023 %
Equities	72%	73%
Bonds	17%	14%
Property	8%	7%
Cash	3%	6%

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Changes in the fair value of plan assets, defined benefit obligation and net liability for the year ended 31 March 2024:

	Assets £(000)	Obligations £(000)	Net (liability) Asset £(000)	Net position March 2023 £(000)
	£	£	£	£
Fair value of plan assets	6,533	-	6,533	6,313
Present value of funded liabilities	-	3,699	(3,699)	(5,165)
Opening position as at 31 March 2023	6,533	3,699	2,834	1,148
Service cost				
Current service cost	-	110	(110)	(215)
Total service cost	-	110	(110)	(215)
Net interest				
Interest income on plan assets	312	-	312	171
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	-	177	(177)	(141)
Total net interest	312	177	135	30
Total defined benefit cost recognised in net income or (expenditure)	312	287	25	(185)
Cashflows				
Plan participants' contributions	28	28	-	-
Employer contributions	107	-	107	108
Benefits paid	(109)	(109)	-	-
Expected closing position	6,871	3,905	2,966	1,071
Re-measurements				
Changes in financial assumptions	-	(152)	152	1,961
Changes in demographic assumptions	-	(16)	16	44
Other experience	16	561	(545)	(253)
Return on assets excluding amounts include in net interest	304	-	304	11
Total re-measurements recognised in other gains or losses in Statement of Financial Activities	320	393	(73)	1,763
Fair value of plan assets	7,191	-	7,191	6,533
Present value of funded liabilities	-	4,298	(4,298)	(3,699)
Closing position as at 31 March 2024	7,191	4,298	2,893	2,834

HANDICABS (LOTHIAN) LIMITED

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

for the year ended 31 March 2024

17. Pensions (continued)

Defined contribution scheme

The charity also operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

18. Operating lease commitments

At the 31 March 2024 the total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Land and buildings:		
No later than one year	25,700	25,700
No later than 5 years	5,000	25,000
	=====	=====
Other:		
No later than one year	3,208	2,608
No later than 5 years	11,228	3,912
	=====	=====

19. Contingent asset

In 2022 the charity entered into conditional missives to sell the previously donated land. The missives are subject to planning consent and the sales proceeds might not be known for a number of years.

During 2024 the charity registered for VAT. There is a probability a VAT reclaim will be received in respect of VAT incurred in early periods. At this time the HMRC review is at an early stage, therefore there is no certainty a reclaim will be received and as such it is not possible to ascertain the value of such a claim.