

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales · Charity number 1069260

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [03541219](#)

Registered 1998-04-22

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Community Council For Somerset
Fitzwarren House
Queen Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3UG

Phone 01823331222

Email info@somersetccc.org.uk

Website www.somersetccc.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF SOMERSET AND IN PARTICULAR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, THE PROTECTION OF HEALTH AND THE RELIEF OF POVERTY AND DISTRESS AND PHYSICAL AND MENTAL SICKNESS AND DISABILITY.

Activities: Our vision is for vibrant and viable communities with healthy, happy people and strong, sustainable businesses, the perfect place to live and work . We do this through our aims of strengthening communities, innovation and encourage enterprise, supporting and serving people and tackling disadvantage

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** SOMERSET
- Somerset

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£2,885,266	£3,159,031	£629,459	95
2024-03-31	£2,769,800	£3,040,606	£903,224	98
2023-03-31	£3,096,678	£3,205,243	£1,170,824	96
2022-03-31	£2,583,523	£2,491,113	£1,283,949	87
2021-03-31	£2,340,523	£2,286,071	£1,197,440	78

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gary Francis	Chair	2023-03-29
Chhavi Gautam		2023-07-11
David Michael John Taylor		2024-09-05
Dr Robert Sass Alan Lawy		2023-10-31
Elliot Lewis Ward		2026-05-22
Jonathan Paul Braisby		2024-05-01
Rowan Charles Winton Turner		2025-12-09
Stephen Josphe Wallace		2026-03-29
martin kitchen		2023-08-02

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1069260

Accounts

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)
(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Company Number: 03541219
Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1069260



The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

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For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

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The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Trustee Directors

J Braisby
G Francis
C Gautam
M Kitchen
R Lawy
D Taylor

Secretary

V Bishop

Chief Executive Officer

V Bishop

Charity Number

1069260

Company Number

03541219

Principal Address and Registered Office

Fitzwarren House
Queen Street
Taunton
England
TA1 3UG

Auditors

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Bankers

Lloyds Bank
31 Fore St
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 1HN

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
25 Kings Hill Avenue
West Mailing
ME19 4TA

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Charity's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102- implemented 1 January 2019).

The full name of the Charity is The Community Council for Somerset. It was incorporated 13 December 1999 as a company limited by guarantee. Its company registration number is 03541219. Its Charity registration number is 1069260. The registered office is Fitzwarren House, Queen Street, Taunton, England, TA1 3UG.

References and Administrative Details

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association (updated and agreed September 2011), Amended Articles of Association (adopted December 2020) and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the Company are the Charity's trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:

- J Braisby (appointed 1 May 2024)
- J Chidgey-Clark (appointed 1 May 2024, resigned 3 June 2025)
- G Francis
- C Gautam
- M Kitchen
- R Lawy
- E Lower (resigned 4 June 2025)
- S Tudor (resigned 16 June 2025)
- D Taylor (appointed 5 September 2024)

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

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Structure, governance and management

The Community Council for Somerset was incorporated on 1 April 1998 and is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended 20th September 2011.

On 3 December 2020, a General Meeting of Members was held at which amended Articles of Association were adopted, changing to a Foundation model of Governance.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, Company Number: 3541219.

Membership

Membership of the company is by application to the office and will involve a guarantee for a contribution of £1 in the event of a shortfall of assets on winding up.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM one third of the Trustees who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office.

The President

The General Meeting is empowered to elect a President, who may elect to be a trustee as a result of being so elected.

Policies and Procedures for the Recruitment, Selection, Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustee vacancies are advertised on the CCS website and through social media, and we use a website to match with volunteer Trustees. Potential candidates first meet with the Chief Executive then have an interview with the Chair and at least one other Trustee. They are invited to meet other Trustees either as an observer at a Board meeting or at a more informal event. There is a person specification for Trustees and tailored versions for specific roles such as the Chair and Honorary Treasurer. If specific skill needs are identified by the Board, separate person specifications are developed. An application is submitted and considered by the Board. The decision to co-opt a new Trustee is put to the Board to vote.

Trustees now have their own CBL pathway on the Learning Hub. Trustees meet members of staff, receive support and training in IT as required, and receive information about entitlement to and reimbursement of any approved expenses incurred in undertaking the role of a Board member. Trustees' skills audits are undertaken regularly.

Organisational Structure

The Board delegates day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team. Each larger programme of delivery has a manager, with additional Team Leads where needed.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Core staff are split into teams by functions, each with a manager. An organisational restructure was implemented alongside the strategy development during 2023-24 and a new organisational structure came into place on April 1 2024, this has continued to work for CCS and is under constant evaluation as the charity changes to meet the need of its beneficiaries.

Pay Structure and Framework

A staffing and pay structure and framework was adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations. This was used during the year alongside the Pay Policy.

Trading Subsidiary

Smart Communities Limited (SCL), CCS's trading subsidiary, remains a component of our operations, though it was not actively utilised during the year 2024/25. While the activities typically handled by SCL were integrated into the Programmes Team for better alignment with our charitable objectives, SCL retains its structure and purpose, ready to support consultancy and project initiatives as needed in the future.

Partnership Working

CCS works collaboratively with a range of organisations in the VCFSE sector in Somerset. Where we sub-contract work as part of a commission or grant, we have partnership agreements in place.

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

1. Purpose of the Charity.

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are as follows: -

"To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the administrative County of Somerset and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty and distress and physical and mental sickness and disability".

2.2 The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

- to do anything within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects.
- to carry out campaigning and advocacy, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that any proposed campaigning and advocacy will further the Objects to an extent justified by the resources committed and that such activity is not the dominant means by which the Charity promotes the Objects.
- to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a charity.
- to provide advice or information.
- to carry out research.
- to co-operate with other bodies.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- to support, administer or set up other charities.
- to act as a Charity Trustee of a charitable trust.
- to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other body for the purposes of any of the Objects.
- to convert to a charitable incorporated organisation.
- to accept or refuse gifts and donations and to raise funds (but not by means of Taxable Trading).
- to borrow money.
- to give security, including but not limited to guarantees, for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act).
- to acquire or hire property of any kind.
- to borrow money.
- to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act).
- to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure.
- to deposit or invest its funds in any manner including without limitation with a view to: (a) directly furthering the Charity's purpose; (b) achieving a financial return for the Charity; or (c) achieving both of the objectives described at (a) and (b) above in accordance with and provided that the Trustees comply with their duties under Part 14A of the Charities Act, (but to invest wholly or partly with a view to achieving a financial return only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that: (a) the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees; (b) timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees; (c) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees; (d) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time; (e) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year; (f) all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and (g) the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a Nominee Company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a Financial Expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required; 3.20 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as Custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required.
- to provide Indemnity Insurance for the Trustees and officers of the Charity in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- subject to Article 8.3, to employ or engage paid or unpaid agents, staff, or advisers and where appropriate: 10 (a) to provide for them to benefit under pension and other staff benefit arrangements for them and their dependants; and (b) to enter into compromise and settlement arrangements with them.
- to enter into contracts and agreements of any kind, including without limitation contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies; and
- to establish or acquire subsidiaries.

2.3

Our Vision

Supporting Somerset's communities to thrive together

Mission

We enable change by listening, responding to need and building connections between people and communities

Values

We are kind and compassionate

We act with honesty and integrity

We value equality and inclusion

2.4 Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular, these activities meet our charitable objects as described above.

Review of Activity 2024/2025: Building Thriving Communities in Somerset

Our Vision Supporting Somerset's communities to thrive together

Introduction

This report serves as a comprehensive account of our activities, achievements, and financial performance over the past year. Our mission is to enable change by listening, responding to need, and building connections between people and communities. We are committed to transparency, accountability, and effective communication with our stakeholders.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Purpose of the Report

The Trustee Annual Report is designed to ensure that we remain accountable to our donors, beneficiaries, and the public for the stewardship and management of our funds. It provides a transparent overview of our activities and achievements, celebrating our successes and addressing the challenges we have faced. Additionally, this report meets all legal and regulatory requirements, ensuring that we adhere to relevant laws and guidelines.

Highlights of the Year

Over the past year we have made significant strides in achieving our objectives. Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly, and we are proud to share the impact of our work through our detailed case studies and examples. Financially, we have continued to manage our accounts in line with our projections, ensuring responsible resource management.

Our work is dedicated to supporting communities in Somerset to thrive. This commitment translates into:

- **More resilient communities:** Strengthening our communities to better withstand external crises.
- **Better connected communities:** Fostering collaboration between community organizations and public services, ensuring people have access to the amenities and opportunities they need.
- **Amplifying the voice of communities:** Listening to the needs of Somerset's residents and sharing these insights with local, regional, and national change-makers to inform policy.

Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and resilient Somerset.

Acquisition of Diversity Voice – April 2025

In April of 2025, the board approved the acquisition of a charity called Diversity Voice (DV), this is aligned with the CCS mission and strategic plan, as DV operate in an area of delivery that CCS is closely aligned to, with its ongoing work delivering the Somerset Diverse Community Programme.

The acquisition of DV will strengthen our offer and service in the sector, we are excited to see this area of work continue to grow and thrive with our leadership and the talents of the employees at DV as they become one with CCS.

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Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Goal 1

Somerset communities are resilient and thriving



Village Agent SPLW

Village Agents (Social Prescribing Link Workers) or SPLWs continue to play a vital role in supporting individuals referred through GP surgeries and other services. They connect people with non-clinical, community-based support focused on improving wellbeing—such as social groups, mental health resources, assistance with housing or financial concerns, and opportunities for community engagement. By addressing the broader social and personal factors that influence health, SPLWs help individuals gain a greater sense of control over their wellbeing. This holistic approach has led to positive outcomes, including reduced loneliness, increased confidence, and improved overall life satisfaction.

In addition to their one-to-one client support, Village Agents actively engaged with 159 community solutions, activities, and groups over the past year. This engagement reflects their vital role as connectors within the wider community infrastructure. By building and maintaining strong relationships with a diverse range of local services and initiatives—including peer support groups, social clubs, wellbeing activities, and practical support organisations—Village Agents are able to offer clients a rich menu of tailored options. This networked approach not only broadens the scope of support available but also strengthens the resilience and cohesion of the communities they serve.

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Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Village Agents (Connect Somerset)

Village Agents (Connect Somerset) play a key role in this model, working both directly with individuals in need and with the wider community to expand the range of support and solutions available. This approach ensures that help is timely, targeted, and built on local strengths. Village Agents (Connect Somerset) support individuals or families at the edge of social care, who are experiencing difficulties that put them at risk of needing formal social care intervention but who may not yet meet the threshold for statutory services. Our preventative, early intervention work is designed to support those people before they reach crisis point, helping them avoid more intensive social care involvement.

(Village Agents) Somerset Carers Service

This year, we introduced Carers Information Sessions to equip unpaid carers with essential information, guidance, and support. These sessions, delivered in venues across the county, brought together Somerset Carers Agents, Village Agents, Adult Social Care staff, and a variety of partner organisations who shared information about their services and answered carers' questions. Adult social care conducted carers assessments at these events. We also featured a series of carer-focused webinars delivered by Somerset Council, covering key topics such as Lasting Power of Attorney, financial planning, Direct Payments, and more. These sessions were well attended and we received excellent feedback from attendees. There are seven additional sessions scheduled for the year ahead.

Across Somerset, we support 23 volunteer-run carers groups offering vital opportunities for unpaid carers to build connections, share experiences, and access mutual support. In addition to these face-to-face groups, a virtual carers group meets monthly via Zoom, providing an accessible platform for discussion, information sharing, and interaction with guest speakers on relevant topics. We have also developed an evening carers group in Bridgwater to reach working-age unpaid carers.

As part of our work through Open Mental Health, we launched our first dedicated group in October 2024 for unpaid carers supporting individuals with mental health challenges. To further combat isolation among carers, we launched Calls for Carers, a volunteer-led initiative that offers regular peer support via telephone. Feedback from volunteers has been overwhelmingly positive; one volunteer described the experience as "immensely rewarding," noting that it provided a sense of connection, purpose, and community in their own life.

In June 2024, we celebrated National Carers Week with a diverse programme of events, ranging from free online training sessions to guided tours of a local animal sanctuary and boat trips—offering both practical value and moments of respite for those in caring roles. We also hosted our first conference day for GP carers champions to come together to learn and share. With over 80 champions in attendance, we had great feedback, and this event will be growing in the next year.

Village Agents Hospital Discharge

Following a recent recommissioning, the Hospital Team has adopted a new structure, operating with the SPOC (Single Point of Contact) model. This approach involves three dedicated Village Agents based within each of the county's acute hospitals, ensuring timely and coordinated support for patients at the point of discharge.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Over the past year, the SPOC model—delivered in collaboration with Redcross and, more recently, SASP (Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership) —has received 4,227 referrals. Of these, CCS supported 2,224 individuals, helping them transition safely from hospital back into their homes and communities, with tailored support to aid recovery and reduce the risk of readmission.

Ubuntu (High Intensity Users)

In Autumn 2024, the Ubuntu Project was named a finalist in the Health Service Journal Patient Safety Awards, in recognition of its distinctive person-centred approach and the team's success in supporting individuals to reintegrate into their local communities. The project is designed to enhance wellbeing and help participants rediscover a sense of purpose, ultimately empowering them to take greater ownership of their healthcare journey while reducing demand on health and social care services. Since Ubuntu launched, the service has supported a total of 141 people, who previously had 1,963 A&E attendances between them. Following the HIU service's involvement, their attendances fell to 1,189 – a reduction of 48% across all ages. 71 people have been supported by an Ubuntu agent this financial year.

Children and Families

The West Somerset Children and Families Village Agent has provided support for 92 referrals over the past year, continuing to deliver excellent outcomes for this client group. These outcomes include improved parental engagement with schools and increased confidence in accessing community services. One parent expressed the impact of this support, stating: "I feel less stressed and pressured now that I can focus on my treatment. I have some time to take care of myself and am looking forward to the future as a family."

In 2024, we collaborated with Living Better to launch a Children and Families-specific multidisciplinary team (MDT) meeting—a collaborative initiative involving CCS, Living Better, general practitioners, paediatricians, health coaches, schools, and other family-focused services. The MDT is designed to support families facing challenges with low school attendance, particularly those impacted by complex health conditions. By identifying and addressing barriers to engagement, the MDT has created a more holistic support network for families and is already demonstrating positive outcomes.

Refugee Support Agent

CCS began welcoming Ukrainian refugees into Somerset in November 2022 and have conducted a total of 1,742 initial welfare checks. A total of 501 6-month checks, and 175 2-year checks, have been conducted by the Refugee Support Agents.

Help Through Winter

We were awarded monies as part of the increased Household Support Fund funding received by Somerset Council. Working with strategic partners, Citizen's Advice Somerset, SASP, Somerset Community Foundation and Age UK Somerset we are providing a wraparound 'Household Support' programme for Somerset. Laura Marshall – Village Agent (Help Through Winter), delivered an excellent interview with BBC Radio Somerset at the beginning of February, highlighting through this project how CCS can offer everything from advice on heating, electricity bills and offering food vouchers in cooperation with Citizens Advice.

[Somerset village agents say demand is 'huge' for heating support - BBC News](#)

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Energy Saving Week

Energy Week 2025 ran with remarkable success, bringing together the local community in support of those struggling with rising energy costs during the harsh winter conditions. Over the course of 17 events, the initiative attracted more than 240 attendees, providing essential resources and guidance to residents. Funded by Somerset Council's 'Help Through Winter' project, Energy Week 2025 was a timely intervention that offered practical support when it was most needed.

Distribution of Essential Items: As part of the initiative, 20 slow cookers/air fryers, nine timer plugs, and 20 wheat bag micro hotties were distributed to local families. These items were aimed at helping residents manage their energy use more effectively while staying warm during the winter months.

Community Contributions: The "Knit for Your Neighbour" scheme proved especially popular, with community members knitting and donating 90 blankets, draft excluders, hats, and gloves. These handmade items were distributed to residents in need of extra warmth during the cold snap.

Goody Bags: A total of 168 goody bags were given out to attendees; each filled with energy-saving products and warmth-giving items. These goody bags offered helpful tools and practical advice to help people reduce energy consumption and keep their homes comfortable throughout the winter.

Energy Consultations: In addition to the physical goods, 14 community groups received personalised energy efficiency consultations, where 121 individuals had the opportunity to discuss their specific energy needs. Each group was also provided with a £25 Screwfix voucher and a list of "quick win" energy efficiency items that could be purchased to improve energy use at home.

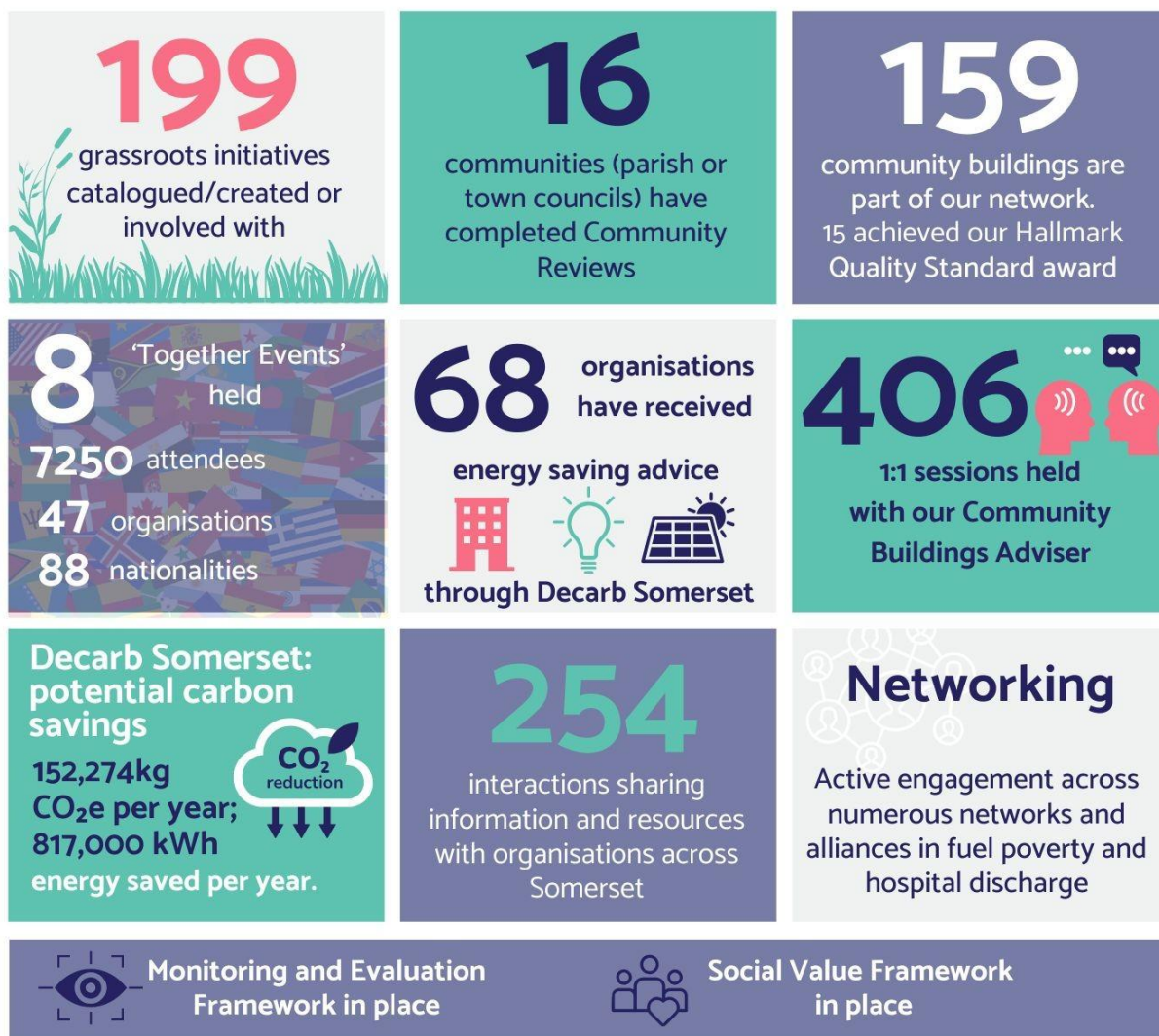
The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Strategic Goal 2

We collaborate effectively with others



SCF Community Buildings Decarb project

Starting from January 2024, CCS has been actively delivering a series of training and events aimed at empowering community buildings to embark on their own environmental improvements and eco journey. This initiative is supported by peer networking and more in-depth one-on-one support from the CCS team, who are trained in Carbon Literacy. The available support has enabled buildings to complete their own DIY Energy Check, with 10 halls successfully completing this task. Additionally, 2 halls have developed their Carbon Reduction Plan, positioning them to apply for an external audit as part of the Decarb Somerset project. In October 2024, audits were awarded to 2 halls. This project is funded by the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF).

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Albemarle Centre's Experience

The Albemarle Centre has shared their experience, highlighting the significant impact of the advice, guidance, and support received from Kate and Robert at the Community Council for Somerset. Given the size (900m²) and age (1870s) of their building, their energy usage has been a major concern. The support provided has been invaluable in navigating the complexities of reducing energy consumption. DeCarbing The Albemarle is recognised as a long-term project, with no quick fixes remaining. However, the knowledge imparted over the past months has given them a clear understanding of their current situation and the roadmap necessary to make significant improvements in both their carbon footprint and the environmental comfort enjoyed by the 2,000 visitors they receive each week.

Legacy of the Project

A key legacy of this project has been the co-design and launch of SCF's first Community Building Energy Efficiency Grants, which were introduced at the Community Buildings Conference in October 2024.

Decarb Somerset

Decarb Somerset was delivered by CCS from April 2024 to March 2025 and was funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund and Somerset Council. The CCS Decarb Somerset team has worked with over 75 voluntary, community, faith, and social enterprise (VCFSE) organisations to improve their understanding of building energy usage and carbon impact.

We have:

- Delivered 14 training events, both online and in person.
- Supported 35 VCFSE organisations in producing a Decarb Action Plan, which includes a DIY Energy Check and a Carbon Reduction Plan.
- Written a funding plan for each of these 35 organisations in response to the arising actions, including signposting to the co-designed Somerset Community Foundation Energy Efficiency Grants for Community Buildings fund.
- Commissioned 23 technical energy audits from E3 Sustainability, identifying carbon savings of 152,274kg CO₂e per year.

Our target for this project was to reach 50 VCFSE organisations through training, one-on-one support, and in-person events. We have surpassed this target by more than 50%.

Birchfield Community Association shared their experience: "It's early days yet, but the Decarb Somerset programme makes you question everything you do and whether there's a better way."

We have been successful in securing funding for the second year of the project to build on the work of the first year. We will work with more groups and organisations on their carbon reduction journey and develop further resources as a legacy for groups and organisations to use.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025



Funded by
UK Government



This project is funded by the UK Government through the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#)

English as a Second Language (ESOL)

This 3-year project, funded by Somerset Council, started in November 2023 and is set to run until 31 October 2026. In the year 2024/25, the following achievements were made:

- A webpage titled “Learning English in Somerset” was published on the CCS website. This webpage includes learning resources and links to teaching resources for ESOL tutors, as well as connections to the Somerset ESOL Network and wider ESOL networks.
- A consultation report was completed, featuring findings from interviews with course providers and a survey reaching learners and other non-English speakers.
- A map and directory of ESOL course providers and courses were linked to the webpage. The website also offers a Google Translate option for translation to other languages.
- One of the recommendations from the consultation led to the formation of the Somerset ESOL Network. The Network met three times, featuring speakers, updates, and information sharing. A request from the network resulted in a training session on Trauma Informed Practice. Regular email updates are sent to the 44 Network members.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Community Solution Seekers

Previously known as the Collaborative Leadership Project, this initiative is funded by the Somerset Integrated Care Board. The name was changed during the marketing design phase to better attract the target audience. The programme consists of 8 sessions held in each of 4 geographical locations: Yeovil, Shepton Mallet, Levels & Moors, and Dowsborough Local Community Network areas. The goal is to identify issues and solutions related to health and wellbeing.

Two facilitators, each taking different approaches, are leading the sessions. The first 4 sessions, one in each area, were held in March 2025. Subsequent sessions are being planned to extend the reach and ensure the involvement of interested individuals from Commissioners of services, local groups, and organisations. This is a pilot project designed to test the effectiveness of this methodology

HPC Community Fund Consultation

We are working in partnership with Centre for Thriving Places (CTP) and funded by Somerset Community Foundation to undertake research with the communities most impacted by HPC. The aim is to understand current perceptions of the area that people live in, and any impacts or benefits brought through HPC. Additionally, we are exploring what people would like to happen to strengthen their community in the longer term (5-10 years).

Desk research and interviews with key organisations in the area were completed in early 2025. CCS is using its community networks to undertake consultation with individuals and the wider community between March and June 2025. This consultation will help inform future funding priorities of the fund

Community Review project

Understanding residents' views and issues is vital for vibrant and inclusive communities. Following the successful completion of 18 community reviews in the first phase during 2023/24, CCS worked with 16 Town and Parish Councils this year. Funded by Somerset Council and delivered on behalf of the Somerset Association of Local Councils, these reviews resulted in comprehensive reports and action plans based on community consultation evidence. These documents identify key issues and projects that both councils and community groups can implement.

The consultation provides evidence of need, showing the level of interest in various topics, including communication, housing, traffic, the local environment, climate change, community facilities, children and young people, older people, health and wellbeing, and more. This evidence can be used locally to inform projects and also to lobby key stakeholders and support funding applications.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Rural Housing Enabler Project

Funded by the UK Government with funding distributed through ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England), we launched the Rural Housing Enabler project in April 2024. This initiative provides independent support and advice to help rural communities consider the local need for affordable housing. The project involves working with landowners, house builders, planners, and communities to bring about suitable schemes.

The team conducted desk research to identify parishes with potential needs and undertook marketing and promotion of the project. They engaged with one community already on their journey of exploring potential sites and another community in undertaking a housing needs survey to evidence local need. Additionally, awareness was raised at Parish Council meetings, and an advisory group of relevant partners was formed.

We have successfully secured funding for a second year of the project, which will build on the work accomplished in the first year.

Community Buildings Advisory Service

Community Buildings and Village Halls offer a space where a wide range of social activities can support the local area and residents, thereby strengthening communities. Managed by volunteer committees, our role is vital in supporting these volunteers with many issues including legislation, funding, best practices, and much more. Through the CCS Community Buildings Membership Scheme, members receive regular newsletters and bulletins, an hour of free one-on-one expert support, training and networking opportunities, free entry into the Hallmark accreditation scheme, access to over 100 specialist information sheets and model documents, increased visibility on our Community Building locator, exclusive discounts on products and services, as well as membership of a members-only Facebook group to share ideas and questions with like-minded community building volunteers.

During this year, we conducted 16 training sessions on topics ranging from the Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees to Risk Assessments, Fundraising, Incorporation, and Waste Management. Additionally, we held the annual Community Buildings Conference with this year's theme being 'A Hall Fit for Purpose,' where we had over 40 attendees and speakers from Devon and Somerset Fire Service, ACRE (national body), Somerset Community Foundation, as well as an update on legislation and best practices.

At the conference, we awarded 9 halls with Hallmark accreditations, achieving a total of 15 awards.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

The infographic is a 2x3 grid of colored boxes with icons and text. The top-left box is purple and contains the text 'Stakeholder and influence mapping' with a circular icon of people. The top-middle box is teal and contains 'Media success' with icons for 'Fuel Poverty' (a flame) and 'Energy Saving Week' (a leaf and lightning bolt). The top-right box is light grey and contains text about being invited to contribute to county-wide policy. The bottom-left box is teal and contains text about being invited to present at 20 events. The bottom-right box is light grey and contains text about meetings with MPs and other leaders, with an icon of two heads and speech bubbles.

Stakeholder and influence mapping

Media success

Fuel Poverty

Energy Saving Week

Invited on 10 occasions to make contributions to county wide policy & strategy based on our grass roots knowlege

Invited to present at 20 events addressing key issues and needs in Somerset

Met with MPs, the Lord-Lieutenant, High Sheriff, and leaders from NHS Somerset and Somerset ICS to find ways to work together and create real impact through shared platforms.

Strategic Goal 3

Informing and Influencing policy to drive change

CCS Somerset Convention

On 20th November 2024, we hosted our first-ever Somerset Convention at The Canalside in Bridgwater. Around 80 organisations and charities came together for a packed day of talks, workshops, panel discussions, and networking, all focused on one big goal: helping Somerset communities thrive.

The day tackled the most pressing challenges local people face, such as the cost of living, fuel and food poverty, housing, loneliness, mental health, and transport. Through nine in-depth workshops, delegates discussed how to take action, share ideas, and work better together. Sessions covered:

- Fuel poverty
- Food insecurity
- Housing needs
- Mental health and isolation
- Carers
- Dementia
- Youth engagement
- Transport access
- Supporting diverse communities

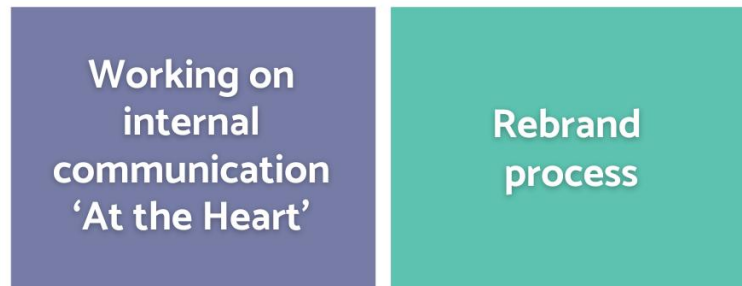
Speakers and facilitators included local leaders from organisations such as NEA, Citizens Advice, Spark Somerset, Mind, On Your Bike, Homes in Sedgemoor, and Minehead Eye.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

High-profile panel discussions explored the bigger picture: What do our communities need to thrive — and how can we make sure no one is left behind in the next 10 years? Panellists included voices from SASP, Somerset Council, Spark Somerset, the Lord-Lieutenant, and the Somerset Community Foundation.



There were 19 stalls from local organisations, with time for networking, and a strong emphasis on collaboration. The event also saw the launch of CCS's new Five-Year Strategy, focusing on building resilient, inclusive, and well-connected communities.

The event sparked ideas, strengthened relationships, and encouraged joined-up thinking. We captured the day through social media, followed up with a digital goody bag, and gathered feedback to help shape the Somerset Convention 2025.

Strategic Goal 4

People understand who we are and why we exist

Rebranding and Improved Messaging

We have started and undertaken our rebranding review and are in the planning stages to launch our new brand in July 2025.

Improved Messaging and Organisational Clarity (by end of 2024) and Consistent Presentation (by March 2025)

We have made meaningful progress in refining how we communicate our mission, values, and the impact of our work. A stronger emphasis on storytelling has allowed us to better highlight local experiences and the difference CCS makes within communities. Feedback has shown that we are increasingly recognised for telling the stories of our work at a community level, which has helped strengthen our identity and connection with audiences.

Alongside this, we have begun laying the foundations for a more consistent presentation of CCS across all channels. This includes early work as part of the rebranding process, as well as reviewing how we use visual and written content to ensure a coherent tone and style across our communications. Internally, we continue to support colleagues in becoming confident advocates for our vision and programmes—ensuring that the way we speak about our work is aligned across the organisation. This will remain a key priority as we move into 2025.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Website and Digital Presence (2024–2025)

A key milestone has been the development of a website brief, which is now ready for review before going out to tender. This marks a crucial step towards launching a new site that is more accessible, informative, and engaging.

Since July 2024, our website performance has been tracked through the new GA4 Google Analytics platform. While direct year-on-year comparisons are not possible, early indicators are positive. Page views have increased by 2%, and engagement, including clicks and downloads, has increased by 3%. Our most visited pages remain Vacancies, Somerset Diverse Communities, Decarb Somerset, Somerset Micro Enterprise, and the updated Donate page.

In terms of platform presence, we made a deliberate decision to discontinue activity on X (formerly Twitter). This reflects sector-wide concerns over the platform's safety, moderation policies, and increasing levels of misinformation. Like many local charities, we concluded that X no longer supports our communication goals or values. We have also removed five other channels: Smart Communities on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and Somerset Social Enterprise Network on Instagram and Facebook.

Internal Communications (2024)

We continue to prioritise strong internal communication through our regular "At the Heart" updates. These updates help ensure staff across CCS remain connected, informed, and aligned. [Average open rate is 80% and click through rate 9.6%]

Marketing Capacity (2024 onwards)

Recognising the need for dedicated capacity to support our strategic ambitions, we are currently awaiting further details on recruitment into marketing roles. This remains an essential area for investment to help us sustain momentum and maximise our impact

CCS Social Media Performance

Facebook: While reach and content views declined slightly by 6.6%, overall engagement improved substantially. Content interactions rose by 69.3%, exceeding 4,000, and we gained 272 new followers, which is 50 more than the previous year.

X (formerly Twitter): As outlined above, we have exited this platform due to growing safety and reputational concerns.

We have made meaningful progress across several communications targets within the first year of our strategy. Our focus on storytelling and audience engagement is already yielding results, both in perception and data. Priorities for the coming months include the delivery of the new website, further work on internal engagement, and investment in communications capacity. We remain committed to evolving our communications in a way that reflects the strength and diversity of the communities we serve and ensures CCS continues to be seen as a trusted, strategic voice in Somerset.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Somerset Village Agents and Carers Websites

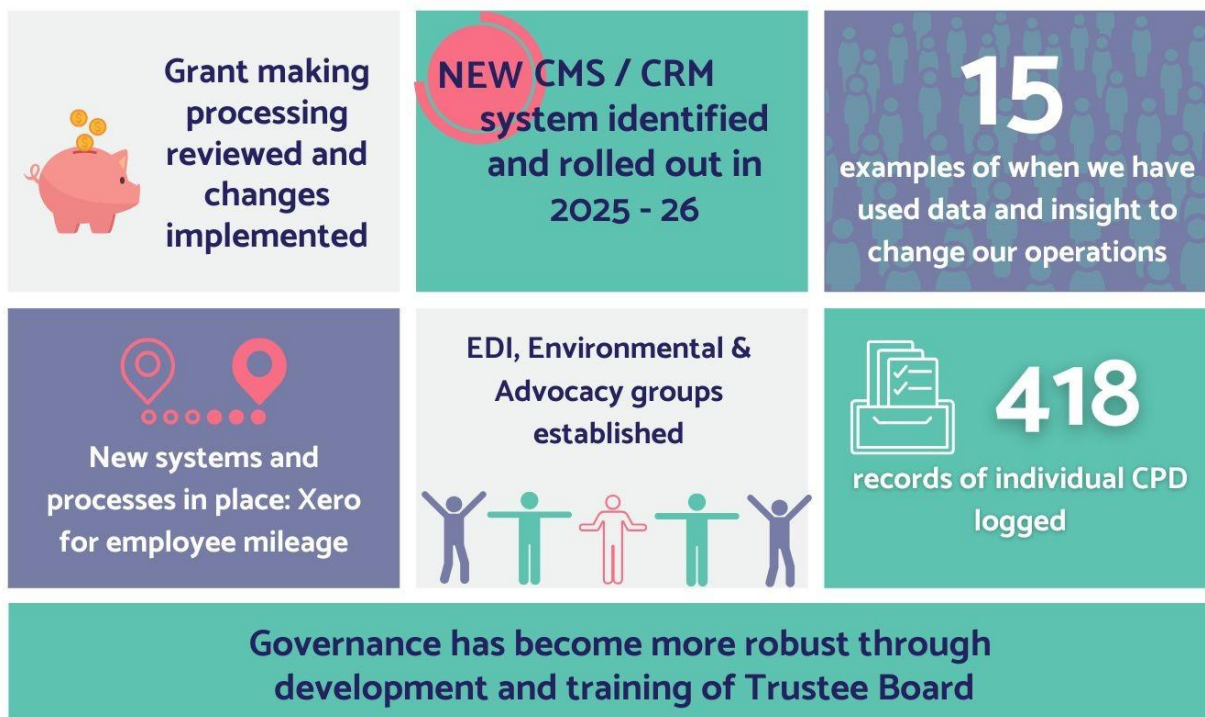
Visits to the Somerset Agents website demonstrated similar growth to the CCS website, increasing its visit count from 18,600 to 19,000, a 2.1% improvement. The most frequented pages remained consistent with the previous year, with Find an Agent, Somerset Village Agents, Talking Café, and Request a Call Back maintaining their status as the most active sections.

In contrast, the number of visitors to the Somerset Carers website increased to 24,000 in 2023-2024, representing a 4.3% rise from the previous year. The most popular pages were about Free Support and Information, Micro Providers, our 23 Carers Groups and our Carers Hub which offers information and advice on activities, events, and support from national and regional organisations. Over the year there were 431 registrations to receive updates from Somerset Carers and 358 people registered with the Somerset Carers Forum, indicating a desire for information and a strong wish to connect with other carers to share insight and experiences.

Somerset Carers social media following grew with a 12% increase on Facebook (915-page likes, 1.1k followers). We reached an estimated 34,000 Facebook users with higher post engagement happening around Carers Rights Day and Energy Saving Week.

Strategic Goal 5

Agile, skilled and confident organisation



The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Learning & Development

As part of the Year 1 implementation of the CCS Strategy 2024–2029, the Learning and Development (L&D) strategy was embedded to support long-term organisational growth. Core strategic outputs included:

- A reviewed Learning and Development Policy, introduced in April 2024, outlining pathways for induction, supervision, appraisal, and leadership development.
- A competency framework mapping all organisational roles to support development.
- A monitoring and evaluation framework tracking leadership growth, CPD uptake, and employee confidence.

Outcomes:

- Three employees enrolled in apprenticeships, including Finance Level 7 and Business Administration Level 3.
- Leadership development exceeded targets, with 100% of participants reporting improved leadership skills.
- Carbon Literacy Training engaged employees in Zero Carbon Britain initiatives, with pledges monitored post-training.
- CPD tracking was implemented quarterly, logging activities such as training, networking, and events.

Progress was tracked through key metrics:

- 56% of employees reported frequently having time to develop new skills.
- The employee engagement survey showed improved learning-related scores, rising to a weighted average of 2.67 (up from 2.51).
- Leadership development metrics indicated steady growth year-on-year.

Mark One began delivering IT support services from April 2024, focusing on enhancing systems and processes. Key deliverables included:

- 250 hours of IT support for onboarding, project work, and consultancy.
- Microsoft 365 E3 licensing for 100 users, alongside Intune for device management.
- Advanced security tools, including SpamShield email protection, CodeTwo email signature management, and ESET antivirus.
- Hardware recommendations and supply, prioritising cost-efficiency.

Mark One maintained Cyber Essentials certification and provided compliance support for GDPR and mobile device management. Regular reviews ensured service alignment with organisational needs.

The Employee Engagement Survey, conducted in late 2024, received a strong response rate of 80%. Key findings highlighted:

- Strengths in teamwork and management communication, with high ratings for inclusivity and support.
- Continued challenges in career development and work-life balance, though improvements were noted in learning opportunities.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Grant Making

This year we improved our grant making process, directly improving our ability to support individuals and families in crisis, whilst strengthening our financial oversight. We updated our application forms and implemented a more robust approval system to be able to enhance our financial scrutiny.

We were able to process an incredible 366 grants, totalling £38,187 which was driven by our incredible agents working to give vital support when it's most needed, all while ensuring responsible stewardship of our funds. These grants provided support for a whole range of different circumstances, from assisting with individuals facing ill health with essential electricity payments, providing beds for children without, a microwave for an older individual who is struggling with meal preparation, a phone for an individual fleeing domestic violence. These grants are a pillar of our organisation and enable us to support those in need across Somerset.

In the second half of the year, we were proud to support and administer the Surviving Winter grant programme, made possible through our valued partnership with the Somerset Community Foundation. This provided funding for grants totalling £23,605 to support 76 individuals. The funding made a direct impact by helping people stay warm, providing practical aid such as heated blankets and assistance with electricity costs.

Accounting Software and other Financial Process updates

This year, we successfully migrated our accounting operations to Xero software, a significant step that has improved our financial management by speeding up information processing and improving our reporting capabilities. This means we now have clearer, more timely insights into our financial position, enabling better informed decision-making.

We also dedicated efforts on improving other financial processes which have a direct benefit for our employees. A key improvement in this area was transitioning our expenses and mileage reimbursements from a monthly to weekly pay cycle, ensuring our employees are reimbursed more promptly, reflecting our commitment to the wellbeing of our employees.

New CMS and CRM

In the last year extensive research and reasoning have been undertaken to better understand and use our Data, linking this to our strategic goals of understanding the key impacts and areas of need CCS in relation to mission, it was apparent the current systems needed to be updated and changed. The roll out of both a new CMS and CRM is planned and in process for the summer of 2025.

The CPD Programme

Launched in June 2024, it aims to foster self-directed learning aligned with strategic goals. Key achievements included:

- Over 550 CPD entries logged by year-end, covering training in areas such as Domestic Abuse Awareness, Social Prescribing Link Worker (SPLW), and Carbon Literacy.
- Sector conference participation and extensive feedback on safeguarding and trauma-informed practice.
- Integration of CPD goals into appraisals and supervision processes, supported by a 360-feedback tool.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Overall, these initiatives represent a significant step forward in embedding a learning culture and enhancing organisational capacity to meet strategic ambitions.



Strategic Goal 6

A Financially Sustainable Organisation

Budgeting and Reserves

CCS has made significant improvements to the budgeting process following the planning and implementation of its strategy. During 24-25, our budgeting approach was further developed to align with CCS's strategic objective of financial sustainability. This involved adopting more detailed and systematic budgeting practices, which enhanced understanding of the financial plan and improved forecasting accuracy. This budgeting approach has allowed us to make more informed financial decisions allowing us to increase our impact for our beneficiaries.

While our long-term aspiration is to build our Reserves to cover closing costs plus 6 months of operating costs, we strategically budgeted for a reduction in this position through to 2026 due to the current financial landscape. We are pleased to see that despite budgeting for our reserves to be around 3 months by the end of 24-25, through careful planning and financial scrutiny we have exceeded this target, reaching a robust four months of reserves.

Fundraising

During the year we have begun to implement a range of approaches to fundraising, creating the infrastructure necessary for fundraising in many ways. This has included:

- Increasing the ease and visibility of our online giving offer – including one-off donations and regular gifts – as well as strengthening giving by post or telephone.
- Providing collection pots – and enabling contactless donations – at events, Talking Cafes and other community venues.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- Launching a 'Gifts in Wills' offer giving beneficiaries and supporters the choice to leave a legacy when completing a will for free.
- Engaging Marsha Miles Consultancy to develop and submit Trust and Foundation (grant-funding) applications on our behalf.

Fundraising has been supported by the appointment of a Fundraising Administrator who has worked with Village Agents and other teams to support the roll out of collection pots and promote opportunities to give through legacies, events, and other means. Much of this has been promoted as part of a 'Pay It Forward' campaign that has included mailings to churches, village halls, and other community buildings and organisations.

Looking Ahead to 2025–26

As we move into the 2025–26 fiscal year, with several of our projects and programmes now at their mid-point, we remain focused on delivering impact and driving forward our strategic priorities. Our efforts will centre on:

- **Delivering our mission and vision** by maintaining high service standards across our contracts, while embedding new, collaborative approaches with partners—particularly in the delivery of the Connect Somerset contract.
- **Adapting strategy**, to focus on a refreshed communication plan and the relaunch of CCS in brand and name, to ensure we are a future-fit organisation. This will involve changes to how we work, a sharpened internal focus, and a review of our organisational structure.
- **Upgrading our core technology infrastructure** to improve operational efficiency and effectiveness. This includes the continued rollout of our new Finance and HR systems, enhanced data management capabilities. Seeking to understand the impacts of AI and how it can enhance our ways of working.
- **Expanding our fundraising efforts** through the implementation of a new three-year Fundraising Strategy designed to meet our evolving needs and ambitions.
- **Strengthening our impact measurement** by prioritising Monitoring and Evaluation. This will support us in better assessing, articulating, and sharing the difference we make.

This approach will enable us to enhance service quality, continue supporting the VCFE sector, and—most importantly—keep the needs of individuals and communities at the heart of everything we do.

As we move into year 2 of our strategy, we will be working to demonstrate the data metrics and impacts which CCS produces to continue to inform us of where our focus and collaborative approaches best meet the mission needs, which will be shared in next year's report.

It is an exciting period of CCS history as we approach our centenary year with a focus on reinvention of brand and delivery of meaningful lasting impacts for our beneficiaries—one we welcome and embrace.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each fiscal year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Auditors

The auditors, Albert Goodman LLP, are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the Trustees.

.....
G Francis

Date:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Community Council for Somerset (the 'parent charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheets, the consolidated 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 Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent 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 other 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

Opinion on other matter 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 Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law 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' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees 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 Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company 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 trustees determine 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 group and parent 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the parent 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

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.

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 auditor's report.

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:

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charity Act 2011, employment, health and safety and data protection legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation, claims and breaches of relevant legislation; and
- reviewing correspondence with the Charity Commission and other relevant regulators including the company's legal advisors and insurers.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)
Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees and Members
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the group and parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the group and parent charitable company's members and trustees 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 group and parent charitable company and the group and parent charitable company's members as a body and the parent charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

.....
Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of
Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date:

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res-tricted £	Total 2024 £
Income:							
Donations	2	2,536	5,836	8,372	10,481	10,306	20,787
Charitable activities	3	2,172,808	655,082	2,827,890	1,426,519	1,259,244	2,685,763
Other trading activities	4	22,678	30	22,708	12,946	17,325	30,271
Investment income	5	24,576	-	24,576	30,954	-	30,954
Other income		1,720	-	1,720	2,025	-	2,025
Total income		2,224,318	660,948	2,885,266	1,482,925	1,286,875	2,769,800
Expenditure:							
Cost of raising funds		-	-	-	11,796	-	11,796
Charitable activities	6	2,402,204	756,827	3,159,031	1,676,348	1,352,462	3,028,810
Total expenditure		2,402,204	756,827	3,159,031	1,688,144	1,352,462	3,205,243
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers and gains and losses		(177,886)	(95,879)	(273,765)	(205,219)	(65,587)	(270,806)
Transfers between funds	16	(2,006)	2,006	-	(29,539)	29,539	-
Realised and unrealised gains and losses		-	-	-	3,206	-	3,206
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(179,892)	(93,873)	(273,765)	(231,552)	(36,048)	(267,600)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		605,882	297,342	903,224	837,434	333,390	1,170,824
Total funds carried forward		425,990	203,469	629,459	605,882	297,342	903,224

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. There were no gains or losses arising in the year that are not shown above.

The statement of financial activities incorporates the income and expenditure account.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive) – Company Registration Number:

03541219

Balance Sheet and Consolidated Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 £ Group	2025 £ Charity	2024 £ Group	2024 £ Charity
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10	17,054	17,054	13,883	13,883
Investments	11	-	-	75,668	75,668
		<u>17,054</u>	<u>17,054</u>	<u>89,551</u>	<u>89,551</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	78,103	106,174	200,199	223,360
Cash at bank and in hand		649,246	621,111	766,921	738,896
		<u>727,349</u>	<u>727,285</u>	<u>967,120</u>	<u>962,256</u>
Liabilities:					
Creditors falling due within one year	13	(112,442)	(112,082)	(152,543)	(148,829)
Net current assets		<u>614,907</u>	<u>615,203</u>	<u>814,577</u>	<u>813,427</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>631,961</u>	<u>632,257</u>	<u>904,128</u>	<u>902,978</u>
Defined pension benefit scheme	14	(2,502)	(2,502)	(904)	(904)
Total net assets		<u><u>629,459</u></u>	<u><u>629,755</u></u>	<u><u>903,224</u></u>	<u><u>902,074</u></u>
The funds of the charity:					
General funds		386,986	387,282	527,678	526,528
Designated funds		39,004	39,004	78,204	78,204
Total unrestricted funds		<u>425,990</u>	<u>426,286</u>	<u>605,882</u>	<u>604,732</u>
Restricted funds		<u>203,469</u>	<u>203,469</u>	<u>297,342</u>	<u>297,342</u>
Total charity funds	16	<u><u>629,459</u></u>	<u><u>629,755</u></u>	<u><u>903,224</u></u>	<u><u>902,074</u></u>

The trustees have prepared group accounts in accordance with section 398 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 138 of the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Approved by the Board of Trustees for issue on and signed on their behalf by:

.....
G Francis
Chair

.....
M Kitchen
Trustee

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

		2025	2024
		£	£
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movements in funds for the year		(273,765)	(267,600)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	10	7,973	4,412
Interest receivable	5	(24,576)	(30,954)
Revaluation of investments	11	-	(3,206)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(290,368)	(297,348)
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	12	122,096	(30,787)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13	(40,101)	(76,231)
Increase/(decrease) in provision	14	1,598	(1,030)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash flow from operations		(206,775)	(405,396)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable	5	24,576	30,954
Disposal of investments	11	75,668	-
Acquisitions of tangible assets	10	(11,144)	(18,295)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(117,675)	(392,737)
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		766,921	1,159,658
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		649,246	766,921
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
Cash & Cash equivalents reconciliation:			
Cash at bank		649,246	766,921
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		649,246	766,921
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Community Council for Somerset is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act. The maximum liability of each member is limited to £1. The address of the registered office is given on page 1. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Trustees report on pages 2-25.

The financial statements have been prepared in £ sterling on the historical cost basis and in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communities Limited, on a line by line basis. The "Group" Heading within the balance sheet refers to the consolidated accounts of The Community Council for Somerset and Smart Communities Ltd.

In the parent company financial statements the investment in the trading subsidiary is accounted for at cost less impairment.

A separate Statement of Financial Activities or income and expenditure account, for the Charity itself has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting when preparing the financial statements.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1.3 Income

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and charitable activities

Donations are recognised when the charity has received the donation. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

If there is a service level agreement or contract in place, income from administration charges is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

Other trading activities

Other income including subscriptions and income from other trading activities is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Investment income

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. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

1.4 Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. These include both costs associated with both charitable activity and those which relate to governance arrangements and the general running of the charity. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

Raising funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the deliverance 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.

Grants

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty regarding either the timing of the grant or the amount payable.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Leasehold improvements	6 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line

Fixed assets costing less than £1,500 are not capitalised.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1.6 **Investments**

Fixed asset investments comprise investment portfolios maintained by investment managers. These are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price (but excludes any transaction costs.) Subsequently, investments are held at market value, with all realised and unrealised gains passing through the SOFA.

1.7 **Debtors**

Accrued income is recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1.8 **Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand comprise cash on hand and call deposits with a maturity of less than three months, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.9 **Creditors**

Creditors and provisions 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 recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 **Pensions**

Defined contribution scheme

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the Charity during the year in accordance with FRS 17.

Defined benefit scheme

As set out in note 14, the charity is unable to identify its share of net assets and liabilities of this scheme. Accordingly, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as they occur.

There is an agreed deficit recovery plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS 102 the charity has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by the charity under this plan.

1.11 **Operating lease rentals**

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease. The charity has operating leases for the premises in which they operate, as well as motor, office equipment leases. The title of the leased premises and equipment remains with the lessor.

1.12 **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the company is not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable activities.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

1.13 Financial Instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade, other debtors and loans (programme related investment) are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Investment portfolios are basic financial instruments measured at fair value through the income and expenditure account. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank and deposit accounts– is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2. Donations and legacies

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £
Donations	2,536	5,836	8,372	10,481	10,306	20,787
	<u>2,536</u>	<u>5,836</u>	<u>8,372</u>	<u>10,481</u>	<u>10,306</u>	<u>20,787</u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

3. Charitable activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £
Somerset Community Foundation	14,150	39,700	53,850	3,000	78,018	81,018
Somerset County Council	1,074,961	317,775	1,392,736	465,762	879,487	1,345,249
SALC	-	72,000	72,000	-	-	-
West Somerset Primary	-	61,543	61,543	-	87,912	87,912
Yeovil Primary	132,730	-	132,730	-	-	-
National Lottery	20,000	-	20,000	-	-	-
Acre	-	56,071	56,071	-	-	-
South Petherton Parish Council	-	26,980	26,980	-	26,980	26,980
Crisis Funds - grants on behalf of clients	-	-	-	5,216	72,737	77,953
Defra	40,060	4,000	44,060	23,060	21,000	44,060
NHS	853,579	-	853,579	906,239	60,000	966,239
Rethink	-	58,214	58,214	-	32,692	32,692
Funders under £10,000	37,328	18,799	56,127	23,242	418	23,660
	<u>2,172,808</u>	<u>655,082</u>	<u>2,827,890</u>	<u>1,426,519</u>	<u>1,259,244</u>	<u>2,685,763</u>

4. Trading activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £
Events income	4,858	30	4,888	-	475	475
Membership subscriptions	17,820	-	17,820	-	16,850	16,850
Smart Communities Limited	-	-	-	12,946	-	12,946
	<u>22,678</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>22,708</u>	<u>12,946</u>	<u>17,325</u>	<u>30,271</u>

5. Investment income

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £
Bank interest	<u>24,576</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,576</u>	<u>30,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,954</u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

6. Charitable activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2025 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £
Activities undertaken directly	2,258,725	548,822	2,807,547	1,621,673	1,048,435	2,670,108
Grants to individuals:						
- Surviving Winter	-	28,413	28,413	-	42,052	42,052
- Crisis fund	-	31,717	31,717	-	73,274	73,274
- Other	-	-	-	-	8,385	8,385
Allocated support costs:						
- General office costs	86,500	6,459	92,959	32,866	8,853	41,719
- HR	69,094	2,758	71,852	38,315	3,161	41,476
- Audit and accountancy	20,588	-	20,588	19,996	-	19,996
- Subscriptions	16,746	756	17,502	17,396	1,000	18,396
- IT	34,314	414	34,728	57,600	-	57,600
- Premises costs	53,725	-	53,725	48,887	6,917	55,804
- Management charge	(137,488)	137,488	-	(160,385)	160,385	-
	<u>2,402,204</u>	<u>756,827</u>	<u>3,159,031</u>	<u>1,676,348</u>	<u>1,352,462</u>	<u>3,028,810</u>

7. Net incoming resources/operating surplus

	Charity		Subsidiary		Total	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation of owned assets	7,973	4,412	-	-	7,973	4,412
Accountancy services		2,536	-	-	-	2,536
Auditors remuneration - current auditors						
Audit services	15,600	14,100	-	-	15,600	14,100
Accountancy services	4,228	3,360	760	2,450	4,988	5,810
	<u>24,801</u>	<u>24,768</u>	<u>760</u>	<u>2,450</u>	<u>26,019</u>	<u>22,410</u>

8. Trustee directors

None of the Trustee Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the current or prior year. One Trustee Director was reimbursed during the year for travelling expenses and reimbursement of costs totalling £446 (2024: £131).

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

9. Employees

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

Employment costs	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,232,863	2,189,838
Social security costs	193,004	185,267
Pension costs	80,394	76,511
	<u>2,506,261</u>	<u>2,451,616</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 95 (2024: 98)

The number of employees whose annual emoluments (including employers national insurance but excluding employers pension) were £60,000 or more are:

	2025	2024
	number	number
£70,000 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

This employee is a member of the defined contribution pension scheme, into which contributions of £2,196 (2024: £2,201) were made.

The key management personnel of the charity are considered to be the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Operations & HR, Head of Programmes, Head of Development & Communications and Finance Manager. The total costs to the charity of employee benefits for the key management personnel were £247,889 (2024: £283,567).

Defined contribution pension scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £80,394 (2024: £76,511).

Contributions totalling £1,989 (2024: £184) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Leasehold Improvements £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	-	18,295	18,295
Additions	2,102	9,042	11,144
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	2,102	27,337	29,439
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	-	4,412	4,412
Charge for the year	350	7,623	7,973
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2025	350	12,035	12,385
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	1,752	15,302	17,054
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2024	-	13,883	13,883
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The above assets are all held by the charity.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

11. Investments

	Group £	2025 Charity £	Group £	2024 Charity £
Listed investments				
As at 1 April 2024	75,668	75,668	72,462	72,462
Revaluation	-	-	3,206	3,206
Disposal	(75,668)	(75,668)	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2025	-	-	75,668	75,668
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Shares in subsidiary undertaking

Smart Communities Ltd (company number 11480430) was incorporated on 24 July 2018 as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of The Community Council for Somerset. The parent charity holds 100% of the issued share capital and 100% of the voting rights of the subsidiary trading company.

The principal activity of the company is consultancy services. The registered office is the same as that of the charity, detailed on page 1.

The subsidiary gift aids its taxable profits to The Community Council for Somerset, and files unaudited, filleted accounts with the Registrar of Companies

A summary of the trading performance of the subsidiary is as below;

	2025 £	2024 £
Turnover	-	12,946
Administrative expenses	(726)	(11,796)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net loss before tax	(726)	1,150
Taxation	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Retained in subsidiary	(726)	1,150
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
The assets and liabilities were:		
Current assets	28,135	28,025
Current liabilities	(28,431)	(27,594)
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total net assets	(296)	431
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Retained earnings	(296)	431
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	(296)	431
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

12. Debtors

	2025		2024	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	475	475	160,765	160,765
Other debtors	19,000	19,000	1,225	1,225
Prepayments and accrued income	58,628	58,628	38,209	38,209
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	28,071	-	23,161
	<u>78,103</u>	<u>106,174</u>	<u>200,199</u>	<u>223,360</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025		2024	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	20,573	20,573	34,257	31,857
Accruals	20,907	20,547	27,137	25,823
Deferred income	23,561	23,561	90,965	90,965
Other creditors	5,035	5,035	-	-
Taxation and social security	42,366	42,366	184	184
	<u>112,442</u>	<u>112,082</u>	<u>152,543</u>	<u>148,829</u>

	2025		2024	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April	90,965	90,965	157,670	157,670
Released from previous years	(90,965)	(90,965)	(157,670)	(157,670)
Resources deferred in the year	23,561	23,561	90,965	90,965
	<u>23,561</u>	<u>23,561</u>	<u>90,965</u>	<u>90,965</u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

14. Pension schemes

The charity participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to identify its share of assets and liabilities of the scheme to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme and it therefore accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the total scheme was carried out at 30 September 2023. This valuation showed assets of £514.9m, liabilities of £531.0m and a deficit of £16.1m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall participating employers have been asked to pay additional contributions to the scheme. The estimated present value of the future contributions required from the charity over the next six years to meet its share of the deficit is £2,502 (2024: £904) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS 102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 4.84% (2024: 5.31%) based on a full AA corporate bond yield. The resulting expense is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The scheme is classified as a “last-man standing arrangement”. Therefore, the charity is potentially liable for other participating employers’ obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

If there were no members in the scheme the employer’s liability would become due for payment. This was last estimated on 30 September 2022 at a cost of £20,724. The charity currently has 160 members in a connected defined contribution scheme. If all members left the scheme there would be a 12 month grace period to find new members before the employer’s liability becomes due.

	2025		2024	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Provision at 1 April	904	904	1,934	1,934
Unwinding of discount figure	24	24	74	74
Deficit contributions paid	(921)	(921)	(1,105)	(1,105)
Remeasurement - impact of changes in as	16	16	1	1
Remeasurement - amendments to the conl	2,479	2,479	-	-
	<u>2,502</u>	<u>2,502</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>904</u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

15. Obligations under leases

The charity and group has obligations under non-cancellable operating leases, funded by unrestricted funds, with the total future minimum rentals payable as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Land and Buildings		
Expiry date:		
Within one year	14,500	3,400
Between one and five years	58,000	
Greater than five years	1,208	-
	<hr/> 73,708 <hr/>	<hr/> 3,400 <hr/>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

16. Summary of movement in funds

Group	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	527,678	57,347	(193,253)	(4,786)	386,986
Programmes	-	37,865	(37,866)	1	-
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Carers connect	-	382,701	(382,701)	-	-
Community connect	-	400,000	(399,999)	(1)	-
Refugee support	-	79,240	(79,240)	-	-
SPLW	-	910,859	(910,859)	-	-
Ubuntu	-	75,450	(77,628)	2,178	-
Immediate care	-	235,000	(235,278)	278	-
Community buildings	-	42,806	(43,130)	324	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	(5,742)	-
St Margaret's	72,462	3,050	(42,250)	5,742	39,004
	78,204	2,129,106	(2,171,085)	2,779	39,004
Total unrestricted funds	605,882	2,224,318	(2,402,204)	(2,006)	425,990
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Village Agents	25,183	-	(25,183)	-	-
Surviving Winter	4,794	29,700	(28,413)	-	6,081
Diversity	45,933	81,915	(109,860)	-	17,988
Crisis Fund	41,511	50,886	(31,717)	-	60,680
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	1,489	-	-	-	1,489
Mental Health Agents	1,650	61,759	(63,409)	-	-
Living Better WS	47,583	61,543	(89,133)	-	19,993
South Petherton	3,741	26,980	(30,453)	(268)	-
VCSE Dementia Partnership	36,692	-	(19,422)	-	17,270
CSE	8,444	-	(8,444)	-	-
ICB Somerset System Development	60,000	-	(31,474)	-	28,526
ESOL	2,728	23,624	(22,504)	-	3,848
Homeless support	-	30,000	-	-	30,000
Winter pressures	-	77,095	(77,096)	1	-
SALC	-	72,000	(72,000)	-	-
Rural Housing	-	56,071	(56,069)	(2)	-
Decarbonisation	-	89,375	(91,650)	2,275	-
Total restricted funds	297,342	660,948	(756,827)	2,006	203,469
	903,224	2,885,266	(3,159,031)	-	629,459

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Summary of movement in funds

	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Charity					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	526,528	57,347	(191,807)	(4,786)	387,282
Programmes	-	37,865	(37,866)	1	-
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Carers connect	-	382,701	(382,701)	-	-
Community connect	-	400,000	(399,999)	(1)	-
Refugee support	-	79,240	(79,240)	-	-
SPLW	-	910,859	(910,859)	-	-
Ubuntu	-	75,450	(77,628)	2,178	-
Immediate care	-	235,000	(235,278)	278	-
Community buildings	-	42,806	(43,130)	324	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	(5,742)	-
St Margaret's	72,462	3,050	(42,250)	5,742	39,004
	<u>78,204</u>	<u>2,129,106</u>	<u>(2,171,085)</u>	<u>2,779</u>	<u>39,004</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>604,732</u>	<u>2,224,318</u>	<u>(2,400,758)</u>	<u>(2,006)</u>	<u>426,286</u>
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
As per group listing above	297,342	660,948	(756,827)	2,006	203,469
Total restricted funds	<u>297,342</u>	<u>660,948</u>	<u>(756,827)</u>	<u>2,006</u>	<u>203,469</u>
	<u>902,074</u>	<u>2,885,266</u>	<u>(3,157,585)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>629,755</u>

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Summary of movement in funds – prior year

Group	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	759,227	1,105,703	(1,272,620)	(64,632)	527,678
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Carers' Agents	3	377,222	(415,524)	38,299	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	72,462	-	-	-	72,462
Total unrestricted funds	837,434	1,482,925	(1,688,144)	(26,333)	605,882
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
Village Agents	37,598	20,000	(32,415)	-	25,183
Surviving Winter	(1,750)	48,596	(42,052)	-	4,794
Diversity	48,199	83,019	(85,285)	-	45,933
Adult Social Care Community Hub	43,531	685,314	(728,845)	-	-
Crisis Fund	86,001	28,886	(73,376)	-	41,511
Taunton Federation	-	-	-	-	-
Community Buildings	(5,398)	47,689	(42,291)	-	-
CCG Cancer	7,981	-	(8,056)	75	-
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Digital Engagement	-	-	-	-	-
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	1,489	-	-	-	1,489
Mental Health Agents	-	32,692	(31,042)	-	1,650
Food Resilience	-	-	-	-	-
Children and Families Project	-	7,777	(11,157)	3,380	-
Health Inequalities SDC	-	-	-	-	-
Interfaith and Belief	-	-	-	-	-
Living Better WS	27,769	87,912	(68,098)	-	47,583
Microenterprise Project	-	-	(23,459)	23,459	-
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	4,367	26,164	(33,156)	2,625	-
SPOC	-	-	-	-	-
Refugee Support	13,149	117,566	(130,715)	-	-
South Petherton	3,496	26,980	(26,735)	-	3,741
VCSE Dementia Partnership	40,920	-	(4,228)	-	36,692
CSE	8,444	-	-	-	8,444
ICB Somerset System Development	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
ESOL	-	14,280	(11,552)	-	2,728
Total restricted funds	333,390	1,286,875	(1,352,462)	29,539	297,342
	1,170,824	2,769,800	(3,040,606)	3,206	903,224

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Summary of movement in funds – prior year

	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Charity					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	759,227	1,092,757	(1,260,824)	(64,632)	526,528
Designated funds					
<u>Carers' Agents</u>	3	377,222	(415,524)	38,299	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	72,462	-	-	-	72,462
	<u>78,207</u>	<u>377,222</u>	<u>(415,524)</u>	<u>38,299</u>	<u>78,204</u>
<u>Total unrestricted funds</u>	<u>837,434</u>	<u>1,469,979</u>	<u>(1,676,348)</u>	<u>(26,333)</u>	<u>604,732</u>
Restricted funds					
<u>As per group listing above</u>	<u>333,390</u>	<u>1,286,875</u>	<u>(1,352,462)</u>	<u>29,539</u>	<u>297,342</u>
Total restricted funds	333,390	1,286,875	(1,352,462)	29,539	297,342
	<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>2,756,854</u>	<u>(3,028,810)</u>	<u>3,206</u>	<u>902,074</u>

Purpose of material funds:

- **Village Agents** – The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three-year grant to fund Village Agent work until 2021, and funding was also received from the Bernard Herridge Trust (Hastoe Group). During 2019/20 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.
- **Surviving Winter** – funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.
- **Diversity** – BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county; They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.
- **Ubuntu** – a test and learn project until March 2024 to support High Intensity users in acute hospital A&E departments.
- **Adult Social Care Community Hub** – funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2024.
- **Crisis Fund** – Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.
- **Taunton Federation** – funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices. This project has now combined with the Village Agent fund therefore the income received last year of £20,000 has been transferred to the Village Agent fund.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- **Transport Agent** – funded by SCC West Somerset Opportunities Area grant to develop transport solutions in West Somerset.
- **MacMillan Agent** – a project to employ a specialist Agent to work with Macmillan and its volunteers supporting individuals affected by a cancer diagnosis and their families in Mendip and South Somerset.
- **Community Buildings** – support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.
- **CCG Cancer** – funded by the CCG to support individuals and their families affected by cancer.
- The **Somerset Society** fund – represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives
- The **Village Hall** Loan Fund – represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.
- **Digital Engagement** – funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.
- **Mendip Car Scheme** – is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.
- **Transform Ageing** – this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.
- **Mental Health Agents** – a one year project funded by the CCG covering Sedgemoor and West Somerset, employing specialist Agents to support individuals with Mental Health conditions, referred by GPs.
- **Food Resilience** – funding from SCC to support individuals in need during the pandemic with emergency food supplies and to give grants to community food groups to enable them to source sustainable solutions.
- **Children & Families Project** – one year test and learn project in West Somerset, supporting Families at risk, in liaison with local schools.
- **Health Inequalities SDC** – working with minority groups in Somerset to look at health inequalities with particular focus on Mental Health, Sexual Health, Domestic Violence and Vaccine engagement.
- **Interfaith and Belief** – to establish an Interfaith forum in Somerset with the aim of fostering community cohesion between faith groups, understand the role faith and belief groups have in times of crisis, support faith groups supporting people affected by Covid and to map faith groups in Somerset.
- **Living Better WS** – to provide Agent services in the Living Better Primary Care network in West Somerset.
- **Microenterprise Project** – to address the backlog of people interested in becoming microproviders, to raise awareness of the microprovider project, align with Carers engagement work to build relationships.
- **Positive Lives Innovation Funds** – test and learn project in South Somerset to support people who are either homeless, newly housed or are at risk of becoming homeless.
- **SPLW** – previously Primary Care Network VAS but renamed during the year to SPLW (Social Prescribing Link Workers). Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.
- **SPOC** (Single Point of Contact) – funding to support the Hospital Discharge Teams in the Acute hospitals, working with staff and agencies in those settings to support discharge of medically fit patients. This project has now combined with the Adult Social Care Community Hub therefore a transfer of the remaining SPOC balance has been made to the Adult Social Care Community Hub.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

- **Refugee Support** – funding through Somerset Council for Ukrainian Refugees currently up to November 2023.
- **South Petherton** – funding an Agent / SPLW which is separate to the NHS contract.
- **VCSE Dementia Partnership** – The VCSE Dementia Partnership is grant funding from Somerset Foundation Trust to the VCSE Dementia Partnership. Community Council Somerset will act as the lead organisation for the Information Packs and Carers Education workstreams. These include contribution to CCS Carers Packs, bespoke Dementia Support information sheets and delivery of Carers Education. Spending to be agreed by the Carers Education and Information Packs Working Groups and signed off by the Dementia Operational Oversight Group.
- **CSE** – Centre for Sustainable Energy who are supporting Agent Training over 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- **ESOL** – Somerset Council commissioned CCS to compile a map and directory of English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and English Conversation Clubs in Somerset. This will help identify gaps in provision and the needs of people whose first language is not English.
- **Community Solution Seekers** – The Community Solution Seekers is a pilot project working with communities in four geographical areas. Bringing interested individuals, groups and organisations together to identify common issues around the broad topic of health and wellbeing and identify ways of collaborative working to address the issues.

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

17. Analysis of assets between funds

Group	Tangible fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Provisions £	Total £
Unrestricted funds	17,054	-	411,438	(2,502)	425,990
Restricted funds	-	-	203,469	-	203,469
As at 31 March 2025	17,054	-	614,907	(2,502)	629,459
Unrestricted funds	13,883	75,668	517,235	(904)	605,882
Restricted funds	-	-	297,342	-	297,342
As at 31 March 2024	13,883	75,668	814,577	(904)	903,224
Charity	Tangible fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Provisions £	Total £
Unrestricted funds	17,054	-	411,734	(2,502)	426,286
Restricted funds	-	-	203,469	-	203,469
As at 31 March 2025	17,054	-	615,203	(2,502)	629,755
Unrestricted funds	13,883	75,668	516,085	(904)	604,732
Restricted funds	-	-	297,342	-	297,342
As at 31 March 2024	13,883	75,668	813,427	(904)	902,074

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

18. Income and expenditure account of the charity

The charity has taken advantage of Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not included its own Income and Expenditure account or separate Statement of Financial Activities.

Prior to gift aid amounts received from the subsidiary, The Community Council for Somerset had net expenditure for the year of £272,319 (2024: expenditure of £271,959), based on income of £2,885,266 (2024: £2,756,851).

Gift aid distributions from the trading subsidiary of £nil (2024: £nil) were received in the year, with the amount relating to the prior year trading profits.

19. Related parties

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 "Related Party Disclosures" from disclosing transactions with other members of the group.

20. Events after the balance sheet date

On 1 April 2025, the charity became the sole member and Trustee of Diversity Voice, a charity registered in England and Wales (number 1162019).

21. Financial Instruments

Categorisation of financial instruments	Group £	2025		2024	
		Charity £	Group £	Charity £	Group £
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	-	-	75,668	75,668	
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	691,934	691,870	952,124	947,260	
	<u>691,934</u>	<u>691,870</u>	<u>1,027,792</u>	<u>1,022,928</u>	
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	49,017	48,657	62,298	58,584	
	<u>49,017</u>	<u>48,657</u>	<u>62,298</u>	<u>58,584</u>	

The Community Council for Somerset (trading as Thrive)

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025

2025 - Group and charity	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Losses
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	24,576	-	-	-
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24,576	-	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
2024 - Group and charity	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Losses
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	30,954	-	3,206	-
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	30,954	-	3,206	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1069260

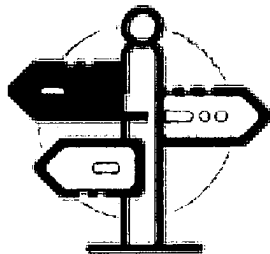
Accounts

The Community Council for Somerset
(A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

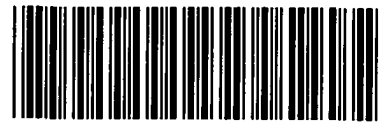
Company Number: 03541219
Charity Registered in England and Wales Number: 1069260



CCS

people • place • enterprise

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COMPANIES HOUSE

The Community Council for Somerset
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For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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The Community Council for Somerset

Reference and Administrative Details

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Trustee Directors

J Braisby
J Chidgey-Clark
G Francis
C Gautam
M Kitchen
R Lawy
E Lower
S Tudor

Secretary

V Bishop

Chief Executive Officer

V Bishop

Charity Number

1069260

Company Number

03541219

Principal Address and Registered Office

Fitzwarren House
Queen Street
Taunton
England
TA1 3UG

Auditors

Albert Goodman LLP
Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Bankers

Santander
62 Hight Street
Weston-Super-Mare
North Somerset
BS23 1JB

Lloyds Bank
31 Fore St
Somerset
TA1 1HN

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Charity's governing document and the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP FRS 102- implemented 1 January 2019).

The full name of the Charity is The Community Council for Somerset. It was incorporated 13 December 1999 as a company limited by guarantee. Its company registration number is 03541219. Its Charity registration number is 1069260. The registered office is Fitzwarren House, Queen Street, Taunton, England, TA1 3UG.

References and Administrative Details

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association (updated and agreed September 2011), Amended Articles of Association (adopted December 2020) and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the Company are the Charity's trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees.

The Trustees serving during the year and since the year-end are as follows:

- J Braisby (appointed 1 May 2024)
- K Buter (resigned 11 July 2023)
- J Chidgey-Clark (appointed 1 May 2024)
- P Claydon (resigned 31 October 2023)
- G Francis
- C Gautam (appointed 11 July 2023)
- P Gunner (resigned 31 October 2023)
- P James (resigned 12 February 2024)
- M Kitchen (appointed 2 August 2023)
- R Lawy (appointed 31 October 2023)
- E Lower (appointed 11 July 2023)
- E Tipper (resigned 11 July 2023)
- S Tudor (appointed 2 August 2023)

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

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Structure, governance and management

The Community Council for Somerset was incorporated on 1 April 1998 and is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended 20th September 2011.

On 3 December 2020, a General Meeting of Members was held at which amended Articles of Association were adopted, changing to a Foundation model of Governance.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, Company Number: 3541219.

Membership

Membership of the company is by application to the office and will involve a guarantee for a contribution of £1 in the event of a shortfall of assets on winding up.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the Trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM one third of the Trustees who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office.

The President

The General Meeting is empowered to elect a President, who may elect to be a trustee as a result of being so elected.

Policies and Procedures for the Recruitment, Selection, Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustee vacancies are advertised on the CCS website and through social media, and we use a website to match with volunteer Trustees. Potential candidates first meet with the Chief Executive then have an interview with the Chair and at least one other Trustee. They are invited to meet other Trustees either as an observer at a Board meeting or at a more informal event. There is a person specification for Trustees and tailored versions for specific roles such as the Chair and Honorary Treasurer. If specific skill needs are identified by the Board, separate person specifications are developed. An application is submitted and considered by the Board. The decision to co-opt a new Trustee is put to the Board to vote.

Trustees now have their own CBL pathway on the Learning Hub. Trustees meet members of staff, receive support and training in IT as required, and receive information about entitlement to and reimbursement of any approved expenses incurred in undertaking the role of a Board member. Trustees' skills audits are undertaken regularly.

Organisational Structure

The Board delegates day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team. Programmes are managed differently depending on size. Our largest programme, the Village Agent programme, has a Senior Manager, and 5 Locality Managers whilst we have 3 Senior Community Advisers who manage smaller programmes between them.

Core staff are split into teams by functions, each with a manager. An organisational restructure was implemented alongside the strategy development during 2023-24 and a new organisational structure came into place on April 1 2024.

Pay Structure and Framework

A staffing and pay structure and framework was adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations. This was used during the year alongside the Pay Policy.

In light of the ongoing cost of living crisis, Trustees agreed to a 3% (in total) pay increase during this year.

Trading Subsidiary

Smart Communities Limited (SCL), CCS's Trading Subsidiary generated a small amount of income this year. This year, the decision was taken to bring the small team delivering for SCL into the organisation as the Programmes Team. This was because the majority of the projects being delivered were funded through grants rather than generated income, and were clearly aligned to CCS charitable objectives, vision and mission. The Chief Executive Officer and Chair of Trustees are Directors of SCL and delivery of any consultancy is done through the Programmes Team who remain on joint contracts.

Partnership Working

CCS works collaboratively with a range of organisations in the VCFSE sector in Somerset. Where we sub-contract work as part of a commission or grant, we have partnership agreements in place.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are as follows: -

"To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the administrative County of Somerset and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty and distress and physical and mental sickness and disability".



The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

- to do anything within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects.
- to carry out campaigning and advocacy, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that any proposed campaigning and advocacy will further the Objects to an extent justified by the resources committed and that such activity is not the dominant means by which the Charity promotes the Objects.
- to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a charity.
- to provide advice or information.
- to carry out research.
- to co-operate with other bodies.
- to support, administer or set up other charities.
- to act as a Charity Trustee of a charitable trust.
- to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other body for the purposes of any of the Objects.
- to convert to a charitable incorporated organisation.
- to accept or refuse gifts and donations and to raise funds (but not by means of Taxable Trading).
- to borrow money.
- to give security, including but not limited to guarantees, for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act).
- to acquire or hire property of any kind.
- to borrow money.
- to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act).
- to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure.
- to deposit or invest its funds in any manner including without limitation with a view to: (a) directly furthering the Charity's purpose; (b) achieving a financial return for the Charity; or (c) achieving both of the objectives described at (a) and (b) above in accordance with and provided that the Trustees comply with their duties under Part 14A of the Charities Act, (but to invest wholly or partly with a view to achieving a financial return only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);
- to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that: (a) the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees; (b) timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees; (c) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees; (d) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time; (e) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year; (f) all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and (g) the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a Nominee Company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a Financial Expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required; 3.20 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as Custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required.
- to provide Indemnity Insurance for the Trustees and officers of the Charity in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act.

- subject to Article 8.3, to employ or engage paid or unpaid agents, staff, or advisers and where appropriate: 10 (a) to provide for them to benefit under pension and other staff benefit arrangements for them and their dependants; and (b) to enter into compromise and settlement arrangements with them.
- to enter into contracts and agreements of any kind, including without limitation contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies; and
- to establish or acquire subsidiaries.

Vision, Mission & Values

Our Vision

Supporting Somerset's communities to thrive together.

Mission

We enable change by listening, responding to need and building connections between people and communities.

Values

We are kind and compassionate.
We act with honesty and integrity.
We value equality and inclusion.



Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. These activities meet our charitable objects as described above.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Review of Activity

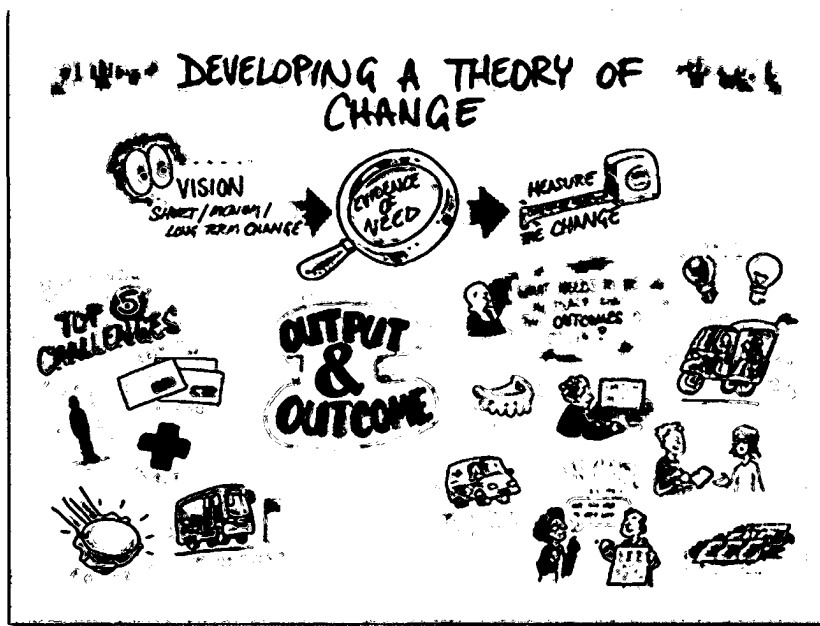
The 2023/24 fiscal year was a year of transition for CCS with internal review, contingency planning, and development of our new Strategy, aligned to our new Vision, Mission & Values.

We have continued to deliver our core contracted work, with our employee numbers remaining consistent during this time and the prior year's spike in employee turnover well abated and levels reaching as low a base as CCS has ever seen. The biggest programmes continued to be Village Agents and Somerset Diverse Communities with a Community Review programme also being delivered to support community planning in 19 parish and town councils. We were delighted to be awarded the contract for Connect Somerset, a significant part of the Village Agent delivery programme. CCS continues to be a key part of the Health & Wellbeing system in Somerset, and the biggest community development organisation, working at the grassroots to enable community solutions to local problems.

The governance review in April 2023 highlighted the key areas of change needed for CCS to stay current and aware of its expectations and limitations. As a result of this review many procedures and policies were reviewed and updated in line with Charity Commission guidance. This review allowed CCS to identify best practice and create a framework for continuous improvement.

Governance has been strengthened through a Board and Staff working group, and the Board identified areas of focus and improvement including finance and strategic planning, which then drove the work of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Board during the rest of the year. The Board has seen many personnel changes during the year as some long standing Trustees came to the end of their terms and some were forced to retire due to personal circumstances. We are excited to have attracted new Board members from our diverse Somerset communities. A new Chair and Vice Chair were also elected whilst a sub-committee structure was put in place to enable Board Members to understand specialist areas of CCS in depth, to aid decision making and CCS's development. These Sub Committees are Finance & Internal Affairs and Programmes. It has been decided that Fundraising will be monitored by the whole Board due to its importance to CCS.

Strategy development took place between May and November 2023, driven by the CEO and SLT. It provided opportunities for the engagement of all employees in addition to external partners and stakeholders. We are proud that the Strategy which was agreed in February 2024 was developed through work with 98% of Employees and Trustees. This has given us 6 strategic goals to focus on, 3 internal and 3 external and prioritises supporting communities to meet key challenges across food and fuel poverty, transport, health and wellbeing and housing. As part of the strategy process, a Theory of Change was also developed which has given CCS the opportunity to identify these key community development areas to focus on over the next 5 years from 2024-2029.



(illustration capturing some of the process undertaken in defining our strategy)

Planning and mapping the future was underpinned by a new approach to financial management, implemented in October 2024 by our newly appointed Finance Manager.

The strategy process highlighted the need for CCS to diversify our income streams, which is a particularly critical area for CCS in the coming years with external fiscal pressures on our partners at Somerset Council and NHS.

Achievements and performance

Our success is evaluated through various methods. For specific projects, we agree on outcomes and indicators with funders and report on them, including case studies as examples. Defra requires quarterly reports on our progress and achievements across several key themes. We also gather feedback from events such as Community Buildings workshops and Social Enterprise events. The Chief Executive provides progress updates at every Board meeting, and regular 'Town Halls' have been introduced to keep our employees informed and updated.

As part of our Agent programme a Client Satisfaction Survey was introduced during this year which enables us to monitor and reflect upon performance and make continuous improvements.

Village and Community Agents including Home First (Hospital Team) and other specialist agents.

Agents continued to provide a high-quality service to a client base growing in number and in complexity of needs, almost 10,000 referrals were received from a growing number of places. For the first time we introduced Power BI dashboards which have enabled us to monitor case load, whilst the use of MYCAW as an evaluation tool has enabled us to monitor client outcomes more effectively. 85% of clients during this period felt that their wellbeing had been improved by the service.

Support continues to be given through face-to-face visits, as well as through phone support. We remain one of the few agencies in the county to visit clients in person.

Agents are engaged with peer forums and multi-disciplinary team meetings in addition to the many organisations within the charity sector that support vulnerable people in their area.

Specialist agents focus on specific demographic groups and their need: Children & Families, Refugees and Homelessness & Tenancy Support.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Somerset Carers Service

We continued to deliver our Village Agent support to unpaid Carers across the county – currently numbered at about 58,000. This included one to one support through a dedicated support phonenumber and Agents. In addition to this, the service facilitated peer support groups, and activities and education for carers to support them, and their loved one. Events were held to foster collaboration within the system, and the sector and additional funding was secured from the Open Mental Health Alliance to support carers for people with mental health challenges.

Visitors to the Somerset Carers website grew to 24,000 in 2023-2024; an increase of 4.3% on the previous year. The most popular pages were about Free Support and Information, Micro Providers, our 23 Carers Groups and our Carers Hub which offers information and advice on activities, events, and support from national and regional organisations. Over the year there were 431 registrations to receive updates from Somerset Carers and 358 people registered with the Somerset Carers Forum, indicating a desire for information and a strong wish to connect with other carers to share insight and experiences.



Accessible Boat Trip from our Carers Week

Somerset Carers social media following grew with a 36% increase on Facebook (815-page likes, 964 followers) and an increase of 16% on Twitter (X). We reached an estimated 34,000 Facebook users and engagement with our posts spiked significantly around events such as Carers Week and the videos we shared around Carers Rights Day.

Focus on Fuel Poverty

In 2023/24 we were delighted to launch our inaugural 'Knit for your Neighbour' campaign where we asked members of the community in Somerset to donate knitted blankets (or new blankets with the tags still on) that our Village Agents could then distribute to vulnerable people who are struggling with fuel poverty. We managed to distribute over 200 blankets in the end, some of them works of art. We were also very grateful to local wool shops in Somerset who donated wool to 'Knit and Natter' groups for participants to knit the blankets to donate.



Knit for your Neighbour!

We were also proud of our first 'Energy Efficiency Week' which we held in January 2024 to tie in with national initiatives. CCS mobilised all our programme teams to hold events, work with partners and raise awareness of fuel poverty and ways of becoming energy efficient in the community. A large number of goody bags were given away, alongside non-electric slow cookers, air fryers, electric blankets, LED lightbulbs and other useful items for homes. We worked with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, Citizen's Advice Somerset, National Energy Action and many local organisations.

At the end of the year the agent workforce stood at:

Agent Workforce Numbers



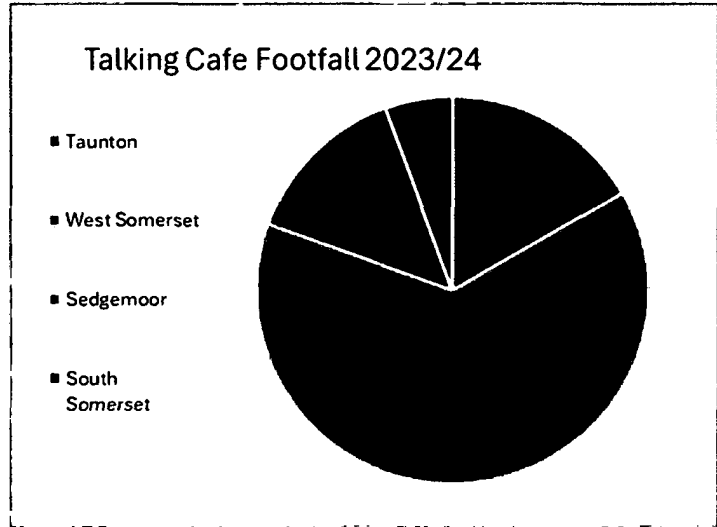
The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

5.6 Talking Café

We host weekly and monthly talking cafes across Somerset seeing over 6000 people in 23/24, those who visited our talking cafes were across a wide variety of need from people with the largest need being isolation/mental health needs ranging to other areas of financial support and community needs.



Grant Making

Grant making is a small part financially of our work but has a significant impact. Following our Grant Making Policy, Agents work initially to find community solutions, but have access to in-house grant funding, and some delegated funds to provide immediate, crisis support if needed.

Home First Fund

We received income of £50,000 from Somerset Council to fund small grants which help support those in need discharging from our hospitals in Somerset. The Hospital Team awarded 351 grants totalling £31,725, providing support such as microwaves, hoarding declutter, cleaning, handrails, and key safes.

Surviving Winter Grants

CCS distributed payments to those individuals in need of 'Surviving Winter Grants.' These grants come from money kindly donated by people who receive the Winter Fuel allowance to Somerset Community Foundation, who work with partners including CCS to distribute to those who are most vulnerable in our communities. The grants are available for older people in our communities to ensure they stay warm and well during the winter months. We were allocated a further £48,600 from the Somerset Community Foundation in 2023/24. A total of £42,050 was awarded in the period, with the remainder to be used within the early part of 2024/25.

Somerset Crisis Fund

This fund makes grants available to people and families in crisis situations. Funding comes from general donations received from organisations for example, Somerset West Lottery, as well as through individual donations on Local Giving. We also are grateful to work closely with other Trusts and Funds to help individuals receive grants for life-changing large household items and mobility aids. Our collaborators for these grants include Taunton Aid in Sickness, Mary Huxtable Trust, Taunton Heritage Fund, The Wilton Trust, St Decumans Parish Trust, and Church Unity Emergency Fund. During 2023/24 we saw the need for support increase hugely, up 56% from the prior year. In total 375 grants were awarded to individuals amounting to £25,100.

Community Development Projects

Community Buildings and Village Halls offer a space where a wide range of social activities can support the local area and residents, thereby strengthening communities. Managed by volunteer committees, our role is vital in supporting these volunteers with many issues including legislation, funding, best practice and much more. Through the CCS Community Buildings Membership Scheme, members receive regular newsletters and bulletins, an hours free one to one expert support, training and networking opportunities, free entry into the Hallmark accreditation scheme, access to over 80 specialist information sheets and model documents as well as membership of a members only Facebook group to share ideas and questions with like-minded community building volunteers.

During this year there were 9 training sessions on topics ranging from the Roles and Responsibilities of Trustees to Risk Assessments, Fundraising, Incorporation and Waste Management. During the National Village Halls Week with the topic of Go Green! we ran a number of events including a half day event 'Taking steps towards Net Zero.'

In addition we held the annual Community Buildings Conference with this year's theme being 'A Hall Fit for the Future' where we had over 50 attendees and speakers from the National Lottery, the Royal Countryside Fund, a local hall who had achieved significant funding to develop their hall for future generations to come, as well as an update on legislation and best practice.

At the conference we awarded 18 halls with Hallmark accreditations. There were 13 halls renewing, 6 taking part for the first time resulting in 17, Level 1 accreditation awards, 9, Level 2 accreditations and 7, level 3 accreditations – a testament to the hard work of the halls volunteers in running and managing their facilities.

In addition, nominations were invited for the 'Trustee of the Year Award' which recognises a trustee who has either been long standing, very active in their role, influenced change or development, or deserves recognition for their role in another way. We were delighted to present the award to two trustees – the Treasurer of Ashwick and Oakhill Village Hall and the Booking Secretary for Mark Village Hall.

Community Review project

Understanding residents' views and issues is vital for vibrant and inclusive communities. CCS worked with 18 Town and Parish Councils funded by Somerset Council and delivered on behalf of Somerset Association of Local Councils to complete Community Reviews. These are reports and action plans based on community consultation evidence which identify key issues and projects which both councils and community groups alike can deliver. The consultation provides evidence of need showing the level of interest in particular aspects from a wide range of topics including communication, housing, traffic, the local environment, climate change, community facilities children and young people, older people, health and wellbeing and others. This evidence can be used both locally, but also as information to lobby key stakeholders as well as evidence for any funding applications that may be made to deliver projects.

Examples of projects and outcomes reported back as a result of our Community Reviews include:

- Better communication channels.
- Council more actively involved in environmental activities
- Have agreed to start planting wildflower seeds on village green.
- Involvement of younger persons and those from wider community especially entertainment and activities
- Main outcome is that we have gained solid evidence of the desire in the parish for a community hub to be created, and a project group is using this evidence as part of grant funding bids.

- A much more detailed understanding of the community that lives there now. A renewed focus on the most important priorities for the community, namely speeding and road safety.
- There were possibly some pre-conceived ideas as to what was required in community e.g. community hall. Further consultation and appraisal of existing facilities have shown that a hall may not be a requirement. The Plan has allowed us to have a better understanding of the Community requirements.
- Funded and launched a Community Shed having asked a question about it in the survey.
- Launched a Local Produce Market and a Community Garden, and a pétanque course.
- Ongoing discussions to merge two parish councils.
- received overwhelming support to develop an Active Travel Route in their Review and are currently fundraising for the work.

Eco halls

In addition to our core Community Buildings work, we developed a project funded by the Royal Countryside Fund supporting Community Buildings through a programme of training and networking to help future proof their buildings.

We produced a range of resources to help them, including information sheets, case studies, events, and useful links.

12 Halls received a technical energy audit with 100% of halls responding to requests for feedback stating that they had since actioned recommendations in the audit report including installation of infra-red heating solutions and improved LED lighting; 60% had made savings on energy usage; 40% had made savings on energy costs.

11 training events were delivered, both online and in person. In total, 99 halls have accessed these events with nearly 230 volunteers attending.

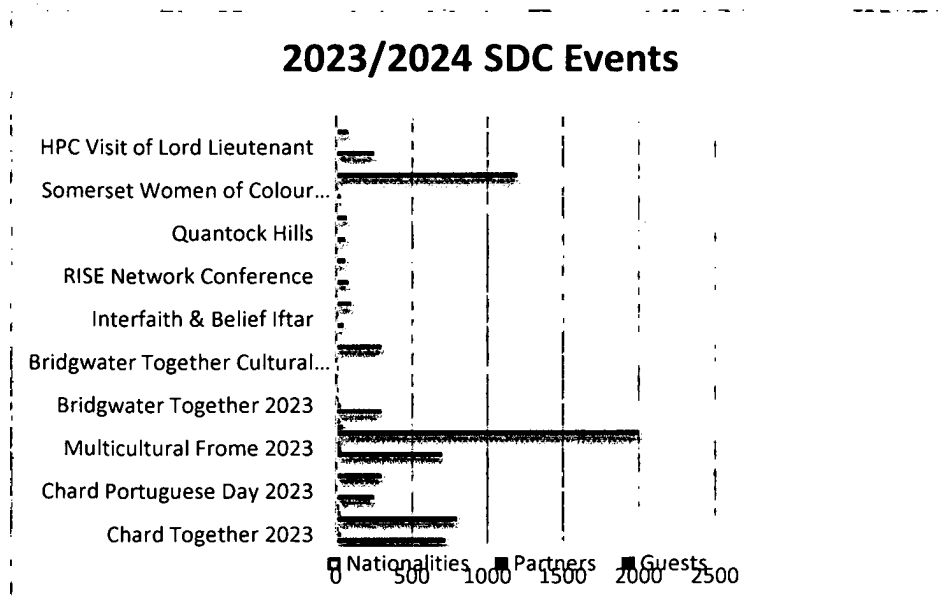
This project highlighted the needs and opportunities to support further climate response work acting as a catalyst for us to develop other new projects.

Somerset Diverse Communities

Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) are proud to have delivered various events, training sessions and hosted podcasts throughout the last year. SDC has been actively working towards a more equitable future by empowering ethnically diverse communities to become more visible and vocal within the county.

TRAINING/WEBINAR/PODCAST	
Partners	Activity
St Margaret's Hospice	Volunteering and ethnically diverse communities
Nursing students at University Centre Somerset	Working with ethnically diverse communities
Conversation Clubs in Wells, Glastonbury, Yeovil, and Taunton	English Sessions for Women
Quantock Landscape Partnership Scheme	The Beauty of the Hills podcast
Somerset Community Foundation	Funding - podcast

In addition to organising and participating in a wide range of events and initiatives, the team has been a prominent presence at numerous network, panel, and forum meetings representing the interests of Somerset's ethnically diverse populations. This report presents a comprehensive summary of SDC's activities during this period, highlighting key metrics such as guest attendance and partner collaboration. While the majority of these initiatives were independently organised by SDC, it is important to acknowledge the collaborative nature of many events, which involved partnerships with various organisations and stakeholders.



The above chart shows the numerous events that SDC has hosted and the number of people in each community we have reached over 7000 people alone with our events.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024



SDC Supporting the on your bike scheme.

Communications

CCS's social media presence has seen growth across various channels. The Facebook page experienced significant improvements in reach and impressions, with a notable 81% increase in reach to 100,000 users and a 5.2% increase in impressions to 246,700. However, follower growth slightly declined, with 220 new followers, which is 2 fewer than the previous year.

User interactions remained stable at 2,600, matching the previous year's performance. Our CCS YouTube channel received 1.8k views an increase of 200 views on the previous year.

Website traffic for CCS has seen a decline, with an average of 1,500 visitors and approximately 18,000 unique visits, representing a 21% decrease from the previous year. Despite this overall decrease, certain pages maintained their popularity, with Vacancies, Community Buildings, Somerset Diverse Communities, and the Contact Us page emerging as the top-performing sections.

The CCS Homeless campaign was launched in January 2024, marking a significant effort to address homelessness issues. The campaign gathered attention from various media outlets, including coverage in Somerset Live, Somerset Gazette, and Chard Gazette. Additionally, the initiative reached a broader audience through the Rural Services Network, which has a distribution of approximately 20,000 readers.

The campaign's launch generated 93 reads, 173 website page views and with an average read time of 4 minutes and 53 seconds. This multi-faceted media approach helped to raise awareness about homelessness and CCS campaign's objectives across different platforms and communities.

In contrast, the Somerset Agents website demonstrated smaller growth, increasing its visit count from 18,600 to 19,000, a 2.1% improvement. The most frequented pages remained consistent with the previous year, with Find an Agent, Somerset Village Agents, Talking Café, and Request a Call Back maintaining their status as the most active sections.

Collaboration

CCS continues to enjoy strong operational and strategic connections within both the VCFSE sector in Somerset, and the Public Sector. Our CEO sits on the Somerset Group of Charities, and with this group, has led on the development of the VCSFE Forum, which aims to provide a sustainable and fair way for organisations of all sizes to connect with policy and decision makers. CCS is an Associate Partner of the Open Mental Health Alliance, and this year has secured funding to lead on carers groups in the county. CCS continues to work with Rethink, the partnership lead of OMH to develop more streamlined ways of working. CCS works closely with Spark, the CVS within Somerset to ensure that work is not duplicated, and we are able to support each other to develop stronger communities in Somerset.

Looking Ahead

In the 2023-24 fiscal year we will continue to focus our resources on:

Delivering our mission and vision by maintaining our service measures for our contracts whilst embedding new ways of collaborating with our partners to deliver the Connect Somerset contract.

The Launch of our strategy – including the successful communication and relaunch of CCS to ensure a fit for future purpose organisation is in place. This will see changes to the way we work and focus within, and our organisational structure reviewed.

Updating core technology infrastructure, so we can operate more efficiently and effectively, and focus more resource on our core work. This includes continuing to implement our new Finance and HR systems and data management with the protentional of relocation to new premises.

To achieve all this, we will need to develop and grow our fundraising activities, we have developed a 3 Year Fundraising Strategy fit for our needs.

Our new strategy places significant emphasis on assessing, articulating, and sharing our impact. Monitoring and Evaluation and the further development of impact measurement is an important part of our work this year.

This approach enables us to enhance our service quality, continue to offer support across the VCFE, and at the forefront continue to prioritize the needs of the individuals and communities we serve.

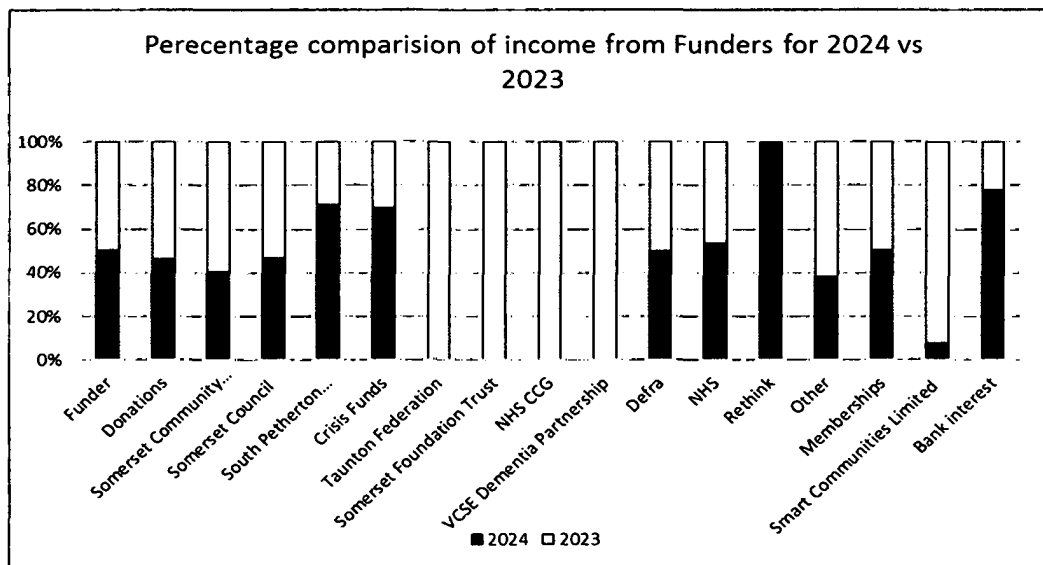
During our new Strategy launch in the initial period, we will be working towards a set of headline metrics, which we will set out in next year's report.

It is an exciting time of change for us, one we embrace and relish.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

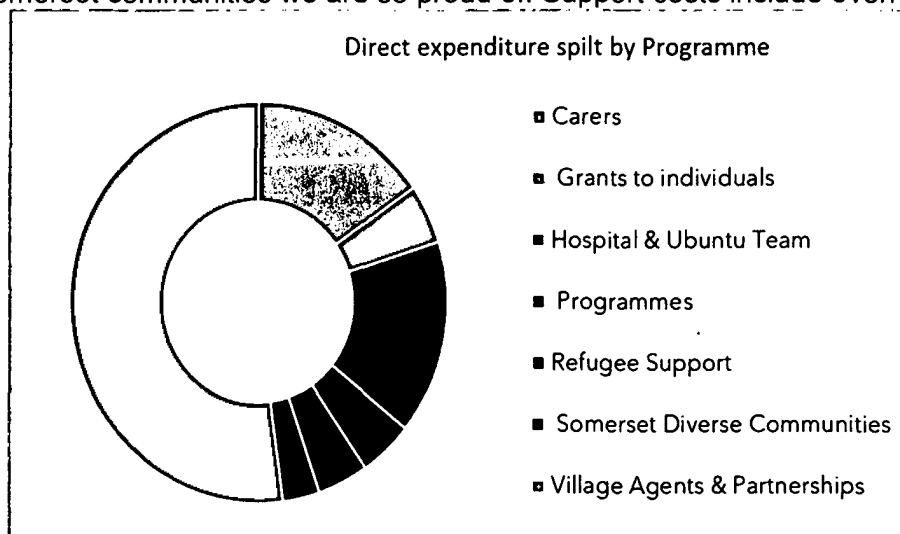
During 2023/24 funding was secured for another year for our Hospital Agent team. NHS Somerset continued to fund the majority of the Agent Service with our contract with Somerset Council for Carers and Community Agents ending in March 2024 to welcome the introduction of the Connect Somerset contract in 2024/25.

The total income has decreased by 11% from the prior year to £2,769,800 in 2023/24. This was due to the end of contracts from NHS CCG for our Cancer Agent programme and the Dementia Partnership with the VCSE, for both of which expenditure continued into 2023/24.



As expected with a decrease in income, our expenditure also decreased by 5%, from £3,205,243 in 2022/23 to £3,040,606 in 2023/24. The smaller reduction in the expenditure percentage compared to income is attributable to the continuation of projects for which income was recognised in 2023/23.

The majority of our costs are staff salaries for direct delivery. Unrestricted staff costs include those of the core team (administration, finance, and HR), marketing, business development, data and insights and the Chief Executive. Without this team, project delivery would be impossible, and we would not be able to deliver the change in Somerset communities we are so proud of. Support costs include overheads, such as rent.



The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Investment Performance

The CCS investment policy states that the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. We have little scope for reducing our costs and it is vital that we maintain the value of grants and income received in order to cover expenditure commitments for the duration of projects, and to deliver our charitable objectives. A significant proportion of our balances are being held to deliver projects over the next year or two and so we need to have regard to cash flow projections.

The £75,668 of investments (including the St Margaret's Fund) is currently invested in a CCLA COIF charities fixed interest fund. The value of these investments has increased by £3,206 compared with the previous year. During 2023/24 CCS continued to use Flagstone investment platform to place investments. This offers choice of interest rates and flexibility of investment term to ensure funds are invested to maximise interest while maintaining sufficient cashflow.

Reserves

CCS's Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet short-term cash flow needs, support strategic vision, manage fluctuations in income and, if necessary, enable CCS to manage a decline in income. CCS aims to maintain a minimum reserve level equivalent to the total calculated cost of potential redundancy payments for all employees, plus six months of operating expenses.

CCS's total reserves have decreased by £267,600 during the year with unrestricted reserves reducing by £231,552. We expected a significant decrease of our unrestricted reserves due to the completion of projects which were contractually unrestricted.

- Restricted reserves have decreased from £333,390 in 2022/23 to £297,342 in 2023/24 due to prior year grant funding used to deliver projects.
- Designated reserves have stabilised with minimal change to the St Margrets investment figure of £78,207 in 2023/24.
- Unrestricted reserves have decreased from £759,947 to £527,678. We expected a significant decrease due to the completion of projects which were contractually unrestricted. CCS also underwent an analysis of the free reserves in 2023/24 which led to a restated unrestricted fund figure within the accounts. Taking into account estimated redundancy costs, this equates to just under 7 months running costs.

Reserve levels are analysed and monitored monthly during the financial management accounts, with variances, risk and levels being reported to the Finance and Internal Affairs Committee quarterly. Trustees have authorised the expenditure of some free reserves in 2024-25 to launch a fundraising function and increase capacity in marketing. This is part of planned strategy delivery.

Risk

The Community Council Board has identified the key risks facing the organisation and has produced a risk register. Risks are RAG rated and the probability and impact are assessed as high, medium, or low. Risk owners have been identified for all risks and mitigating action has been considered and documented. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting to consider whether the assessments have changed, whether mitigating action is still appropriate, and to identify any new and emerging risks.

There have been financial challenges faced by NHS and Somerset Council during this year, which is being projected to continue into future years. This risk has been captured in our PESTLE, and this has been considered when producing our annual operational plan for year 2024/25.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustee Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

A robust process has been put in place to develop the new CCS strategy and is an important part of the charity's targets and delivery now and for launch of strategic goals to our partners and the wider Somerset communities in 2024/25.

The Finance and Internal Affairs Sub Committee reviews finance and policy issues in detail at the quarterly Sub Committee Board Meetings, which are then presented to and passed by the Board of Trustees at our Board Meetings which are also held quarterly. They receive up to date management accounts at each meeting summarising the actual costs and year end projections for each project and fund. The budget is approved at the start of the year and variances are highlighted during the year.

Fundraising

CCS Fundraising: Our Approach to Fundraising and Compliance

At CCS, we currently are planning to launch a diverse range of fundraising activities to support our mission in the next fiscal year.

Here are some key points about our current fundraising practices:

Fundraising Oversight: Our Finance and Internal Affairs committee regularly reviews our fundraising programs to ensure compliance and best practices. We are members of the Fundraising Regulator and the Chartered Institute of Fundraising.

External Agencies: We will collaborate with external agencies for face-to-face, telephone, and direct marketing activities. These agencies operate under our standards and sector regulations, including the Fundraising Code of Practice. We closely monitor their performance, conduct regular reviews, and prioritize respectful interactions.

Vulnerable Persons Protection: We work closely with third-party agencies and fundraisers to review policies, procedures, and performance. Safeguarding vulnerable individuals remains a top priority.

Complaint Handling: In the fiscal year 2023/24, we did not receive any complaints.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each fiscal year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Auditors

The auditors, Albert Goodman LLP, are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the Trustees.

G Francis

Date: 30 September 2024

The Community Council for Somerset

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees and Members

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Community Council for Somerset (the 'parent charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the consolidated and parent Balance Sheets, the consolidated 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 Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group and parent 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 other 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' Report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

The Community Council for Somerset

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees and Members
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Opinion on other matter 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 Trustees' Report, which includes the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law 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' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report included within the Trustees' Report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate and proper accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees 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 Trustees' Report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the parent charitable company for the purposes of company 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 trustees determine 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 group and parent 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the parent 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

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.

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 auditor's report.

The Community Council for Somerset

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees and Members

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

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:

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities including fraud

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the company through discussions with management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the charity sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company, including the Companies Act 2006, Charity Act 2011, employment, health and safety and data protection legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the group's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation, claims and breaches of relevant legislation; and
- reviewing correspondence with the Charity Commission and other relevant regulators including the company's legal advisors and insurers.

The Community Council for Somerset

Independent Auditors' Report to the Trustees and Members
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of the directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the group and parent charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the group and parent charitable company's members and trustees 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 group and parent charitable company and the group and parent charitable company's members as a body and the parent charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Michelle Ferris BSc (Hons) FCA DChA

Senior Statutory Auditor
for and on behalf of
Albert Goodman LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Goodwood House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 8 October 2024

The Community Council for Somerset

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted (As restated) £	Res- tricted (As restated) £	Total 2023 £
Income:							
Donations	2	10,481	10,306	20,787	-	24,097	24,097
Charitable activities	3	1,426,519	1,259,244	2,685,763	1,362,181	1,529,759	2,891,940
Other trading activities	4	12,946	17,325	30,271	153,904	17,957	171,861
Investment income	5	30,954	-	30,954	8,780	-	8,780
Other income		2,025	-	2,025	-	-	-
Total income		1,482,925	1,286,875	2,769,800	1,524,865	1,571,813	3,096,678
Expenditure:							
Cost of raising funds		11,796	-	11,796	38,668	-	38,668
Charitable activities	6	1,676,348	1,352,462	3,028,810	1,433,962	1,732,613	3,166,575
Total expenditure		1,688,144	1,352,462	3,040,606	1,472,630	1,732,613	3,205,243
Net (expenditure)/income for the year before transfers and gains and losses		(205,219)	(65,587)	(270,806)	52,235	(160,800)	(108,565)
Transfers between funds	16	(29,539)	29,539	-	32,024	(32,024)	-
Realised and unrealised gains and losses		3,206	-	3,206	(4,560)	-	(4,560)
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds for the year		(231,552)	(36,048)	(267,600)	79,699	(192,824)	(113,125)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		837,434	333,390	1,170,824	757,735	526,214	1,283,949
Total funds carried forward		605,882	297,342	903,224	837,434	333,390	1,170,824

The statement of financial activities has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations. There were no gains or losses arising in the year that are not shown above.

The statement of financial activities incorporates the income and expenditure account.

The Community Council for Somerset – Company Registration Number: 03541219
Balance Sheet and Consolidated Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £ Group	2024 £ Charity	2023 £ Group (As restated)	2023 £ Charity (As restated)
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	10	13,883	13,883	-	-
Investments	11	75,668	75,668	72,462	72,462
		<u>89,551</u>	<u>89,551</u>	<u>72,462</u>	<u>72,462</u>
Current assets					
Debtors	12	200,199	223,360	169,412	337,973
Cash at bank and in hand		766,921	738,896	1,159,658	984,952
		<u>967,120</u>	<u>962,256</u>	<u>1,329,070</u>	<u>1,322,925</u>
Liabilities:					
Creditors falling due within one year	13	(152,543)	(148,829)	(228,774)	(221,909)
Net current assets		<u>814,577</u>	<u>813,427</u>	<u>1,100,296</u>	<u>1,101,016</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>890,245</u>	<u>889,095</u>	<u>1,172,758</u>	<u>1,173,478</u>
Defined pension benefit scheme	14	(904)	(904)	(1,934)	(1,934)
Total net assets		<u>903,224</u>	<u>902,074</u>	<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>1,171,544</u>
The funds of the charity:					
General funds		527,678	526,528	759,227	759,947
Designated funds		78,204	78,204	78,207	78,207
Total unrestricted funds		<u>605,882</u>	<u>604,732</u>	<u>837,434</u>	<u>838,154</u>
Restricted funds		<u>297,342</u>	<u>297,342</u>	<u>333,390</u>	<u>333,390</u>
Total charity funds	16	<u>903,224</u>	<u>902,074</u>	<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>1,171,544</u>

The Community Council for Somerset – Company Registration Number: 03541219

Balance Sheet and Consolidated Balance Sheet (continued)

As at 31 March 2024

The trustees have prepared group accounts in accordance with section 398 of the Companies Act 2006 and section 138 of the Charities Act 2011. The financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

Approved by the Board of Trustees for issue on 30 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

G Francis
Chair

M Kitchen
Trustee

The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

		2024 £	2023 £
	Notes		
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movements in funds for the year		(267,600)	(113,125)
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation	10	4,412	-
Interest receivable	5	(30,954)	(8,780)
Revaluation of investments	11	(3,206)	4,560
		<u>(297,348)</u>	<u>(117,345)</u>
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	12	(30,787)	(40,935)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	13	(76,231)	64,078
Increase/(decrease) in provision	14	(1,030)	(1,100)
		<u>(405,396)</u>	<u>(95,302)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable	4	30,954	8,780
Acquisitions of tangible assets	11	(18,295)	-
		<u>(392,737)</u>	<u>(86,522)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>1,159,658</u>	<u>1,246,180</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>766,921</u>	<u>1,159,658</u>
Cash & Cash equivalents reconciliation:			
Cash at bank		<u>766,921</u>	<u>1,159,658</u>
Total cash & cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>766,921</u>	<u>1,159,658</u>

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

1.1 Basis of accounting

The Community Council for Somerset is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act. The maximum liability of each member is limited to £1. The address of the registered office is given on page 1. The nature of the charity's operations and its principal activities are set out in the Trustees report on pages 2-20.

The financial statements have been prepared in £ sterling on the historical cost basis and in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

These financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communities Limited, on a line by line basis. The "Group" Heading within the balance sheet refers to the consolidated accounts of The Community Council for Somerset and Smart Communities Ltd.

In the parent company financial statements the investment in the trading subsidiary is accounted for at cost less impairment.

A separate Statement of Financial Activities or income and expenditure account, for the Charity itself has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going Concern

The trustees assess whether the use of the going concern basis of accounting is appropriate, i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting when preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Income

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and charitable activities

Donations are recognised when the charity has received the donation. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

If there is a service level agreement or contract in place, income from administration charges is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

Other trading activities

Other income including subscriptions and income from other trading activities is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Investment income

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. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

1.4 Expenditure

Resources expended are recognised on the accruals basis to match the period in which the expenditure was incurred, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered. These include both costs associated with both charitable activity and those which relate to governance arrangements and the general running of the charity. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

Raising funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the deliverance 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.

Grants

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty regarding either the timing of the grant or the amount payable.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life as follows:

Furniture and equipment	5 years straight line
Computer equipment	3 years straight line

Fixed assets costing less than £1,500 are not capitalised.

1.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments comprise investment portfolios maintained by investment managers. These are recognised initially at fair value which is normally the transaction price (but excludes any transaction costs.) Subsequently, investments are held at market value, with all realised and unrealised gains passing through the SOFA.

1.7 Debtors

Accrued income is recognised at the settlement amount due and prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1.8 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprise cash on hand and call deposits with a maturity of less than three months, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

1.9 Creditors

Creditors and provisions 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 recognised at their settlement amount.

1.10 Pensions

Defined contribution scheme

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charged in the financial statements represent the contributions payable by the Charity during the year in accordance with FRS 17.

Defined benefit scheme

As set out in note 14, the charity is unable to identify its share of net assets and liabilities of this scheme. Accordingly, the scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as they occur.

There is an agreed deficit recovery plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS 102 the charity has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by the charity under this plan.

1.11 Operating lease rentals

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease. The charity has operating leases for the premises in which they operate, as well as motor, office equipment leases. The title of the leased premises and equipment remains with the lessor.

1.12 Taxation

As a registered charity, the company is not liable to corporation tax to the extent that income and gains are applied to charitable activities.

1.13 Financial Instruments

The charity only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and liabilities of the charity and their measurements are as follows:

Financial assets – trade, other debtors and loans (programme related investment) are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Investment portfolios are basic financial instruments measured at fair value through the income and expenditure account. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank and deposit accounts– is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities – trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 20. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.14 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Management charges have been included as a separate expenditure line in the year and reflected within note 6 of the financial statements. Prior year information of these management charges is not available.

1.15 Prior period adjustment

During the year it was identified that the funds brought forward as at 1 April 2022 and transfers made between funds for the comparative year were incorrect. The comparative year has therefore been restated to correct the bought forward and carried forward fund position. The result of this adjustment is an increase in unrestricted funds as at 1 April 2022 of £126,762 (from £630,973 to £757,735), a decrease in restricted funds as at 1 April 2022 of £126,762 (from £652,976 to £526,214), and an amendment of the transfer made between restricted and unrestricted funds totalling £84,910 (from a transfer to restricted funds out of unrestricted funds of £52,886, to a transfer from restricted funds to unrestricted funds of £32,024). The overall impact on the closing funds for the comparative year was a reduction in restricted funds and an increase in unrestricted funds of £211,672 (from £545,062 to £333,390 and from £625,762 to £837,434 respectively).

2. Donations and legacies

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2023 £
Donations	10,481	10,306	20,787	-	24,097	24,097
	<u>10,481</u>	<u>10,306</u>	<u>20,787</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,097</u>	<u>24,097</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

3. Charitable activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2023 £
Somerset Community Foundation	3,000	78,018	81,018	-	119,150	119,150
Somerset County Council	465,762	879,487	1,345,249	452,222	1,093,479	1,545,701
West Somerset Primary	-	87,912	87,912	-	83,000	83,000
South Petherton Parish Council	-	26,980	26,980	-	10,826	10,826
Taunton Federation	-	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
Somerset Foundation Trust	-	-	-	-	25,000	25,000
Crisis Funds - grants on behalf of clients	5,216	72,737	77,953	-	33,658	33,658
Somerset NHS CCG	-	-	-	-	75,000	75,000
VCSE Dementia Partnership	-	-	-	-	40,920	40,920
Defra	23,060	21,000	44,060	44,060	-	44,060
Consultancy BFEF	-	-	-	17,500	-	17,500
NHS	906,239	60,000	966,239	842,199	-	842,199
Rethink	-	32,692	32,692	-	-	-
Funders under £10,000	23,242	418	23,660	6,200	28,726	34,926
	<u>1,426,519</u>	<u>1,259,244</u>	<u>2,685,763</u>	<u>1,362,181</u>	<u>1,529,759</u>	<u>2,891,940</u>

4. Trading activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2023 £
Events income	-	475	475	3,350	1,277	4,627
Membership subscriptions	-	16,850	16,850	-	16,680	16,680
Smart Communities Limited	12,946	-	12,946	150,554	-	150,554
	<u>12,946</u>	<u>17,325</u>	<u>30,271</u>	<u>153,904</u>	<u>17,957</u>	<u>171,861</u>

5. Investment income

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2023 £
Bank interest	<u>30,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,954</u>	<u>8,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,780</u>

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

6. Charitable activities

	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2024 £	Unres- tricted £	Res- tricted £	Total 2023 £
Activities undertaken directly	1,621,673	1,048,435	2,670,108	1,392,110	1,219,344	2,611,454
Grants to individuals:						
- Surviving Winter	-	42,052	42,052	-	65,543	65,543
- Crisis fund	-	73,274	73,274	-	73,990	73,990
- Food resilience	-	-	-	-	47,954	47,954
- Refugee support	-	-	-	-	220,200	220,200
- Other	-	8,385	8,385	80	4,414	4,494
Allocated support costs:						
- General office costs	32,866	8,853	41,719	16,815	40,725	57,540
- HR	38,315	3,161	41,476	3,989	9,662	13,651
- Audit and accountancy	19,996	-	19,996	2,586	6,261	8,847
- Subscriptions	17,396	1,000	18,396	3,441	8,334	11,775
- IT	57,600	-	57,600	14,941	36,186	51,127
- Premises costs	48,887	6,917	55,804	-	-	-
- Management charge	(160,385)	160,385	-	-	-	-
	<u>1,676,348</u>	<u>1,352,462</u>	<u>3,028,810</u>	<u>1,433,962</u>	<u>1,732,613</u>	<u>3,166,575</u>

7. Net incoming resources/operating surplus

	Charity		Subsidiary		Total
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Depreciation of owned assets	4,412	-	-	-	4,412
Auditors remuneration - previous auditors					
Audit services	-	6,792	-	-	6,792
Accountancy services	2,536	5,298	-	-	5,298
Other services	-	1,100	-	-	1,100
Auditors remuneration - current auditors					
Audit services	14,100	-	-	-	14,100
Accountancy services	3,360	-	2,450	-	5,810
	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

8. Trustee directors

None of the Trustee Directors (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration during the current or prior year. Two Trustee Directors were reimbursed during the year for travelling expenses totalling £131 (2023: No reimbursements).

9. Employees

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

Employment costs	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,189,838	2,095,493
Social security costs	185,267	179,614
Pension costs	76,511	74,377
	<u>2,451,616</u>	<u>2,349,484</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 98 (2023: 96)

The number of employees whose annual emoluments (including employers national insurance but excluding employers pension) were £60,000 or more are:

	2024 number	2023 number
£70,000 - £80,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

This employees is a member of the defined contribution pension scheme, into which contributions of £2,201 were made.

The key management personnel of the charity are considered to be the Chief Executive Officer, Head of Operations & HR, Head of Programmes and Head of Development & Communications. The total costs to the charity of employee benefits for the key management personnel were £283,567 (2023: £250,043).

Defined contribution pension scheme

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the company to the scheme and amounted to £76,511 (2022: £67,739).

Contributions totalling £184 (2023: £619) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Furniture and Equipment £	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Additions	-	18,295	18,295
Revaluation	(22,355)	(56,116)	(78,471)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	-	18,295	18,295
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Charge for the year	-	4,412	4,412
Eliminated on disposal	(22,355)	(56,116)	(78,471)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	-	4,412	4,412
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	-	13,883	13,883
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The above assets are all held by the charity.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

11. Investments

	Group £	2024 Charity £	Group £	2023 Charity £
Listed investments				
As at 1 April 2023	72,462	72,462	77,022	77,022
Revaluation	3,206	3,206	(4,560)	(4,560)
At 31 March 2024	<u>75,668</u>	<u>75,668</u>	<u>72,462</u>	<u>72,462</u>

Shares in subsidiary undertaking

Smart Communities Ltd (company number 11480430) was incorporated on 24 July 2018 as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of The Community Council for Somerset. The parent charity holds 100% of the issued share capital and 100% of the voting rights of the subsidiary trading company.

The principal activity of the company is consultancy services. The registered office is the same as that of the charity, detailed on page 1.

The subsidiary gift aids its taxable profits to The Community Council for Somerset, and files unaudited, filleted accounts with the Registrar of Companies

A summary of the trading performance of the subsidiary is as below;

	2024 £	2023 £
Turnover	12,946	150,554
Administrative expenses	(11,796)	(151,274)
Net loss before tax	1,150	(720)
Taxation	-	-
Retained in subsidiary	<u>1,150</u>	<u>(720)</u>
The assets and liabilities were:		
Current assets	28,025	184,500
Current liabilities	(27,594)	(185,220)
Total net assets	<u>431</u>	<u>(720)</u>
Retained earnings	431	(720)
	<u>431</u>	<u>(720)</u>

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

12. Debtors

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	160,765	160,765	-	-
Other debtors	1,225	1,225	44,557	66,626
Prepayments and accrued income	38,209	38,209	124,855	124,585
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	23,161	-	146,762
	<u>200,199</u>	<u>223,360</u>	<u>169,412</u>	<u>337,973</u>

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	34,257	31,857	26,579	21,666
Accruals	27,137	25,823	29,986	28,667
Deferred income	90,965	90,965	157,670	157,670
VAT	-	-	633	-
Taxation and social security	184	184	13,906	13,906
	<u>152,543</u>	<u>148,829</u>	<u>228,774</u>	<u>221,909</u>

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April	157,670	157,670	117,690	117,690
Released from previous years	(157,670)	(157,670)	(117,690)	(117,690)
Resources deferred in the year	90,965	90,965	157,670	157,670
	<u>90,965</u>	<u>90,965</u>	<u>157,670</u>	<u>157,670</u>

14. Pension schemes

The charity participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to identify its share of assets and liabilities of the scheme to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme and it therefore accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the total scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall participating employers have been asked to pay additional contributions to the scheme. The estimated present value of the future contributions required from the charity over the next six years to meet its share of the deficit is £904 (2023: £1,934) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS 102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 5.31% (2023: 5.52%) based on a full AA corporate bond yield. The resulting expense is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The scheme is classified as a “last-man standing arrangement”. Therefore, the charity is potentially liable for other participating employers’ obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

If there were no members in the scheme the employer’s liability would become due for payment. This was last estimated on 30 September 2022 at a cost of £20,724. The charity currently has 160 members in a connected defined contribution scheme. If all members left the scheme there would be a 12 month grace period to find new members before the employer’s liability becomes due.

	2024		2023	
	Group	Charity	Group	Charity
	£	£	£	£
Provision at 1 April	1,934	1,934	3,034	3,034
Unwinding of discount figure	74	74	57	57
Deficit contributions paid	(1,105)	(1,105)	(1,105)	(1,105)
Remeasurement - impact of changes on assumptions	1	1	(52)	(52)
	<u>904</u>	<u>904</u>	<u>1,934</u>	<u>1,934</u>

15. Obligations under leases

The charity and group has obligations under non-cancellable operating leases, funded by unrestricted funds, with the total future minimum rentals payable as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Land and Buildings		
Expiry date:		
Within one year	3,400	20,400
Between one and five years	-	3,400
	<u>3,400</u>	<u>23,800</u>

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

16. Summary of movement in funds

Group	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Unrestricted funds					
General	759,227	1,105,703	(1,272,620)	(64,632)	527,678
Designated funds					
Carers' Agents	3	377,222	(415,524)	38,299	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	72,462	-	-	-	72,462
	78,207	377,222	(415,524)	38,299	78,204
Total unrestricted funds	837,434	1,482,925	(1,688,144)	(26,333)	605,882
Restricted funds					
Village Agents	37,598	20,000	(32,415)	-	25,183
Surviving Winter	(1,750)	48,596	(42,052)	-	4,794
Diversity	48,199	83,019	(85,285)	-	45,933
Adult Social Care Community Hub	43,531	685,314	(728,845)	-	-
Crisis Fund	86,001	28,886	(73,376)	-	41,511
Community Buildings	(5,398)	47,689	(42,291)	-	-
CCG Cancer	7,981	-	(8,056)	75	-
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	1,489	-	-	-	1,489
Mental Health Agents	-	32,692	(31,042)	-	1,650
Children and Families Project	-	7,777	(11,157)	3,380	-
Living Better WS	27,769	87,912	(68,098)	-	47,583
Microenterprise Project	-	-	(23,459)	23,459	-
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	4,367	26,164	(33,156)	2,625	-
Refugee Support	13,149	117,566	(130,715)	-	-
South Petherton	3,496	26,980	(26,735)	-	3,741
VCSE Dementia Partnership	40,920	-	(4,228)	-	36,692
CSE	8,444	-	-	-	8,444
ICB Somerset System Development	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
ESOL	-	14,280	(11,552)	-	2,728
Total restricted funds	333,390	1,286,875	(1,352,462)	29,539	297,342
	1,170,824	2,769,800	(3,040,606)	3,206	903,224

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Summary of movement in funds

	Opening Balance £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) £	Closing Balance £
Charity					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	759,227	1,092,757	(1,260,824)	(64,632)	526,528
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Carers' Agents	3	377,222	(415,524)	38,299	-
Project Development	5,742	-	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	72,462	-	-	-	72,462
	<u>78,207</u>	<u>377,222</u>	<u>(415,524)</u>	<u>38,299</u>	<u>78,204</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>837,434</u>	<u>1,469,979</u>	<u>(1,676,348)</u>	<u>(26,333)</u>	<u>604,732</u>
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
As per group listing above	333,390	1,286,875	(1,352,462)	29,539	297,342
Total restricted funds	<u>333,390</u>	<u>1,286,875</u>	<u>(1,352,462)</u>	<u>29,539</u>	<u>297,342</u>
	<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>2,756,854</u>	<u>(3,028,810)</u>	<u>3,206</u>	<u>902,074</u>

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Summary of movement in funds – prior year

Group - 2023	Opening Balance (As restated) £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) (As restated) £	Closing Balance (As restated) £
Unrestricted funds					
General	648,066	1,146,235	(919,013)	(116,061)	759,227
Designated funds					
Carers' Agents	105,335	377,222	(553,617)	71,063	3
Project Development	4,334	1,408	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	-	-	-	72,462	72,462
	109,669	378,630	(553,617)	143,525	78,207
Total unrestricted funds	757,735	1,524,865	(1,472,630)	27,464	837,434
Restricted funds					
Village Agents	33,840	20,000	(36,242)	20,000	37,598
Surviving Winter	7,543	62,500	(71,793)	-	(1,750)
Diversity	44,292	82,171	(93,988)	15,724	48,199
Adult Social Care Community Hub	173,767	585,000	(723,470)	8,234	43,531
Crisis Fund	47,707	112,284	(73,990)	-	86,001
Taunton Federation	20,057	-	(4,949)	(15,108)	-
Community Buildings	31,098	20,327	(36,793)	(20,030)	(5,398)
CCG Cancer	7,282	75,000	(74,301)	-	7,981
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,766	-	-	(766)	3,000
Digital Engagement	4,274	-	(4,274)	-	-
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	1,489	-	-	-	1,489
Mental Health Agents	-	-	(40)	40	-
Food Resilience	-	-	(47,954)	47,954	-
Children and Families Project	3,381	39,634	(15,151)	(27,864)	-
Health Inequalities SDC	7,473	21,000	(17,959)	(10,514)	-
Interfaith and Belief	7,691	22,503	(24,984)	(5,210)	-
Living Better WS	(30,264)	71,030	(40,861)	27,864	27,769
Microenterprise Project	166,876	-	(102,762)	(64,114)	-
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	3,365	38,913	(37,911)	-	4,367
SPOC	21,548	25,000	(38,314)	(8,234)	-
Refugee Support	(43,565)	336,261	(279,547)	-	13,149
South Petherton	-	10,826	(7,330)	-	3,496
VCSE Dementia Partnership	-	40,920	-	-	40,920
CSE	-	8,444	-	-	8,444
Total restricted funds	526,214	1,571,813	(1,732,613)	(32,024)	333,390
	1,283,949	3,096,678	(3,205,243)	(4,560)	1,170,824

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Summary of movement in funds – prior year

	Opening Balance (As restated) £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfers & gains/ (losses) (As restated) £	Closing Balance (As restated) £
Charity - 2023					
<u>Unrestricted funds</u>					
General	648,066	995,681	(767,739)	(116,061)	759,947
<u>Designated funds</u>					
Carers' Agents	105,335	377,222	(553,617)	71,063	3
Project Development	4,334	1,408	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	-	-	-	72,462	72,462
	<u>109,669</u>	<u>378,630</u>	<u>(553,617)</u>	<u>143,525</u>	<u>78,207</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>757,735</u>	<u>1,374,311</u>	<u>(1,321,356)</u>	<u>27,464</u>	<u>838,154</u>
<u>Restricted funds</u>					
As per group listing above	526,214	1,571,813	(1,732,613)	(32,024)	333,390
Total restricted funds	<u>526,214</u>	<u>1,571,813</u>	<u>(1,732,613)</u>	<u>(32,024)</u>	<u>333,390</u>
	<u>1,283,949</u>	<u>2,946,124</u>	<u>(3,053,969)</u>	<u>(4,560)</u>	<u>1,171,544</u>

Purpose of material funds:

- **Village Agents** – The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three-year grant to fund Village Agent work until 2021, and funding was also received from the Bernard Herridge Trust (Hastoe Group). During 2019/20 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.
- **Surviving Winter** – funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.
- **Diversity** – BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county; They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.
- **Ubuntu** – a test and learn project until March 2024 to support High Intensity users in acute hospital A&E departments.
- **Adult Social Care Community Hub** – funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2024.
- **Crisis Fund** – Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.
- **Taunton Federation** – funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices. This project has now combined with the Village Agent fund therefore the income received last year of £20,000 has been transferred to the Village Agent fund.

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

- **Transport Agent** – funded by SCC West Somerset Opportunities Area grant to develop transport solutions in West Somerset.
- **MacMillan Agent** – a project to employ a specialist Agent to work with Macmillan and its volunteers, supporting individuals affected by a cancer diagnosis and their families in Mendip and South Somerset.
- **Community Buildings** – support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.
- **CCG Cancer** – funded by the CCG to support individuals and their families affected by cancer.
- **The Somerset Society fund** – represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives
- **The Village Hall Loan Fund** – represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.
- **Digital Engagement** – funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.
- **Mendip Car Scheme** – is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.
- **Transform Ageing** – this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.
- **Mental Health Agents** – a one year project funded by the CCG covering Sedgemoor and West Somerset, employing specialist Agents to support individuals with Mental Health conditions, referred by GPs.
- **Food Resilience** – funding from SCC to support individuals in need during the pandemic with emergency food supplies and to give grants to community food groups to enable them to source sustainable solutions.
- **Children & Families Project** – one year test and learn project in West Somerset, supporting Families at risk, in liaison with local schools.
- **Health Inequalities SDC** – working with minority groups in Somerset to look at health inequalities with particular focus on Mental Health, Sexual Health, Domestic Violence and Vaccine engagement.
- **Interfaith and Belief** – to establish an Interfaith forum in Somerset with the aim of fostering community cohesion between faith groups, understand the role faith and belief groups have in times of crisis, support faith groups supporting people affected by Covid and to map faith groups in Somerset.
- **Living Better WS** – to provide Agent services in the Living Better Primary Care network in West Somerset.
- **Microenterprise Project** – to address the backlog of people interested in becoming microproviders, to raise awareness of the microprovider project, align with Carers engagement work to build relationships.
- **Positive Lives Innovation Funds** – test and learn project in South Somerset to support people who are either homeless, newly housed or are at risk of becoming homeless.
- **SPLW** – previously Primary Care Network VAS but renamed during the year to SPLW (Social Prescribing Link Workers). Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.
- **SPOC (Single Point of Contact)** – funding to support the Hospital Discharge Teams in the Acute hospitals, working with staff and agencies in those settings to support discharge of medically fit patients. This project has now combined with the Adult Social Care Community Hub therefore a transfer of the remaining SPOC balance has been made to the Adult Social Care Community Hub.

The Community Council for Somerset

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

- **Refugee Support** – funding through Somerset Council for Ukrainian Refugees currently up to November 2023.
- **South Petherton** – funding an Agent / SPLW which is separate to the NHS contract.
- **VCSE Dementia Partnership** – The VCSE Dementia Partnership is grant funding from Somerset Foundation Trust to the VCSE Dementia Partnership. Community Council Somerset will act as the lead organisation for the Information Packs and Carers Education workstreams. These include contribution to CCS Carers Packs, bespoke Dementia Support information sheets and delivery of Carers Education. Spending to be agreed by the Carers Education and Information Packs Working Groups and signed off by the Dementia Operational Oversight Group.
- **CSE** – Centre for Sustainable Energy who are supporting Agent Training over 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- **ESOL** – Somerset Council commissioned CCS to compile a map and directory of English classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and English Conversation Clubs in Somerset. This will help identify gaps in provision and the needs of people whose first language is not English.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

17. Analysis of assets between funds

Group	Tangible fixed assets £	Investments £	Net current assets £	Provisions £	Total £
Unrestricted funds	13,883	75,668	517,235	(904)	605,882
Restricted funds	-	-	297,342	-	297,342
As at 31 March 2024	13,883	75,668	814,577	(904)	903,224
Unrestricted funds	-	72,462	766,906	(1,934)	837,434
Restricted funds	-	-	333,390	-	333,390
As at 31 March 2023	-	72,462	1,100,296	(1,934)	1,170,824
Charity					
Unrestricted funds	13,883	75,668	516,085	(904)	604,732
Restricted funds	-	-	297,342	-	297,342
As at 31 March 2024	13,883	75,668	813,427	(904)	902,074
Unrestricted funds	-	72,462	767,626	(1,934)	838,154
Restricted funds	-	-	333,390	-	333,390
As at 31 March 2023	-	72,462	1,101,016	(1,934)	1,171,544

18. Income and expenditure account of the charity

The charity has taken advantage of Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not included its own Income and Expenditure account or separate Statement of Financial Activities.

Prior to gift aid amounts received from the subsidiary, The Community Council for Somerset had net expenditure for the year of £271,959 (2023: expenditure of £112,405), based on income of £2,756,851 (2023: £2,946,124).

Gift aid distributions from the trading subsidiary of £nil (2023: £18,887) were received in the year, with the amount relating to the prior year trading profits.

19. Related parties

The charity has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 "Related Party Disclosures" from disclosing transactions with other members of the group.

There were no related party transactions during the year (other than with members of the group) requiring disclosure (2023: none).

20. Financial Instruments

Categorisation of financial instruments	Group £	2024		2023	
		Charity £	Group £	Charity £	Group £
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	75,668	75,668	72,462	72,462	
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	952,124	947,260	1,307,494	1,301,619	
	<u>1,027,792</u>	<u>1,022,928</u>	<u>1,379,956</u>	<u>1,374,081</u>	
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	62,298	58,584	59,132	52,267	
	<u>62,298</u>	<u>58,584</u>	<u>59,132</u>	<u>52,267</u>	

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

2024 - Group and charity	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Losses
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	30,954	-	3,206	-
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
	<u>30,954</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,206</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u><u>30,954</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,206</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
2023 - Group and charity	Income	Expenditure	Gains	Losses
	£	£	£	£
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	8,780	-	-	4,560
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	-	-	-	-
	<u>8,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,560</u>
	<u><u>8,780</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>4,560</u></u>

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1069260

Accounts

Company registration number: 03541219

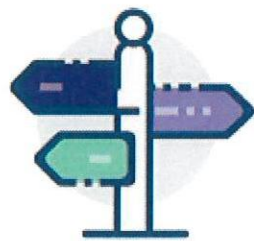
Charity registration number: 1069260

The Community Council for Somerset

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023



CCS

people • place • enterprise

**The Community Council for Somerset
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The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report

OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are as follows: -

- "To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the administrative County of Somerset and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty and distress and physical and mental sickness and disability."

The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:

- to do anything within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects;
- to carry out campaigning and advocacy, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that any proposed campaigning and advocacy will further the Objects to an extent justified by the resources committed and that such activity is not the dominant means by which the Charity promotes the Objects;
- to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a charity;
- to provide advice or information;
- to carry out research;
- to co-operate with other bodies;
- to support, administer or set up other charities;
- to act as a Charity Trustee of a charitable trust;
- to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other body for the purposes of any of the Objects;
- to convert to a charitable incorporated organisation;
- to accept or refuse gifts and donations and to raise funds (but not by means of Taxable Trading);
- to borrow money;
- to give security, including but not limited to guarantees, for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
- to acquire or hire property of any kind
- to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
- to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
- to deposit or invest its funds in any manner including without limitation with a view to: (a) directly furthering the Charity's purpose; (b) achieving a financial return for the Charity; or (c) achieving both of the objectives described at (a) and (b) above in accordance with and provided that the Trustees comply with their duties under Part 14A of the Charities Act, (but to invest wholly or partly with a view to achieving a financial return only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

- to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that: (a) the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees; (b) timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees; (c) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees; 9 (d) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time; (e) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year; (f) all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and (g) the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a Nominee Company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a Financial Expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required; 3.20 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as Custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required;
- to provide Indemnity Insurance for the Trustees and officers of the Charity in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act;
- subject to Article 8.3, to employ or engage paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers and where appropriate: 10 (a) to provide for them to benefit under pension and other staff benefit arrangements for them and their dependants; and (b) to enter into compromise and settlement arrangements with them;
- to enter into contracts and agreements of any kind, including without limitation contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies; and
- to establish or acquire subsidiaries

1.1 The Charity's vision, mission, aims and values are:

Vision - Vibrant, viable and resilient Somerset communities with healthy, happy people and strong, sustainable enterprises.

Mission - To inspire and enable Somerset's people, community organisations and enterprises to take action to build vibrant, viable and resilient communities.

Aims

- Strengthen **communities**
- Innovate and encourage **enterprise**
- Support and serve **people**
- Tackle **disadvantage**

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Values

- Giving a voice to everyone in the community
- Fairness and courtesy to all
- Flexible and adaptable
- Transparent and accountable
- Impartial, trustworthy, confidential and friendly
- Adopting the highest possible standards in all that we do
- Working with partners and sharing best practice
- Investing in the development and well-being of employees

1.2 Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular, these activities meet our charitable objects as described above.

1.3 Review of Activity

The 2022/23 financial year was again a year of steady growth, with employee numbers increasing by 10%. We reached our 100th employee in December 2022. Organisationally, it has been a year of transition for CCS which saw the Chief Executive and Finance Manager leaving the organisation, and an Interim Chief Executive maintaining activity for a 3 month period until the incumbent entered the role in December 2022. Income for the year has continued the upward trend of previous years and increased by £513,155.

CCS continues to be seen as an innovator and trusted partner in service delivery enabling new ways of working in person-centred support. This was seen as the Ukraine War started in February 2022 which meant that CCS were requested to stand up a service almost overnight to enable Ukrainian refugees to enter the county. During the last financial year, Refugee Agents carried out the regulatory welfare checks and supported both refugees and hosts as Somerset welcomed many new people.

With a mix of Village, Community and Hospital Agents CCS now has full county-wide coverage which has been our ambition since launching Village Agents back in 2012. A total of 69 Agents now work to support Somerset's vulnerable and isolated people. Although our Cancer support work concluded in March 2023, we were delighted to secure a contract with South Petherton Parish Council for the service, in addition to extending our Social Prescribing Link Worker Village Agents offer across the Yeovil PCN network. We have also continued the practice of working with partners to develop specialisms and respond to changing demand. Our project to support high intensity users of both primary and secondary care, presenting with non-medical issues has been funded for a further year.

The web contact form and central point of call by telephone continues to be effective and enable both professionals and individuals to contact us seamlessly using very few points of access. During the year there were 14,397 referrals to the Agent service with an average caseload for the whole service of 903 at any time.

2,188 Carers were supported with 3,021 different issues.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

The strategy was not refreshed in 2022 as initially planned, because of the changes in key personnel within the organisation. Governance and Finance reviews took place in February 2023 and implementation plans were made as a result, that will run alongside a strategy process in 2023 to create a new 5 year strategy for 2024-29.

The priorities for the year remained therefore focussed on delivering 'business as usual' according to the delivery plans agreed with funders and across CCS programmes.

- Providing a high quality Village Agent Service, funded by Somerset Council and NHS Somerset including a growing Hospital Agent Team and specialist Agents.
- Continuing to develop the Community Buildings network which increased its membership to 160 in 2022 (by 7%)
- Community development work with Parish Councils through 'Community Reviews' delivered by trading subsidiary, Smart Communities Ltd.
- Providing direct support through training and one to one support to social enterprises through the Somerset Social Enterprise Network
- Securing match funding for Year 2 and 3 of the Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) programmes, from Somerset Council.
- Delivering Health Inequalities research for Somerset Council, using our reach into ethnic minority communities through SDC.
- Started the Interfaith network for Somerset through SDC.
- Preparation for Connect Somerset, the tender for Community and Carers' Agents.

CCS do not actively fundraise, however do receive a small amount of public donations. We have a fundraising policy in place and are not involved with any corporate fundraisers.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our success is measured in a number of ways; for specific projects the outcomes and indicators are agreed with the funders and are regularly reported on in accordance with their requirements, along with case studies as examples. Defra require us to report on progress and achievements across a number of key themes on a quarterly basis. Feedback is sought from events held including training provided for Community Buildings workshops and Social Enterprise events. The Chief Executive reports on progress across the organisation to every Board meeting.

A set of bespoke outcomes and reporting requirements has been agreed with funders.

Village and Community Agents

Village and Community Agents including Home First and other specialist agents.

Agents continued to provide a high quality service to a growing client base, receiving referrals from a growing number of places. Support continues to be given through face-to-face visits, as well as through phone support. We remain one of the few agencies in the county to visit clients. Agents are engaged with peer forums and multi-disciplinary team meetings in addition to the many organisations within the charity sector that support vulnerable people in their area.

Talking Cafes have now resumed and are beginning to build once more. The Operations Manager and Locality Managers are working hard to develop these into the community resource hubs they were prior to the covid pandemic.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

At the end of the year the agent workforce stood at:

Team	Community Agents	Village Agents	Home First/ UBUNTU	Other agents
Hospital Team	n/a	n/a	12 (1 part-time)	1
Mendip	2 (1 part-time)	5 (4 part-time)	n/a	n/a
Sedgemoor	3 (1 part-time)	7 (3 part-time)	n/a	n/a
South Somerset	2 (1 part-time)	10 (2 part-time)	n/a	1
Taunton	2	9 (2 part-time)	n/a	n/a
West Somerset	1	5 (3 part-time)	n/a	2

Somerset Diverse Communities

There were 7 grants awarded from the Small Grants fund to support a wide range of projects from the Polish Saturday School to increase the number of young people who can participate in the classes and events they organise to Black History month celebrations by the Somerset African Caribbean network.

The team have co-organised and supported 9 smaller and bigger multicultural events – the ‘Together’ Events - celebrating diversity and inclusion, attended by over 4000 guests.

11 webinars/podcasts were recorded covering topics such as mental health, hate crime, immigration, event management, health inequalities and refugees.

Three SDC newsletters were published which are written by and for diverse ethnic communities.

The programme engaged with over 1,175 pupils from local schools, providing workshops and opportunities to immerse young people in a diverse environment created by ethnically diverse local communities, and aiming to break down community tensions and promote community cohesion.

SDC delivered 5 trainings focused on equality, diversity and inclusion and specificity of working with minority groups in our region.

The programme was able to secure funding to deliver free English classes in places such as: Wells, Yeovil and Glastonbury. The classes were focussed on women from diverse ethnic communities.

Two reports were published from the Health Inequalities project:

- Understanding Domestic Violence and Health Inequalities in Somerset Diverse Communities
- Understanding Engagement with Sexual Health, GP services and Health Inequalities in Somerset Diverse Communities

Research was carried out with ethnically diverse communities to identify potential barriers. Almost 100 representatives of minority groups were consulted with. The reports illustrate the shape and form of the needs and challenges faced by the above-mentioned communities. They also contain recommendations for reducing inequalities.

During 2022/23 CCS commissioned an independent report into the Somerset Diverse Communities programme, which was positive and upheld the continued need for the work.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

During this period, we also run the Interfaith & Belief Network (concluded in June 2023). We organised a number of initiatives such as an art exhibition, planting trees, visiting the workplaces of individual minorities, delivering events related to specific religions and, together with community representatives, organised events in local libraries.

One of our cultural events, Bridgwater Together, highlighted the need for work with local police, council and stakeholders to bring them together with potential victims of hate crimes. Our officers were able to strengthen trust and awareness of their rights and safety. It is this ability to respond to the needs of communities as they arise that continue to develop and build connections with the ethnic minorities resident in our rural county.

Surviving Winter Grants

CCS distributed payments to those individuals in need of 'Surviving Winter Grants'. These grants come from money kindly donated by people who receive the Winter Fuel allowance to Somerset Community Foundation, who work with partners including CCS to distribute to those who are most vulnerable in our communities. The grants are available for older people in our communities to ensure they stay warm and well during the winter months. We were allocated a further £62,500 from the Somerset Community Foundation in 2022/23. A total of £65,543 was awarded in the period.

Somerset Crisis Fund

This fund makes grants available to people and families in crisis situations. Funding comes from general donations received from organisations for example Somerset West Lottery, Amazon Smile, Tesco blue voucher donation as well as through individual donations on Local Giving. We also receive grants from various organisations for specific individuals to purchase goods or services on their behalf. During 2022/23 there was a continued need for support and 525 grants were awarded to individuals totalling £73,990 from these funds.

Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation

The Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation (BFEF) was administered by CCS this year. The aim of BFEF is to promote public benefit through the education (including social and physical training) of young people, aged 11-24 years through financial assistance. The Board of Trustees meets five times a year to consider grant applications for school uniform, academic and vocational studies, capital bids, educational travel, training courses and sporting expenses. Further information is available via www.bfef.org.uk and in the BFEF annual report and financial statements.

The Trustees of BFEF decided in January 2023 that they were going to transfer BFEF to Somerset Community Foundation. It was agreed that CCS would waive the full 3 month notice period, in order for the Fund to commence with the Foundation from 1st April 2023. CCS therefore passed on all data and information regarding the Fund to the Foundation at the end of March 2023.

Oil Scheme

The Community Oil Scheme is a bulk-buying oil scheme which is being run by Community Councils throughout the country. We launched the scheme in September 2011 and AF Affinity now administers this service which offers a range of services for customers and the ability to pay in instalments. During 2022/23 membership fees were suspended in recognition of the cost-of-living crisis and all customers were offered Affinity's lowest prices; this will be reviewed in 2023.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

Community Buildings,

Community Buildings and Village Halls offer a common space where a wide range of social activities can support the local area and residents, thereby strengthening communities. Managed by volunteer committees, our role is vital in supporting these volunteers with many issues including legislation, funding, best practice and much more. To keep our halls up to date we distributed regular newsletters and bulletins, provided advice and support and ran training events on topics including Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), Trustees roles and responsibilities, fundraising, planning a new development, and Safeguarding. We also ran regular sessions of the Covid rules and their impact on hall management very regularly throughout the pandemic.

Hallmark continued in 2022/23, 14 halls achieved Hallmark awards. There were 10 renewals and 4 new awards.

The Annual Community Buildings Conference took place at Merriott Village Hall in November, focussing on sustainability.

Over the year there were 12 events apart from the conference, there were 10 online events and 2 in person events covering a wide variety of topics including safeguarding, trustee's roles and responsibilities, infra-red heating systems, biodiversity and PAT testing.

Communications

CCS Social Media channels have continued to grow. Our Facebook page and profile visits have increased from over 2k to over 4k, with a further 222 new followers which is a 115% increase.

The CCS website has remained consistent with over 22,800 unique visitors to the site, 1.4% more than the previous year. Our top-performing web pages are Vacancies, Somerset Diverse Communities and Community Buildings Members pages. Both the Community Buildings member area and Somerset Diverse Community pages were a vital support to our community groups and provide information and with the energy crisis affecting all public facilities and groups struggling with the increase from the cost of living crisis.

The Somerset Agents website has increased its visits from 18,100 to 18,600 visits. The top pages in this period were identical to the 22/23 period: Find An Agent, Somerset Village Agents, & Request a callback and Talking Cafe.

Talking Cafe

We hosted 15 Talking Café Lives via our Facebook and YouTube channels during the year 2022/23.

The average reach on Facebook was 911 and the average Likes/Reactions the posts received was 8.

During the same period, our YouTube channel received 1.6k views.

The Talking Café Facebook page had a total reach of 71K during 2022/23 with the total page 'Likes' at 1.5K and page 'Followers' at 2K. The page received 169 new page Likes during 2022/23.

Somerset Carers

The Somerset Carers website had 23,100 unique visitors in 2022/23 – a 67% increase on 2021/22 (13,774). The main referral route to the website from social media is Facebook. The social media following on Facebook had a 46% increase to 600 page likes and Twitter grew to 608 followers, an increase of 25%. There was a significant increase in reach on Facebook (105%) compared to the previous period and engagement increased by 25%, with spikes of interaction around events such as Carers Week and Carers Rights Day.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) has continued to grow its audience with two new areas of work: Somerset Interfaith & Belief Worker and Health Inequalities, researching how ethnic minority groups access health services. Additionally, creating a new web page for Hinkley employees producing a 'Welcome Pack'. This 'Welcome Pack' was also used as a base to create a 'Ukrainian Welcome Pack' and information page on our website in response to the displaced individuals. From April 2022 – to March 2023, the SDC Facebook page followers have steadily increased from 1,037– to 1,400.

Links with other agencies

CCS continues to enjoy strong operational and strategic connections within both the VCFSE sector in Somerset, and the Public Sector. The CEO sits on the Somerset Group of Charities, and with this group, has led on the development of the VCSFE Forum, which aims to provide a sustainable and fair way for organisations of all sizes to connect with policy and decision makers. CCS is an Associate Partner of the Open Mental Health Alliance, and this year has secured funding to lead on carers groups in the county. CCS continues to work with Rethink, the partnership lead of OMH to develop more streamlined ways of working. CCS works closely with Spark, the CVS within Somerset to ensure that work is not duplicated, and we are able to support each other to develop stronger communities in Somerset.

Community Projects

Smart Communities have delivered projects to communities in all parts of Somerset, urban and rural. This involved regular liaison with Town and Parish Councils, Social Enterprises, charities and community groups. This included advice on project planning, gathering evidence of need, community consultation, funding plans, bid writing, business plans and governance. This support enables a group or organisation to go from idea to successful project.

These projects included:

Ilchester Parish Council Community consultation. Ilchester parish council requested assistance with a consultation around traffic issues in the town and the impact on residents. This included a postal and online survey and a report of the findings was produced.

Charlton Horethorne Housing Needs Survey. Charlton Horethorne Community Land Trust requested that we carry out a Housing Needs Survey as they want to explore the possibility of a development of affordable housing to meet local needs.

Smart Communities Ltd

CCS has a wholly owned trading subsidiary; Smart Communities Ltd. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has its own Board of Directors; who in the reporting year were Gary Francis (Chair), Penny James, Julian Lomas, and Paula Protheroe. (Penny, Peter and Paula are also trustees and directors of CCS). During the year, Paula resigned and Emma Lower was appointed.

The Smart Communities Ltd team comprises the Manager, 4 part time Senior Community Advisors, one Community Advisor, 2 Community Buildings officers, and a Social Enterprise Project Officer. During 2022/23, the Manager of Smart Communities was seconded to CCS to act as Interim Chief Executive Officer between September 2022 and January 2023 to ensure the continued delivery of programmes and services before the incumbent Chief Executive joined the charity, and to support her initially as she settled into role.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Large Projects

Smart Communities were commissioned to carry out a number of different projects. These included:

Conversations About Race. We delivered 20 training sessions for teachers and other staff in Somerset Primary schools on the subject of racism. The purpose was to upskill the learners to be able to talk more effectively about race, to have confidence to support diverse young people in a school environment and to be able to address any racist incidences within the school.

Somerset Social Enterprise Network. The work to develop the network and provide support to the members of the network was funded by a number of grants, the most significant of these was the Community Renewal Fund. We were members of a partnership with Somerset Community Foundation, Spark Somerset and the School for Social Entrepreneurs. Through this project the membership of the network rose to over 300 (estimated number of social enterprises in Somerset is around 600) and we were able to provide 1 to 1 expert support, webinars and training workshops on topics led by the needs of the members.

Community Review. We worked with 19 parish and town councils across the county to carry out community consultation. The purpose of these was to understand the needs and ambitions of these communities and to enable the creation of an action plan to address them.

Organisational Changes

Caroline Gough, Finance Manager left in July 2022.

Keeley Rudd, Chief Executive of CCS for the past 12 years, left the organisation in September 2022.

Sally Greenwood became Finance Manager in July 2022 (having been sub contracted as Bookkeeper for a number of years) and left CCS in February 2023.

Jane Birch acted as Interim CEO between September 2022- January 2023;

Val Bishop joined CCS as Chief Executive in December 2022.

Andrea Male, Locality Manager in South Somerset left CCS in March 2023.

LOOKING AHEAD

2023/24 will focus on the development of our new Five Year Strategy which will be agreed by the Board in February 2024. This will also include work on our Theory of Change and an exploration of the impact of CCS programmes on Somerset communities.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association (updated and agreed September 2011), Amended Articles of Association (adopted December 2020) and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Charity Details

The full name of the charity is The Community Council for Somerset, Charity Number: 1069260.

**The Community Council for Somerset
Trustees' Report (continued)**

Trustees

The Board Members who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Names	Title	Date of Appointment (Co-opted /Elected/ Re-elected)	Date of Resignation
Penny James	Chair		
Peter Claydon (Jim)	Individual Trustee		31 October 2023
Peter Gunner	Honorary Treasurer		31 October 2023
Patrick Keating	Individual Trustee		22 April 2022
Eillean Tipper	Individual Trustee		11 July 2023
Peter Fox	Individual Trustee		4 April 2022
Kate Butler	Individual Trustee		11 July 2023
Paula Protheroe	Individual Trustee		4 December 2022
Gary Francis	Individual Trustee	29 March 2023	
Emma Lower	Individual Trustee	11 July 2023	
Chhavi Gautam	Individual Trustee	11 July 2023	
Martin Kitchen	Individual Trustee	2 August 2023	
Sarah Tudor	Individual Trustee	2 August 2023	

Chief Executive: Keeley Rudd (until 17 September 2022); Jane Birch acted as Interim Chief Executive from 17 September until 14 January 2023; Valerie Bishop became Chief Executive on 5 December 2022.

Company Secretary: Valerie Bishop

Registered Office: Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

Bankers: Santander, 62 High Street, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 1JB

Auditors: A.C. Mole, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Community Council for Somerset was incorporated on 1 April 1998, and is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended 20th September 2011.

On 3 December 2020, a General Meeting of Members was held at which amended Articles of Association were adopted, changing to a Foundation model of Governance.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, Company Number: 3541219.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Membership

Membership of the company is by application to the office and will involve a guarantee for a contribution of £1 in the event of a shortfall of assets on winding up.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM one third of the Trustees who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office.

The President

The General Meeting is empowered to elect a President, who may elect to be a trustee as a result of being so elected.

Policies and Procedures for the Recruitment, Selection, Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustee vacancies are advertised on the CCS website and through social media, and we use a website to match with volunteer Trustees. Potential candidates first meet with the Chief Executive then have an interview with the Chair and one other Trustee. They are invited to meet other Trustees either as an observer at a Board meeting or at a more informal event. There is a person specification for Trustees and tailored versions for the Chair and Honorary Treasurer. An application is submitted and considered by the Board. The decision to co-opt a new Trustee is put to the Board to vote.

The procedure for the induction of new trustees is currently under review, and we are exploring ways of tailoring it for each Trustee. Trustees now also have their own learning pathway on the Learning Hub. Trustees meet members of staff, receive support and training in IT as required, and receive information about entitlement to and reimbursement of any approved expenses incurred in undertaking the role of a Board member. Trustees' skills audits are periodically undertaken.

Management arrangements

The Board delegate day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The staffing and pay structure and framework adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations, was used during the year.

In light of the ongoing cost of living crisis, Trustees agreed a 5% (in total) pay increase during this year. 2% was awarded in April 2022 and a further cost of living salary rise of 3% was awarded in October 2022. For staff employed on projects salaries are set out in the bid for funding and any changes are agreed with the funder. A pay policy has been updated and approved by the Trustees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

6.1 Income and Expenditure

During 2022/23 funding was secured for another year for our Hospital Agent team, and an additional Care Coordinator was appointed in February 2022. Contracts with Somerset Council and NHS Somerset continued to fund the majority of the Agent Service. Unfortunately further funding for two Cancer Agents was not secured. However the total income has increased by 19.9% from £2,583,523 in 2021/22 to £3,096,678 in 2022/23, 93% comes from grant or contract funding to deliver projects. Our funding from Defra through ACRE has remained at the same level and been approved for 2023/24. Other income includes subscriptions, commission, bank interest and donations.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

Total expenditure has increased by 28.7% from £2,491,113 during 2021/22 to £3,205,243 in 2022/23. The majority of our costs are staff salaries for direct delivery. Unrestricted staff costs include those of the core team (administration, finance and HR), marketing, business development, data and insights and the Chief Executive. Without this team, project delivery would be impossible, and we would be able to deliver the change in Somerset communities we are so proud of. Support costs include overheads, such as rent.

6.2 Investment Performance

The CCS investment policy states that the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. We have little scope for reducing our costs and it is vital that we maintain the value of grants and income received in order to cover expenditure commitments for the duration of projects, and to deliver our charitable objectives. A significant proportion of our balances are being held to deliver projects over the next year or two and so we need to have regard to cash flow projections.

The £72,462 of investments (including the St Margaret's Fund) is currently invested in a CCLA COIF charities fixed interest fund. The value of these investments has reduced by £4,560 compared with the previous year. During 2022/23 CCS continued to use Flagstone investment platform to place investments. This offers choice of interest rates and flexibility of investment term to ensure funds are invested to maximise interest while maintaining sufficient cashflow.

6.3 Reserves

CCS's Reserves Policy is to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet short-term cash flow needs, manage fluctuations in income and, if necessary, enable CCS to manage a decline in income. The Board reviews the level of 'free' unrestricted reserves annually, considering income forecasts and the assessment of risk.

CCS's total reserves have decreased by £113,125, as funds to deliver projects during 2022/2023.

- Restricted reserves have decreased from £652,976 in 2021/22 to £545,062 in 2022/23 which is due to grant funding used from the previous year to deliver projects.
- Designated reserves have decreased from £109,669 to £78,207 in 2022/23 as the Carers' Agent designated fund has been spent on delivering support to unpaid carers. The Trustees have also designated £72,462 from the St Margarets Fund during the 2022/23 year.
- Unrestricted reserves have increased from £521,304 to £547,555, however it should be noted that the balance in year 2021/22 includes the St Margaret's fund which was designated by the Trustees.

The Board of Trustees reviews finance and policy issues in detail at Board Meetings which are held five times a year. They receive up to date management accounts at each meeting summarising the actual costs and year end projections for each project and fund. The budget is approved at the start of the year and variances are highlighted during the year.

6.4 Risk

The Community Council Board has identified the key risks facing the organisation and has produced a risk register. Risks are RAG rated and the probability and impact are assessed as high, medium or low. Risk owners have been identified for all risks and mitigating action has been considered and documented. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting to consider whether the assessments have changed, whether mitigating action is still appropriate, and to identify any new and emerging risks.

It has been recognised that there is imminent contract risk as both the Carers and Community Agent contracts will conclude in March 2024. Careful consultation, the support of county based partners and programme development will stand us in good stead as we re-tender for these.

Lack of strategic vision and planning has increased in risk as the last 5 year strategy concluded in 2021. A robust process has been put in place to develop the new CCS strategy and is an important part of plans for 2023-24.

The Community Council for Somerset

Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

Company law requires the Trustees 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 group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees on 31 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Gary Francis

TRUSTEE

The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Community Council for Somerset (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2023, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, , Balance Sheet, Consolidated 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including 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.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group 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 other 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset (continued)**

Opinion 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 Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company 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 trustees determine 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 group's and parent 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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:

**The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset (continued)**

Identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement due to irregularities

We considered the following when identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement due to irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- the legal and regulatory framework in which the group operates
- the nature of the sector in which the group operates
- the control environment and controls established to mitigate such risks
- the results of our enquiries of management about their identification and assessment of risks of irregularities
- discussions with the audit engagement team about where fraud might occur
- the incentives for fraud.

Laws and regulations which are considered to be significant to the group include those relating to the requirements of financial reporting framework FRS102, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, UK tax legislation, employment law and health and safety. In addition we consider other laws and regulation which may not directly impact the financial statements but may impact on the operation of the group.

As a result of these procedures we concluded, in accordance with International Auditing Standards, that a risk in relation to the potential for management override of controls existed.

Audit responses to risks identified

We undertook audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, and designed our audit testing to respond to these risks. The additional procedures we undertook included the following:

- gaining an understanding of the group's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments
- considering whether accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias
- considering whether any transactions arose outside the normal course of business
- making enquiries of management
- corroborating our enquiries through review of Board Minutes and correspondence.

We also communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable parent company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity'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 parent company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A Knight

Adam Knight FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of A C Mole, Statutory Auditor

Stafford House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: 31 October 2023

The Community Council for Somerset

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £ (As restated)
Income						
Donations	3	-	-	24,097	24,097	36,934
Charitable activities	4	984,959	377,222	1,529,759	2,891,940	2,408,845
Other trading activities	5	153,904	-	17,957	171,861	132,648
Investment income	6	7,372	1,408	-	8,780	5,096
Total income:		1,146,235	378,630	1,571,813	3,096,678	2,583,523
Expenditure						
Raising funds	7	(38,668)	-	-	(38,668)	(21,483)
Charitable activities	8	(880,345)	(553,617)	(1,732,613)	(3,166,575)	(2,469,630)
Total expenditure		(919,013)	(553,617)	(1,732,613)	(3,205,243)	(2,491,113)
(Losses) on investment assets		(4,560)	-	-	(4,560)	(5,901)
Net income/(expenditure)		222,662	(174,987)	(160,800)	(113,125)	86,509
Transfers between funds		(196,411)	143,525	52,886	-	-
Net movement in funds		26,251	(31,462)	(107,914)	(113,125)	86,509
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		521,304	109,669	652,976	1,283,949	1,197,440
Total funds carried forward	21	547,555	78,207	545,062	1,170,824	1,283,949

The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023
(continued)
(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account)

Previous Year

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £ (As restated)
Income					
Donations and legacies	3	-	46	36,888	36,934
Charitable activities	4	709,284	377,222	1,322,339	2,408,845
Other trading activities	5	117,248	-	15,400	132,648
Investment income	6	5,062	34	-	5,096
Total income		831,594	377,302	1,374,627	2,583,523
Expenditure					
Raising funds	7	(21,483)	-	-	(21,483)
Charitable activities	8	(607,466)	(457,478)	(1,404,686)	(2,469,630)
Total expenditure		(628,949)	(457,478)	(1,404,686)	(2,491,113)
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		(5,901)	-	-	(5,901)
Net income/(expenditure)		196,744	(80,176)	(30,059)	86,509
Transfers between funds		(65)	-	65	-
Net movement in funds		196,679	(80,176)	(29,994)	86,509
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		324,626	189,844	682,970	1,197,440
Total funds carried forward	21	521,305	109,668	652,976	1,283,949

The Community Council for Somerset
(Registration number: 03541219)
Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	-	-
Investments	15	72,462	77,022
Current assets			
Debtors	16	169,412	128,477
Cash at bank and in hand	17	1,159,658	1,246,180
		<u>1,329,070</u>	<u>1,374,657</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(228,774)</u>	<u>(164,696)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,100,296</u>	<u>1,209,961</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,172,758	1,286,983
Defined pension benefit scheme		<u>(1,934)</u>	<u>(3,034)</u>
Net assets		<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>
Funds of the group:			
Unrestricted funds			
General Funds		547,555	521,305
Designated Funds		<u>78,207</u>	<u>109,668</u>
Total unrestricted funds		625,762	630,973
Restricted funds		<u>545,062</u>	<u>652,976</u>
Total funds	21	<u>1,170,824</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements on pages 17 to 44 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~31 October 2023~~ 31 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



Penny Anne James
Chairman and trustee



Gary Francis
Trustee

**The Community Council for Somerset
(Registration number: 03541219)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	14	-	-
Investments	15	72,462	77,022
Current assets			
Debtors	16	337,973	219,956
Cash at bank and in hand	17	984,952	1,155,561
		<u>1,322,925</u>	<u>1,375,517</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	<u>(221,909)</u>	<u>(165,556)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,101,016</u>	<u>1,209,961</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,173,478	1,286,983
Defined pension benefit scheme		<u>(1,934)</u>	<u>(3,034)</u>
Net assets		<u>1,171,544</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
General Funds		548,275	521,304
Designated Funds		<u>78,207</u>	<u>109,668</u>
Total unrestricted funds		626,482	630,972
Restricted funds		<u>545,062</u>	<u>652,977</u>
Total funds	21	<u>1,171,544</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements on pages 17 to 44 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ~~31 October 2023~~ and signed on their behalf by:



Penny Anne James
Chairman and trustee



Gary Francis
Trustee

The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(113,125)	86,509
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	6	(8,780)	(5,096)
Revaluation of investments		4,560	5,901
		(117,345)	87,314
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	16	(40,935)	136,342
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	18	24,098	(4,962)
Increase in deferred income		39,980	31,515
(Decrease) in defined benefit pension scheme liability		(1,100)	(10,256)
		(95,302)	239,953
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	6	8,780	5,096
		(86,522)	245,049
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(86,522)	245,049
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		1,246,180	1,001,131
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		1,159,658	1,246,180

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members, is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2023 the charity had 5 members.

The address of its registered office is:

Viney Court
Viney Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3FB

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise within these notes. The 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Community Council for Somerset meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communities Ltd, on a line by line basis. Intra-group transactions and profits are eliminated fully on consolidation. The "Group" heading within the balance sheet refers to the consolidated accounts of The Community Council for Somerset and Smart Communities Ltd.

In the parent company financial statements the investment in the trading subsidiary is accounted for at cost.

No statement of financial activities is presented for the charity as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The charity made a loss after tax for the financial year of £152,480 (2022 - profit of £86,509).

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the group.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Income and endowments

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and charitable activities

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

If there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in place income from administration charges is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

Other trading activities

Other income including subscriptions and income from other trading activities is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Investment income

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. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories based on staff time spent on each activity as detailed in the notes.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Governance costs

Governance costs are included within support costs and comprise all costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include professional fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of expenditure for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from liability to taxation on income and capital gains, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Minor additions costing below £1,500 are not capitalised.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% pa on cost
Computer equipment	33% pa on cost

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the period. The group does not acquire or use put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the period end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. In addition CCS participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by the Pensions Trust which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit basis.

Defined contribution scheme

Pension contributions in relation to defined contribution schemes are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Defined benefit scheme

As set out in note 19, CCS is unable to identify its share of net assets and liabilities of this scheme. Accordingly, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as incurred.

There is an agreed Deficit Recovery Plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS 102 CCS has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by CCS under this plan.

Financial instruments

The group only enters into basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other debtors and creditors together with loans to related parties. Debt instruments, such as trade debtors and creditors, are initially measured at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets 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 income statement.

Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income, and expenses.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The Trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Prior period adjustment

Where an error or omission is identified in respect of comparative figures this is adjusted in the preceding period.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations	-	24,097	24,097
Total for 2023	-	24,097	24,097
Donations	46	36,888	36,934
Total for 2022	46	36,888	36,934

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
Restricted funds		
Surviving Winter - Somerset Community Foundation	62,500	29,681
Community Buildings - Somerset West and Taunton	2,700	2,700
Children & Families Project		
Somerset County Council	27,635	26,766
West Somerset Primary Care Network	12,000	-
Village Agents		
South Petherton Parish Council	10,826	10,257
Living Better Federation	-	8,875
Macmillan	-	-
Taunton Federation	20,000	20,000
SPOC - Somerset Foundation Trust	25,000	25,000
Positive Lives Innovation Fund - Somerset County Council	38,913	13,415
Community Agents inc Home First - Somerset County Council	585,000	587,500
Interfaith & Belief - Somerset County Council	22,503	18,752
Food Resilience - Somerset County Council	-	67,948
Living Better WS	71,000	28,500
Health Inequalities SDC - Somerset County Council	21,000	14,000
Microenterprise Project - Somerset County Council (COMF funding)	-	173,000
SPLW		
NHS	-	124,250
Yeovil Social Prescribing Worker	-	8,875
Click Federation	-	21,300
Crisis Fund		
Grants on Behalf of Clients	33,658	11,568
Somerset County Council	50,000	-
Other	6,600	21,512
CCG Cancer Support		
Somerset NHS CCG - Living Beyond Cancer	75,000	71,000

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £ (As restated)
BME Engagement		
Somerset Community Foundation - Hinkley	55,000	16,515
Somerset Community Foundation	1,650	-
Somerset County Council - Equality Innovation	-	5,000
SSDC	-	14,500
Somerset County Council	12,167	-
Lottery Community Funding	9,951	-
Other	1,031	1,425
Refugee Support	336,261	-
VCSE Dementia Partnership	40,920	-
CSE	8,444	-
	<u>1,529,759</u>	<u>1,322,339</u>
Unrestricted funds		
ACRE - NL Community Fund	-	1,000
Defra through ACRE	44,060	44,060
Consultancy BFEF	17,500	17,500
Food Resilience Continuation Funding	-	12,000
Somerset Skills and Learning	-	18,854
Get Outside Campaign	-	2,500
Sedgemoor DLA	6,000	6,000
CRF Match Funding	-	10,000
VCSE	-	1,500
SCF - Surviving Winter	-	5,500
Puriton - Surviving Winter	200	-
Somerset West and Taunton	-	2,700
Diverse Communities	-	8,484
Ubuntu	75,000	-
NHS - SPLW	665,652	480,452
NHS - Yeovil Prescribing Worker	67,797	29,250
NHS - Click Federation	108,750	69,484
	<u>984,959</u>	<u>709,284</u>
Designated funds		
Carers		
Somerset County Council	377,222	377,222
	<u>377,222</u>	<u>377,222</u>
Total income from charitable activities	<u>2,891,940</u>	<u>2,408,845</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Events income	3,350	1,277	4,627
Membership subscriptions	-	16,680	16,680
Smart Communities Limited	150,554	-	150,554
Total for 2023	153,904	17,957	171,861
Events income	295	10	305
Membership subscriptions	-	15,390	15,390
Smart Communities Limited	116,953	-	116,953
Total for 2022	117,248	15,400	132,648

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Interest received	8,780	-	8,780
Total for 2023	8,780	-	8,780
Interest received	5,096	-	5,096
Total for 2022	5,096	-	5,096

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Trading subsidiary costs	38,668	21,483
	38,668	21,483

All trading subsidiary costs were unrestricted in 2023 and 2022.

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £ (As restated)
Activities Undertaken	Note				
Directly		1,392,110	1,219,344	2,611,454	2,215,945
Grants to individuals		80	412,101	412,181	98,752
Allocated support costs	9	41,772	101,168	142,940	154,933
		1,433,962	1,732,613	3,166,575	2,469,630

**The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

9 Analysis of support costs (continued)	BME											Total 2022 £ (As restated)				
	BME Community Engagement £	CCG Cancer Support £	Children & Families Project £	Somerset Community Agents £	Community Buildings £	Village Agents £	Ubuntu £	Health Inequalities SDC £	Interfaith & Belief £	Living Better WS £	Transport Agents £		Micro enterprise Project £	Positive Lives Innovation Fund £	SPLW £	SPOC £
General Office	4,469	3,922	1,303	33,239	1,289	4,495	4,319	369	636							
HR	582	512	170	4,328	168	584	562	48	83							
Audit & Accountancy	386	339	113	2,873	111	389	373	32	55							
Subscriptions	795	698	233	5,914	230	800	769	66	113							
IT	951	835	277	7,077	274	957	919	79	135							
	7,183	6,306	2,096	53,431	2,072	7,225	6,942	594	1,022							
General Office		952	712	350	539	13,029	200	26,559	96,382							
HR		124	93	46	70	1,696	26	3,458	12,550							
Audit & Accountancy		82	62	30	47	1,126	17	2,296	8,331							
Subscriptions		169	127	63	96	2,319	32	4,726	17,150							
IT		203	152	75	115	2,774	42	5,655	20,520							
		1,530	1,146	564	867	20,944	317	42,694	154,933							

All costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff contracted hours to each activity.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

10 Grants paid in the year

	2023 £	2022 £
Surviving Winter	65,543	43,867
Crisis Fund	73,990	37,928
Food Resilience	47,954	13,256
Refugee Support	220,200	-
Other	4,494	3,701
	<u>412,181</u>	<u>98,752</u>

11 Net income/expenditure

Net (expenditure)/income for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit fees	6,792	5,322
Accountancy fees	5,298	4,722
Other services	1,100	360
	<u>13,190</u>	<u>10,404</u>

12 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the group during the year (2022: £Nil).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year (2022: £Nil).

13 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and Wages	2,095,493	1,800,968
Social Security Costs	179,614	149,074
Pension Contributions	74,377	62,679
	<u>2,349,484</u>	<u>2,012,721</u>

The average number of staff during the year was 96 (2022:87).

There are no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 (2022: none).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive, the Development Manager, the Operations Manager, Human Resources Manager, the Finance Manager, the Data Manager and Smart Communities Manager. Total remuneration of key management was £265,268 (2022: £250,043).

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

14 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	22,355	56,116	78,471
At 31 March 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	22,355	56,116	78,471
At 31 March 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-

Charity

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	22,355	56,116	78,471
At 31 March 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	22,355	56,116	78,471
At 31 March 2023	22,355	56,116	78,471
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

15 Fixed asset investments

Group

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund

	Total £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 April 2022	77,022
Revaluation	<u>(4,560)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>72,462</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>72,462</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>

Subsidiaries

Smart Communities Ltd (company no 11480430) was incorporated on 24 July 2018 as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Community Council for Somerset. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by guarantee with the parent charity holding 100% of the voting rights of the subsidiary trading company. The principal activities of the company was that of a consultancy company. The trading subsidiary gift aids its taxable profits to The Community Council for Somerset. The registered office is Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB.

	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover	150,554	127,581
Administrative expenses	<u>(151,274)</u>	<u>(108,694)</u>
	<u>(720)</u>	<u>18,887</u>
Current assets	184,500	111,614
Current liabilities	<u>(185,220)</u>	<u>(111,614)</u>
	<u>(720)</u>	<u>-</u>

The above results of Smart Communities Ltd are included in the consolidated accounts of the group.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

15 Fixed asset investments (continued)

Charity

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund

	Total £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 April 2022	77,022
Revaluation	<u>(4,560)</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>72,462</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>72,462</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>

16 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Smart Communities Ltd	-	-	146,762	18,886
Prepayments	21,306	12,239	21,306	12,239
Accrued income	103,549	1,725	103,279	-
Other debtors	44,557	114,513	66,626	188,831
	<u>169,412</u>	<u>128,477</u>	<u>337,973</u>	<u>219,956</u>

17 Cash and cash equivalents

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Santander	461,693	554,295	286,987	463,676
CCLA	80,839	79,430	80,839	79,430
CAF	101,520	100,943	101,520	100,943
Flagstone Investment	515,606	511,512	515,606	511,512
	<u>1,159,658</u>	<u>1,246,180</u>	<u>984,952</u>	<u>1,155,561</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	26,579	22,772	21,666	29,148
Other taxation and social security	13,906	919	13,906	919
VAT	633	4,861	-	-
Accruals	29,986	18,454	28,667	17,799
Deferred income	157,670	117,690	157,670	117,690
	<u>228,774</u>	<u>164,696</u>	<u>221,909</u>	<u>165,556</u>

Grants received in advance

	2023 £	2022 £
Opening balance	117,690	86,175
Resources deferred in the period	153,920	117,690
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(113,940)</u>	<u>(86,175)</u>
Balance as at year end	<u>157,670</u>	<u>117,690</u>

19 Pension and other schemes

Defined benefit pension schemes

The charity participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to identify its share of assets and liabilities of the scheme to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme and it therefore accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the total scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall participating employers have been asked to pay additional contributions to the scheme. The estimated present value of the future contributions required from the charity over the next six years to meet its share of the deficit is £1,934 (2022: £3,034) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 5.52% (2022: 2.35%) based on a full AA corporate bond yield. The resulting expense is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore, the charity is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

If there were no members in the scheme the employer's liability would become due for payment. This was last estimated on 30 September 2022 at a cost of £20,724. The charity currently has 160 members in a connected defined contribution scheme. If all members left the scheme there would be a 12 month grace period to find new members before the employer's liability becomes due.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

19 Pension and other schemes (continued)

	2023 £	2022 £
Provision at 1 April	3,034	13,290
Unwinding of discount figure	57	77
Deficit contributions paid	(1,105)	(3,363)
Remeasurement - impact of any change on assumptions	(52)	(70)
Remeasurement - amendments to the contribution schedule	-	(6,900)
	<u>1,934</u>	<u>3,034</u>

20 Commitments

Capital commitments

The group had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2023 £	2022 £
Within one year	20,400	4,084
Due one to five years	3,400	-
	<u>23,800</u>	<u>4,084</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

21 Funds - Group & Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted	521,304	1,146,235	(919,013)	(196,411)	(4,560)	547,555
<i>Designated</i>						
Carers' Agents	105,335	377,222	(553,617)	71,063	-	3
Project Development	4,334	1,408	-	-	-	5,742
St Margaret's	-	-	-	72,462	-	72,462
	109,669	378,630	(553,617)	143,525	-	78,207
Total unrestricted funds	630,973	1,524,865	(1,472,630)	(52,886)	(4,560)	625,762
Restricted funds						
Village Agents	33,840	20,000	(36,242)	20,000	-	37,598
Surviving Winter	16,022	62,500	(71,793)	-	-	6,729
Diversity	44,292	82,171	(93,988)	-	-	32,475
Adult Social Care Community Hub	173,767	585,000	(723,470)	8,234	-	43,531
Crisis Fund	17,119	112,284	(73,990)	-	-	55,413
Taunton Federation	20,057	-	(4,949)	(15,108)	-	-
Macmillan Agent	8,916	-	-	-	-	8,916
Community Buildings	31,098	20,327	(36,793)	-	-	14,632
CCG Cancer	7,282	75,000	(74,301)	-	-	7,981
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	34,539	-	(4,274)	-	-	30,265
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	26,716	-	-	-	-	26,716
Mental Health Agents	-	-	(40)	40	-	-
Food Resilience	-	-	(47,954)	47,954	-	-
Children and Families Project	3,381	39,634	(15,151)	-	-	27,864
Health Inequalities SDC	7,473	21,000	(17,959)	-	-	10,514
Interfaith and Belief	7,691	22,503	(24,984)	-	-	5,210
Living Better WS	10,634	71,030	(40,861)	-	-	40,803
Microenterprise Project	166,876	-	(102,762)	-	-	64,114
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	3,365	38,913	(37,911)	-	-	4,367
SPOC	21,548	25,000	(38,314)	(8,234)	-	-
Refugee Support	-	336,261	(279,547)	-	-	56,714
South Petherton	-	10,826	(7,330)	-	-	3,496
VCSE Dementia Partnership	-	40,920	-	-	-	40,920
CSE	-	8,444	-	-	-	8,444
Total restricted funds	652,976	1,571,813	(1,732,613)	52,886	-	545,062
Total funds	1,283,949	3,096,678	(3,205,243)	-	(4,560)	1,170,824

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

21 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

Village Agents - The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three year grant to fund Village Agent work until 2021, and funding was also received from the Bernard Herridge Trust (Hastoe Group). During 2019/20 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.

Surviving Winter - funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.

Diversity - BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county. They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.

Ubuntu - a test and learn project until March 2024 to support High Intensity users in acute hospital A&E departments.

Adult Social Care Community Hubs -funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2024.

Crisis Fund - Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.

Taunton Federation - funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices. This project has now combined with the Village Agent fund therefore the income received last year of £20,000 has been transferred to the Village Agent fund.

Transport Agent - funded by SCC West Somerset Opportunities Area grant to develop transport solutions in West Somerset.

MacMillan Agent - a project to employ a specialist Agent to work with Macmillan and its volunteers, supporting individuals affected by a cancer diagnosis and their families in Mendip and South Somerset.

Community Buildings support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.

CCG Cancer - funded by the CCG to support individuals and their families affected by cancer.

The **Somerset Society** Fund represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives.

The **Village Hall** Loan Fund represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

21 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

Digital Engagement - funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will be promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.

The **Mendip Car Scheme** is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.

Transform Ageing - this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.

Mental Health Agents - a one year project funded by the CCG covering Sedgemoor and West Somerset, employing specialist Agents to support individuals with Mental Health conditions, referred by GPs.

Food Resilience - funding from SCC to support individuals in need during the pandemic with emergency food supplies and to give grants to community food groups to enable them to source sustainable solutions.

Children & Families Project - one year test and learn project in West Somerset, supporting Families at risk, in liaison with local schools.

Health Inequalities SDC - working with minority groups in Somerset to look at health inequalities with particular focus on Mental Health, Sexual Health, Domestic Violence and Vaccine engagement.

Interfaith and Belief - to establish an Interfaith forum in Somerset with the aim of fostering community cohesion between faith groups, understand the role faith and belief groups have in times of crisis, support faith groups supporting people affected by Covid and to map faith groups in Somerset.

Living Better WS - to provide Agent services in the Living Better Primary Care network in West Somerset.

Microenterprise Project - to address the backlog of people interested in becoming microproviders, to raise awareness of the microprovider project, align with Carers engagement work to build relationships.

Positive Lives Innovation Fund - test and learn project in South Somerset to support people who are either homeless, newly housed or are at risk of becoming homeless.

SPLW - previously Primary Care Network VAS but renamed during the year to SPLW (Social Prescribing Link Workers). Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.

SPOC (Single Point of Contact) - funding to support the Hospital Discharge Teams in the Acute hospitals, working with staff and agencies in those settings to support discharge of medically fit patients. This project has now combined with the Adult Social Care Community Hub therefore a transfer of the remaining SPOC balance has been made to the Adult Social Care Community Hub.

Refugee Support - funding through Somerset Council for Ukrainian Refugees currently up to November 2023.

South Petherton - funding an Agent/SPLW which is separate to the NHS contract.

VCSE Dementia Partnership - The VCSE Dementia Partnership is grant funding from Somerset Foundation Trust to the VCSE Dementia Partnership. Community Council Somerset will act as the lead organisations for the Information Packs and Carers Education workstreams. These include contribution to CCS Carers Packs, bespoke Dementia Support information sheets and delivery of Carers Education. Spending to be agreed by the Carers Education and Information Packs Working Groups and signed off by the Dementia Operational Oversight Group.

CSE - Centre for Sustainable Energy who are supporting Agent Training over 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

21 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted Funds	324,626	831,594	(628,949)	(65)	(5,901)	521,305
Designated						
Carers' Agents	185,544	377,268	(457,478)	-	-	105,334
Project Development	4,300	34	-	-	-	4,334
	<u>189,844</u>	<u>377,302</u>	<u>(457,478)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,668</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>514,470</u>	<u>1,208,896</u>	<u>(1,086,427)</u>	<u>(65)</u>	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>630,973</u>
Restricted funds						
Village Agents	112,533	19,132	(87,197)	(10,628)	-	33,840
Surviving Winter	30,208	29,681	(43,867)	-	-	16,022
Diversity	71,776	52,361	(79,845)	-	-	44,292
Ubuntu	73,948	-	(77,958)	4,010	-	-
Adult Social Care Community Hub	179,545	587,500	(593,278)	-	-	173,767
Crisis Fund	-	55,047	(37,928)	-	-	17,119
Taunton Federation	57	20,000	-	-	-	20,057
Transport Agent	4,821	-	(13,314)	8,493	-	-
Macmillan Agent	10,901	-	(175)	(1,810)	-	8,916
Community Buildings	34,781	18,100	(21,783)	-	-	31,098
CCG Cancer	6,013	71,000	(69,731)	-	-	7,282
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	36,075	-	(1,536)	-	-	34,539
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	26,716	-	-	-	-	26,716
Food Resilience	-	67,948	(67,948)	-	-	-
Children and Families Project	-	26,766	(23,385)	-	-	3,381
Health Inequalities SDC	-	14,000	(6,527)	-	-	7,473
Interfaith and Belief	-	18,752	(11,061)	-	-	7,691
Living Better WS	-	28,500	(17,866)	-	-	10,634
Microenterprise Project	-	173,000	(6,124)	-	-	166,876
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	-	13,415	(10,050)	-	-	3,365
SPLW	77,236	154,425	(231,661)	-	-	-
SPOC	-	25,000	(3,452)	-	-	21,548
	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,374,627</u>	<u>(1,404,686)</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>652,976</u>
Total funds	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>2,583,523</u>	<u>(2,491,113)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	72,462	-	72,462
Current assets	459,188	830,908	1,290,096
Current liabilities	(61,291)	(167,484)	(228,775)
Provisions	(3,034)	-	(3,034)
Total net assets	467,325	663,424	1,130,749
	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	77,022	-	77,022
Current assets	444,982	929,675	1,374,657
Current liabilities	(47,005)	(117,691)	(164,696)
Provisions	(3,034)	-	(3,034)
Total net assets	471,965	811,984	1,283,949

Charity

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2023 £
Fixed asset investments	72,462	-	72,462
Current assets	453,043	830,908	1,283,951
Current liabilities	(54,426)	(167,484)	(221,910)
Provisions	(3,034)	-	(3,034)
Total net assets	468,045	663,424	1,131,469
	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 31 March 2022 £
Fixed asset investments	77,022	-	77,022
Current assets	444,982	929,675	1,374,657
Current liabilities	(47,005)	(117,691)	(164,696)
Provisions	(3,034)	-	(3,034)
Total net assets	471,965	811,984	1,283,949

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

23 Prior period adjustment

Group & Charity

Income and expenditure classification:

During the year it was identified that income totalling £579,186 within the SPLW restricted fund should be categorised as unrestricted income. Accordingly the prior period comparatives have been restated to reflect this correction.

The impact of this restatement is to reduce restricted income and increase unrestricted income by £579,186. In addition, the associated expenditure has been reallocated increasing unrestricted expenditure by £474,870 and reducing restricted expenditure by £474,870. There is no net impact on total income, expenditure or reserves from this adjustment.

The effect of the prior period adjustment on reserves as at 1 April 2022 is as follows:

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 1 April 2022
	General £	Designated £	£	£
As previously reported	416,988	109,669	757,292	1,283,949
Reclassification of income	579,186	-	(579,186)	-
Reclassification of expenditure	(474,870)	-	474,870	-
As restated	521,304	109,669	652,976	1,283,949

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1069260

Accounts

Company registration number: 03541219

Charity registration number: 1069260

The Community Council for Somerset

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2022



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**The Community Council for Somerset
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The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report

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OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are as follows: -

- "To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the administrative County of Somerset and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty and distress and physical and mental sickness and disability."
- The Charity has the following powers, which may be exercised only in promoting the Objects:
 - to do anything within the law which promotes or helps to promote the Objects;
 - to carry out campaigning and advocacy, provided that the Trustees are satisfied that any proposed campaigning and advocacy will further the Objects to an extent justified by the resources committed and that such activity is not the dominant means by which the Charity promotes the Objects;
 - to pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs of forming and registering the Charity both as a company and as a charity;
 - to provide advice or information;
 - to carry out research;
 - to co-operate with other bodies;
 - to support, administer or set up other charities;
 - to act as a Charity Trustee of a charitable trust;
 - to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other body for the purposes of any of the Objects;
 - to convert to a charitable incorporated organisation;
 - to accept or refuse gifts and donations and to raise funds (but not by means of Taxable Trading);
 - to borrow money;
 - to give security, including but not limited to guarantees, for loans or other obligations (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
 - to acquire or hire property of any kind
 - to borrow money;
 - to let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act);
 - to set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure;
 - to deposit or invest its funds in any manner including without limitation with a view to: (a) directly furthering the Charity's purpose; (b) achieving a financial return for the Charity; or (c) achieving both of the objectives described at (a) and (b) above in accordance with and provided that the Trustees comply with their duties under Part 14A of the Charities Act, (but to invest wholly or partly with a view to achieving a financial return only after obtaining such advice from a Financial Expert as the Trustees consider necessary and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification);

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

- to delegate the management of investments to a Financial Expert, but only on terms that: (a) the investment policy is set down in writing for the Financial Expert by the Trustees; (b) timely reports of all transactions are provided to the Trustees; (c) the performance of the investments is reviewed regularly with the Trustees; 9 (d) the Trustees are entitled to cancel the delegation arrangement at any time; (e) the investment policy and the delegation arrangement are reviewed at least once a year; (f) all payments due to the Financial Expert are on a scale or at a level which is agreed in advance and are notified promptly to the Trustees on receipt; and (g) the Financial Expert must not do anything outside the powers of the Charity;
- to arrange for investments or other property of the Charity to be held in the name of a Nominee Company acting under the direction of the Trustees or controlled by a Financial Expert acting under their instructions, and to pay any reasonable fee required; 3.20 to deposit documents and physical assets with any company registered or having a place of business in England or Wales as Custodian, and to pay any reasonable fee required;
- to insure the property of the Charity against any foreseeable risk and take out other insurance policies to protect the Charity when required;
- to provide Indemnity Insurance for the Trustees and officers of the Charity in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act;
- subject to Article 8.3, to employ or engage paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers and where appropriate: 10 (a) to provide for them to benefit under pension and other staff benefit arrangements for them and their dependants; and (b) to enter into compromise and settlement arrangements with them;
- to enter into contracts and agreements of any kind, including without limitation contracts to provide services to or on behalf of other bodies; and
- to establish or acquire subsidiaries

1.1 The Charity's vision, mission, aims and values are:

Vision - Vibrant, viable and resilient Somerset communities with healthy, happy people and strong, sustainable enterprises.

Mission - To inspire and enable Somerset's people, community organisations and enterprises to take action to build vibrant, viable and resilient communities.

Aims

- Strengthen **communities**
- Innovate and encourage **enterprise**
- Support and serve **people**
- Tackle **disadvantage**

Values

- Giving a voice to everyone in the community
- Fairness and courtesy to all
- Flexible and adaptable
- Transparent and accountable
- Impartial, trustworthy, confidential and friendly
- Adopting the highest possible standards in all that we do
- Working with partners and sharing best practice
- Investing in the development and well-being of employees

1.2 Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular, these activities meet our charitable objects as described above.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

1.3 Review of Activity

The 2021/2022 financial year was again a year of steady growth, with employee numbers increasing by 16%. The organisation was still facing challenges due to the continued restrictions as a result of the ongoing Covid19 Pandemic. As restrictions eased towards the end of the year, we continued with the new ways of working and delivering our services to Clients and Communities and gradually reintroduced face to face contact. Income for the year has continued the upward trend of previous years and increased by over £240,000. We have maintained our robust full cost recovery model to ensure that project funding adequately covers the essential core organisation functions and to enable good governance practice.

CCS continues to be seen as an innovator and trusted partner in service delivery enabling new ways of working in person-centred support.

With a mix of Village and Community Agents CCS now has full county-wide coverage which has been our ambition since launching Village Agents back in 2012. A total of 69 Agents now work to support Somerset's vulnerable and isolated people and we have been able to secure longer term funding from both County Council and Health commissioners. We have also continued the practice of working with partners to develop specialisms and respond to changing demand. Our project to support high intensity users of both primary and secondary care, presenting with non-medical issues has been funded for a further year, as has the Cancer support work which now employs two Agents. We have also received funding for a trial period for an Agent to support homeless people in the South Somerset area. We hope this project will be extended and cover the whole County following the trial. Another innovative test and learn project has been in West Somerset, where Children and Families have been successfully supported.

The web contact form and central point of call by telephone continues to be effective and enable both professionals and individuals to contact us seamlessly using very few points of access. During the year there were 13,397 referrals to the Agent service with an average caseload for the whole service of 1266 at any time.

More than 2000 Carers were supported with 2,452 different issues.

The CCS Strategic Plan will be refreshed during 2022 however, the priorities remain almost identical to those of the previous year.

The main areas of focus will be:

Building on the very successful re-launch of the Community Buildings and Village Halls advisory service which proved to be needed more than ever during the pandemic.

Continued county-wide coverage for our full range of Agent services (reshaped as necessary to respond to the changing funding mix for these services).

Expansion of our specialist services including:

Supporting more communities of interest across a range of equalities issues.

Significant growth in earned income from consultancy through Smart Communities Ltd, our wholly owned trading subsidiary

Further support for emerging social enterprise and entrepreneurs through developing a Countywide Social Enterprise Network and a series of workshops and events for this sector and through the expansion of the Somerset Micro-Enterprise programme.

The current CCS Strategic Plan covers 2018 – 2021 with a broad strategic focus centering on People, Places and Enterprise. This is supported with an Implementation Plan. The strategy establishes our key priorities as:

Grow our reach into, and impact for, communities across Somerset

- We have secured funding for Village, Community and Carers Agents over the whole county. During the year we consulted staff, stakeholders and clients on the delivery model which then resulted in Carers Agents being renamed as Village Agents in order to simplify the referral process and adopt a "One family, one Agent" approach. This includes full-time staff based at Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil District Hospital as well as staff working closely with 13 community-based hospitals to support hospital discharge. A test and learn project started in January 2022 in South Somerset to support Homeless people or those at risk of becoming homeless.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

- Funding from the Hinkley Community fund continued for Somerset Diverse Communities whose BAME Community Engagement support groups and communities to develop, as well as provide learning opportunities for individuals.
- We continued to support organisations with business plans and funding bids to enable their new community projects to happen.
- Our Community Buildings Officers supported Village Halls to adapt to the changes brought about by the Pandemic and its restrictions. Membership increased to 148, up by 10%, as a result of the support available.

Diversify our funding base:

- Smart Communities Ltd continues to undertake consultancy work for an increasingly diverse range of clients and gifts any trading surpluses to CCS as unrestricted income.
- Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) continued to expand and also diversify funding streams from Statutory sector partners in particular. Two new projects resulted in the employment of an Interfaith and Belief worker and a Diverse Communities Enabler who will work with Communities to engage in health services.
- We continue to promote the Love Somerset campaign to increase funds for the Rural Somerset Crisis fund and locality crisis funds. We also build in 'fix-it' funding to grants from funders to support individuals.
- Funding continued from Somerset County Council, Somerset CCG, Primary Care Networks and GP federations to deliver Agent services.
- Our Marketing and Communications Strategy including more effectively communicating our brand and developing a range of support materials for staff to use when articulating our offer was implemented along with innovative ways of advertising our services during lockdown.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our success is measured in a number of ways; for specific projects the outcomes and indicators are agreed with the funders and are regularly reported on in accordance with their requirements, along with case studies as examples. Defra require us to report on progress and achievements across a number of key themes on a quarterly basis. Feedback is sought from events held including training provided for Community Buildings workshops and Social Enterprise events. The Chief Executive reports on progress across the organisation to every Board meeting.

A set of bespoke outcomes and reporting requirements has been agreed with funders.

2.1 People

Village and Community Agents including Home First Hospital Discharge, Transport Agent, Macmillan Agent and SDC.

Village and Community Agents including Home First and other specialist agents.

This year – as the pandemic eased, and lockdown restrictions were removed – our Agent Services delivered a continually evolving range of virtual and face to face services. Rather than returning to 'Business as Usual' agents have incorporated the lessons learned during the pandemic in to their 'New Normal':

- Home visiting resumed, but with improved risk assessment and, where appropriate, continuing COVID testing and infection control measures.
- Talking Cafes began to meet again – initially by appointment only, but more recently on the established drop-in basis – but are now supplemented by the online/virtual provision that was developed under lockdown.
- Phone-based referral and triage continues but agents are now re-engaging with peer forums and multi-disciplinary team meetings, and with the many community groups that support vulnerable people in their areas.

This year has also seen significant change in terms of staffing. In addition to the expected turnover of agents – whose experience and skills make them attractive to other employers – we have seen some turnover in local leadership. Two of our locality managers have been promoted to more senior roles, and two agents stepped up as Locality Managers in Taunton and West Somerset.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

At the end of the year the agent workforce stood at:

Team	Community Agents	Village Agents	Home First/ UBUNTU	Other agents
Hospital Team	n/a	n/a	8 (2 part-time)	5
Mendip	2 (1 part-time)	5 (5 part-time)	n/a	n/a
Sedgemoor	4 (2 part-time)	8 (2 part-time)	n/a	n/a
South Somerset	2 (1 part-time)	7	n/a	1
Taunton	2	8 (2 part-time)	n/a	n/a
West Somerset	1	5 (3 part-time)	n/a	n/a

Somerset Diverse Communities

Over the course of the pandemic, Somerset Diverse Communities has considerably expanded its impact and reach. We secured another year of funding from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, distributed by Somerset Community Foundation, to continue to grow and develop. We increased the support we provide to ethnically diverse communities, giving advice on structure and governance as well as supporting community groups to identify funding opportunities and write applications. Based on the feedback received from ethnically diverse communities, SDC linked in with Smart Communities to deliver two separate wellbeing workshops (12 sessions each) to women of colour and Polish community. The sessions were run by psychologists who were covering subjects related to people's challenges – racism, discrimination, language and cultural barrier, isolation, cultural shock, belonging and cultural identity, etc. To overcome the language and cultural barrier in participating in the workshop, the course for Polish community has been delivered in their native language by Polish specialist. The project was covered by the Open Mental Health Fund.

In April 2021, Somerset Community Foundation (funded by Somerset Youth Parliament) commissioned Somerset Diverse Communities (delivered with Smart Communities Ltd) to work with a group of ethnically diverse young people on an undefined peer-led project (Diverse Young Somerset) to help identify and address issues which mattered to them. This was part of a bigger programme of work - #iwill fund – which looked to encourage the next generation of volunteers, campaigners and activists to take action. A core group of ethnically diverse young people aged 15 – 19, were recruited in Summer 2021 following a call out to Somerset Diverse Community networks to engage young people in project work. In its earliest stages, the project was not defined as research, but as topics and questions emerged (and with assistance from the Smart Communities Ltd team when required), it developed into survey with themes examining racial identity and the curriculum; and racial identity, mental health and potential barriers for support. The key objectives of the survey were to gather evidence of the continuing problem of discrimination and the devastating effect it may have on a child's mental health; recommend changes to the mental health services and schools in Somerset; improve understanding of the challenges that young people from Black, Asian, and minority ethnic communities face. As a result of the research, the report was written and widely disseminated with schools, youth clubs, mental health services and local authorities.

Apart from the Diverse Young Somerset survey, Somerset Diverse Communities was involved in other consultations such as C19 impact on Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups in Somerset and Access to Services. Our involvement has not only helped local authorities to understand the barriers and challenges that ethnically diverse communities face but also indicated sectors for the improvement. We also have been involved in work with Public Health around vaccinations were our team facilitated communication and helped to gather vital data around concerns and obstacles in getting vaccines.

Somerset Diverse Communities have coordinated, and supported events related to ethnically diverse communities in Somerset attracting hundreds of individuals with different backgrounds. The events – Bridgwater Together, Yeovil Together, Multicultural Frome - provided a platform to become more vocal and visible by communities. It helped minority ethnic groups to integrate with local communities but also it was a fantastic way to gain new skills and confidence by newly established groups.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

We successfully secured funds from Somerset Skills and Learning to deliver English classes across the County - expanding the provision previously provided. We were able to reopen face to face classes which have provided learning opportunities that have been so vital when social isolation has meant that people have not been able to practice their English skills in the community. Our classes have had a positive impact on people's employability and social skills. In addition to the structural lessons, SDC has been offering the Language Connect project where students can practice their spoken English with native speakers (volunteers). This project has not only helped people to better understand the language but most of all, helped them to raise their self-esteem and encouraged to take another step in integrating with local communities. This project is going to be expanded to include Ukrainian Refugees in Somerset.

In the last year, SDC has released 8 podcasts related to ethnically diverse communities in Somerset. It is another way of supporting minority groups in becoming recognised and heard by a wider audience. In our episodes we have talked about the multicultural events (Yeovil Together and Multicultural Frome); mental health; Diverse Young Somerset project; challenges and uniqueness of being mixed-race; cultural identity; Black Lives Matter movement in Taunton. Our podcasts have been listened 571 times.

Somerset Diverse Communities have accepted 14 applications submitted by communities and organisations working with ethnically diverse communities in Somerset. Our grants have supported many initiatives which have far-reaching influence on communities and individuals participating in projects organised with the help of our grants.

The Somerset Diverse Communities project has been expanded to include two new employees - Community Enabler (focusing on health inequalities) and Interfaith & Belief Coordinator. Both employees develop new initiatives and strengthen communities by working closely together on important aspects of the lives of minority groups. Their work will help us to have a better understanding of other needs and challenges that the ethnically diverse communities in Somerset may have.

Surviving Winter Grants

CCS distributed payments to those individuals in need of 'Surviving Winter Grants'. These grants come from money kindly donated by people who receive the Winter Fuel allowance and allocated by Somerset Community Foundation. The grants are available for older people in our communities to ensure they stay warm and well during the winter months. We were allocated a further £49,500 from the Somerset Community Foundation in 2021/22 however funds of £19,819 were returned in May 2021 as they had not been distributed in the previous year. A total of **£ 43,867** was awarded in the period which includes a balance from the previous year. The remaining funds will be distributed during 2022/23.

Rural Somerset Crisis Fund

This fund makes grants available to people and families in crisis situations. Funding comes from general donations received from organisations for example Somerset West Lottery, Amazon Smile, Tesco blue voucher donation, Local Giving and the commission CCS receives from the Oil buying scheme. We also receive grants from various organisations for specific individuals to purchase goods or services on their behalf. During 2021/22 there was a continued need for support and 319 grants were awarded to individuals and Community Groups totalling **£37,928** from these funds.

Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation

The Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation (BFEF) is administered by CCS. The aim of BFEF is to promote public benefit through the education (including social and physical training) of young people, aged 11-24 years through financial assistance. The Board of Trustees meets five times a year to consider grant applications for school uniform, academic and vocational studies, capital bids, educational travel, training courses and sporting expenses. Further information is available via www.bfef.org.uk and in the BFEF annual report and financial statements.

All 6 board meetings for 2021/22 took place via Zoom. Interim grant award decisions were agreed via email or phone.

BFEF awarded or pledged grants during the year for musical activities, other art related activities physical activities, school uniform grants and for capital grants. The largest capital grant was pledged to Courtfields School to assist in funding a 3G pitch and a further grant was the first of a three year agreement to support three schools run a programme to provide insights into apprenticeships. The majority of Grants were given to support Educational activities.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Oil Scheme

The Community Oil Scheme is a bulk-buying oil scheme which is being run by Community Councils throughout the country. We launched the scheme in September 2011 and AF Affinity now administers this service which offers a range of services for customers and the ability to pay in instalments.

For the £24 annual membership subscription for individuals, members can order with the scheme and buy together in bulk, saving money on the cost of their heating oil and helping to reduce fuel poverty and tackle disadvantage. There were 199 members of the scheme during the reporting period, 21 less than 2020/21, who placed a total of 481 orders during the year.

2.2 Place

Community Projects

Smart Communities (also see below) have delivered projects to Communities in all parts of Somerset, urban and rural. This involved regular liaison with Town and Parish Councils, Social Enterprises, charities and community groups. This included advice on project planning, gathering evidence of need, community consultation, funding plans, bid writing, business plans and governance. This support enables a group or organisation to go from idea to successful project. The projects ranged from small amounts of funding to carry out improvements to building completely new buildings. Examples of successful support include Sparkford Parish Council. They have an opportunity to create a new community building to replace their small village hall. We carried out a community consultation to give them evidence of the need in the parish to help with the design for the new facility and to inform funding bids. The next stage will be creation of a plan for the facility, writing a business plan, seeking planning permission and then writing funding bids. As and when they need additional support during the process we can assist or signpost them to appropriate professional support.

Smart Communities Ltd

CCS has a wholly owned trading subsidiary; Smart Communities Ltd. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has its own Board of Directors; who in the reporting year were Gary Francis (Chair), Penny James, Julian Lomas, Peter Gunner and Paula Protheroe (Penny, Peter and Paula are also trustees and directors of CCS).

When Smart Communities Ltd was formed, the CCS consultancy team were seconded to it to deliver consultancy projects such as those described below. During 2021/2022 all staff in the Smart Communities Ltd team moved to joint contracts.

The Smart Communities Ltd team comprises the Manager, two Business Development officers, two Community Buildings officers, two Community Advisors, and a Social Enterprise Project officer.

The Smart Communities website was launched in November 2021. www.smartcommunities.online. The purpose of the website is to share the breadth of the work of the team and to increase the number of new customers as most of our work either comes from existing customers or by recommendation.

Larger Consultation projects

We were commissioned to carry out consultations with specific communities and over larger geographic areas including:

Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) commissioned Smart Communities Ltd (SCL) to undertake research to gain an understanding about the barriers ethnically diverse communities encounter in accessing services and community views on what they would like to see in place to remove barriers. The focus of the research was on housing, benefits, Council tax & revenues, and general access (i.e. visiting Council Offices). The council are now working to implement the recommendations from this report and also feed this learning into the new unitary authority.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

2.3 Enterprise

Social Enterprise

Smart Communities has created the Somerset Social Enterprise Network, this was launched in January 2020 and now has over 281 members, (223 full members, 35 aspiring/new social enterprises and 23 supporters of the sector and anchor institutions (71 members recruited in the last 12 months). There are at least one meeting every month which are a mix of peer networking and training. There is also a monthly bulletin which is mailed to the members and the wider database of over 600 social enterprises. Smart Communities are partners in the Somerset Social Entrepreneurs Programme along with the School for School Entrepreneurs, Spark Somerset and Somerset Community Foundation. This has drawn over £600k of support for social enterprises into Somerset, this has been in match trading loans, training programmes, events and one to one support and has included support to develop both decarbonisation plans and innovation plans.

Community Buildings,

Community Buildings and Village Halls offer a common space where a wide range of social activities can support the local area and residents, thereby strengthening communities. Managed by volunteer committees, our role is vital in supporting these volunteers with many issues including legislation, funding, best practice and much more. To keep our halls up to date we distributed regular newsletters and bulletins, provided advice and support and ran training events on topics including Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), Trustees roles and responsibilities, fundraising, planning a new development, and Safeguarding. We also ran regular sessions of the Covid rules and their impact on hall management very regularly throughout the pandemic.

Hallmark resumed this year, 12 halls achieved Hallmark awards, there were 5 renewals and 7 new awards.

The annual Communities buildings conference took place at Holford Village Hall in October and was also available online.

Over the year there were 14 online events and 2 in person events covering a wide variety of topics including safeguarding, trustee's roles and responsibilities, fire safety, celebrating the arts and fundraising as well as updates on Covid rules and implications for halls.

We also launched a new project in January 2022 called "Future Environmental Proofing for Community Buildings". This project has proved very popular with large numbers of trustees attending training events and requesting environmental audits. 3 events were run between January and March 2022 and had very high levels of attendance and views of the recording. 4 halls have completed DIY energy audits and 4 have had a professional energy audit undertaken by an energy consultant. We will be seeking additional funds to expand this project.

Communications

In November of 2021, saw the launch of the new Smart Communities website www.smartcommunities.online. This highlights the consultancy service which stands alongside the work of CCS and clearly shows the relationship between CCS and Smart Communities as its trading arm. The new site clearly shows the areas of work, offers, and resources available in Somerset and the South West. This includes several new pages: Blog, vacancies, and events page and a complete range of separate social media channels which are growing steadily.

CCS Social Media channels have continued to grow. Our Facebook likes have increased, although not as dramatically as the year before, with a further 358 new followers which is an 18% increase. Instagram has grown from 830 to 1005 which is a 21% increase.

The CCS website has remained consistent with over 22,400 unique visitors to the site, 900 more than the previous year. We have seen a decrease in referrals coming from Facebook which have reduced by half. This is likely due to several factors; a reduction following the pandemic as our lives are returning to the new normal and now our activities are not all online but some are face-to-face. Our levels of activity have dropped in some areas with fewer Talking Café Lives, and less urgent responses to Covid-19 related work. Our top-performing web pages are Vacancies, Somerset Diverse Communities and Community Buildings Members pages. Both the Community Buildings member area and Somerset Diverse Community pages were a vital support to our community groups and provide links to useful translated information so it isn't surprising that these are in the top three performing pages.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Somerset Agents

The Somerset Agents website had 18,105 individual visitors – a significant increase of 37%. The top pages in this period were identical to the 20/21 period: Find An Agent, Somerset Village Agents, & Talking Cafes. Ongoing training being given to Agents to upskill them on social media use to help push out messages and direct people to our websites. Traffic was mainly from organic searches, then direct link, then referrals, with the top 3 referrals coming from the main CCS website, then Somerset Community Connect and the county council websites. From socials, the main referral route to the website is Facebook.

Talking Cafe

2021/22 saw a reduction in the number of live sessions taking place each week, dropping from five to three in May '21, then to once per week from September 2021

104 Talking Cafes Facebook/YouTube live sessions took place during 2021/22 and have had 81,869 views, with 758 daily average views. The top 10 viewed session during the year were:

DATE	LOCALITY	VEWS	TOPIC/GUEST	AGENT HOST
29-Jun	Taunton Deane	3700	Growing Minds	Mickey Scott
01-Jul	Home First	3000	2 Generations	Kizzy Marshall
15-Dec	Taunton Deane	2500	How the Fire Service can help you at home	Carrie Corfe
2-Mar	Hospital Team	2300	Get Outside in Somerset	Debi Slaiter & Emily Janas
17-Nov	Mendip	2100	Gambling & Kids	Bella Lapwood
12-Aug	South Somerset	2000	Ilminster Health Walks	Ellie Brunt
26-Aug	South Somerset	1900	Somerset Wildlife Photography	Jo Robinson
17-Jun	South Somerset	1900	Somerset Waste	Wendy Rudd
13-Oct	Home First	1800	Technology for Dementia with Debi	Debi Slaiter
16-Jun	Mendip	1700	Solar Energy & Grants for Renewable Energy	Melanie Kelly

Since launching in May 2020, there have been a total of 407,437 views, with a daily average of 1,192 views. The Facebook following growth has slowed since life has returned to normal and less people are tuning in, growing 14% to 1,226 page likes. Visits to the Talking Café website pages: 4001 – a huge 50% increase – mainly due to the venues opening again and people visiting to find their local Talking Café.

Somerset Carers

The Somerset Carers website had 13,774 unique visitors in 2021/22 – a 20% increase on 2020/21. The most popular pages are Micro-providers, What's On in Your Area and, pleasingly, the Carers Hub – which took over from What's on pages in November as a one-stop searchable database for Carers, which includes training, courses, respite, support services and much more. The main source of traffic was from organic searches, then direct link. The main referral route to the website from social media is Facebook. The social media following on Facebook has had a 28% increase to 410 page likes & Twitter has grown to 483 followers, an increase of 20%. Reach and engagement levels show a 2% - 10% increase respectively, with significant spikes of interaction around the special events such as Carers Week, Carers Rights Day and other targeted events such as Carer focussed Talking Cafes. Paid advertising is probably the way forward to reach outside of the existing pool to increase awareness and planned social media 'Thunderclap' days where we ask all partners, staff etc to all raise awareness of the service on the same day. Looking forward this will start during Carers Week on 6th June, as although it is good to see numbers growing, we are still only reaching a very small percentage of Carers in Somerset directly. Upcoming projects include a new Carers Pack that will be available in print form at Hospitals and GP practices, a Carer Aware campaign working with local businesses to be more Carer friendly to staff and customers, and a Carers Passport for discounts and other perks that are specifically for Carers to benefit from. This will hopefully encourage more people to register with the service.

The Carers website has undergone a large restructure and update of content, making it a much better, user-friendly experience. Hopefully, this will show in the stats in months to come.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) has continued to grow its audience with a new Podcast channel with regular podcasts covering a wide range of topics. From April 2021 – to March 2022, the SDC Facebook page followers have steadily increased from 794 – to 944. SDC continues to be a vital link and connecting communities and contributed to the CCS Ukrainian refugee crisis by creating the Ukrainian Language connect service to help anyone from the Ukraine arriving in Somerset improve their spoken English. This will be supported with a webpage coming soon.

Highlights in the year were:

- Somerset Village Agents are supporting Somerset County Council with Ukrainian Refugee Welfare checks – the social media post was our most successful post of the year reaching 7,737 individuals.
- Agents: Christmas Event Listings once again proved popular

Somerset Food Resilience – Agents and Smart Communities continued to support Somerset to secure food to reach the most vulnerable. The task force has delivered food and set up community-based food storage to help those in need. This ended on 31/03/21 and in total we distributed 1,355,050 food items.

Frontline workers day on the 5th July – arranged for a huge sand mural to be made in honour of our team and colleagues we work with across ASC and the NHS https://fb.watch/dfquFJ_xei/

Rehome a Phone and the Bike projects social media campaigns resulted in donations and uptake by people in need.

Community Connect event organised was very well attended and valued by all participants.

SDC – Launched the New Diverse Young Somerset group that created a survey. This is an important piece of research as young people from ethnic minority groups in Somerset were never asked about their experiences of discrimination relating to education and mental health.

SDC – New Interfaith & Belief worker joined the team to create a Somerset Network

Community Building – New Eco Project to support facilities to plan for NET Zero carbon emissions launched in January.

Community Buildings – series 11 Workshops and trainings.

Carers: Positive reception to the new Carers Hub.

Carers: The Raise your Hand video created for Carers Week was well received by professionals and the public. It is now showing in many GP practices thanks to Fiona's work with the Carers Champions.

Carers: Positive reaction to the new look Carers newsletter.

At least 9 interviews on local BBC radio & Glastonbury FM, and many of our CCS's 95th birthday, Young Diverse Somerset, Community Buildings, and Smart Communities work. We have kept a good relationship with the BBC, Glastonbury FM, Tone FM, ITV, and BBC Points West often contact us for information on what is happening in communities or signposting to a group.

SSEN – all SSEN content has moved over to the Smart Communities website with a new events page.

SSEN – promo seemed to work well in attracting the required numbers to events.

SSEN – Christmas Shopping Directory of Members

Links with other agencies

CCS's CEO attends regular Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) forum meetings and is a member of the advisory board helping to set strategy and direction. CCS enjoys excellent partnership relationships with the County Council, Somerset's CCG and other partners in health, social care and the third sector.

Organisational Changes

Following the departure of the Quality and Performance Manager in September 2020 further development of the Data Capture system and reporting to funders was allocated to Kristy Hirons to sit alongside her role of Agent Team Lead. From April 2022 she will be Data Manager full time, having relinquished her Team Lead role, and will concentrate on the development of the CCS group data capture and reporting.

Brigitte Kuipers became Operations Manager in November 2021.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Greg Rochester joined in April 2021 as Human Resources Manager and has made a positive impact, supporting the Senior Management Team and other staff with managerial responsibilities with training and development. He has introduced a staff SharePoint which is a one stop training and information area for all staff and trustees.

Matthew Byrne was appointed as Development Manager in June 2021.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our strategic focus for the forthcoming year does not differ to that of the last year and hence will remain as priorities in people, place and enterprise. CCS will examine closely what the future structure of the organisation should be. We will consolidate our existing projects and services to ensure high quality delivery and continue to build on the enhanced reputation we have created over the last 3 years. Therefore, our work will centre on the following themes:

CCS moved to larger office accommodation in Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton in May 2019, on a five year lease. As well as offering larger, more suitable working space, the office suite has a meeting room, storage space and breakout area. As Covid 19 restrictions eased during the year, the office space is being used more regularly, complying with national and internal restrictions.

3.1 People

Village, Community and Carers' Agents.

At year end funding for all agent posts was secured through to the end of 2022/23. In addition, during the year we secured funding for three new agent specialisms:

At year end funding for all agent posts was secured through to the end of 2022/23. In addition, during the year we secured funding for three new agent specialisms:

1. A Children and Families support agent, in the West Somerset opportunity area
2. A homelessness agent, in South Somerset.
3. Two enterprise agents – supporting new micro-providers across Somerset.

Agent training was improved during the year, with the introduction of new training opportunities around GDPR, HR and CCS policies; use of (the improved) QV system; and (from partners) use of Eclipse and RIO.

This will continue through 2022/23, with plans in place for training including trauma awareness and suicide prevention.

Finally, an evaluation of the agent service was undertaken and learning will be taken forward to further develop CCS and improve Agent Services over the next year.

Food Resilience

The Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce was set up during the pandemic. CCS's work (primarily at the Glastonbury 'warehouse') grew to include

- weekly donations of pallets of ambient food from FareShare and HIS Church;
- provision of food and support to community food groups countywide; and
- establishment of two large freezers to provide healthy pre-prepared meals.

By the end of March 2022 more than 1.3 million units of food had been distributed across Somerset. Although the distribution of food was stood down at that point, work around food resilience has been sustained. Overall, more than 50 groups have been supported with food and/or advice/funding to continue to operate independently.

Somerset Diverse Communities

We will continue to support groups to develop skills, deal with issues around governance and source funding. We will be focusing some of our efforts on helping new groups to develop from communities which have historically not had formal community support, such as the Ukrainian community. We are looking forward to the challenge of supporting and enabling large multicultural events to happen across the County, whether that is in person or online. We will continue to innovate to find new ways to support community groups to make things happen. Our Somerset Diverse Communities fund will again open to applications. We will also be welcoming Hinkley Point C workers and their families to the County. We are always looking for ways to integrate Hinkley Point C workers into the wider community in meaningful ways.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

We will continue our work with other organisations in preparing pre and post arrival support for refugees. We will expand the reach of our work and help to develop an Interfaith & Belief Network in Somerset. We will identify potential obstacles in accessing health services by ethnically diverse communities and deliver presentations about services available. We will look to work closer with statutory bodies and increase funding from these sources to enhance their understanding of ethnically diverse communities in Somerset.

3.2 Place

Smart Communities Ltd.

The Smart Communities team have delivered a wider range of projects and have demonstrated huge creativity about how to deliver them despite the covid restrictions. Smart Communities Ltd has been the vehicle for delivering consultancy services since 2018.

3.3 Enterprise

Community Buildings Support

CCS has continued to support and provide the advice service, delivering a number of training and networking events on topics. Due to the fast-changing situation due to the Covid rules and the impact on community building's ability to open and what services can be provided, we have provided a large number of webinars and bulletins to keep both members and non-members informed. We have also provided one-to-one support to hall trustees as required to interpret the rules for their situation. We also established and manage a very popular Facebook group for members which is great for sharing ideas and asking questions. For current information & updates visit: <https://ccslovesomerset.org/community-buildings/>

Communications and Marketing

Our communications and marketing team has spent this year adapting to a mixture of digital and face-to-face marketing activities. Our services and projects continue to adapt to living life with Covid-19 which can change very quickly from month to month. The new Canva account has firmly become the tool to create quick, fully accessible materials for the organisation, from professional HR documents, videos, and animations it has become the more dominant creative tool for the team.

In March 2022 the marketing team has grown with two new members working on the Somerset Enterprise Network advisor's project. Niki Torkington and Katie White share this work and have four hours each to support the day-to-day workload that Nicola and Hannah share. This will increase the marketing team ability and give more general coverage to our projects and services.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association (updated and agreed September 2011), Amended Articles of Association (adopted December 2020) and the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Charity Details

The full name of the charity is The Community Council for Somerset, Charity Number: 1069260.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Trustees

The Board Members who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Names	Title	Date of Appointment (Co-opted /Elected/ Re-elected)	Date of Resignation
Peter Claydon (Jim)	Chair	Re-elected 22 October 2020	Resigned as Chair 1 January 2022
Penny James	Chair	1 January 2022	
Peter Claydon (Jim)	Individual Trustee	From 1 January 2022	
Peter Gunner	Honorary Treasurer	Re-elected 22 October 2020	
Patrick Keating	Individual Trustee		22 April 2022
Rachel Syrett	Individual Trustee		22 June 2021
Eilleen Tipper	Individual Trustee		
Peter Fox	Individual Trustee		4 April 2022
Penny James	Individual Trustee	28 September 2021	
Kate Butler	Individual Trustee		
Paula Protheroe	Individual Trustee	7 December 2021	

Chief Executive: Keeley Rudd

Company Secretary: Keeley Rudd

Registered Office: Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

Bankers: Santander, 62 High Street, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 1JB

Auditors: A.C. Mole, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Community Council for Somerset was incorporated on 1 April 1998, and is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended 20th September 2011.

On 3 December 2020, a General Meeting of Members was held at which amended Articles of Association were adopted, changing to a Foundation model of Governance.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, Company Number: 3541219.

Membership

Membership of the company is by application to the office and will involve a guarantee for a contribution of £1 in the event of a shortfall of assets on winding up.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM one third of the Trustees who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office. Unless notified in writing by the Trustee, the date of appointment of a new Trustee is taken as the date of resignation of the previous Trustee. The Chair is nominated from existing Trustees where possible, but if there are no interested candidates then this would be advertised externally. The Chair's role was advertised externally and Penny James, previously a Trustee, was appointed. The other candidate joined the Board as a Trustee.

The President

The General Meeting is empowered to elect a President, who may elect to be a trustee as a result of being so elected.

Policies and Procedures for the Recruitment, Selection, Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustee vacancies are advertised on the CCS website and through social media, and we use a website to match with volunteer Trustees. Potential candidates first meet with the Chief Executive then have an interview with the Chair and one other Trustee. They are invited to meet other Trustees either as an observer at a Board meeting or at a more informal event. There is a person specification for Trustees and tailored versions for the Chair and Honorary Treasurer. An application form is submitted and considered by the Board. The decision to co-opt a new Trustee is put to the Board to vote.

The procedure for the induction of new trustees includes providing a comprehensive induction pack at their first meeting which includes key Community Council and charity and company documents. They also meet other members of staff, and receive information about entitlement to and reimbursement of any approved expenses incurred in undertaking the role of a Board member. Trustees' skills audits are periodically undertaken.

Management arrangements

The Board delegate day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The staffing and pay structure and framework adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations, was used during the year. For staff employed on projects salaries are set out in the bid for funding and any changes are agreed with the funder. A pay policy has been updated and approved by the Trustees.

The Board delegate day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The staffing and pay structure and framework adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations, was used during the year. For staff employed on projects salaries are set out in the bid for funding and any changes are agreed with the funder. A pay policy has been updated and approved by the Trustees.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

6.1 Income and Expenditure

During 2021/22 CCS secured a further three-year extension to continue delivering the Village Agents Service for the Somerset CCG contracted under the name SPLW. Community Agents, Home First Community Agents and those working with hospitals throughout Somerset to facilitate discharge have received funding to the end of March 2023. The total income has increased by 10.4% from £2,340,523 in 2020/21 to £2,583,523 in 2021/22. 93% of our funding comes from grant funding to deliver projects. Our funding from Defra through ACRE has remained at the same level and been approved for 2022/23. Consultancy income is now received through Smart Communities Ltd who contributed covenanted income of £18,887 during the year. Other income includes subscriptions, commission, bank interest and donations.

Total expenditure has increased by around 9% from £2,286,071 during 2020/21 to £2,491,113 in 2021/22. The majority of our costs are staff salaries for direct delivery which makes up 63% of expenditure. Unrestricted staff costs include those of the Consultancy team and the Chief Executive and her staff who provide support to the organisation. Support costs include overheads, such as rent. Grants made are awards distributed from funding provided by other organisations for individuals.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

6.2 Investment Performance

The CCS investment policy states that the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. We have little scope for reducing our costs and it is vital that we maintain the value of grants and income received in order to cover expenditure commitments for the duration of projects, and to deliver our charitable objectives. A significant proportion of our balances are being held to deliver projects over the next year or two and so we need to have regard to cash flow projections.

The £77,022 of investments (including the St Margaret's Fund) is currently invested in a CCLA COIF charities fixed interest fund. The value of these investments has reduced by £5,901 compared with the previous year. During 2021/22 CCS used Flagstone investment platform to place investments. This offers choice of interest rates and flexibility of investment term to ensure funds are invested to maximise interest while maintaining sufficient cashflow. The finance subcommittee approves investments and each individual investment is within the FSCS limit of £85,000 per financial institution.

6.3 Reserves

The Community Council's policy is to "maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves (excluding the designated fund for project development) to cover redundancy, loss of grant income and operating costs for at least six months but not more than 12 months." The Trustees estimate this to be in the range of £200,000 and £400,000. This is to ensure that funds are not held unnecessarily when they could be used to help the Charity achieve its objectives, but also that the Charity is financially sustainable and viewed as a 'going concern'.

CCS's total reserves have decreased by £86,509. Funds are held to deliver projects during 2022/2023.

Restricted reserves have increased from £682,970 in 2020/21 to £757,292 in 2021/22 which is due to grant funding received or accounted for in advance to deliver projects.

Designated reserves have decreased from £189,844 to £109,699 in 2021/22. The Carers' Agent designated fund has decreased to £105,335 which will be spent on delivering support to unpaid Carers over the remainder of the agreement.

Unrestricted reserves have increased from £324,626 to £416,998, however it should be noted that this includes the St Margaret's fund which is yet to be designated by the Trustees. The balance of unrestricted reserves would be sufficient to cover unrestricted expenditure for up to one year.

The Board of Trustees reviews finance and policy issues in detail at Board Meetings which are held five times a year. They receive up to date management accounts at each meeting summarising the actual costs and year end projections for each project and fund. The budget is approved at the start of the year and variances are highlighted during the year.

6.4 Risk

The Community Council Board has identified the key risks facing the organisation and has produced a risk register. Risks are RAG rated and the probability and impact are assessed as high, medium or low. Risk owners have been identified for all risks and mitigating action has been considered and documented. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting to consider whether the assessments have changed, whether mitigating action is still appropriate, and to identify any new and emerging risks. CCS is currently reviewing its Risk Management Policy and developing a group risk register. The latest risk register reviewed in March 2022 highlighted the following 'red' risks;

Insufficient staff capacity

Loss of key members of staff

Withdrawal of funding

During the year the Covid 19 impact was clearly identified as a serious risk both in terms of impact on staff health and wellbeing and capacity but also the potential for lost revenue due to statutory commissioners prioritising support for people. The reality was in fact the opposite and CCS secured considerable additional funding due to the nature of our support for vulnerable people. The Covid 19 situation remains a potential "red" risk however and the senior managers and Trustees keep this under constant review.

The Community Council for Somerset Trustees' Report (continued)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

Company law requires the Trustees 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 group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 27.9.22 and signed on its behalf by:



Penny Anne James
Chair

**The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Community Council for Somerset (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2022, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet, Consolidated 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and parent charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including 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.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group 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 other 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

**The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset (continued)**

Opinion 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 Trustees' Report Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charitable company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the (set out on page), the trustees 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 trustees determine 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 either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

**The Community Council for Somerset
Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of The Community Council for
Somerset (continued)**

We considered the following when identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement due to irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- the legal and regulatory framework in which the group operates
- the nature of the sector in which the group operates
- the control environment and controls established to mitigate such risks
- the results of our enquiries of management about their identification and assessment of risks of irregularities
- discussions with the audit engagement team about where fraud might occur
- the incentives for fraud.

Laws and regulations which are considered to be significant to the group include those relating to the requirements of financial reporting framework FRS102, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, UK tax legislation, employment law and health and safety. In addition we consider other laws and regulation which may not directly impact the financial statements but may impact on the operation of the group.

As a result of these procedures we concluded, in accordance with International Auditing Standards, that a risk in relation to the potential for management override of controls existed.

Audit responses to risks identified

We undertook audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, and designed our audit testing to respond to these risks. The additional procedures we undertook included the following:

- gaining an understanding of the group's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments
- considering whether accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias
- considering whether any transactions arose outside the normal course of business
- making enquiries of management
- corroborating our enquiries through review of Board Minutes and correspondence.

We also communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable parent company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the group's trustees 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 parent company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Alexandra Shore

.....
Alexandra Shore FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of A C Mole, Statutory Auditor

Stafford House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 2PX

Date: *27th September 2022*

The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income						
Donations	3	-	46	36,888	36,934	16,338
Charitable activities	4	130,098	377,222	1,901,525	2,408,845	2,203,904
Other trading activities	5	117,248	-	15,400	132,648	112,545
Investment income	6	5,062	34	-	5,096	5,877
Other income	7	-	-	-	-	1,859
Total income		<u>252,408</u>	<u>377,302</u>	<u>1,953,813</u>	<u>2,583,523</u>	<u>2,340,523</u>
Expenditure						
Raising funds	8	(21,483)	-	-	(21,483)	(13,344)
Charitable activities	9	<u>(132,597)</u>	<u>(457,477)</u>	<u>(1,879,556)</u>	<u>(2,469,630)</u>	<u>(2,272,727)</u>
Total expenditure		(154,080)	(457,477)	(1,879,556)	(2,491,113)	(2,286,071)
(Losses)/gains on investment assets		<u>(5,901)</u>	-	-	(5,901)	(1,144)
Net income/(expenditure)		92,427	(80,175)	74,257	86,509	53,308
Transfers between funds		<u>(65)</u>	-	65	-	-
Net movement in funds		92,362	(80,175)	74,322	86,509	53,308
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		<u>324,626</u>	<u>189,844</u>	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>
Total funds carried forward	22	<u>416,988</u>	<u>109,669</u>	<u>757,292</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 47 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022
(continued)
(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	3	2,748	-	13,590	16,338
Charitable activities	4	134,943	377,222	1,691,739	2,203,904
Other trading activities	5	97,335	-	15,210	112,545
Investment income	6	5,877	-	-	5,877
Other income	7	1,859	-	-	1,859
Total income		<u>242,762</u>	<u>377,222</u>	<u>1,720,539</u>	<u>2,340,523</u>
Expenditure					
Raising funds	8	(13,344)	-	-	(13,344)
Charitable activities	9	(149,810)	(343,894)	(1,779,023)	(2,272,727)
Total expenditure		<u>(163,154)</u>	<u>(343,894)</u>	<u>(1,779,023)</u>	<u>(2,286,071)</u>
Gains/(losses) on investment assets		<u>(1,144)</u>	-	-	<u>(1,144)</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>78,464</u>	<u>33,328</u>	<u>(58,484)</u>	<u>53,308</u>
Net movement in funds		78,464	33,328	(58,484)	53,308
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>246,162</u>	<u>156,516</u>	<u>741,454</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>
Total funds carried forward	22	<u>324,626</u>	<u>189,844</u>	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>


The notes on pages 25 to 47 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The Community Council for Somerset
(Registration number: 03541219)
Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	-	-
Investments	16	77,022	82,923
Current assets			
Debtors	17	128,477	264,819
Cash at bank and in hand	18	<u>1,246,180</u>	<u>1,001,131</u>
		1,374,657	1,265,950
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>(164,696)</u>	<u>(138,143)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,209,961</u>	<u>1,127,807</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,286,983	1,210,730
Defined pension benefit scheme		<u>(3,034)</u>	<u>(13,290)</u>
Net assets		<u><u>1,283,949</u></u>	<u><u>1,197,440</u></u>
Funds of the group:			
Unrestricted funds			
General Funds		416,988	324,626
Designated Funds		<u>109,669</u>	<u>189,844</u>
Total unrestricted funds		526,657	514,470
Restricted funds		<u>757,292</u>	<u>682,970</u>
Total funds	22	<u><u>1,283,949</u></u>	<u><u>1,197,440</u></u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements on pages 20 to 47 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 29.10.22 and signed on their behalf by:


 Penny Anne James
 Chair

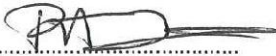

 Mr Peter John Gunner
 Trustee


The Community Council for Somerset
(Registration number: 03541219)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	15	-	-
Investments		77,022	82,923
Current assets			
Debtors	17	219,956	335,911
Cash at bank and in hand	18	1,155,561	925,795
		<u>1,375,517</u>	<u>1,261,706</u>
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	19	<u>(165,556)</u>	<u>(133,899)</u>
Net current assets		<u>1,209,961</u>	<u>1,127,807</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		1,286,983	1,210,730
Defined pension benefit scheme		<u>(3,034)</u>	<u>(13,290)</u>
Net assets		<u>1,283,949</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted funds			
General Funds		416,987	324,626
Designated Funds		<u>109,669</u>	<u>189,844</u>
Total unrestricted funds		526,656	514,470
Restricted funds		<u>757,293</u>	<u>682,970</u>
Total funds	22	<u>1,283,949</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements on pages 20 to 47 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 27/9/22 and signed on their behalf by:


 Penny Anne James
 Chair


 Mr Peter John Gunner
 Trustee

**The Community Council for Somerset
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 March 2022**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash income		86,509	53,308
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	6	(5,096)	(5,877)
Revaluation of investments		<u>5,901</u>	<u>1,144</u>
		87,314	48,575
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	17	136,342	(96,310)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	19	(4,962)	5,880
Increase in deferred income		31,515	73,245
(Decrease) in defined benefit pension scheme liability		<u>(10,256)</u>	<u>(2,457)</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		239,953	28,933
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	6	<u>5,096</u>	<u>5,877</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		245,049	34,810
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		<u>1,001,131</u>	<u>966,321</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u><u>1,246,180</u></u>	<u><u>1,001,131</u></u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members, is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2022 the charity had 6 members.

The address of its registered office is:

Viney Court
Viney Street
Taunton
Somerset
TA1 3FB

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance and basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless stated otherwise within these notes. The 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Community Council for Somerset meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

Basis of consolidation

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communities Ltd, on a line by line basis. The "Group" heading within the balance sheet refers to the consolidated accounts of The Community Council for Somerset and Smart Communities Ltd.

In the parent company financial statements the investment in the trading subsidiary is accounted for at cost.

No statement of financial activities is presented for the charity as permitted by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The charity made a profit after tax for the financial year of £86,509 (2021 - profit of £53,308).

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the group's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the group.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Income and endowments

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and grants

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

If there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in place income from administration charges is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

Income from subscriptions is recognised in the period to which it relates.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities

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.

Grant provisions

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty about either the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories based on staff time spent on each activity as detailed in the notes.

Governance costs

Governance costs are included within support costs and comprise all costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include professional fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category expenditure for which it was incurred.

Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is, therefore, exempt from liability to taxation on its income and capital gains, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Minor additions costing below £1,500 are not capitalised.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture and equipment	20% pa on cost
Computer equipment	33% pa on cost

Fixed asset investments

Listed investments

Listed investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the period. The group does not acquire or use put options, derivatives or other complex financial instruments.

Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the statement of financial activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their opening carrying value or their purchase value if acquired subsequent to the first day of the financial year. Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the period end and their carrying value. Realised and unrealised investment gains and losses are combined in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Operating leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. In addition CCS participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by the Pensions Trust which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit basis.

Defined contribution scheme

Pension contributions in relation to defined contribution schemes are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Defined benefit scheme

As set out in note 20, CCS is unable to identify its share of net assets and liabilities of this scheme. Accordingly, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as incurred.

There is an agreed Deficit Recovery Plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS 102 CCS has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by CCS under this plan.

The unwinding of this discount is a finance cost.

Financial instruments

The group only enters into basic financial instruments that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities such as trade and other debtors and creditors together with loans to related parties. Debt instruments, such as trade debtors and creditors, are initially measured at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets 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 income statement.

Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income, and expenses.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The Trustees consider that there are no critical accounting estimates and judgements have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

3 Income from donations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations	46	36,888	36,934
Total for 2022	<u>46</u>	<u>36,888</u>	<u>36,934</u>
Donations	2,748	13,590	16,338
Total for 2021	<u>2,748</u>	<u>13,590</u>	<u>16,338</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities

	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted funds		
Surviving Winter - Somerset Community Foundation	29,681	46,000
Community Buildings - Somerset West and Taunton	2,700	-
Children & Families Project - Somerset County Council	26,766	-
Village Agents		
Big Lottery Fund Grant	-	122,123
Somerset County Council	-	41,000
Taunton Deane Borough Council	-	20,000
South Petherton Parish Council	10,257	10,257
Living Better Federation	8,875	35,375
Click Federation	-	99,400
Symphony	-	6,888
PCN	-	204,697
North Sedgemoor GP Federation	-	71,000
Macmillan	-	45,064
Taunton Federation	20,000	110,052
SPOC - Somerset Foundation Trust	25,000	-
Positive Lives Innovation Fund - Somerset County Council	13,415	-
Community Agents inc Home First - Somerset County Council	587,500	576,000
Interfaith & Belief - Somerset County Council	18,752	-
Food Resilience - Somerset County Council	67,948	-
Living Better WS	28,500	-
Health Inequalities SDC - Somerset County Council	14,000	-
Microenterprise Project - Somerset County Council (COMF funding)	173,000	-
SPLW		
Somerset County Council	604,702	-
Yeovil Social Prescribing Worker	54,792	-
Click Federation	74,117	-
Crisis Fund		
Grants on Behalf of Clients	11,568	13,329
Somerset County Council	-	60,000
Other	21,512	15,456
CCG Cancer Support		
Somerset NHS CCG - Living Beyond Cancer	71,000	-

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

4 Income from charitable activities (continued)

	2022 £	2021 £
BME Engagement		
Somerset Community Foundation - Hinkley	16,515	66,895
Somerset Community Foundation	-	27,634
Somerset County Council - Equality Innovation	5,000	-
SSDC	14,500	-
Somerset County Council	-	3,000
Other	1,425	7,082
Ubuntu	-	93,487
Transport Agent	-	17,000
	<u>1,901,525</u>	<u>1,691,739</u>
Unrestricted funds		
ACRE - NL Community Fund	1,000	1,000
Defra through ACRE	44,060	44,060
Consultancy BFEF	17,500	19,500
Good Neighbours	-	21,412
SWT - West Somerset Bike Project	-	7,044
Food Resilience Plan	-	6,000
Food Resilience Continuation Funding	12,000	-
Somerset Skills and Learning	18,854	12,167
Get Outside Campaign	2,500	-
SCF - Home Online	-	1,000
Sedgemoor DLA	6,000	-
CRF Match Funding	10,000	-
Home in Sedgemoor	-	1,000
VCSE	1,500	3,000
Sedgemoor District Council	-	6,000
SCF - Surviving Winter	5,500	2,760
Somerset West and Taunton	2,700	-
Diverse Communities	8,484	-
Covid-19 Business Support Grant	-	10,000
	<u>130,098</u>	<u>134,943</u>
Designated funds		
Carers		
Somerset County Council	<u>377,222</u>	<u>377,222</u>
	<u>377,222</u>	<u>377,222</u>
Total Income from charitable activities	<u><u>2,408,845</u></u>	<u><u>2,203,904</u></u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Events income	295	10	305
Membership subscriptions	-	15,390	15,390
Smart Communities Limited	116,953	-	116,953
Total for 2022	<u>117,248</u>	<u>15,400</u>	<u>132,648</u>
Membership subscriptions	-	15,210	15,210
Lettings	160	-	160
Smart Communities Limited	97,175	-	97,175
Total for 2021	<u>97,335</u>	<u>15,210</u>	<u>112,545</u>

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Interest received	5,096	-	5,096
Total for 2022	<u>5,096</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,096</u>
Interest received	5,877	-	5,877
Total for 2021	<u>5,877</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,877</u>

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Total for 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Other income	104	-	104
Covid-19 JRS Grants	1,755	-	1,755
Total for 2021	<u>1,859</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,859</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Trading subsidiary costs	<u>21,483</u>	<u>13,344</u>
	<u>21,483</u>	<u>13,344</u>

All trading subsidiary costs were unrestricted in 2022 and 2021.

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Activities Undertaken					
Directly		547,113	1,625,898	2,173,011	1,931,353
Grants to individuals		267	98,485	98,752	143,992
Allocated support costs	10	<u>42,694</u>	<u>155,173</u>	<u>197,867</u>	<u>197,382</u>
		<u>590,074</u>	<u>1,879,556</u>	<u>2,469,630</u>	<u>2,272,727</u>

**The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)**

10 Analysis of support costs (continued)

	BME Community Engagement £	CSG Cancer Support £	Macmillan £	Somerset Community Agents £	Village Agents £	Ubuntu £	PCN Village Agents £	Transport Agents £
General Office	4,552	823	1,889	35,533	28,404	1,177	11,713	1,866
HR	1,490	270	618	11,634	9,300	385	3,835	611
Audit & Accountancy	544	98	226	4,244	3,392	140	1,398	223
Subscriptions	451	82	187	3,521	2,815	117	1,159	185
IT	955	173	396	7,450	5,956	247	2,456	391
	<u>7,992</u>	<u>1,446</u>	<u>3,316</u>	<u>62,382</u>	<u>49,867</u>	<u>2,066</u>	<u>20,561</u>	<u>3,276</u>
						Taunton Federation £	Carers £	Total 2021 £
General Office						8,111	18,361	112,429
HR						2,656	6,012	36,811
Audit & Accountancy						969	2,193	13,427
Subscriptions						804	1,819	11,140
IT						1,701	3,850	23,575
						<u>14,241</u>	<u>32,235</u>	<u>197,382</u>

All costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff contracted hours to each activity.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

11 Grants paid in the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Surviving Winter	43,867	26,437
Crisis Fund	37,928	110,629
Food Resilience	13,256	-
Other	3,701	6,926
	<u>98,752</u>	<u>143,992</u>

12 Net income/expenditure

Net income for the year includes:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration		
Audit fees	5,322	7,194
Accountancy fees	4,722	6,234
Other services	360	-
	<u>10,404</u>	<u>13,428</u>

13 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the group during the year (2021: £Nil).

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses from the charity during the year (2021: £Nil).

14 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	1,800,968	1,622,276
Social Security Costs	149,074	131,705
Pension Contributions	62,679	55,241
	<u>2,012,721</u>	<u>1,809,222</u>

The average number of staff during the year was 87 (2021:78).

There are no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 (2021: none).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive, the Development Manager, the Operations Manager, Human Resources Manager, the Finance Manager and Smart Communities Manager. Total remuneration of key management was £250,043 (2021:£227,291).

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

15 Tangible fixed assets

Group	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Charity			
	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>22,355</u>	<u>56,116</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Fixed asset investments

Group

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund

	Total £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 April 2021	82,923
Revaluation	<u>(5,901)</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>82,923</u>

Subsidiaries

Smart Communities Ltd (company no 11480430) was incorporated on 24 July 2018 as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Community Council for Somerset. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by guarantee with the parent charity holding 100% of the voting rights of the subsidiary trading company. The principal activities of the company was that of a consultancy company. The trading subsidiary gift aids it's taxable profits to The Community Council for Somerset. The registered office is Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB.

	2022 £	2021 £
Turnover	127,581	97,175
Administrative expenses	<u>(108,694)</u>	<u>(61,823)</u>
	<u>18,887</u>	<u>35,352</u>
Current assets	111,614	76,346
Current liabilities	<u>(111,614)</u>	<u>(76,346)</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above results of Smart Communities Ltd are included in the consolidated accounts of the group.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

16 Fixed asset investments (continued)

Charity

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund

	Total £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 April 2021	82,923
Revaluation	<u>(5,901)</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2022	<u>77,022</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>82,923</u>

17 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Smart Communities Ltd	-	-	18,886	30,263
Prepayments	12,239	7,209	12,239	6,278
Accrued income	1,725	61,062	-	61,062
Other debtors	114,513	196,548	188,831	238,308
	<u>128,477</u>	<u>264,819</u>	<u>219,956</u>	<u>335,911</u>

18 Cash and cash equivalents

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Santander	554,295	718,556	463,676	643,220
CCLA	79,430	79,396	79,430	79,396
CAF	100,943	203,179	100,943	203,179
Flagstone Investment	511,512	-	511,512	-
	<u>1,246,180</u>	<u>1,001,131</u>	<u>1,155,561</u>	<u>925,795</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

19 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	22,772	11,965	29,148	11,965
Other taxation and social security	919	498	919	498
VAT	4,861	3,627	-	-
Accruals	18,454	35,878	17,799	35,261
Deferred income	117,690	86,175	117,690	86,175
	<u>164,696</u>	<u>138,143</u>	<u>165,556</u>	<u>133,899</u>

Grants received in advance

	2022 £	2021 £
	Opening balance	86,175
Resources deferred in the period	117,690	86,175
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(86,175)</u>	<u>(12,930)</u>
Balance as at year end	<u>117,690</u>	<u>86,175</u>

20 Pension and other schemes

Defined benefit pension schemes

The charity participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to identify its share of assets and liabilities of the scheme to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme and it therefore accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the total scheme was carried out at 30 September 2020. This valuation showed assets of £800.3m, liabilities of £831.9m and a deficit of £31.6m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall participating employers have been asked to pay additional contributions to the scheme. The estimated present value of the future contributions required from the charity over the next six years to meet its share of the deficit is £3,034 (2021: £13,290) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 2.35% (2021: 0.66%) based on a full AA corporate bond yield. The resulting expense is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore, the charity is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

If there were no members in the scheme the employer's liability would become due for payment. This was last estimated on 30 September 2019 at a cost of £51,851. The charity currently has 73 members in a connected defined contribution scheme. If all members left the scheme there would be a 12 month grace period to find new members before the employer's liability becomes due.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

20 Pension and other schemes (continued)

	2022 £	2021 £
Provision at 1 April	13,290	15,747
Unwinding of discount figure	77	354
Deficit contributions paid	(3,363)	(3,265)
Remeasurement - impact of any change on assumptions	(70)	454
Remeasurement - amendments to the contribution schedule	(6,900)	-
	<u>3,034</u>	<u>13,290</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

21 Commitments

Capital commitments

The group had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2022 £	2021 £
Within one year	4,084	21,312
Due one to five years	-	4,084
	<u>4,084</u>	<u>25,396</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

22 Funds - Group & Charity

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted	<u>324,626</u>	<u>252,408</u>	<u>(154,080)</u>	<u>(65)</u>	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>416,988</u>
Designated						
Carers' Agents	185,544	377,268	(457,477)	-	-	105,335
Project Development	<u>4,300</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,334</u>
	<u>189,844</u>	<u>377,302</u>	<u>(457,477)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>109,669</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>514,470</u>	<u>629,710</u>	<u>(611,557)</u>	<u>(65)</u>	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>526,657</u>
Restricted funds						
Village Agents	112,533	19,132	(87,197)	(10,628)	-	33,840
Surviving Winter	30,208	29,681	(43,867)	-	-	16,022
Diversly	71,776	52,361	(79,845)	-	-	44,292
Ubuntu	73,948	-	(77,958)	4,010	-	-
Adult Social Care Community Hub	179,545	587,500	(593,278)	-	-	173,767
Crisis Fund	-	55,047	(37,928)	-	-	17,119
Taunton Federation	57	20,000	-	-	-	20,057
Transport Agent	4,821	-	(13,314)	8,493	-	-
Macmillan Agent	10,901	-	(175)	(1,810)	-	8,916
Community Buildings	34,781	18,100	(21,783)	-	-	31,098
CCG Cancer	6,013	71,000	(69,731)	-	-	7,282
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	36,075	-	(1,536)	-	-	34,539
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	26,716	-	-	-	-	26,716
Food Resilience	-	67,948	(67,948)	-	-	-
Children and Families Project	-	26,766	(23,385)	-	-	3,381
Health Inequalities SDC	-	14,000	(6,527)	-	-	7,473
Interfaith and Belief	-	18,752	(11,061)	-	-	7,691
Living Better WS	-	28,500	(17,866)	-	-	10,634
Microenterprise Project	-	173,000	(6,124)	-	-	166,876
Positive Lives Innovation Fund	-	13,415	(10,050)	-	-	3,365
SPLW	77,236	733,611	(706,531)	-	-	104,316
SPOC	<u>-</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>(3,452)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21,548</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,953,813</u>	<u>(1,879,556)</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>757,292</u>
Total funds	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>2,583,523</u>	<u>(2,491,113)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,901)</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

22 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

Village Agents - The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three year grant to fund Village Agent work until 2021, and funding was also received from the Bernard Herridge Trust (Hastoe Group). During 2019/20 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.

Primary Care Network VAS - Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing models.

Surviving Winter - funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.

Diversity - BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county. They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.

Ubuntu - a test and learn project until December 2021 to support High Intensity users in acute hospital A&E departments.

Adult Social Care Community Hubs -funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2021.

Crisis Fund - Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.

Taunton Federation - funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices.

Transport Agent - funded by SCC West Somerset Opportunities Area grant to develop transport solutions in West Somerset.

Macmillan Agent - a project to employ a specialist Agent to work with Macmillan and its volunteers, supporting individuals affected by a cancer diagnosis and their families in Mendip and South Somerset.

Community Buildings support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

22 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

CCG Cancer - funded by the CCG to support individuals and their families affected by cancer.

The **Somerset Society Fund** represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives.

The **Village Hall Loan Fund** represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.

Digital Engagement - funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will be promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.

The **Mendip Car Scheme** is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.

Transform Ageing - this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.

Mental Health Agents - a one year project funded by the CCG covering Sedgemoor and West Somerset, employing specialist Agents to support individuals with Mental Health conditions, referred by GPs.

Food Resilience - funding from SCC to support individuals in need during the pandemic with emergency food supplies and to give grants to community food groups to enable them to source sustainable solutions.

Children & Families Project - one year test and learn project in West Somerset, supporting Families at risk, in liaison with local schools.

Health Inequalities SDC - working with minority groups in Somerset to look at health inequalities with particular focus on Mental Health, Sexual Health, Domestic Violence and Vaccine engagement.

Interfaith and Belief - to establish an Interfaith forum in Somerset with the aim of fostering community cohesion between faith groups, understand the role faith and belief groups have in times of crisis, support faith groups supporting people affected by Covid and to map faith groups in Somerset.

Living Better WS - to provide Agent services in the Living Better Primary Care network in West Somerset.

Microenterprise Project - to address the backlog of people interested in becoming microproviders, to raise awareness of the microprovider project, align with Carers engagement work to build relationships.

Positive Lives Innovation Fund - test and learn project in South Somerset to support people who are either homeless, newly housed or are at risk of becoming homeless.

SPLW - previously Primary Care Network VAS but renamed during the year to SPLW (Social Prescribing Link Workers). Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.

SPOC (Single Point of Contact) - funding to support the Hospital Discharge Teams in the Acute hospitals, working with staff and agencies in those settings to support discharge of medically fit patients.

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

22 Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Other gains/ (losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
Unrestricted Funds	246,162	242,762	(163,154)	-	(1,144)	324,626
Designated						
Carers' Agents	152,216	377,222	(343,894)	-	-	185,544
Project Development	4,300	-	-	-	-	4,300
	<u>156,516</u>	<u>377,222</u>	<u>(343,894)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,844</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>402,678</u>	<u>619,984</u>	<u>(507,048)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,144)</u>	<u>514,470</u>
Restricted funds						
Village Agents	266,254	335,043	(490,082)	1,318	-	112,533
Primary Care Network VAS	-	275,697	(198,461)	-	-	77,236
Surviving Winter	10,795	46,000	(26,587)	-	-	30,208
Diversity	40,018	104,812	(73,054)	-	-	71,776
Ubuntu	-	93,487	(19,539)	-	-	73,948
Adult Social Care Community Hub	208,373	576,000	(604,828)	-	-	179,545
Crisis Fund	12,225	99,474	(111,699)	-	-	-
Taunton Federation	26,896	110,052	(136,891)	-	-	57
Transport Agent	35,035	17,000	(47,214)	-	-	4,821
Macmillan Agent	-	45,064	(34,163)	-	-	10,901
Community Buildings	38,994	17,910	(22,123)	-	-	34,781
CCG Cancer	20,000	-	(13,987)	-	-	6,013
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	36,374	-	(299)	-	-	36,075
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Transform Ageing	26,716	-	-	-	-	26,716
Mental Health Agents	1,414	-	(96)	(1,318)	-	-
	<u>741,454</u>	<u>1,720,539</u>	<u>(1,779,023)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>682,970</u>
Total funds	<u>1,144,132</u>	<u>2,340,523</u>	<u>(2,286,071)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,144)</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>

The Community Council for Somerset
Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

23 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group & Charity

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	77,022	-	77,022
Current assets	444,982	929,675	1,374,657
Current liabilities	(47,005)	(117,691)	(164,696)
Provisions	(3,034)	-	(3,034)
Total net assets	<u>471,965</u>	<u>811,984</u>	<u>1,283,949</u>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	82,923	-	82,923
Current assets	505,680	760,270	1,265,950
Current liabilities	(60,843)	(77,300)	(138,143)
Provisions	(13,290)	-	(13,290)
Total net assets	<u>514,470</u>	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET

England & Wales - Charity number 1069260

Accounts

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR SOMERSET
CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED – 31 MARCH 2021
CHARITY NUMBER: 1069260
COMPANY NUMBER: 03541219

Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

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The Community Council for Somerset is a Company limited by Guarantee,
Registered in England & Wales No. 03541219, and is a Registered Charity No. 1069260



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OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY AND PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objects ("the Objects") are as follows: -

- "To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in the administrative County of Somerset and in particular the advancement of education, the protection of health and the relief of poverty and distress and physical and mental sickness and disability."
- In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise the Charity may exercise the following powers to:
- promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to bring together representatives of the voluntary organisations and statutory authorities engaged in the furtherance of the above purpose within the area of benefit;
- draw, make, accept, endorse, discount, execute and issue promissory notes, bills, cheques and other instruments, and to operate bank accounts in the name of the Charity;
- raise funds and to invite and receive contributions: provided that in raising funds the Charity shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant statutory regulations;
- acquire, alter, improve and (subject to such consents as may be required by law) to charge or otherwise dispose of property;
- employ such staff, who shall not be directors of the Charity (hereinafter referred to as "the trustees"), as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payments of pensions and superannuation to staff and their dependents;
- establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects;
- co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- pay out of the funds of the Charity the costs, charges and expenses of and incidental to the formation and registration of the Charity;
- do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

1.1 The Charity's vision, mission, aims and values are:

Vision - Vibrant, viable and resilient Somerset communities with healthy, happy people and strong, sustainable enterprises.

Mission - To inspire and enable Somerset's people, community organisations and enterprises to take action to build vibrant, viable and resilient communities.

Aims

- Strengthen **communities**
- Innovate and encourage **enterprise**
- Support and serve **people**
- Tackle **disadvantage**

Values

- Giving a voice to everyone in the community
- Fairness and courtesy to all
- Flexible and adaptable
- Transparent and accountable
- Impartial, trustworthy, confidential and friendly
- Adopting the highest possible standards in all that we do
- Working with partners and sharing best practice
- Investing in the development and well-being of employees

1.2 Public Benefit

In planning our activities, the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. In particular, these activities meet our charitable objects as described above.

1.3 Review of Activity

- The 2020/21 financial year was again a year of growth, although somewhat slower than previous years with employee numbers increasing by 9%. The organisation was faced with new challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic, subsequent lockdowns and restrictions for much of the year. We were forced to adopt new ways of working and delivering our services to Clients and Communities. Our income has increased by 16% this year - £324,674. We have maintained our robust full cost recovery model to ensure that project funding adequately covers the essential core organisation functions and to enable good governance practice.

CCS continues to be seen as an innovator and trusted partner in service delivery enabling new ways of working in person-centred support.

With a mix of Village, and Community Agents CCS now has full county-wide coverage which has been our ambition since launching Village Agents back in 2012. A total of 60 Agents now work to support Somerset's vulnerable and isolated people and discussions have been taking place over the last year to secure longer term funding from both County Council and Health commissioners. We have also developed a number of specialisms and have been agile in working with partners to trial new ways of working particularly over the last extremely difficult year. These include work with people with Learning Disabilities, Mental Health and high intensity users of both primary and secondary care, presenting with non-medical issues.

During the pandemic, in order to maintain our support, we moved quickly to implement a new, full call-centre system to enable all staff to move to full online working. We introduced a web contact form to enable both professionals and individuals to contact us seamlessly using a single point of access. This enabled us to manage demand effectively and since March 2020 we have delivered over 75,000 community support activities to include medication sourcing and distribution and food distribution in particular. CCS Agents managed the County Council's Food Resilience Task Force – manning a warehouse and freezer depot to ensure that over 500,000 units of food were redistributed via community groups to people who needed it.

The CCS Strategic Plan will be refreshed in late 2021 following a series of visioning sessions with all staff and trustees across the CCS group, which were held late in 2020. However, the priorities remain almost identical to those of the previous year.

The main areas of focus will be:

- Building on the very successful re-launch of the Community Buildings and Village Halls advisory service which proved to be needed more than ever during the pandemic.
- Continued county-wide coverage for our full range of Agent services (reshaped as necessary to respond to the changing funding mix for these services).
- Expansion of our specialist services including:
 - Supporting more communities of interest across a range of equalities issues.
 - Significant growth in earned income from consultancy through Smart Communities Ltd, our wholly owned trading subsidiary
 - Further support for emerging social enterprise and entrepreneurs through developing a Countywide Social Enterprise Network and a series of workshops and events for this sector and through the expansion of the Somerset Micro-Enterprise programme.

The current CCS Strategic Plan covers 2018 – 2021 with a broad strategic focus centering on People, Places and Enterprise. This is supported with an Implementation Plan. The strategy establishes our key priorities as;

Grow our reach into, and impact for, communities across Somerset

- We have secured funding for Village, Community and Carers Agents over the whole county. During the year we consulted staff, stakeholders and clients on the delivery model which then resulted in Carers Agents being renamed as Village Agents in order to simplify the referral process and adopt

a "One family, one Agent" approach. This includes full-time staff based at Musgrove Park Hospital and Yeovil District Hospital as well as staff working closely with 13 community-based hospitals to support hospital discharge. A test and learn project started in January 2021 in conjunction with A&E departments.

- Funding from the Hinkley Community fund continued for Somerset Diverse Communities whose BAME Community Engagement support groups and communities to develop, as well as provide learning opportunities for individuals.
- We continued to support organisations with business plans and funding bids to enable their new community projects to happen.
- Our Community Buildings Officers supported Village Halls to adapt to the changes brought about by the Pandemic and its restrictions. Membership increased as a result of the support available.
- The Transport Village Agent in West Somerset continued to support individuals to gain access to transport in the area, with particular emphasis on bicycles.

Diversify our funding base:

- Smart Communities Ltd continues to undertake consultancy work for an increasingly diverse range of clients and gifts any trading surplus to CCS as unrestricted income.
- Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) continued to expand and also diversify funding streams from Statutory sector partners in particular.
- We continue to promote the Love Somerset campaign to increase funds for the Rural Somerset Crisis fund and locality crisis funds. We also build in 'fix-it' funding to grants from funders to support individuals.
- Funding continued from Somerset County Council, Somerset CCG, Primary Care Networks and GP federations to deliver Agent services.
- Our Marketing and Communications Strategy including more effectively communicating our brand and developing a range of support materials for staff to use when articulating our offer was implemented along with innovative ways of advertising our services during lockdown.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our success is measured in a number of ways; for specific projects the outcomes and indicators are agreed with the funders and are regularly reported on in accordance with their requirements, along with case studies as examples. Defra require us to report on progress and achievements across a number of key themes on a quarterly basis. Feedback is sought from events held including training provided for Community Buildings workshops and Social Enterprise events. The Chief Executive reports on progress across the organisation to every Board meeting.

A set of bespoke outcomes and reporting requirements has been agreed with funders.

2.1 People

Village and Community Agents including Home First Hospital Discharge, Transport Agent, Macmillan Agent and SDC.

This year has seen a small growth in Agent services and new challenges brought about by a Global Pandemic which resulted in national lockdowns for much of the year. We grew to a total of 60 Agents including Team Leads in all locality areas. The Covid-19 Pandemic led to unprecedented numbers of clients requesting our service and agents had to find new ways of working due to national guidelines whilst keeping themselves and their clients safe. April 2020, the first full month of lockdown, saw 25,000 referrals to our agents, many around the need for food and medication. We were tasked by Somerset County Council to contact people who were considered especially vulnerable. Most of this was via telephone calls to check on people but where we had incorrect details we also mounted a face to face welfare check, by late Spring in this project we contacted over 9,000 people. We introduced a new telephony system which meant agents could answer the main phone line from their laptop or mobile. We introduced an online referral form for ease of referral, a triage system to make sure all referrals were allocated to an agent. Talking Cafes were closed so in May 2020 we introduced Talking Café Live Online. These covered various subjects from isolation, exercise, domestic abuse to more light hearted cooking and gardening. These attracted a regular online audience and were held daily at 11am.

Following each lockdown increasingly complex cases were referred. As lack of movement and increased isolation became more apparent for those who are vulnerable. Agents carried out detailed risk assessments before visiting a client.

The Acute Hospital team, Somerset County Council and The British Red Cross introduced a Single Point of Care as way of any staff member in Acute Hospitals, Community Hospitals, Discharge to Assess or Rapid Response referring into the VCSE sector any patient they feel needs help to get home or support once they are home. This removes any confusion on who to refer to and has been a great success with over 800 patients referred in the first 3 months.

The Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce was set up during the pandemic. This started off on quite a small scale but soon grew to include donations of pallets of ambient food from FareShare and HIS Church every week and Community Food groups from all over Somerset joining with us to make sure that no one in Somerset went hungry. We have also set up very large freezers in 2 locations in the County to get healthy frozen meals to those that need them. We have helped communities set up community pantries and freezers across the County. We took advantage of Somerset County Council facilities to run a warehouse. Local suppliers donated food to support our efforts.

The MacMillan Cancer support project continued for a second year and its success was recognised by the CCG who have now funded a further two posts for a year when the MacMillan funded project ended.

We executed a piece of work calling all of the carers we have dealt with to make sure they knew they were eligible for a vaccine and work with any barriers they had in getting the vaccine.

Carer's Service

The Somerset Carers Service continued to support unpaid Carers across Somerset. In adopting our Think Family approach alongside our new data capture system, we were able to more accurately report on our impact in terms of outputs and in identifying and supporting unpaid Carers. The pandemic has been a very hard time for carers, with respite facilities unavailable it has meant that people were very much stuck together 24 hours a day. We found creative ways to support people, for example putting together carers packs of 14 very good quality frozen meals so that the carer had a break from cooking for a week. The packs were provided by Thomas Franks Ltd. We also provided grants for carers to have a microprovider come to their home to give them a break and laundry services were organised for people.

We also moved from having dedicated Carers Agents as they were renamed Village Agents. Village Agents support unpaid carers and it was a logical progression to move to a "One Family, One Agent" approach to ensure no confusion or duplication. This move has been very well received by carers and partners alike.

Somerset Diverse Communities

Over the course of the pandemic, Somerset Diverse Communities has considerably expanded its impact and reach. We secured another year of funding from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund, distributed by Somerset Community Foundation, to continue to grow and develop. We increased the support we provide to BAME community groups, giving advice on structure and governance as well as supporting community groups to identify funding opportunities and write applications. We linked in with Smart Communities to deliver a 5-week series of workshops looking at everything from Mission and Values, to structure, to communications.

We successfully secured funds from Somerset Skills and Learning to deliver English classes across the County - expanding the provision previously provided. This year these have all had to move online but have provided learning opportunities that have been so vital when social isolation has meant that people have not been able to practice their English skills in the community. We have also developed a Language Connect programme, linking English speakers with people who want to improve their conversational English skills. This has been a really successful initiative and moved from a pilot to being fully rolled out.

We successfully secured emergency response funding from Somerset Community Foundation because of the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on ethnically diverse communities. We helped with home schooling – providing tutors to support families to understand home schooling requests, and children to ask questions, as well as writing a report to help schools understand how children with English as an Additional Language can be supported in the future if home schooling returned – which it unfortunately did.

This funding enabled us to get translated information out to communities, who were desperately seeking information. We also got communities involved in translating information – such as the roadmap to recovery – so this information could reach them in a timely way as translations were extremely slow in coming from Government.

We massively increased our reach in terms of online events with 2,677 choosing to attend our multicultural events and webinars in our last funding period. When lockdown happened, we quickly moved our provision online and helped ethnically diverse groups and individuals to do the same. We envisage a blended approach in the future, rolling out what we now know works well, but still keeping the very important face to face activities too.

We have developed and launched our own series of podcasts, looking at identity and giving people a platform to discuss their own diverse experiences of growing up, living or working in Somerset with a huge wide of ethnically diverse individuals.

We increased our multiagency working, so the statutory sector could better understand the impacts experienced by ethnically diverse communities by the pandemic and systemic discrimination. We supported Smart Communities to reach ethnically diverse communities in their research and have supported the development of their excellent offers.

We administered our small grants fund and secured additional funding to ensure we can continue to be able to deliver this in the future.

Surviving Winter Grants

CCS distributed payments to those individuals in need of 'Surviving Winter Grants'. These grants come from money kindly donated by people who receive the Winter Fuel allowance and allocated by Somerset Community Foundation. The grants are available for older people and it was extended this year to those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable in our communities, to ensure they stay warm and well during the winter months. We were allocated a further £46,000 from the Somerset Community Foundation in 2020/21. A total of **£ 26,437 (2020 £44,633)** was awarded in the period. The remaining funds will be distributed during 2021/22.

Rural Somerset Crisis Fund

This fund makes grants available to people and families in crisis situations. Funding comes from general donations received from organisations including W G Edwards Charitable Foundation and fundraising from events for example Somerset West Lottery, Local Giving and commission CCS receives from the oil buying scheme. We also receive grants from various organisations for specific individuals to purchase goods or services on their behalf. We were also giving grant funds from statutory bodies to deliver specific grant projects such as Boris Box food support. During 2020/21 there was a significant need for support and 630 grants were awarded to individuals and Community Groups totalling **£110,629 (2020 £18,023)** from these funds.

Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation

The Bishop Fox's Educational Foundation (BFEF) is administered by CCS. The aim of BFEF is to promote public benefit through the education (including social and physical training) of young people, aged 11-24 years through financial assistance. The Board of Trustees meets five times a year to consider grant applications for school uniform, academic and vocational studies, capital bids, educational travel, training courses and sporting expenses. Further information is available via www.bfef.org.uk and in the BFEF annual report and financial statements.

All 6 board meetings for 2020/21 took place via Zoom. Interim grant award decisions were agreed via email or phone.

Taunton Secondary schools were requested to apply for any additional IT support or other needs ahead of the January 2021 Board meeting, requests varied greatly from £40k to below £3k, and trustees kindly supported the full amounts requested, with the exception of one school, as the request was far in excess of the £10k awarded. Prior to this IT support grants of £5k per school, were awarded in May 2020 and £2k per school in Dec 2020 the latter, specifically for year 7 students. For 2020/21 c£77k was awarded in total to secondary schools for IT support, mainly used for laptops, chrome books, etc.

Other grants totalled c£72k including £5k bursary to CYMT, c£11k for uniform grants and £12k for year 1 (3 year pledge of £36k made) to Somerset Crimebeat Trust for their unlocking potential for Somerset programme.

Refunds totalling £1,800 were received for educational trips, which unfortunately didn't take place owing to the pandemic.

Oil Scheme

The Community Oil Scheme is a bulk-buying oil scheme which is being run by Community Councils throughout the country. We launched the scheme in September 2011 and AF Affinity now administers this service which offers a range of services for customers and the ability to pay in instalments.

For the £24 annual membership subscription for individuals, members can order with the scheme and buy together in bulk, saving money on the cost of their heating oil and helping to reduce fuel poverty and tackle disadvantage. There were 220 members of the scheme during the reporting period, 17 less than 2019/20.

2.2 Place

Community Projects

Smart Communities (also see below) have delivered projects to Communities in all parts of Somerset, urban and rural. This involved regular liaison with Town and Parish Councils, Social Enterprises, charities and community groups. This included advice on project planning, gathering evidence of need, community consultation, funding plans, bid writing, business plans and governance. This support enables a group or organisation to go from idea to successful project. The projects ranged from small amounts of funding to carry out improvements, to building completely new buildings. Examples of successful support include Otterhampton Village Hall, we have worked with them for a number of years to refurbish the building. We carried out extensive community consultation, then guided the trustees to create a business plan for the facility. We created a funding plan and then assisted the trustees to write bids to a variety of trusts and funder. These applications were successful and they have secured enough funds to complete the refurbishment which will be completed during the summer of 2021

Smart Communities Ltd

CCS has a wholly owned trading subsidiary; Smart Communities Ltd. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and has its own Board of Directors; who in the reporting year were Gary Francis (Chair), Penny James, Julian Lomas and Peter Gunner (who is also a trustee and director of CCS).

Since Smart Communities Ltd was formed, the CCS consultancy team have been seconded to it to deliver consultancy projects such as those described below.

The Smart Communities team has expanded to seven members of staff and now includes an Enhance Social Enterprise Officer, a Community Buildings Officer and two Business Development Officers.

Larger Consultation projects

We were commissioned to carry out consultations with specific communities and over larger geographic areas including:

- Consultation with vulnerable people who have been supported through Somerset County Council's services over many years. The purpose was to understand their experience. This project was commissioned before the Covid restrictions came into place and so we adjusted the delivery by using phone interviews and outdoor spaces for face-to-face interviews. The commissioner for this project was very pleased with the quality of the work done and the dedication demonstrated by the team.

2.3 Enterprise

Social Enterprise

Smart Communities has created the Somerset Social Enterprise Network, this was launched in January 2020 and now has 194 full members and 10 associate members. There are at least one meeting every month (currently all online due to Covid restrictions) which are a mix of peer networking and training. There is also a monthly bulletin, which is mailed to the members and the wider database of over 600 social enterprises.

Community Buildings

Community Buildings and Village Halls offer a common space where a wide range of social activities can support the local area and residents, thereby strengthening communities. Managed by volunteer committees, our role is vital in supporting these volunteers with many issues including legislation, funding, best practice and much more. To keep our halls up to date we distributed regular newsletters and bulletins, provided advice and support and ran training events on topics including Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIO), Trustees roles and responsibilities, fundraising, planning a new development, and Safeguarding. We also ran regular sessions of the Covid rules and their impact on hall management very regularly throughout the pandemic.

Due to Covid restrictions, the Hallmark scheme was put on hold for this year.

Due to the change in the constitution, Community Buildings members no longer have a vote, only the CCS trustees now can vote. However, the service they receive has not changed and there was renewed focus on an annual Community Buildings Conference (last year virtually).

Communications

This year we launched a brand-new website for CCS including new URL, www.ccslovesomerset.org, giving it a fresh modern look and linking in the 'back end' in a new multi-platform maintenance area, where information can be duplicated across multiple sites where needed, but only updated once, saving time and improving the accuracy of information on the site. Examples of this are in the Talking Café pages with the widgets containing the information. There were 23,108 visits to the visits to the CCS website during 2020–2021 which is a 20% increase compared to our previous year. Our top three visited pages were Vacancies, Members and About Us, which is a change away from Village Agents and Talking Cafes, which indicates that people are finding that information directly from the Somerset Agents website.

CCS Facebook growth from 918 'likes' in April 2020 to 1,817 at the beginning of April 2021, which is a 97% increase. We have been focusing our efforts to publicise our services, useful and informative information to support all members of Somerset's communities during the pandemic – across all services and linking back to the CCS website. We did have two paid for posts but with no huge increase – sharing into community groups directly and organic sharing has resulted in this increase.

The Somerset Agents website had 11,275 individual visitors from April 2020 – end March 2021 with an additional 1,490 visits to the Somerset Village Agents & Talking Café pages on the CCS site. The top pages in this period were: Find An Agent, Somerset Village Agents (About), Agent Call Back & Talking Cafes.

Talking Cafes: Views during the live sessions are still low but most views tend to occur later in the day and evening. HB has spent significant time setting up the new system, training and supporting Agents to use the software and in sharing the content across social media to ensure views are high at an average of 1,400 per Talking Café. They have been described as the 'This Morning for Somerset'. The most viewed Talking Cafes throughout the year have been on:

Date	Area	Views	Reach	Engagement	Topic
24/07/2020	South Somerset	7500	22000	133	Make Do and Mend
29/06/2020	West Somerset	6800	20043	456	Activities for Families
09/07/2020	Sedgemoor	6600	10839	924	Food Resilience in action
10/07/2020	South Somerset	5400	16307	531	Hospital Discharge
18/08/2020	Taunton	5300	19495	532	Red Robin Books

We currently stand at 334,233 total views since they launched on the 14th May 2020. The Facebook following growth has been phenomenal from 190 in March 2020 to currently standing at 1,078 'likes' with 1,540 followers. Anecdotally, Agents have said how they have received many referrals from these Online Talking Cafes, and when aired across multiple platforms have led to increased contact from Carers to the Facebook pages. Visits to the web pages: 2,088 across both websites.

The Somerset Carers website had 11,090 unique visitors in 2020/21 - a very small decrease on the previous year, which could be because people are getting the information they need from the Somerset Agents site an also information also being available on the new Community Connect Website. It could also be that the 'What's On' page which was previously popular and drew people in has obviously had little activity because of COVID. The most popular pages are Micro-providers, Somerset Village Agents, What's On in Your Area. The social media following on Facebook has doubled this year to 303 to the end of March & on Twitter has grown to 365 followers. Interaction is still slower, but has shown much improvement in recent months with a significantly higher reach than the first half of 2020. Work will continue to grow this area.

Somerset Diverse Communities (SDC) has seen a huge increase online via its Facebook page. During April 2020 – March 2021 the SDC Facebook likes have increased from 573 to 751 (31% increase). Connecting and communicating to Somerset's ethnic minority communities has been vital to share Covid-19 translations, information and support available. SDC lead the way with the Covid-19 Roadmap to recovery translating it into 17 languages with the support for the SDC local Network. The web page has seen a 60% increase of unique visitors.

Tehmina Boman-Behram drafted multiple marketing plans across some of our services for Somerset Diverse Communities, West Somerset Bike Appeal, Somerset Good Neighbour Scheme, Get West Somerset Moving and undertook a Smart Communities Marketing review. Nicola Greenslade returned to her post in September, 2020 and has further developed and delivered the plans, adapting them as the projects have evolved.

Highlights in the year were:

- Somerset Food Resilience – Agents and Smart Communities supporting Somerset to secure food reaches the most vulnerable. The task force have delivered food and set up community based food storage to help those in need.
- New Chat to Connect – Covid-19 response for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people in Somerset.
- SDC - New Women of Colour Events – with BBC Somerset interview/feature
- SDC – Covid-19 Roadmap to Recovery 17 Language Translations shared via social media channels.
- SDC – New Podcast series launched
- SDC & Smart Communities – 5 Week BAME group training course.
- Community Buildings – series of 11 training webinars
- Gift Of Small Things (Christmas Gift Appeal)
- Carers: Positive reception of the change of Carers Agents into Village Agents
- Carers: Posts and articles on vaccinations have been the most popular and helped drive people to the pages.

- Success of the online Talking Cafes during Covid times.
- Food Resilience Taskforce – shout outs, thank yous and video updates on the teams activities have all been extremely popular and often picked up by the media such as BBC Somerset when posted.
- At least 8 interviews on local BBC radio, and many of our Good Neighbours schemes have featured in the newspapers at a local & national level. Good relationships have been built with the bigger news outlets such as ITV and BBC and BBC often contact us for information on what is happening in communities or signposting to a group.
- SSEN events have been fairly well attended, resulting from a combination of regular e-news bulletins, social media and calling people directly. Our stakeholders and affiliated members are very good at sharing our information when requested.

Links with other agencies

CCS's CEO attends regular Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) forum meetings and is a member of the advisory board helping to set strategy and direction. The CEO also attended facilitated workshops to examine closer collaboration across the county and along with the Deputy CEO (Operations) CCS attends as many cross-cutting and cross-county meetings and events as possible. CCS enjoys excellent partnership relationships with the County Council, Somerset's CCG and other partners in health, social care and the third sector.

During the pandemic the CEO attended regular weekly meetings of a brokerage cell to discuss and act on essential provision for those most adversely affected.

Organisational Changes

CCS outsourced the Data Protection Officer role to IG Smart in August 2020, who also conducted a Data Gap Analysis to improve our processes and provided video training material for all new starters in the organisation as well as ongoing support.

Following the departure of the Quality and Performance Manager in September 2020 further development of the Data Capture system, QuickView, and reporting to funders was allocated to Kristy Hirons to sit alongside her role of Agent Team Lead.

The internal HR advisor Lindsey Taylor who was recruited in the previous financial year left the organisation in December 2020. Her replacement was sought, and the position offered with a start date confirmed for the following financial year. Further staff changes saw the departure of the Deputy Chief Executive and the Agent Manager and in line with CCS' strong policy around the development of correct staff we recruited staff to the positions of Operations Manager and Hospital Liaison Manager – creating a new team in the Agent services. We also gained trustee approval for the appointment of a Development Manager to build on our successful partnerships with commissioners and stakeholders and to assist with income generation - that position will be recruited in the next financial year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our strategic focus for the forthcoming year does not differ to that of the last year and hence will remain as priorities in people, place and enterprise. CCS will examine closely what the future structure of the organisation should be. We will consolidate our existing projects and services to ensure high quality

delivery and continue to build on the enhanced reputation we have created over the last 3 years. Therefore, our work will centre on the following themes:

3.1 People

Village, Community and Carers' Agents.

The Agents will be 'getting back to' a more normal way of working. Much of 2020 and 2021 so far has been operated in Lockdowns. Agents started to visit people in their homes more often from May 2021. Home visits were carried out during the lockdown periods but only after a thorough risk assessment and in extenuating circumstances. We will continue some of the ways we have worked as it has streamlined the service and made some things efficient. Agents will continue to answer the main phone line. They will continue to triage clients before a visit is done. We will continue on-line Talking Cafes as well as open up some face to face Talking Cafes.

We continue to focus on unpaid carers and using our position within Primary Care Networks join up with them to reach people before they get to crisis point. We will be using their database of registered carers to ensure our reach is as broad as possible.

We continue to develop the Carers Academy to support carers with information and training needs.

We are looking at funding opportunities for focused Agents during the next year. This is still in its infancy but the possibility for BAME Agents, Learning Disability Agents and specialist Hoarding Agents with County and the Lottery.

Somerset Diverse Communities

We will continue to support groups to develop skills, deal with issues around governance and source funding. We will be focusing some of our efforts on helping new groups to develop from communities, which have historically not had formal community support, such as the Romanian community. We are looking forward to the challenge of supporting and enabling large multicultural events to happen across the County, whether that is in person or online. We will continue to innovate to find new ways to support community groups to make things happen in a more challenging environment. Our Somerset Diverse Communities fund will again open to applications and is increasing the maximum grant to £500. We will look to continue our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision across the County and build on the successful work with community partners from the last year. We will also be welcoming Hinkley Point C workers and their families to the County. We will look to secure an additional 3 years of funding to mitigate the impacts that the HPC development has had in Somerset. We are always looking for ways to integrate Hinkley Point C workers into the wider community in meaningful ways.

We will expand our team and are hoping to recruit an Interfaith co-ordinator. This will again expand the reach of our work, and help develop an Interfaith network in Somerset. We will also expand and start to work with Young people. We will develop Diverse Young Somerset, a group of young people who will examine young people's experience of growing up in ethnically diverse communities in Somerset.

We are also looking to expand our research with communities, and will continue to support lateral flow testing and encouraging vaccine take up in Somerset. We will look to work closer with statutory bodies

and increase funding from these sources to enhance their understanding of ethnically diverse communities in Somerset.

3.2 Place

Smart Communities Ltd.

The Smart Communities team have delivered a wider range of projects and have demonstrated huge creativity about how to deliver them despite the Covid restrictions. Since August 2018 Smart Communities Ltd has been the vehicle for delivering consultancy services. CCS staff are seconded to Smart Communities Ltd to carry out these projects. Smart Communities Ltd will seek to appoint an additional Community Advisor over the next year to add extra resource and capacity and to work directly with geographically place communities in strengthening their own local area and providing local community solutions.

3.3 Enterprise

Community Buildings Support

CCS has continued to support and provide the advice service, delivering a number of training and networking events on topics. The fast changing situation due to the Covid rules and the impact on community buildings ability to open and what services can be provided, led to us providing a large number of webinars and bulletins to keep both members and non members informed. We have also provided one to one support to hall trustees as required to interpret the rules for their situation. We also established and manage a very popular Facebook group for members, which is great for sharing ideas and asking questions. For current information & updates visit: www.somersetccc.org.uk/community-buildings.

Communications and Marketing

Our Communications and Marketing team worked hard on our digital communications to distribute all our projects and services online due to the pandemic. Using a new program Canva we have created animated video content to share on all social media channels.

2021/2022 is still being dominated by Covid-19 and our response and promoting the government guidance across Somerset communities across all projects. All teams are still delivering content online but are preparing for the first face-to-face delivery as Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. The work delivery ahead will still be a mixture of online delivery and face-to-face when necessary, for projects.

A significant change will be a move to fundraising campaigns for the Crisis Fund, which are being developed. We hope to be ambitious and produce good material to be used for a year long campaign.

Website maintenance will move in 2021/22 to Teapot Creative to help maintain the 4 websites we now have, and a new admin officer will help manage and promote the 12+ social media channels we currently manage across Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn.

Changes to existing sites include an update of Carers to include the new Carer's Academy section, an overhaul of the existing directories and converting the Talking Café YouTube links into a searchable

directory, as there are over 250 now. New Somerset Diverse Communities Directory in 2021 to easily map groups and access details via our website.

Smart Communities will move to a stand-alone website to better demonstrate who they are and how they deliver the service. Being transparent that it is a consultancy service and connected to CCS as a trading arm. Alongside the new website, Smart Communities will also have its own social media channels. The site launch will take place in Summer 2021 and Nicola Greenslade will write a 2021 Marketing plan following on from the previous report.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association (amended December 2020) 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) (issued October 2019).

Charity Details

The full name of the charity is The Community Council for Somerset, Charity Number: 1069260.

Trustees

The Board Members who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Names	Title	Date of Appointment (Co-opted /Elected/ Re-elected)	Date of Resignation
Peter Claydon (Jim)	Chair	Re-elected 22 October 2020	
Peter Gunner	Honorary Treasurer	Re-elected 22 October 2020	
Patrick Keating	Individual Trustee		
Rachel Syrett	Individual Trustee		22 June 2021
Steve Wilcox	Individual Trustee		5 May 2020
Eilleen Tipper	Individual Trustee		
Sarah Blackburn	Individual Trustee		5 May 2020
Peter Fox	Individual Trustee		
Valerie Boxall	Individual Trustee	10 June 2020	21 December 2020
Penny James	Individual Trustee	30 April 2020	19 October 2020
Kate Butler	Individual Trustee	23 March 2021	

Chief Executive: Keeley Rudd

Company Secretary: Keeley Rudd

Deputy Chief Executive – Operations: Raj Singh (until 30 December 2020)

Registered Office: Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB

Bankers: Santander, 62 High Street, Weston-Super-Mare, North Somerset BS23 1JB

Auditors: A.C. Mole & Sons, Stafford House, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, Somerset TA1 2PX

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Community Council for Somerset was incorporated on 1 April 1998, and registered as a charity on 22 April 1998. It is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association as amended 20th September 2011.

On 3 December 2020, a General Meeting of Members was held at which amended Articles of Association were adopted, changing to a Foundation model of Governance.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, Company Number: 3541219.

Membership

Membership of the company is by application to the office and will involve a guarantee for a contribution of £1 in the event of a shortfall of assets on winding up.

Directors and Trustees

The directors of the charitable company ("the charity") are its trustees for the purpose of charity law and throughout this report are collectively referred to as the trustees. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting. At each AGM one third of the trustees who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office. Unless notified in writing by the trustee, the date of appointment of a new trustee is taken as the date of resignation of the previous trustee. The Chair is nominated from existing trustees where possible, but if there are no interested candidates then this would be advertised externally.

The President

The General Meeting is empowered to elect a President, who may elect to be a trustee as a result of being so elected.

Policies and Procedures for the Recruitment, Selection, Induction and Training of Trustees

Trustee vacancies are advertised on the CCS website and through social media, and we use a website to match with volunteer trustees. Potential candidates first meet with the Chief Executive then have an interview with the Chair and one other trustee. They are invited to meet other trustees either as an observer at a Board meeting or at a more informal event. There is a person specification for trustees and

tailored versions for the Chair and Honorary Treasurer. An application form is submitted and considered by the Board. The decision to co-opt a new trustee is put to the Board to vote.

The procedure for the induction of new trustees includes providing a comprehensive induction pack at their first meeting which includes key Community Council and charity and company documents. They also meet other members of staff, and receive information about entitlement to and reimbursement of any approved expenses incurred in undertaking the role of a Board member. Trustees' skills audits are periodically undertaken.

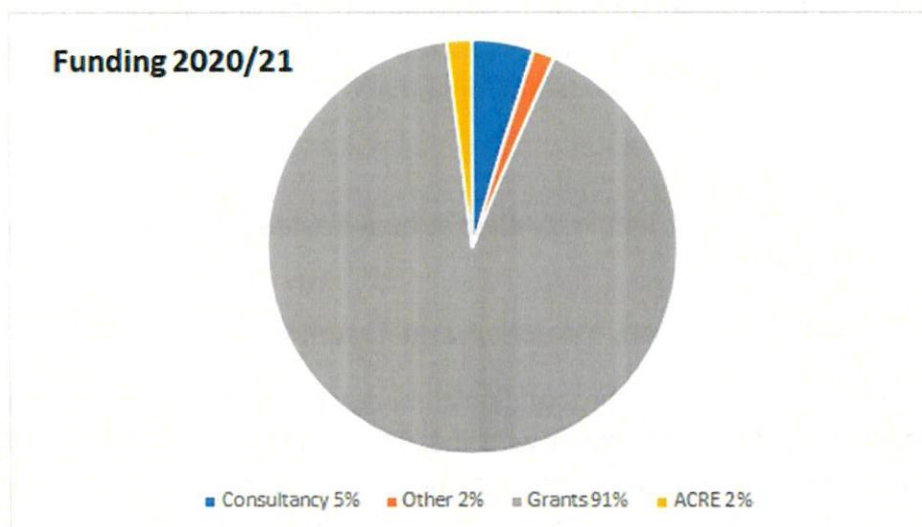
Management arrangements

The Board delegate day to day management of the charity to the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. The staffing and pay structure and framework adopted in 2018, to ensure that CCS salaries are consistent with similar local organisations, was used during the year. For staff employed on projects salaries are set out in the bid for funding and any changes are agreed with the funder. A pay policy has been updated and approved by the trustees.

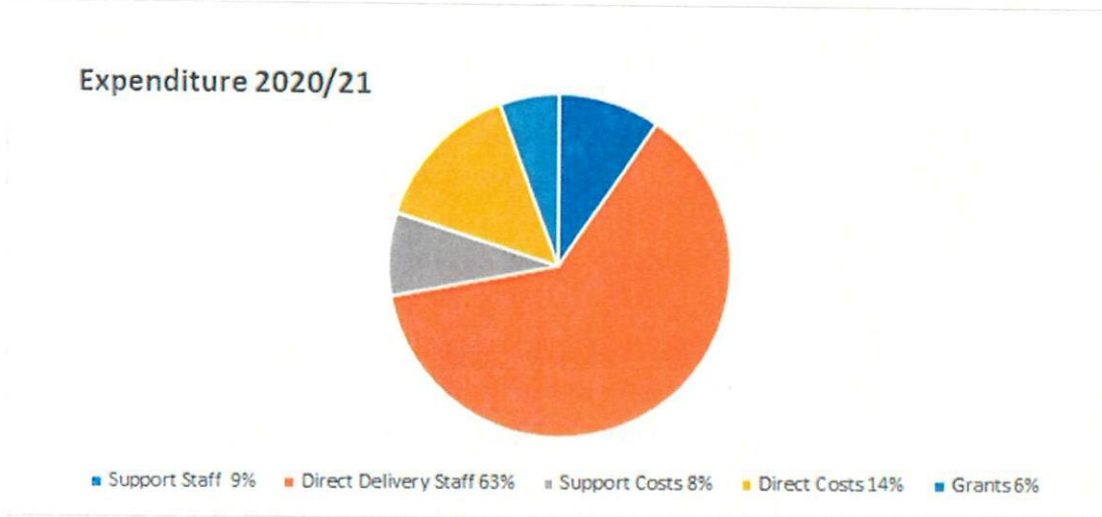
FINANCIAL REVIEW

6.1 Income and Expenditure

During 2020/21 CCS secured a further one year extension to continue delivering the Carers Service until September 2022. Community Agents, Home First Community Agents and those working with hospitals throughout Somerset to facilitate discharge have received funding to the end of March 2022. The total income has increased by 16% from £2,015,849 in 2019/20 to £2,340,523 in 2020/21. The graph below demonstrates where we get our funding from, and 91% comes from grant funding to deliver projects. Our funding from Defra through ACRE has remained at the same level and been approved for 2021/22. Consultancy income is now received through Smart Communities Ltd who contributed covenanted income of £35,352 during the year. Other income includes subscriptions, commission, bank interest and donations.



Total expenditure has increased by over 14% from £1,990,437 during 2019/20 to £2,286,071 in 2020/21. The graph below shows how we spend our funding; the majority of our costs are staff salaries for direct delivery which makes up 63% of expenditure. Support costs include overheads, such as rent. Grants made are awards distributed from funding provided by other organisations for individuals.



6.2 Investment Performance

The CCS investment policy states that the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk. We have little scope for reducing our costs and it is vital that we maintain the value of grants and income received in order to cover expenditure commitments for the duration of projects, and to deliver our charitable objectives. A significant proportion of our balances are being held to deliver projects over the next year or two and so we need to have regard to cash flow projections.

The £82,923 of investments (including the St Margaret's Fund) is currently invested in a CCLA COIF charities fixed interest fund. The value of these investments has reduced by £1,144 compared with the previous year. The total investment held with Charity Bank is now £203,179.

6.3 Reserves

The Community Council's policy is to "maintain sufficient unrestricted reserves (excluding the designated fund for project development) to cover redundancy, loss of grant income and operating costs for at least six months but not more than 12 months." The Trustees estimate this to be in the range of £200,000 and £400,000. This is to ensure that funds are not held unnecessarily when they could be used to help the Charity achieve its objectives, but also that the Charity is financially sustainable and viewed as a 'going concern'.

CCS's total reserves have increased by £53,308, as funds are held to deliver projects during 2021/2022.

- Restricted reserves have decreased from £741,454 in 2019/20 to £682,970 which is due to grant funding received or accounted for in advance of the financial year to deliver projects, particularly Village and Community Agents.
- Designated reserves have increased from £156,516 to £189,844 in 2020/21. The fund designated for project development has remained at £4,300 and will be spent during 2020/21 and

supplemented with investment income. The Carers' Agent designated fund has increased to £185,544 which will be spent on delivering support to unpaid Carers over the remainder of the agreement.

- Unrestricted reserves have increased from £246,162 to £324,626, however it should be noted that this includes the St Margaret's fund which is yet to be designated by the Trustees. The balance of unrestricted reserves would be sufficient to cover unrestricted expenditure for up to one year.

The Board of Trustees reviews finance and policy issues in detail at Board Meetings which are held five times a year. They receive up to date management accounts at each meeting summarising the actual costs and year end projections for each project and fund. The budget is approved at the start of the year and variances are highlighted during the year.

6.4 Risk

The Community Council Board has identified the key risks facing the organisation and has produced a risk register. Risks are RAG rated and the probability and impact are assessed as high, medium or low. Risk owners have been identified for all risks and mitigating action has been considered and documented. The risk register is reviewed at every Board meeting to consider whether the assessments have changed, whether mitigating action is still appropriate, and to identify any new and emerging risks. CCS is currently reviewing its Risk Management Policy and developing a group risk register. The latest risk register reviewed in March 2021 highlighted the following 'red' risks;

- Insufficient staff capacity
- Loss of key members of staff
- Withdrawal of funding
- During the year the Covid-19 impact was clearly identified as a serious risk both in terms of impact on staff health and wellbeing and capacity but also the potential for lost revenue due to statutory commissioners prioritising support for people. The reality was in fact the opposite and CCS secured considerable additional funding due to the nature of our support for vulnerable people. The Covid-19 situation remains a potential "red" risk however and the senior managers and trustees keep this under constant review.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of the Community Council for Somerset for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report (incorporating the directors' report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and 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).

Company law requires the trustees 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 group and of the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP,
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
- state whether applicable UK 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 trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.


In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees 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.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Trustees on *28 JULY* 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Peter (Jim) Claydon

CHAIR

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Community Council For Somerset (the "parent charitable company") and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated and Company Balance Sheets Consolidated Statement of Cashflows 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 Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity'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 charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of the group's income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the group 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 other 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

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

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. 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.

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 trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have 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 group and the parent charitable company and their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (incorporating the directors' report).

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parental charitable company or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us;
- the parent charitable company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company 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 they determine 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 group's and the parent 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 trustees either intend to liquidate the group or the parent charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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:

Identifying and assessing potential risks of material misstatement due to irregularities

We considered the following when identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement due to irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations:

- the legal and regulatory framework in which the group operates
- the nature of the sector in which the group operates
- the control environment and controls established to mitigate such risks
- the results of our enquiries of management about their identification and assessment of risks of irregularities
- discussions with the audit engagement team about where fraud might occur
- the incentives for fraud.

Laws and regulations which are considered to be significant to the group include those relating to the requirements of financial reporting framework FRS102, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, UK tax legislation, employment law and health and safety. In addition we consider other laws and regulation which may not directly impact the financial statements but may impact on the operation of the group.

As a result of these procedures we concluded, in accordance with International Auditing Standards, that a risk in relation to the potential for management override of controls existed.

Audit responses to risks identified

We undertook audit procedures to respond to the risks identified, and designed our audit testing to respond to these risks. The additional procedures we undertook included the following:

- gaining an understanding of the group's procedures for ensuring compliance with laws and regulations
- testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments
- considering whether accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias
- considering whether any transactions arose outside the normal course of business
- making enquiries of management
- corroborating our enquiries through review of Board Minutes and correspondence.

We also communicated relevant laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indicators of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

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 auditor's report.

Alexandra Shore FCA DChA
Senior Statutory Auditor
For and on behalf of
A C Mole & Sons
Chartered Accountants &
Statutory Auditors
Stafford House
Blackbrook Park Avenue
Taunton Somerset TA1 2PX

Date 13 JULY 2021

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING A CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	2,748	-	13,590	16,338	8,327
Income from other trading activities	3	97,335	-	15,210	112,545	89,318
Investment income	4	5,877	-	-	5,877	7,329
Income from charitable activities	5	134,943	377,222	1,691,739	2,203,904	1,910,626
Other income	6	1,859	-	-	1,859	249
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income		242,762	377,222	1,720,539	2,340,523	2,015,849
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure						
Expenditure on charitable activities	7	149,810	343,894	1,779,023	2,272,727	1,979,677
Costs of other trading activities		13,344	-	-	13,344	10,760
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure		163,154	343,894	1,779,023	2,286,071	1,990,437
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (losses) / gains on investments	13	(1,144)	-	-	(1,144)	357
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure)		78,464	33,328	(58,484)	53,308	25,769
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Transfers		-	-	-	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds		78,464	33,328	(58,484)	53,308	25,769
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of funds:						
Fund Balances 1 April 2020		246,162	156,516	741,454	1,144,132	1,118,363
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balances 31 March 2021	17	324,626	189,844	682,970	1,197,440	1,144,132
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

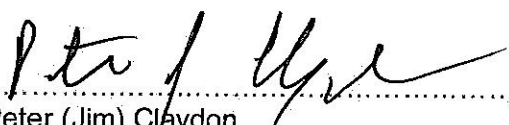
The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements

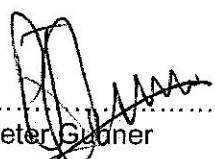
CONSOLIDATED AND COMPANY BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021		2020	
		Group £	Charity £	Group £	Charity £
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	12	-	-	-	-
Investments	13	82,923	82,923	84,067	84,067
		<u>82,923</u>	<u>82,923</u>	<u>84,067</u>	<u>84,067</u>
Current Assets					
Debtors	14	264,819	335,911	168,509	237,554
Cash at bank and in hand	15	1,001,131	925,795	966,321	889,514
		<u>1,265,950</u>	<u>1,261,706</u>	<u>1,134,830</u>	<u>1,127,068</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	16	138,143	133,899	59,018	51,256
		<u>1,127,807</u>	<u>1,127,807</u>	<u>1,075,812</u>	<u>1,075,812</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>1,210,730</u>	<u>1,210,730</u>	<u>1,159,879</u>	<u>1,159,879</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20	13,290	13,290	15,747	15,747
		<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>
The Funds of the Charity:-					
Unrestricted funds					
General funds		324,626	324,626	246,162	246,162
Designated funds		189,844	189,844	156,516	156,516
		<u>514,470</u>	<u>514,470</u>	<u>402,678</u>	<u>402,678</u>
Restricted funds		682,970	682,970	741,454	741,454
		<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>
Total Charity Funds	17	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:


 Peter (Jim) Claydon


 Peter Gardner

Date: 28 JULY 2021

The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements

CONSOLIDATED CASHFLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 Group £	2020 Group £
Cashflows from operating activities:	21	28,933	(90,078)
Cashflows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		5,877	7,329
Net cash provided by investing activities		5,877	7,329
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		34,810	(82,749)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April	15	966,321	1,049,070
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March	15	1,001,131	966,321

The notes on pages 29 to 49 form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. **Accounting Policies**

(a) **Charitable company status**

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and does not have any share capital. The liability of the guarantors, who are the members is limited to £1 per guarantor. At 31 March 2021 the charity had 8 members. The company is registered in England and Wales. The registered office is Viney Court, Viney Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 3FB.

(b) **Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with the exception of investments which are included at fair value. The 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 Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (issued October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(c) **Basis of Consolidation**

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Smart Communities Ltd, on a line by line basis. The "Group" heading within the balance sheet refers to the consolidated accounts of The Community Council for Somerset and Smart Communities Ltd.

In the parent company financial statements the investment in the trading subsidiary is accounted for at cost.

A separate Statement of Financial Activities or income and expenditure account for the Charity itself has not been presented because the Charity has taken advantage of the exemptions afforded by Section 408 of the Companies Act 2006. The deficit in the year for the Charity was £17,956 (2020: deficit £8,266). Note 13 gives details of the results of the subsidiary undertaking for the period to 31 March 2021.

(d) **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 funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have designated a fund for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

Further details of each fund are disclosed in note 17.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**(e) 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.

Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that donations or grants are subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity. If there is a Service Level Agreement or Contract in place income from administration charges is taken into account in the period to which it relates.

Income from subscriptions is recognised in the period to which it relates.

(f) 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.

The costs of raising funds comprise the costs associated with hallmark and printing publications.

Expenditure on charitable activities includes those costs incurred by the charity in delivery of its activities and service for its beneficiaries and support costs.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the expenditure heading for which it was incurred.

(g) Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on staff time spent on each activity as detailed in note 9.

Governance costs are included within support costs and comprise all costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the professional fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

(h) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Minor additions costing below £1,500 are not capitalised.

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets at the following rates in order to write off each asset over its expected useful life:

Furniture and Equipment	20% pa on cost
Computer Equipment	33½% pa on cost

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

(i) Fixed asset investments

Investments are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluations and disposals throughout the year.

(j) Pension costs

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution pension scheme. In addition CCS participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by the Pensions Trust which provides benefits to members on a defined benefit basis.

Defined contribution scheme

Pension contributions in relation to defined contribution schemes are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Defined benefit scheme

As set out in note 20, CCS is unable to identify its share of net assets and liabilities of this scheme. Accordingly, this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme and contributions are recognised as an expense as incurred.

There is an agreed Deficit Recovery Plan in place for this scheme. In accordance with FRS102 CCS has recognised a liability for the net present value of contributions payable by CCS under this plan.

The unwinding of this discount is a finance cost.

(k) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

(l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, with the exception of fixed asset investments as noted above.

(m) Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period as incurred.

(n) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

The trustees are of the opinion that there are no estimates or assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. Donations	2021	2020
	£	£
Donations	16,338	8,327
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	16,338	8,327
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
3. Income from Other Trading Activities	2021	2020
	£	£
Subscriptions	15,210	11,510
Events	-	1,357
Lettings	160	1,297
Smart Communities Ltd	97,175	75,154
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	112,545	89,318
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>
4. Investment Income	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest received	5,877	7,329
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,877	7,329
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. Income from Charitable Activities	2021	2020
Restricted	£	£
Community Buildings		
Taunton Deane Borough Council	-	1,800
Sedgemoor District Council	-	2,000
ACRE	-	600
Village Agents		
Big Lottery Fund	122,123	92,857
Somerset County Council	41,000	-
South Petherton Parish Council	10,257	10,257
Living Better Federation	35,375	52,500
Bridgwater Bay Federation	99,400	99,416
Lister House Partnership	-	12,054
Taunton Deane Borough Council	20,000	20,000
Henstridge Parish Council	-	7,000
Symphony	6,888	6,888
Sedgemoor District Council – Talking Café	-	1,000
Other	-	10,000
Primary Care Network	204,697	65,387
North Sedgemoor GP Federation	71,000	74,000
Macmillan Cancer Support	45,064	26,607
Taunton Federation	110,052	27,217
Mental Health Agents		
Somerset Community Council	-	295,702
BME Engagement		
Somerset County Council	3,000	-
Somerset Community Foundation	10,000	-
Somerset Community Foundation – Hinkley	66,895	65,739
Somerset Community Foundation – Covid-19	17,634	-
Somerset Skills & Learning	-	39,400
Other	7,082	300
Community Agents inc Home First Somerset County Council	576,000	326,000
Somerset NHS CCG – Living beyond Cancer	-	20,000
Transport Agent	17,000	62,946
Building Better Opportunities - Big Lottery	-	73,517
Transform Ageing	-	4,782
Crisis Fund		
Somerset Community Foundation	-	5,000
Grants received for clients	13,329	3,866
Other	15,456	12,852
Somerset County Council	60,000	-
Surviving Winter - Somerset Community Foundation	46,000	42,700
Ubuntu	93,487	-
Other	-	250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,691,739	1,462,637
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

5. Income from Charitable Activities (continued)

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted		
DEFRA through ACRE	45,060	44,060
Consultancy	19,500	17,107
Taunton Deane Borough Council	-	3,600
Sedgemoor District Council	6,000	4,000
Good Neighbours	21,412	-
West Somerset Bike Project	7,044	-
Food Resilience Plan	6,000	-
Somerset Skills and Learning	12,167	-
Home Online: Somerset Community Foundation	1,000	-
Home in Sedgemoor	1,000	-
VCSED	3,000	-
Surviving Winter: Somerset Community Foundation	2,760	-
Covid-19 Business Support Grant	10,000	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	134,943	68,767
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Designated		
Carers Agents	377,222	377,222
Somerset Community Foundation	-	2,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	377,222	379,222
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,203,904	1,910,626
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

6. Other Income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Commission	-	24
Miscellaneous income	104	225
Covid-19 JRS Grants	1,755	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,859	249
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

7. Expenditure

	Activities Undertaken Directly £	Support Costs £	Grants £	2021 £	2020 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	1,931,352	197,383	143,992	2,272,727	1,979,677
	<u>1,931,352</u>	<u>197,383</u>	<u>143,992</u>	<u>2,272,727</u>	<u>1,979,677</u>

Expenditure includes:

Auditors' remuneration

Audit fees

Accountancy fees

Other services

2021

£

7,194

6,234

-

2020

£

4,560

2,640

1,368

8. Grants Paid in the Year

	2021 £	2020 £
Surviving Winter	26,437	44,633
Crisis Fund	110,629	18,023
Other	6,926	10,693
	<u>143,992</u>	<u>73,349</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

9. Allocation of Support & Governance Costs

	BME Community Engagement £	CSG Cancer Support £	Macmillan £	Somerset Community Agents £	Village Agents £	Ubuntu £	PCN Village Agents £	Transport Agents £	Taunton Federation £	Carers £	Total £
General Office	4,552	823	1,889	35,533	28,404	1,177	11,713	1,866	8,111	18,361	112,429
HR	1,490	270	618	11,634	9,300	385	3,835	611	2,656	6,012	36,811
Audit & Accountancy	544	98	226	4,244	3,392	140	1,399	223	969	2,193	13,428
Subscriptions	451	82	187	3,521	2,815	117	1,160	185	804	1,819	11,141
IT	955	173	396	7,450	5,956	247	2,456	391	1,701	3,850	23,575
	<u>7,992</u>	<u>1,446</u>	<u>3,316</u>	<u>62,382</u>	<u>49,867</u>	<u>2,066</u>	<u>20,563</u>	<u>3,276</u>	<u>14,241</u>	<u>32,235</u>	<u>197,384</u>

All costs have been apportioned on the basis of staff contracted hours to each activity.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. Staff Costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	1,622,276	1,303,713
Social Security Costs	131,705	99,412
Pension Contributions	55,241	41,962
Redundancy Pay	-	11,500
	<u>1,809,222</u>	<u>1,456,587</u>

- i) The average number of staff during the year was 78 (2020 – 67).
- ii) There are no employees with emoluments exceeding £60,000 (2020 – Nil).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Trustees, the Chief Executive, the Agent Manager, the Operations Manager, Human Resources Manager, the Finance Manager and Smart Communities Manager. Total remuneration of key management was: £227,291 (2020: £207,072).

11. Trustee Expenses and Remuneration

No remuneration has been paid to, or on behalf of, the trustees (2020: Nil).

No Reimbursements of travel and subsistence expenses were made to any trustee during the year (2020: 1 trustee was reimbursed £142).

12. Tangible Fixed Assets – Charity and Group

	Computers	Furniture	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	56,116	22,355	78,471
	<u>56,116</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2021	56,116	22,355	78,471
	<u>56,116</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020	56,116	22,355	78,471
	<u>56,116</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>78,471</u>
At 31 March 2021	56,116	22,355	78,471
	<u>56,116</u>	<u>22,355</u>	<u>78,471</u>
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2021	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At 1 April 2020	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. Investments – Charity and Group

	2021		2020	
	Group £	Charity £	Group £	Charity £
COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund	82,923	82,923	84,067	84,067
	<u>82,923</u>	<u>82,923</u>	<u>84,067</u>	<u>84,067</u>

COIF Charities Fixed Interest Fund

Market value at 1 April 2020

84,067

Revaluations

(1,144)

Market value at 31 March 2021

82,923**Smart Communities Ltd**

Smart Communities Ltd (company no 11480430) was incorporated on 24 July 2018 as a wholly owned trading subsidiary of Community Council for Somerset. Smart Communities Ltd is a company limited by Guarantee with the parent charity holding 100% of the voting rights of the subsidiary trading company.

The principal activities of the company was that of a consultancy company. The trading subsidiary gift aids it's taxable profits to The Community Council for Somerset. The registered office is Viney Street, Taunton, TA1 3FB.

The results of Smart Communities Ltd for the year ended 31 March were as follows:-

	2021 £	2020 £
Turnover	97,175	75,154
Gross profit	<u>97,175</u>	<u>75,154</u>
Administrative expenses	61,823	41,119
Operating profit	<u>35,352</u>	<u>34,035</u>
The assets and liabilities were:-		
Current assets	76,346	76,806
Current liabilities	<u>(76,346)</u>	<u>(76,806)</u>
Total net assets	-	-
Retained earnings	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The above results of Smart Communities Ltd are included in the consolidated accounts of the group.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. Statement of Funds – Group and Charity

	Balance 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and (losses) £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated						
Project Development	4,300	-	-	-	-	4,300
Carers' Agents	152,216	377,222	343,894	-	-	185,544
	<u>156,516</u>	<u>377,222</u>	<u>343,894</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,844</u>
General	246,162	242,762	163,154	(1,144)	-	324,626
	<u>246,162</u>	<u>242,762</u>	<u>163,154</u>	<u>(1,144)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>324,626</u>
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>402,678</u>	<u>619,984</u>	<u>507,048</u>	<u>(1,144)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>514,470</u>

The **Project Development** designated fund represents investment income from the St Margaret's fund which is used to procure external support with bid writing.

Carers' Agents - CCS bid successfully for the Somerset County Council tender, this agreement began in October 2017 and has been extended to September 2022.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. Statement of Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

	Opening Balances £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £
Restricted Funds						
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall Loan	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	36,374	-	299	-	-	36,075
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Community Buildings	38,994	17,910	22,123	-	-	34,781
Village Agents	266,254	335,043	490,082	-	1,318	112,533
Surviving Winter	10,795	46,000	26,587	-	-	30,208
Diversity	40,018	104,812	73,054	-	-	71,776
Primary Care						
Network VAS	-	275,697	198,461	-	-	77,236
Ubuntu	-	93,487	19,539	-	-	73,948
Adult Social Care Community						
Hub	208,373	576,000	604,828	-	-	179,545
Crisis (Bridging) Fund	12,225	99,474	111,699	-	-	-
Transform Ageing	26,716	-	-	-	-	26,716
Taunton Federation	26,896	110,052	136,891	-	-	57
Mental Health Agents	1,414	-	96	-	(1,318)	-
MacMillan Agent	-	45,064	34,163	-	-	10,901
Transport Agent	35,035	17,000	47,214	-	-	4,821
CCG Cancer	20,000	-	13,987	-	-	6,013
Total Restricted Funds	741,454	1,720,539	1,779,023	-	-	682,970
Total Funds	1,144,132	2,340,523	2,286,071	(1,144)	-	1,197,440

All transfers have been authorised by the fund providers.

The **Somerset Society** Fund represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives.

The **Village Hall Loan** Fund represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.

Digital Engagement funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will be promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.

The **Mendip Car scheme** is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.

Community Buildings support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. Statement of Funds - Group & Charity (continued)

Village Agents The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three year grant to fund Village Agent work until September 2021. During 2020/21 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.

Surviving Winter funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.

Diversity BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county. They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.

Primary Care Network VAS – Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.

Ubuntu A test and learn project until December 2021 to support High Intensity users in acute hospital A&E Departments.

Adult Social Care Community Hubs funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2022.

Crisis Fund – Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.

Transform Ageing – this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.

Taunton Federation – funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices.

Mental Health Agents – a one year project funded by the CCG covering Sedgemoor and West Somerset, employing specialist Agents to support individuals with Mental Health conditions, referred by GPs. At the end of the project the work was continued by existing agents.

MacMillan Agent – a project to employ a specialist Agent to work with Macmillan and its volunteers, supporting individuals affected by a cancer diagnosis and their families in Mendip and South Somerset.

Transport Agent – Funded by SCC West Somerset Opportunities Area grant to develop transport solutions in West Somerset.

CCG Cancer- Funded by the CCG to support individuals and their families affected by Cancer.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

18. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds - Group

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2021 Total £
Fixed Assets	82,923	-	82,923
Current Assets/ (Liabilities)			
Debtors	7,209	257,610	264,819
Bank	498,471	502,660	1,001,131
Creditors	(60,843)	(77,300)	(138,143)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(13,290)	-	(13,290)
	<u>514,470</u>	<u>682,970</u>	<u>1,197,440</u>

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2020 Total £
Fixed Assets	84,067	-	84,067
Current Assets/ (Liabilities)			
Debtors	6,331	162,178	168,509
Bank	372,860	593,461	966,321
Creditors	(44,833)	(14,185)	(59,018)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	(15,747)	-	(15,747)
	<u>402,678</u>	<u>741,454</u>	<u>1,144,132</u>

19. Obligations Under Leasing Agreements

The group had the following future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2021 £	2020 £
Payments due:		
Within one year	21,312	21,312
Due one to five years	4,084	25,396
	<u>25,396</u>	<u>46,708</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. Defined Benefit Pension Scheme

The charity participates in a multi-employer pension scheme managed by The Pensions Trust which provides benefits to some 950 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the charity to obtain sufficient information to identify its share of assets and liabilities of the scheme to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme and it therefore accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

A full actuarial valuation for the total scheme was carried out at 30 September 2017. This valuation showed assets of £794.9m, liabilities of £926.4m and a deficit of £131.5m.

To eliminate this funding shortfall participating employers have been asked to pay additional contributions to the scheme. The estimated present value of the future contributions required from the charity over the next six years to meet its share of the deficit is £13,290 (2020: £15,747) and this has been provided for in the accounts in accordance with FRS102. The liability has been discounted using a discount rate of 0.66% (2020: 2.53%) based on a full AA corporate bond yield. The resulting expense is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

	2021 £	2020 £
Provision at 1 April	15,747	19,103
Unwinding of discount factor	354	241
Deficit contributions paid	(3,265)	(3,170)
Remeasurement – impact of any change on assumptions	454	(427)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Provision at 31 March	13,290	15,747
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore, the charity is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

If there were no members in the scheme the employer's liability would become due for payment. This was last estimated on 30 September 2019 at a cost of £51,851. The charity currently has 73 members in a connected defined contribution scheme. If all members left the scheme there would be a 12 month grace period to find new members before the employer's liability becomes due.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

21. Reconciliation of Net Income to Net Cash Flow From Operating Activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	53,308	25,769
Adjustments for:		
Losses/(Gains) on investments	1,144	(357)
Dividends, interest & rents from investments	(5,877)	(7,329)
(Decrease) in defined benefit pension scheme liability	(2,457)	(3,356)
(Increase) in debtors	(96,310)	(14,351)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors	79,125	(90,454)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>28,933</u>	<u>(90,078)</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

22. Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities
(Incorporating a Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account)
For the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations	1,616	-	6,711	8,327
Income from other trading activities	76,819	-	12,499	89,318
Investment income	6,646	683	-	7,329
Income from charitable activities	68,767	379,222	1,462,637	1,910,626
Other income	249	-	-	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	154,097	379,905	1,481,847	2,015,849
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure				
Expenditure on charitable activities	135,189	303,298	1,541,190	1,979,677
Costs of other trading activities	10,760	-	-	10,760
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	145,949	303,298	1,541,190	1,990,437
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net gains on investments	357	-	-	357
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net income/(expenditure)	8,505	76,607	(59,343)	25,769
Transfers	(198)	-	198	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net movement in funds	8,307	76,607	(59,145)	25,769
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Fund Balances 1 April 2019	237,855	79,909	800,599	1,118,363
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund Balances 31 March 2020	246,162	156,516	741,454	1,144,132
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

23. Statement of Funds – Group and Charity
For the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	Balance 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and (losses) £	Transfers £	Balance 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated						
Project Development	3,617	683	-	-	-	4,300
Carers' Agents	76,292	379,222	(303,298)	-	-	152,216
	<u>79,909</u>	<u>379,905</u>	<u>(303,298)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>156,516</u>
General	237,855	154,097	(145,949)	357	(198)	246,162
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>317,764</u>	<u>534,002</u>	<u>(449,247)</u>	<u>357</u>	<u>(198)</u>	<u>402,678</u>

The **Project Development** designated fund represents investment income from the St Margaret's fund which is used to procure external support with bid writing.

Carers' Agents - CCS bid successfully for the Somerset County Council tender and this 3 year agreement began in October 2017. We have launched the Somerset Carers Service which provides advice and support to unpaid carers in Somerset.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

23. Statement of Funds - Group & Charity (continued)
For the Year Ended 31 March 2020

	Opening Balances £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains and (Losses) £	Transfers £	Closing Balances £
Restricted Funds						
Somerset Society	1,608	-	-	-	-	1,608
Village Hall Loan	3,766	-	-	-	-	3,766
Digital Engagement	56,073	-	(19,699)	-	-	36,374
Mendip Car Scheme	12,986	-	-	-	-	12,986
Capacity Building Project	199	-	(199)	-	-	-
Community Buildings	29,619	17,431	(8,056)	-	-	38,994
Village Agents	305,309	451,359	(512,929)	-	22,515	266,254
Surviving Winter	13,103	42,700	(45,008)	-	-	10,795
Diversity	47,411	106,680	(114,073)	-	-	40,018
North Sedgemoor GP Federation	22,515	-	-	-	(22,515)	-
Enhance Social Enterprise	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adult Social Care Community Hub	281,431	326,000	(399,058)	-	-	208,373
Crisis (Bridging) Fund	3,142	26,907	(17,824)	-	-	12,225
Building Better Opportunities	(3,956)	73,516	(69,560)	-	-	-
Transform Ageing	27,393	4,782	(5,459)	-	-	26,716
Taunton Federation	-	27,217	(321)	-	-	26,896
Mental Health Agents	-	295,702	(294,288)	-	-	1,414
MacMillan Agent	-	26,607	(26,805)	-	198	-
Transport Agent	-	62,946	(27,911)	-	-	35,035
CCG Cancer	-	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Restricted Funds	800,599	1,481,847	(1,541,190)	-	198	741,454
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Total Funds	1,118,363	2,015,849	(1,990,437)	357	-	1,144,132
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All transfers have been authorised by the fund providers.

The **Somerset Society** Fund represents the residual funds of another charity and is held on specific trusts for Training and Education Initiatives.

The **Village Hall Loan** Fund represents funds available for loans at interest to Village Halls. With Board approval this fund has also been used during the year to fund Community Buildings Support. £3,000 will be held available for loans.

Digital Engagement – funding from the CCG towards their Digital Roadmap programme which has been used to purchase laptops for staff that comply with NHS requirements, and the balance will be promote digital skills in the community in partnership with ITHelp@Home.

The **Mendip Car scheme** is a grant fund which develops car schemes or alternative ways of accessing services in the Mendip area. There are no active projects using this funding.

The **Capacity Building Project** has been used to part fund the Community Involvement team to support rural community groups to grow in confidence and realise their potential.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Community Buildings support is funded by membership subscriptions and SLA funding from Taunton Deane Borough Council and Sedgemoor District Council to provide advice and support to Community Building's management committees on a wider range of issues including legislation, licensing and governance. This includes access to model documents and co-ordinating volunteers who undertake Hallmark accreditation.

Village Agents The Big Lottery Fund Reaching Communities programme exceptionally awarded a third, three year grant to fund Village Agent work until 2021, and funding was also received from the Bernard Herridge Trust (Hastoe Group). During 2019/20 additional funding has been secured from other sources including GP federations and Parish Councils.

Surviving Winter – funding from Somerset Community Foundation collected through donations of winter fuel allowances which our staff in the communities award to individuals in fuel poverty, or who need support to address feelings of isolation.

Somerset Diverse Communities - BAME Engagement - funding was received from Somerset Community Foundation to employ two BAME Community Engagement workers covering the whole county. They engage with individuals and groups offering support and organising cultural awareness events. Funding has been received from Somerset Skills and Learning for delivery of English as a Second Language classes.

North Sedgemoor GP Federation– Clinical Commissioning Group funding for the provision of Village Agent support for GP patients with long-term health problems in the North Sedgemoor area. We are working with GPs and other healthcare professionals using a social prescribing model.

Adult Social Care Community Hubs –funding from Somerset County Council to collaborate with the Adult Social Care teams and support people with their social care needs. The pilot project using a practical, solution focused and personalised model was successful in improving quality of life and preventing individuals reaching crisis point, and has now been rolled out across Somerset until March 2021.

Crisis Fund – Funds have been received through donations and grants to enable Village, Carers, Community and Home First Agents to pay for essential items for individuals of all age who are in crisis.

Building Better Opportunities – final year of a three year project funded from the European Social Fund via Big Lottery with Pluss as the lead partner and CCS, Abilities, Cosmic and Inspire 2 Achieve as core partners. CCS employs Community Enablers who help deliver the project aims of support over 18's furthest from the labour market. This project ended in December 2019.

Transform Ageing – this is a match funded project with the Design Council to transform the experience of ageing for people in the South West and is being delivered with existing staff.

Taunton Federation – funding from the Taunton Federation of GP Practices for Village Agents to work with individuals referred by the practices.

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