



BALLYCOMMON TECHNOLOGY
& TRAINING CENTRE CLG

Ballycommon Telemwork & Training Centre CLG DIRECTORS' REPORT for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal Activity and Review of the Business

The Company is a Registered Charity established to provide training in IT literacy, Soft Skills, and Health and Safety to disadvantaged and marginalised persons and community groups within in the local community of County Offaly. Our activities are split into two sectors which we deliver from our training centre in Ballycommon and, recently, a specific purpose centre in Tullamore:

- (1) Advancement of Education
- (2) Services for Older Persons

Our Advancement of Education activities include grant aided projects which are restricted to activities under the grantor controls spec and costs. These are supplemented by “our own” courses which are without grant aid and, as such, are unrestricted in the costs we can allocate against them which to date have accumulated €30,695 (2022 - €19,629).

Our services for older persons include a Meals on Wheels service, friendly calls, and weekly activity sessions for seniors.

The Company is limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The directors are grateful to the various grant agencies who provide finance to our projects. We set out below our review of the business during the year.

Service 1 - Advancement of Education

Pobal Grants - Community Support Program (“CSP”)

Pobal’s Annual Payroll support received in 31 December 2023 amounted to €113,986 (2022 = €140,169) of which €103,470 related to advancement of education and the balance of €10,516 to services for older persons. Costs allocated to advancement of education came to €120,363 with the balance of €13,239 costs to services for older persons. The €120,363 spend on advancement of education services gave rise to an agreed overspend of €16,793 to use up the timing surplus on cumulative restricted reserves forward at 31 December 2022 of €37,140 and leave an agreed €20,347 available for use against 2024 eligible educational payroll.



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Offaly County Council

In 2023 OCC awarded us €2,200 towards heating costs due to increased cost of living - this was spent on heating oil which was fully spent in 2023 and was appreciated by staff and users of our services.

Bord na Mona/Mount Lucas Mount Lucas Wind farm

Bord na Mona/Mount Lucas Mount Lucas Wind farm donated €1,680 towards an upgrade of our website which was fully spent in 2023 and was very much welcomed by staff and users of our services.

DCCAE - Just Transition Project

New Training Workshop A total grant of €59,853 plus co-funding from BTTC of €10,562 was agreed in 2021. This grant was awarded to cover project coordinator, workshop construction and a small training fund was also allocated in full in 2022. In 2023 the 3rd Stage payment of €20,683 was received with €25,432 spent on the project leaving a deficit of €4,748 on restricted reserve on this project which the directors have ensured is rectified by the date of this report.

RETHINK IRL - Inclusive Education Project I

In 2022 we were awarded 3-year funding through RETHINK IRL to develop and conduct an Inclusive Education Project in conjunction with Offaly Travellers Movement. The total fund is €202,500 which covers a 3-year period 2022-2025. Payments are made twice yearly and in Nov 2022 we received the first payment of €33,750. The second phase occurred in 2023 with a most welcome grant of €67,500 which after costs of €62,753 left balances of €21,175 in restricted reserves to be carried forward to 2024.

Course Fees

Training course activity returned another excellent increased in activity to yield income of €131,810 (2022 - €76,000), which is an increase of nearly €100,000 from the €29,309 earned as we emerged from COVID in 2021. The directors are especially appreciative of Deridre Arnold and all her team for this contribution to our running costs without which our services would be greatly reduced.

Service 2 – Services to Older persons

HSE Meals on Wheels (“MOW”)

HSE Meals on Wheels (“MOW”) funding During the year Meals on Wheels grants amounted to €11,000 (2022 - €7,000) and after allowing for contributions of €8,988 (2022 - €5,497) and deducting cost of €28,632 (2022 - €14,232) the MOW programme returned a loss for the year of €1,903 which used up the €79 forward from 2022 and which will be carried forward to 2024 as a deficit on this restricted reserve to be dealt with as set out below.

Ballycommon Telework and Training Centre CLG Ballycommon Tullamore Offaly R35 V124 E Mail: info@ballycommonttc.com Web: www.ballycommonttc.com

Directors: Gerry McGrath (Chair), Damien Mealiff (Treasurer), Yvonne Maher (Secretary), Eoghan Dunne, Brid Bracken,
Gerry Hamill, Elizabeth Geraghty, Gerry Gannon

RCN Number: 20206504, CHY: 22995, CRO Number: 345925

“Our centre is supported by Pobal through the Community Services Programme and The Department of Rural and Community Development”



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Pobal Grants - Community Support Program (“CSP”)

Pobal’s Annual Payroll support received in 31 December 2023 for older persons amounted to €10,516 for services for older persons and was fully spent as €6,741 on Meals on Wheels payroll and €3,775 on other payroll costs for seniors.

HSE National Lottery Grant

The HSE, through the National Lottery Grant, awarded €3,767 towards the provision of activities for seniors which was fully spent.

Offaly Local Development

SICAP Funding through Offaly Local Development Company contribute funding for running of our weekly Activities for Seniors. This covers bus hire and refreshments. A total of €5,324 was granted in 2023 and was fully spent and will continue again for 2024

Services to older persons deficits

The payroll cost of running these services gave rise to a total payroll cost of €13,239 of which only 10,516 was grant aided as the MOW grant of 11,000 was set against direct costs of 15,683 in the first instance, resulting in an unfunded deficit on MOW payroll (before client contributions) of €(2,723) and a further unfunded deficit on direct costs of €(4,683). The end of year deficit on MOW came to €(4,962) with a further deficit on other activities for older persons of €(308).

This deficit was funded by the traded income from service 1 – Advancement of Education. A fundraising strategy will be put in place to avoid this deficit in 2024.

Financial Results The (deficit)/surplus for the financial year after providing for depreciation amounted to €(11,778) (2022 - €23,593). At the end of the financial year, the company has assets of €155,423 (2022 - €162,298) and liabilities of €83,146 (2022 - €78,243). The net assets of the company have decreased by €(11,778).

Directors and Secretary

The directors who served throughout the financial year were as follows:

Gerry McGrath
Damien Mealiff
Brid Bracken
Elizabeth Geraghty



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Yvonne Maher
Gerry Hamill
Eoghan Dunne
Gerry Gannon (resigned 15 September 2023)

The secretary who served throughout the financial year was Yvonne Maher.

There were no changes in shareholdings between 31 December 2023 and the date of signing the financial statements. In accordance with the Constitution, one third of the directors retire by rotation and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Future Developments

The company plans to continue its present activities and current trading levels. With the encouragement of activities increasing during 31 December 2023, the directors and manager plan to continue to grow our activities and increase trading levels. Employees are kept as fully informed as practicable about developments within the business.

Reserves policy

In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice on Charities (“SORP”), the directors have set about allocating the Company’s reserves between restricted and unrestricted funds based on the best information available. Restricted funds are those derived from income earned with restrictions attached thereto, such as Local Authority Grants, as detailed in the notes to these the Financial Statements, otherwise funds and their associated income are termed unrestricted.

The Company maintains a reserves policy designed to provide guidance on the management of its unrestricted reserves where a component thereof is set aside as a Sinking Fund aimed to maintain reserves at a level to enable the Company's core activity to continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The directors review reserves policy annually to agree the most appropriate level of reserves to hold at the balance sheet date in the light of an annual risk assessment. Such funds held in this Sinking Fund are a separate allocation of unrestricted reserves and the level in the fund may change annually depending on the directors’ annual risk assessment as set out in the Statement of Changes in Equity and in the Reserves Note.

Charitable Status

The company was awarded charity status on 31 January 2023 and is now registered under Number RCN 2020-6504 and looks forward to submitting its first Annual Return to the Regulator in the Autumn in common with other Registered Charities. The directors are delighted to report that the company now has Full Tax Exemption from Revenue under Ballycommon Telework & Training Centre CLG



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Going Concern

The financial statements do not contain the adjustments that would result if the company was unable to continue as a going concern. The directors have reviewed their plans for future actions, and believe the company will continue trading for the next 12 months and, as such, there have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note other than as disclosed. Under our reserves policy, the directors maintain a sinking fund adequate to cover any additional costs resulting for the foreseeable future.

Post Statement of Financial Position Events

We have reviewed events since the balance sheet date and concluded there have been no events since the balance sheet date which necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or the inclusion of a note thereto other than as already disclosed in these financial statements.

Auditors

The auditors, Phelan & Co Chartered Accountants Limited, have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Accounting Records

To ensure that adequate accounting records are kept in accordance with sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate computerised accounting systems. The accounting records are located at the company's office at Ballycommon, Tullamore, Co Offaly.



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