DR BRUCE FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 MARCH 2025

Charity Number SC019149

DR BRUCE FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

CONTENTS **PAGE**

DR BRUCE FUND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Registered Charity Name	Dr Bruce Fund
Charity Number	SC019149
Trustees	The elected Councillors of Musselburgh
Address of Principal Office	John Muir House Haddington East Lothian EH41 3HA
Auditor	Mark Ferris Senior Audit Manager Audit Scotland 8 Nelson Mandela Place Glasgow G2 1BT
Investment Advisers	Investec Wealth & Investment Limited 2 Gresham Street London EC2V 7QN

DR BRUCE FUND

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objective of the trust is to provide for the relief of the poor of Musselburgh.

The Trust furthers its charitable purposes through its grant-making policy, which aims to alleviate the suffering of those in poverty in the Musselburgh area, particularly during Christmas.

GRANT MAKING POLICY

The Trust seeks to alleviate poverty in the Musselburgh area by providing grants during more financially pressing times of the year, especially around Christmas time. The Trust maintains a list of recipients who have been nominated by the Trustees to receive an award.

Each year, the Trustees meet and consider the provision of small grants to nominated residents of the town.

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

During the year 2024/25, the Trust reviewed the availability of funds for charitable purposes and increased the amount allocated for grants. A total of £3,650 was awarded, comprising of £50 to ten individuals as part of the annual Christmas distributions, and grants of £650 and £2,500 to Ace Bike Co and Musselburgh Community Pantry, respectively. This compares to total grants of £1,465 in 2023/24, which included seven awards of £40 and a grant of £1,185 to an individual to assist with flood damage restoration.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Over the course of the year, the investment portfolio experienced moderate fluctuations. It showed a general upward trend through the middle of the period, followed by a slight decline towards the end of the financial year. Despite some month-to-month variation, the portfolio remained relatively stable overall. The market value of the investments attributable to the Dr Bruce fund increased by £133 in the year to 31 March 2025, with a slight element of unrealised fair value losses arising. Dr Bruce's fund's share of realised gains from sales was £232, with dividends and interest (on investments and the Trust's cash holdings) being a total of £494.

Full details of the trust's financial transactions during the year ended 31 March 2025 are shown on the attached financial statements.

The trust incurred operational expenditure, including grant awards, of £5,774, against income, excluding investment sales and gains, of £2,494. Together with gains related to investment assets of £216, this resulted in a deficit for the year of £3,064. At 31 March 2025, the trust had unrestricted funds of £17,182.

Dr Bruce Fund does not have a formal reserves policy. However, the trustees' objectives are to maintain the value of its reserves, and to attempt not to incur costs greater than the value of its annual income.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The trustees have worked to improve the process for awarding grants to enable the Trust to fulfil its intended objectives which has increased the grant awards made. The Trust intends to continue to make annual awards as funds allow. This includes taking consideration of the volatility of investment returns and the fact that returns in the year include unrealised gains (or losses) which have not been converted into available cash holdings.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Dr Bruce Fund was established under the provision in the will of Charles Key Bruce, dated 19 December 1826. A bequest was set up to provide relief for the poor of Musselburgh. The executors of Dr Bruce's will declined to act and his estate was placed in the management of the High Court of Chancery. In 1832, an arrangement was made where two magistrates of Musselburgh, the minister of the parish of Inveresk, and the sheriff of the county of Edinburgh were appointed as a local committee to administer the fund.

Following local government reorganisation in 1973, the trust came under the administration of East Lothian District Council and later, East Lothian Council. Since that time, the elected councillors for Musselburgh have acted in a decision-making capacity for the trust.

Dr Bruce Fund has no employees. The trustees are supported in the discharge of their responsibilities by finance and support staff within East Lothian Council. The trust does not have its own bank account, and all financial transactions are carried out through the bank accounts of East Lothian Council.

East Lothian Council maintains a shared portfolio of assets for a number of trusts and bequests which it administers. The portfolio, which is known as “East Lothian Council Charitable Funds” is managed by an external investment management company (currently Investec Wealth and Investment). Each financial year, all of the trusts are allocated a proportion of the assets, income, and expenditure of the total portfolio in accordance with their investment.

The trust’s major risks have been identified as the ability to meet financial demands on its funds and the potential loss of the value of its investment assets. Both of these risks are managed by taking financial advice from East Lothian Council staff and investment advice from its investment management advisers.

THE TRUSTEES

The trustees who served the charity during the period were the elected councillors for Musselburgh. These were:

Andrew Forrest
Ruaridh Bennett
Cher Cassini
Shona McIntosh

Signed on behalf of the trustees

A S Forrest

Andrew Forrest
Trustee

Date: 25 November 2025

DR BRUCE FUND

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

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

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

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A S Forrest

Andrew Forrest
Trustee

Date: 25 November 2025

Independent auditor's report to the trustees of the Dr Bruce Fund and the Accounts Commission

Reporting on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on financial statements

I certify that I have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of the Dr Bruce Fund for the year ended 31 March 2025 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In my opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources 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 Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulation 8 of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report. I am independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern basis of accounting

I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work I have performed, I have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees intend to discontinue the charity's operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My 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 my 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. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using my understanding of the local government sector and charity sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are significant in the context of the charity;

- inquiring of the Trustees and Depute Chief Executive Resources and Economy as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the charity;

- inquiring of the Trustees and Depute Chief Executive Resources and Economy concerning the charity's policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;

- discussions among my audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and

- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the charity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

My responsibility is to read all the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Trustees' Annual Report to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Trustees' Annual Report

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Matters on which I am required to report by exception

I am required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in my opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit.

I have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of my report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, I do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Mark Ferris

Mark Ferris FCCA
Senior Audit Manger
4th Floor South Suite
The Athenaeum Building
8 Nelson Mandela Place
Glasgow
G2 1BT

Date: 25 November 2025

Mark Ferris is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

DR BRUCE FUND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	**Total Funds 2024/25 £**	Total Funds **2023/24** £
Income From			
Donated services	2	**2,000**	1,000
Income from Investments	3	**494**	596
Total Income and Endowments		**2,494**	1,596
Expenditure On			
Management Fees	4	**(124)**	(146)
Charitable Activities	5	**(3,650)**	(1,465)
Audit Fees	2	**(2,000)**	(1,000)
Total Expenditure		**(5,774)**	(2,611)
Net Income		(3,280)	(1,015)
Net (Losses) Gains on Investments	7	**216**	950
Net Movement In Funds		**(3,064)**	(65)
Reconciliation Of Funds			
Total funds brought forward		**20,246**	20,311
Total Funds carried forward		**17,182**	20,246

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a Movement in Reserves Statement has not been prepared, with Note 9 providing an equivalent analysis.

All of the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

DR BRUCE FUND

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Investments	**7**	**13,764**	13,631
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	**8**	**3,418**	7,800
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors	**10**	**-**	(1,185)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		**17,182**	**20,246**
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY			
Unrestricted funds	**9**	**(17,182)**	(20,246)
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS		**(17,182)**	(20,246)

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee and are signed on their behalf by:

Andrew Forrest
Trustee

Date: 25 November 2025

DR BRUCE FUND

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Dr Bruce Fund (the "Charity") is an unincorporated charity and domiciled in the UK.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Financial Reporting Standard 102 applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1.

The Charity's parent undertaking, East Lothian Council, includes the Charity in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements of East Lothian Council are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU and are available to the public and may be obtained from John Muir House, Haddington, East Lothian EH41 3HA. In these financial statements, the charity is considered to be a qualifying entity (for the purposes of this FRS) and has applied the exemptions available under FRS 102 in respect of the following disclosures:

* Cash Flow Statement and related notes

As the consolidated financial statements of East Lothian Council include the equivalent disclosures, the Charity has also taken the exemptions under FRS 102 available in respect of the following disclosures:

* The disclosures required by FRS 102.11 Basic Financial Instruments and FRS 102.12 Other Financial Instrument Issues in respect of financial instruments not falling within the fair value accounting rules of Paragraph 36(4) of Schedule 1.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

1.1 Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis except that the following assets and liabilities are stated at their fair value: financial instruments classified at fair value through the statement of financial activities.

1.2 Going Concern

The Trustees consider Dr Bruce Fund to be a going concern as there are appropriate funds to continue meeting its charitable activities.

1.3 Basic financial instruments

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised initially at transaction price less attributable transaction costs.

Investments in preference and ordinary shares

Investments in equity instruments are measured initially at fair value, which is normally the transaction price. Subsequent to initial recognition investments that can be measured reliably are measured at fair value with changes recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.4 Funds Structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose. All funds of the trust are unrestricted.

1.5 Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.
Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

1.6 Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses, including support costs and governance costs, are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings in the statement of financial activities.

Grants payable are payments made to third parties in the furtherance of the charitable objects of the Charity. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one year or multi-year grant. Grants awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled conditions attaching to that grant are outside of the control of the Charity.

1.7 Governance costs

Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Governance costs are included within charitable activities.

2 INCOME FROM DONATIONS

	2024/25	2023/24
For 2024/25, the external annual audit fee was a donated service of £2,000 from East Lothian Council.	**£**	£
	2,000	1000

3 INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds 2024/25	Unrestricted Funds 2023/24
	£	£
Dividends - equities	**328**	324
Interest on cash deposits	**166**	272
	494	**596**

4 INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT COSTS

	Unrestricted Funds 2024/25	Unrestricted Funds 2023/24
	£	£
Investment and ELC management fees	**124**	146

5 COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Grant Funding activities 2024/25 £	Grant Funding activities 2023/24 £
Grants to individuals and organisations	**3,650**	1,465
	3,650	1,465

6 STAFF COSTS AND EMOLUMENTS

Key management personnel received no employee benefits for their services to the charity.

7 INVESTMENTS

Movement in market value

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Market value at 1 April	**13,631**	12,758
Profits (Losses) from Sales	**232**	938
Fair Value Gains (Losses)	**(16)**	12
Gains (Losses) on Investments	**216**	950
Management fees deducted from investments	**(83)**	(77)
Market value at 31 March	**13,764**	13,631

	Total Funds 2024/25 £	Total Funds 2023/24 £
Investments at fair value comprised:		
Quoted shares	**13,764**	13,631

8 DEBTORS

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Short-Term Loan to ELC	3,166	7,524
Other debtors	80	79
Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
Other debtors	172	196
Total Debtors	**3,418**	**7,800**

9 ANALYSIS OF CHARITABLE FUNDS

	Balance at 1st April 2024	Gain in Investments	Profit (Loss) for Period excluding Gain on Investment	Balance at 31st March 2025
	£	£	£	£
General Funds	20,246	216	(3,280)	17,182
	20,246	**216**	**(3,280)**	**17,182**

Management of the General Funds balance should however continue to recognise that fair value gains on investments are not realised in cash terms until the investments are sold.

The extent of unrealised gains in the General Funds will therefore continue to inform Trustees' decisions regarding the utilisation of reserves.

10 Creditors

	Total Funds 2024/25	Total Funds 2023/24
	£	£
Flood Damage Grant	-	(1,185)

11 RELATED PARTIES

Due to the nature of Dr. Bruce's operations and composition, East Lothian Council (ELC) is considered a related party. ELC is a related party due to the trustees of the charity being ELC councillors.

Related Party Transactions	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
East Lothian Council - Donations	**2,000**	1,000

The donation of £2,000 was made specifically to cover the audit fees of Dr Bruce. The funds were restricted for this purpose and were not available for general use by the charity.
ELC also holds funds on behalf of the charity, as the trust does not operate its own bank account. All financial transactions are carried out through the bank accounts of ELC.
A short-term debtor balance of £3,166 (£7,534 in Prior Year) was due from ELC at the reporting date, representing cash held on behalf of the charity.