



**Dundee Civic Trust**  
'Encouraging the Best'



## Trustees' Annual Report 2018-2019

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report, for the year ending 31 January 2019.

### Reference and administrative information

**Charity name:**

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

**Charity number:**

SC001399

**Address (Treasurer):**

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

**Current trustees:**

Barbara Illsley	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Neale Elder	(Secretary)
Jean Braithwaite	
Stephen Connelly	
Nick Day	
Donald Gordon	
Glenys Marra	
Dorothy Nicoll	
Jack Searle	
Roderick Stewart	

### Our structure, governance and management

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

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

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

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

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

## Our aims

The charitable purposes of Dundee Civic Trust are:

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

## Our activities and achievements in 2018-2019

### Annual outing

On 18 June 2018 we followed the previous year's successful visit to Hospitalfield in Arbroath with another visit to a historic site in Angus, when our members had a highly enjoyable tour of Brechin Castle.

### Awards

No awards scheme was conducted in 2018, due to a shortage of new developments. However, we intend to make awards and commendations this year for projects completed between June 2017 and May 2019.

Further to its commendation in our 2017 awards scheme, we decided to nominate the Leaf Room at Ninewells Community Garden for a Scottish Civic Trust 'My Place' Award in 2018; and were delighted when it emerged as overall winner.

### 'City Scene'

Our annual journal, *City Scene*, was issued in November 2018, with a theme of 'Dundee – City of Design'. It was another high-quality publication, once again produced with the invaluable help of Ian Milne at Limehouse Design.

## Evening events programme

Our established programme of Thursday evening talks, held at the Dundee Art Society gallery in Roseangle, delivered a popular range of subjects:

- 15 February 2018 (joint meeting with Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust) – *Scottish Lighthouses* [Rear Admiral Roger Lockwood, former chief executive of the Northern Lighthouse Board];
- 29 March 2018 (talk following our AGM) – *'Flaxopolis' – Dundee's pre-jute industrial history* [Dr Jeremy Howard, University of St Andrews];
- 18 October 2018 – *Design and construction of V&A Dundee* [John Tavendale, project manager for V&A Dundee];
- 15 November 2018 – *D C Thomson – flying the flag for Dundee* [Dr Norman Watson];
- 17 January 2019 – *Dundee: mapping the City* [Chris Fleet, map curator at the National Library of Scotland].

The average attendance at these events was 60. The Trust was delighted to welcome several members of the public attracted by publicity in the local press, some of whom have decided to join us.

Our talks are followed by a short social session with refreshments, which allows those present to share their views in an informal setting and acts as an introduction to the Trust for non-members.

## Newsflash

Our members' e-bulletin, the Newsflash, was produced five times and reached issue number 37 in November 2018. It continues to provide a well-illustrated and thought-provoking (sometimes controversial) view of developments in the local built environment.

## Online presence

The Trust has endeavoured to keep its **website** and **Facebook** page up to date with information about its activities and views. An improved website is planned for 2019.

## Planning monitoring and the urban scene

We have an active planning sub-committee that meets regularly to discuss changes to the urban environment, including new development proposals. One of the highlights of the year was the opening of V&A Dundee, on 15 September. This is the flagship development within the Central Waterfront and we are pleased to report that it has already attracted over 400,000 visitors in its first four months. There have been a number of public exhibitions for developments on other sites in the vicinity, including one for a cinema and residential complex at Greenmarket, and the Trust has submitted comments on all these proposals. The Trust has made representations on a number of other planning applications, including those for new housing at the Western Gateway, Linlathen and Whitfield.

The Trust continues to be concerned about the condition of some of the city's historic buildings. We were very dismayed, therefore, at the demolition of Wallace Craigie Works last spring. Other buildings fared better, however, and it is a delight to see the restoration of the former Lower Dens Works which has now opened as Hotel Indigo. The Trust is monitoring other properties on the Buildings at Risk Register.

The Trust continues to have close contact with Dundee City Council and we were delighted to have the chance to meet the new Director of City Development, Robin Presswood, in December. Our concerns going forward include the level of retail vacancies in the City Centre, the number of hotel proposals and the provision of coach parking for tourists.

## Impact

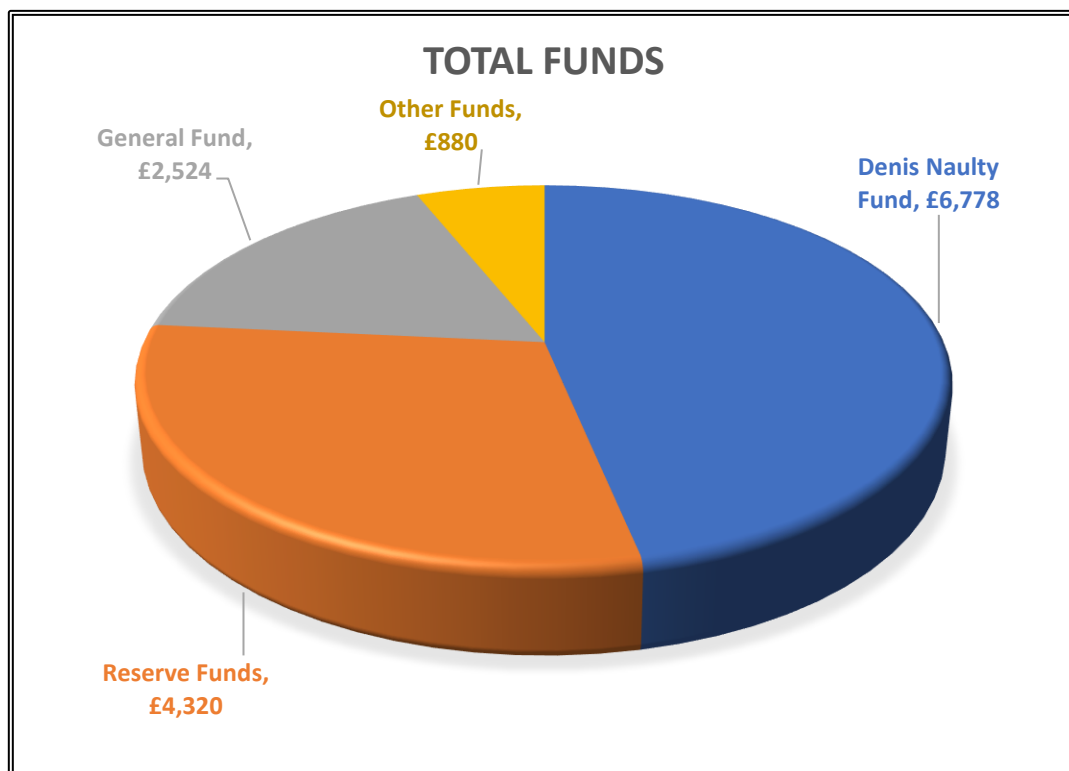
Dundee Civic Trust has continued to promote its values through regular interaction with the local authority, the holding of members' events and production of publications.

## Financial review of 2018-2019

At 31 January 2019, our total funds amounted to £14,502 (as against £14,621 in 2017-2018). This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £711.

The series of funds comprises some which were established for specific purposes; some acting as financial reserves; and a general fund to cover most of the Trust's transactions.

Reserves constituted by the Lifetime Membership and Foundation Membership funds are considered sufficient to cover any unforeseeable expenditure.



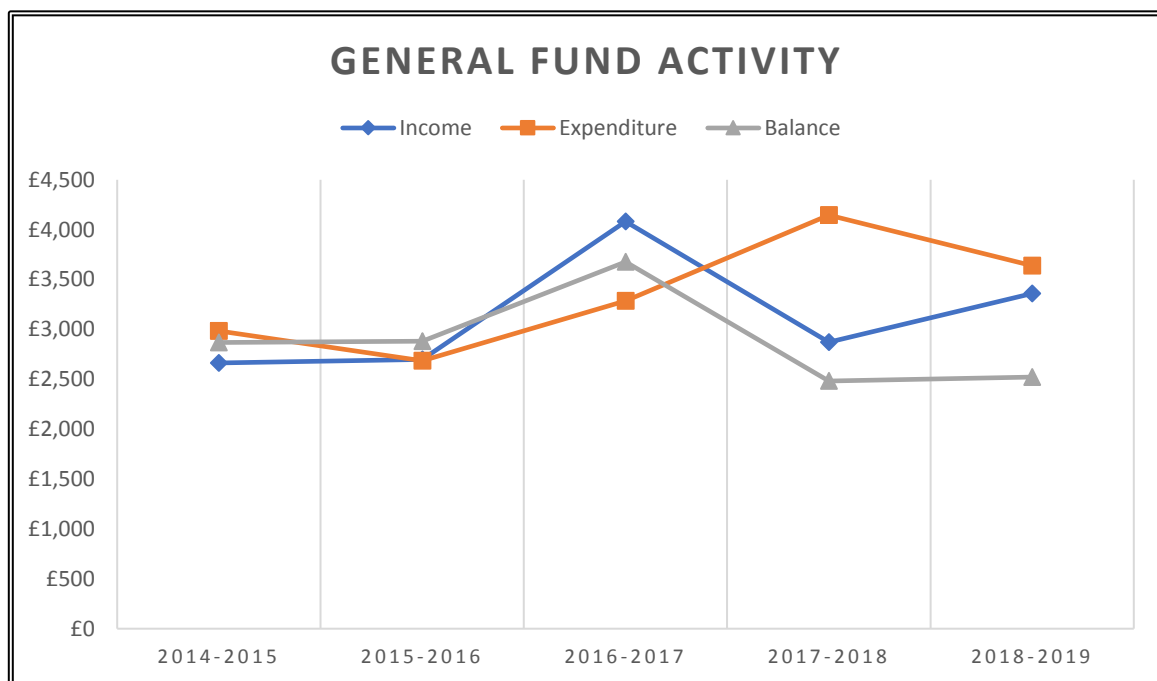
The total deficit on the accounts for 2018-2019 stands at £119, compared with £640 in 2017-2018. Most of this is accounted for through activity on the General Fund. The production of 500 copies of *City Scene* remained the Trust's biggest single item of expenditure, at £2,146, although this was £255 less than in the previous year.

Although the Trust received no receipts from other publications in 2018-2019, income was up by £487. A total of £732 in Gift Aid receipts contributed to this, highlighting the importance of Gift Aid declarations in respect of membership fees.

In January 2019 our membership stood at 225, of whom 54 were life members.

The abandonment of plans to install the smaller ceiling from Carbet Castle in the new drama department at Dundee High School was calculated in 2017 to incur a potential cost of £3,000; although neither DHS nor the architects, Page\Park, has made an intimation of any liability for these design fees.

Given the good state of the Trust's finances, a second year's deficit is not considered to be a critical matter. The board is committed to regular monitoring of income and expenditure, with a view to making any necessary adjustments should these be required in future.



## Services donated

The board once again wishes to express its gratitude to Bird Simpson & Co, for independently examining the annual accounts free of charge, and to Ian Milne of Limehouse Design for his invaluable assistance in producing *City Scene*.

## Sponsorship

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

## Looking ahead

The board of trustees will continue to advance the aims of Dundee Civic Trust by promoting participation in our programme of events. We seek to broaden our membership base and to encourage a diverse range of views regarding what is best for the local environment of Dundee.

Plans for an improved website are already well advanced.

The 2019 edition of *City Scene* is also in preparation. Our members will continue to be kept informed through our regular Newsflash.

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

**This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:**



**Barbara Illsley**

**Chairman**

**13 March 2019**

## Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2018-2019

- **Treasurer's report to be presented at Annual General Meeting of 21 March 2019**
- **Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2019, including Statement of Financial Activities**
- **Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2019**