Company Registration No. 07880602 (England and Wales)

### **EXURBE LIMITED** A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2014

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#### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Trustees** P Brown

P Kilfoyle M J Storey M Thornton J Tonge

Secretary L S Kilfoyle

Charity Number 1149361

Company Number 07880602

**Registered Office** 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Castle Chambers

43 Castle Street

Liverpool L2 9TL

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#### TRUSTEE'S REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the period ended 31 March 2014.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005.

#### Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated on 13 December 2011.

The Trustees, who are also directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the period were:

P Brown	(Appointed 13 December 2011)
P Kilfoyle	(Appointed 13 December 2011)
M J Storey	(Appointed 13 December 2011)
M Thornton	(Appointed 13 December 2011)
J Tonge	(Appointed 13 December 2011)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the provisions of the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

The charity is managed by its trustees and the day to day administration by its employees.

The organisation structure consists of five trustees who meet every thirteen weeks. For most of the period, the staff has consisted of a director/head researcher, together with two graduate assistants. All three members of staff have worked on a part-time basis.

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The charity's objects are:

- To advance the education of the public through research and analysis which contribute to and enhance collective knowledge and understanding of public affairs; and
- To promote civic responsibility and good citizenship in such ways as the charity trustees deem appropriate

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

### TRUSTEE'S REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

Our output and activity is detailed below. The company's staffing complement and time commitment reduced as the year progressed. By October 2013, it was down to two staff members (one at three days and one at two days per week). Since February 2014, the director/head researcher has been operating alone, just two days per week. The trustees are mindful this needs to be addressed, if the quality and quantity of the company's activity is to be maintained.

#### Reports

- Liverpool: The Incredible Shrinking City (April 2014)
- Like Pulling Teeth: Freedom of Information in the Liverpool City Region (February 2014)
- The Chrysalis Fund, EU Monies and Merseyside (November 2013)
- Secondary Education in Knowsley: An Exercise in Failed Governance? (November 2013)
- Democracy Matters: Liverpool City Region Political Engagement Study (July 2013)\*
- Liverpool City Region and the Immigration Issue (May 2013)
- Merseyside Matters: Making the Case for a Liverpool City-Region Proper (reissued with new preface April 2013)

\*This was an experimental, survey-based project for which the company relied upon graduate volunteers. In the event, it was logistically problematic and took up far more time than staff had envisaged. It was nevertheless an instructive exercise and the report received academic attention and media coverage.

The reports have made quite an impact, in different ways. For example, the 'Pulling Teeth' document appears to have been very well received, locally, by residents and councillors alike. One of the managers of the Chrysalis Fund sought a meeting to 'explain' its practices, following publication of our report. The leader of Knowsley Council saw fit to write a defensive letter about our findings in relation to secondary education provision in the borough. The recent 'Shrinking City' paper received very positive feedback and reviews for its insight and analysis of 'smart growth'.

#### **Briefing Notes ('Rough Guides')**

- Local Government in the LCR: Party Political Composition (May 2014)
- Liverpool City Region and the Community Right to Bid (April 2014)
- Local Media across the Liverpool City Region (March 2014)
- What's in a Name? Liverpools around the World (February 2014).
- Using Freedom of Information (FOI) on Merseyside: Dos and Don'ts (February 2014)

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- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (November 2013)
- Organised Youth Politics in the Liverpool City Region (September 2013)
- Police and Crime Governance on Merseyside: Update (September 2013)
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (August 2013)
- Food Banks and the Liverpool City Region (July 2013)
- Women in Local Government (July 2013)
- Liverpool City Region: Child Health (April 2013)

#### **Contributed Essays:**

- Fuel Poverty (November 2013)
- Liverpool City Region 2013: Capital of Culture or Commerce? (October 2013)
- Zero Hours Contracts: In Whose Interests? (September 2013)
- Freedom of Information: Time for our Own Drive for Glasnost (August 2013)
- On Why Democratic Disengagement on Merseyside is Hardly Surprising (August 2013)

#### In addition

- Routine 'Comment' and 'Spotlight On' pieces
- ExUrbe 'Response to Proposal to Establish a Combined Authority for Greater Merseyside', submitted to the DCLG in January 2014 and published on our website
- The preparation of various funding bids
- Meetings/discussions with external parties
- Monitoring and maintaining a 'Twitter' presence

#### **Website Traffic**

Between 1 April 2013 and 31 March 2014, the website received some 2,678 visits from 1,771 users (suggesting a proportion of 'repeat' traffic' – that is, returning visitors), with 10,306 page views. A spike in visits following publication and Twitter promotion of new material suggests that a) our audience is consolidating, b) we are being noticed and c) we are being routinely monitored. The diagnostics suggest our online Liverpool City Region audience is growing.

#### **External Coverage and Recognition**

Throughout the year, the company's work has been cited, referenced, recommended or used as a source by a wide range of individuals and organisations in the media, academia and politics, including (but not limited to):

- Liverpool City Region councillors, particularly those on Liverpool City Council
- Public Accounts Select Committee (House of Commons)
- Unlock Democracy (Mersevside)
- Democratic Audit
- Smart Growth UK
- Various postgraduate researchers and academics in the UK and abroad

#### Mainstream Media Coverage

- Bay TV Liverpool
- BBC News North West
- BBC Radio Merseyside
- Channel 4
- Financial Times
- Independent
- Liverpool Echo (and Liverpool Daily Post, before its closure)
- Evening Standard
- Private Eye
- · Wide range of regional press around the country
- Arte (French TV Channel)

#### **Citations (Examples)**

- Manchester University: 'Manifesto for Research on Socio Cultural Change'
   (published November 2013 by the Centre for Research on Socio Cultural Change an international consortium of academics)
- Liverpool John Moores University: Women at the Cutting Edge: Why Public Sector Spending Cuts in Liverpool are a Gender Equality Issue' (published June 2013)
- Tristram Hunt MP, Shadow Education Secretary: 'Ten Cities that Made an Empire'
  (non-fiction text published June 2014)

In addition, the company has been approached by many interested parties about its approach and experience as an organisation (a professional from Bristol actually sought advice on setting up a think tank based upon the ExUrbe model in his part of the country) and about particular projects upon which staff have worked.

#### **Achievements and Performance**

The company's achievement in the period has been to inform and stimulate debate as evidenced above and thus to meet its charitable objects. The company is also monitoring increasing public interest, as more individuals and organisations become aware of our work.

#### **Financial Review**

Total incoming resources for the period was £42,390, of which £42,373 was in the form of donations received. Total resources expended was £32,840, resulting in a net income of £9,550 for the period. At the period end the financial position was net assets of £3,418, of which there was a liability of £5,000 owed to a trustee and his wife.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities whilst consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. In this period of activity this level of reserves has not yet been achieved.

On behalf of the board of Trustees.

Peter Kilfoyle

Trustee

Dated: 27 June 2014

#### INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

#### TO THE TRUSTEES OF EXURBE LIMITED

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014, which are set out on pages 9-13.

#### Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Trustees, who are also the directors of EXURBE LIMITED for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- i. examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- ii. to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- iii. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

#### Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charities Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts provide a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

#### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - ii. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;

have not been met; or

(b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

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Helen Winsland F.C.C.A. 148 Roby Road Roby L36 4HQ

Dated 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2013 £
Incoming resources from generated funds Donations and legacies Investment income	2 3	42,373 17	25,287 9
Total incoming resources		42,390	25,296
Resources expended Charitable activities	4		
In furtherance of charity's activities		32,590	30,708
Governance Costs		250	720
Total resources expended		32,840	31,428
Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds		9,550	(6,132)
Fund balance at 31 March 2013		(6,132)	
Fund balance at 21 March 2014		3,418	

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

	Notes	2014 £	2014 £	2013 £	2013 £
Current assets Cash at bank and in hand Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7	8,929 (5,511)		757 (6,889)	
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>3,418</u>		<u>(6,132)</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds			3,418		(6,132)
			3,418		(6,132)

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the period ending 31 March 2014. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 7 July 2014.

P Kilfoyle Trustee

Company Registration No. 07880602

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

#### 1 Accounting policies

#### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Notwithstanding the limited net assets, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The validity of this depends upon the continued support of the charity's principal lenders and of new donations and/or commissions. The trustee and his wife have confirmed that they will not seek to withdraw their loans from the charity for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements. It is also the trustees' view that additional funding will be obtained as the charity continues to become more established.

On the basis of the above continued support the trustees consider that the charity will be able to continue to operate for the foreseeable future. The trustees therefore consider it is appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

#### 1.2 Incoming resources

Voluntary income is received by way of donations and is included in full in the statement of Financial Activities when receivable. The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included.

#### 1.3 Resources expended

Resources expended are included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis, and include attributable VAT which cannot be recovered.

#### 2 Donations and legacies

Donations and gifts	2014 £ 42,373	2013 £ 25,287
Donations and gifts Unrestricted funds: Day Rigby Charitable Trust P & B Kilfoyle Other Donations	40,000 1,873 500	12,500 11,287 1,500
	42,373	<u>25,287</u>

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# NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

3	Investment income			-	
				2014 £	2013 £
	Interest receivable			<u>17</u>	<u>9</u>
4	Total resources expended	Staff costs £	Other costs £	Total 2014 £	2013 £
	Charitable activities				
	In furtherance of charity's activities Activities undertaken directly	29,922	2,668	32,590	30,708
	Governance costs	-	250	250	720
		29,922	2,918	32,840	31,428
5	Activities undertaken directly				
				2014 £	2013 £
	Other costs relating to in furtherance	of charity's activit	ies comprise:		
	Telephone and broadband Accounting Legal & Professional			649 792	769 281 2,400
	Sundry Expenses IT rental			354 873	743 287
				2,668	<u>4,480</u>

#### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

6	Employees	2014 Number	2013 Number
	Number of employees		_
	The average monthly number of employees during the period was:	3	3
	Employment costs	2014	2013
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	29,922	26,228
	There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,0	00 or more.	
7	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2014	2013
		£	£
	Taxes and social security costs	-	1,169
	Other creditors	5,000	5,000
	Accruals	511	720
		5,511	6,889
		<u></u>	

#### 8 Related parties

A loan of £5,000.00 made to the Charity during the previous period by B Kilfoyle remains outstanding at the year end. B Kilfoyle is the wife of P Kilfoyle, a Trustee of the Charity.

During the period £17,500.00 wages costs have been paid to L Kilfoyle. L Kilfoyle is the daughter of P Kilfoyle.

During the period donations have been received from P Kilfoyle and his wife in the sum of £1,873.