

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1074032

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03690881
Registered	1999-02-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	E-Space North 181 Wisbech Road Littleport Ely CB6 1RA
Phone	01353860850
Email	enquiries@cambsacre.org.uk
Website	www.cambsacre.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The Charity's objects are restricted specifically, only for the public benefit to promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Activities: Cambridgeshire ACRE is an independent registered charity and company whose members include parish councils, community buildings management committees, statutory agencies, community groups and individuals with an interest in community life.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Recreation
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CAMBRIDGESHIRE
- Cambridgeshire
- Peterborough City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£936,415	£795,971	£574,530	16
2024-03-31	£958,685	£1,085,025	£434,086	11
2023-03-31	£1,014,577	£1,069,589	£560,426	11
2022-03-31	£841,393	£870,234	£615,438	11
2021-03-31	£904,737	£727,704	£644,279	10

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Olney	Chair	2023-04-06
DAVID ANTHONY GIBBS		2017-09-26
Dr Kirstin Louise Donaldson		2026-05-20
JOHN RODGER MITCHELL		2024-10-09
Jessica Lucy Sellick		2022-02-09
Sarah Elizabeth Rae Severn CBE		2023-02-09
TERRY JORDAN		2011-08-03
The Venerable Richard John StClair Harlow		2024-02-09

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1074032

Accounts



Registered Company no. 03690881
Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Cambridgeshire ACRE
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Officers and Professional Advisers

PRESIDENT

Julie Spence OBE CSTJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Stephanie Louise Baxter (to 14-Sep-2024)

Ann Lesley Blair (Chair to 31-Mar-2025)

David Anthony Gibbs

Richard John St Clair Harlow

Terry John Jordan (Vice Chair)

John Rodger Mitchell (from 9-Oct-2024)

David Ian Olney (Chair from 1-Apr-2025)

Jessica Lucy Sellick

Sarah Elizabeth Rae Severn CBE

Ray Vidler (Treasurer)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Alison Catherine Brown

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Hayley Elizabeth Neal

REGISTERED OFFICE

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

AUDITORS

Chater Allan LLP, 7 Quy Court Colliers Lane, Stow-Cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' & Directors' Report

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2025 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 8 October 2025. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of the trustees' responsibilities

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Objects of the charity

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Our vision

Rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where people flourish, connections grow and everyone can thrive.

Our mission

To inspire, lead and partner with rural communities, enabling local people to create positive, lasting change for themselves.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Trustees' & Directors' Report

Public benefit

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are:

- *Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits:* The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.
- *Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:* The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

Incorporation

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

Governance

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently 9 members of the Board.

Trustee recruitment

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and/or Loyalty and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

Trustee induction

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

Trustee training

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

Reserves

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months'

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' & Directors' Report

unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve decreased from £193,459 to £177,918. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of four and a half months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has three designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 20 in the financial statements.

Investments

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits were split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd, United Trust Bank and Reliance Bank at the balance sheet date, although the funds invested with Reliance Bank have since been transferred to Redwood Bank Ltd.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks.

Review of activities

Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside the rural communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We help them take action to make positive lasting changes to their local neighbourhoods.

Whether it's supporting volunteers to lead community projects, bringing local organisations together to drive meaningful change or amplifying the voices of our parish and community members, our charity is deeply embedded in rural community life.

With our support, residents, groups and partners can seize opportunities and realise their aspirations to improve the places, services and facilities that are important to them.

This section details our key achievements during the year 2024/25 across the strategic aims set in the organisation's strategy.

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Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' & Directors' Report

Supporting community run assets

Community-run assets and owned assets like village halls, pubs and shops are at the heart of rural community life. They provide a vital hub for health and social activities, education and vital rural services to take place. Part of our role is to help these assets thrive.

We provide advice, support and training to the trustees of these community-run assets and help them run these to the highest-possible standards for the benefit of their communities.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 148 village halls in membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE and receiving our quarterly newsletter summarising news and developments.
- 269 cases of support successfully resolved from village halls requiring advice and guidance.
- 7 further Hallmark accreditations awarded to village halls reaching the quality standard for a well-run facility (six at Level 1 and one at Level 2).
- 5 training events attended by 145 village hall trustees allowing them to enhance their skills and knowledge of how to safely and successfully run their facility.

Championing community-led housing and planning

We find hidden housing need in rural communities and then work with local authorities, housing associations, town & parish councils and communities to build rural affordable homes, including some built through community-led approaches.

We also support communities to research and develop neighbourhood plans to put in place planning policy for a neighbourhood area to guide future development.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 29 affordable homes built on rural exception sites.
- 16 new parishes engaged in an attempt to increase the pipeline of communities considering developing rural affordable homes.
- 6 parishes whose need for affordable homes has been proven but where progress has stalled given intensive support to resolve issues to allow their schemes to progress.
- 12 neighbourhood planning groups supported by our Neighbourhood Planning Service, including 4 new groups for 2024/25.

Tackling environmental challenges

We work with communities to help them tackle environmental issues challenges and consider predicted climate changes impacts.

We support their efforts to enhance their natural environment and improve community green spaces.

We help communities plan for decarbonisation and net zero targets, as well as supporting them with issues of flooding and considering local mitigating actions.

We have also been highly successful at developing and leading environmental volunteering programmes.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 33 volunteer lock wardens guided boaters through locks on the River Great Ouse providing 888 hours of volunteering support to the Environment Agency.
- 55 volunteers picked up 36 bags of litter, cleaning up their local river in Ramsey, helping to prevent flooding.
- 15 organisations successfully collaborating in our Water Care Partnership which brings people together to improve the water environment in the Old Bedford and Middle Level Catchment area.
- 8 farms and 9 parish councils have received tailored guidance on how to manage and maintain the new habitats on their land created through our New Life on the Old West project.

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Strengthening the rural economy and employment

We are committed to developing and delivering projects that lever in funding to strengthen rural businesses, encourage support networks that bring people together and lead community-led development programmes that increases people's life chances.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 2 prospective and 7 existing rural social enterprise businesses supported to consider the next steps in their development.
- 2 events held to demystify social enterprise and to introduce to the concept of community owned business to our network. These were collectively attended by 69 individuals.

Improving community health and wellbeing

We are committed to ensuring fairer and more equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in rural areas, where access to services can be much more difficult.

Through our work, we see at first-hand the issues that rurality can cause, especially where it is compounded by significant deprivation and isolation.

Cambridgeshire ACRE works with partners and communities to understand inequalities in health and wellbeing and to tackle these issues at a local level.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 40 Community Hubs and Community Living Rooms operating across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire, opening their doors week in, week out, offering local people a place to come together for mutual support.
- 17,022 volunteer hours provided by those successfully leading Community Hubs/Living Rooms in their communities. When valued at the median pay rate for their district, these hours are worth over £303,768.
- 37,771 visits made by community members to Community Hubs/Living Rooms between Apr-2024 and Mar-2025. 15% of these visits are estimated to have been made by unique visitors, meaning an estimated 5,666 people across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire are making regular use of their local Hub.
- 60 households supported through our Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service to clear £25,740 of fuel debt.
- Our specially-trained Macmillan Village Agents supported 27 individuals either living with cancer themselves or who were family members of those affected by cancer.

Working in partnership and providing consultancy

We work with a wide range of partners and nearly all the work we undertake involves collaboration and joint delivery of projects.

We often provide in-depth consultancy support to organisations and communities who use our expertise to help them achieve specific goals, delivering research, public consultation, partnership development & management, project development & funding or community / voluntary and cultural sector engagement.

Key achievements during 2024/25 include:

- 30+ partner organisations worked alongside us to deliver our work.
- 2 consultancy contracts completed to support communities with their community developments or partners with more complex work.

Charity and governance activity

During 2024 we celebrated the charity's Centenary Year. Our travelling exhibition was showcased at 6 community events, sharing the story of the charity's history and that of rural Cambridgeshire. On 13 June 2024, we held a special event at St Mary's Church in Ely, where we were delighted to welcome His Royal

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Highness The Duke of Gloucester for an afternoon of celebrations and a chance for past and current staff members to meet and share their memories of the charity.

Our new Chief Executive, Hayley Neal, joined us in mid-June with our old Chief Executive, Kirsten Bennett departing at the end of that same month, after a successful handover of responsibilities. Hayley's main focus in her first few months was fundraising and she has had notable success including securing a three year grant from the National Lottery Community Fund to secure the future delivery of community buildings advice (work commenced Apr-2025); securing a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation to support the delivery of our Community Hubs Network (from Apr-2025); and securing funding from the Evelyn Trust to support a new community youth project (to start later in 2025).

Cambridgeshire ACRE has continued to enhance its marketing activity, refreshing both our main website (www.cambsacre.org.uk) and that for promoting community buildings (www.hallsforhire.org.uk). We have continued to send out a monthly e-newsletter, Staying in Touch with all staff members contributing blogs giving further insight into their work with rural communities.

Our staff team has grown over the course of 2024/25 and at the end of the year comprised 18 staff (13.8 FTE). Finally, after serving for eight years, Annie Blair stood down as Chairperson on 31 March 2025, with David Olney being elected to the role by his trustee peers.

Financial review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2023/24 are shown in brackets)

For the financial year 2024/25 incoming resources were £936,415 (£958,685). This represents a decrease in income of 2%.

The end of the year saw a deficit of £15,541 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total income exceeded expenditure by £140,444. The restricted reserves have increased from £68,929 to £229,297. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds decreased from £171,698 to £167,315, a decrease of £4,383. The unrestricted general reserve showed a decrease during the year from £193,459 to £177,918; a decrease of 8%.

Plans for future periods

As we look ahead to the future, Cambridgeshire ACRE remains steadfast in its mission to support and empower rural communities across the county. Over the past year, we have been fortunate to secure new funding from the Cadent Foundation, enabling us to continue running our much-valued community hubs and to expand our network of Village Agents. This includes increasing the number of village agents supporting communities in South Cambridgeshire and introducing the service into East Cambridgeshire for the first time.

In the year ahead, we are also excited to begin delivery of our new "Futureproofing Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings" project, supported by the National Lottery Community Fund. This funding will allow us to strengthen our offer to local community buildings, expanding governance support and introducing energy audits and tailored sustainability advice to help secure their long-term future.

During the financial year, Trustees and staff have worked together to develop a new three-year strategy for the organisation. This strategy, which is currently being stress-tested with stakeholders and will be launched at our AGM in October 2025, reflects how the needs of rural communities have evolved. Key findings include a deepening concern around the affordability of housing, continued isolation for some rural residents, growing anxieties about the climate crisis and its local impacts, and the ongoing fragility

Cambridgeshire ACRE
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' & Directors' Report

of rural services. Our strategy responds directly to these challenges and identifies practical ways we can support resilience, inclusion and sustainability.

We have also seen significant changes in the wider external environment. The election of a new Labour government brings with it fresh opportunities and we welcome the renewed focus on community, fairness and place-based approaches. Our work with Defra will continue and we are already aligning our programmes with the new government's missions while championing the importance of rural needs within national priorities.

Closer to home, we are watching with interest the proposals around local government reorganisation and devolution. While the full implications are not yet known, we are hopeful that these changes may offer a renewed emphasis on rural communities. Our thoughts are with our local authority colleagues who may be experiencing uncertainty during this time of transition and we look forward to working collaboratively to ensure that rural voices are not only heard but embedded within emerging structures.

Cambridgeshire ACRE remains future-focused and optimistic. We are proud of our ability to adapt, to forge strong partnerships and to provide meaningful support to the communities we serve. With a clear strategy in place, dedicated staff and volunteers and the ongoing backing of our members and funders, we are well positioned to meet whatever challenges and opportunities the coming year may bring.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The accounts

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Chairperson:	<u>David Olney</u>	Company Secretary:	<u>ACB</u>
	David Olney		Alison Brown
Date:	<u>28 October 2025</u>		e-space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of 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 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 directors' 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 charity'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 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' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 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.

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

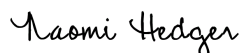
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Naomi Hedger (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
7 Quay Court
Colliers Lane
Stow-cum-Quay
Cambridge
CB25 9AU
30 October 2025

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Year ended 31 March 2025			Total	2024 Total
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted		
		Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	funds £		
Income						
Donations	2	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560
Charitable activities	3	1,730	-	831,399	833,129	811,719
Other trading activities	5	55,468	-	26,500	81,968	129,872
Investments	6	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534
Total income		78,516	-	857,899	936,415	958,685
Expenditure						
Raising funds		-	-	-	-	4,511
Charitable activities	11	222,545	1,432	571,994	795,971	1,080,514
Total expenditure	7	222,545	1,432	571,994	795,971	1,085,025
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(144,029)	(1,432)	285,905	140,444	(126,340)
Transfers between funds	12	128,488	(2,951)	(125,537)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(15,541)	(4,383)	160,368	140,444	(126,340)
Reconciliation in funds:						
Total funds brought forward		193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426
Total funds carried forward	22	177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530	434,086

Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

As at 31 March 2025

Company registration number: 03690881

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	13	-	1,247	-	1,247	808
Investments	14	18,013	166,068	-	184,081	116,387
		18,013	167,315	-	185,328	117,195
Current assets:						
Debtors	15	100,612	-		100,612	188,948
Cash at bank and in hand		105,019	-	229,297	334,316	192,189
		205,631	-	229,297	434,928	381,137
Liabilities:						
	16	45,726	-	-	45,726	64,246
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year						
Net current assets		159,905	-	229,297	389,202	316,891
Total net assets		177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530	434,086
The funds of the charity:						
Restricted funds	21	-	-	229,297	229,297	68,929
Designated and capital funds	20	-	167,315	-	167,315	171,698
Unrestricted funds		177,918	-	-	177,918	193,459
		177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530	434,086

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 20 August 2025.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

David Olney

 David Olney, Chairperson

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 Date

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	204,575	(7,716)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	7,118	3,534
Purchase of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,872)	-
	<u>5,246</u>	<u>3,534</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>209,821</u>	<u>(4,182)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	308,576	312,758
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>518,397</u>	<u>308,576</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	334,316	192,189
Investments	184,081	116,387
	<u>518,397</u>	<u>308,576</u>
Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	140,444	(126,340)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,432	2,429
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(7,118)	(3,534)
(Increase) in debtors	88,336	103,157
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	(18,519)	16,572
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>204,575</u>	<u>(7,716)</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities” (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

Legal Form Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Country of Incorporation Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Address of Registered Office: e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA.

Currency These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

Principal Activities Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

Public Benefit Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and Reserves All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

Fund Accounting The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 20 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 21 below.

Voluntary Income All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

Grant Income Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 21). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

Grant Expenditure The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

Membership The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

Investments The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

Interest When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

Taxation As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Value Added Tax (VAT) The charity is registered for VAT.

Governance Expenditure This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio updated in 2022 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

Netting Off of Income and Expenditure Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

Investments and Investment Income Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

Capital Fund The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

Designated Funds The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. Full descriptions are given under Note 20.

Raising Funds The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

Going Concern The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees' policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

2. Donations

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560
	14,200	-	-	14,200	13,560

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

3. Charitable Activities

	31 March 2025			31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	820,100	820,100	810,210
Other charitable income	1,730	-	11,299	13,029	1,509
	<u>1,730</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>831,399</u>	<u>833,129</u>	<u>811,719</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

4. Analysis of Grants Received

	31 March 2025		31 March 2024	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Accent Nene Ltd	-	-	-	3,497
Arts Council National Lottery	-	-	-	9,848
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	-	-	3,497
Cambridge Housing Society	-	-	-	875
Cadent Gas Ltd	-	166,909	-	-
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	-	-	48,878
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	29,036	-	52,240
Cambridge Past Present & Future	-	-	-	37,963
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	-	-	3,497
Defra	-	102,121	-	79,405
Department for Work and Pensions	-	-	-	176,551
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	6,497	-	3,497
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	-	-	9,000
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	49,219	-	64,877
English Rural	-	-	-	3,497
Environment Agency	-	57,710	-	57,710
Macmillan	-	60,654	-	-
Fenland District Council	-	2,331	-	2,331
Hastoe Housing	-	-	-	3,497
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,331	-	2,331
Longhurst Group	-	-	-	3,497
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	103,860	-	145,638
Social Enterprise East of England	-	-	-	10,093
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	103,497	-	87,991
Miscellaneous Grants	-	135,935	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>820,100</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>810,210</u>
Sources of Restricted Funds:				
Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE		708,728		418,327
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE		<u>111,372</u>		<u>391,883</u>
		<u>820,100</u>		<u>810,210</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2025				31 March 2024
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	55,243	-	26,500	81,743	129,800
Publications	225	-	-	225	72
	55,468	-	26,500	81,968	129,872

6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534
	7,118	-	-	7,118	3,534

7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	111,372	111,372	391,883
Staff costs (Note 8)	117,095	-	392,923	510,018	414,078
Consultancy	-	-	-	-	1,450
Premises	6,151	-	-	6,151	4,411
Office running costs	31,588	-	1,606	33,194	28,363
Meetings & Workshops	1,134	-	3,422	4,556	6,814
Project delivery costs	-	-	36,655	36,655	63,409
Centenary event costs	389	-	-	389	16,644
Professional fees	10,367	-	8,092	18,459	36,063
Volunteer expenses	91	-	2,008	2,099	7,163
Housing Need Survey Costs	-	-	-	-	11,023
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	40,328	-	-	40,328	43,717
Depreciation	-	1,432	-	1,432	2,429
Publicity	-	-	8,698	8,698	37,434
Expensed equipment	916	-	7,125	8,041	5,086
Subscriptions	6,427	-	-	6,427	6,484
Miscellaneous expenditure	996	-	93	1,089	344
Audit fees	6,782	-	-	6,782	6,447
Non-audit fees	281	-	-	281	1,783
Total expenditure	222,545	1,432	571,994	795,971	1,085,025

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

8. Trustees and Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Wages and salaries	420,431	343,820
Accrued holiday pay movement	956	(7,860)
Employer's NI	30,461	25,787
Pension	34,604	38,340
Travel	15,499	7,277
Training	4,490	4,584
Recruitment	3,577	2,130
Total staff costs	<u>510,018</u>	<u>414,078</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>209,466</u>	<u>178,170</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>16</u>	<u>11</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £Nil (2024: £Nil) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189.

9. Governance

	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
Audit fee	6,782	6,447
Non audit financial services	281	1,783
Trustee meeting and networking	2,109	558
Indemnity insurance	489	454
Selected core staff salaries	13,257	7,645
Expenses	<u>21,654</u>	<u>10,308</u>
	<u>44,572</u>	<u>27,195</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 10.01% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in July 2025.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

10. Grants Given

Project	Grant Recipient	Year ended 31 March 2025 £	Year ended 31 March 2024 £
WCLLD	Clarion Futures	-	23,784
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	-	9,176
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	-	1,000
WCLLD	Ferry Project	-	156,599
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	-	15,903
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	-	21,578
WCLLD	Tin Fish Creative Communications Ltd	-	21,699
Rural Touring	ADEC	-	3,000
CHES+	Various individuals	27,909	36,250
Community Hubs- East Cambs	Various hubs	10,620	26,424
Community Hubs- Fenland	Various hubs	24,805	33,500
Community Hubs- South Cambs	Various hubs	28,088	9,400
HSF Additional Hub Funding	Various hubs	19,950	-
Warm Hubs in Winter	Various hubs	-	33,570
Total Grants Given		<u>111,372</u>	<u>391,883</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	350,214	125,832	83,028	559,074
Grant funding activity	-	-	111,372	111,372
Support costs	30,828	54,367	40,342	125,537
Total cost of activities 2025	381,042	180,199	234,742	795,983
Total costs in 2024	479,862	167,148	433,504	1,080,514

Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Management & HR	21,369	37,685	27,964	87,018
Finance & IT	4,811	8,485	6,296	19,592
Administration	4,648	8,197	6,082	18,927
Total support costs 2025	30,828	54,367	40,342	125,537
Total costs in 2024	48,474	51,509	35,055	135,038

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [9%]; Cambridgeshire Community Hubs (Cadent); CHESS+; Community Hubs (East Cambs, Fenland and South Cambs); Defra [33%]; Fenland Community Cancer Champions; HSF Additional Hub Funding.
- **Environmental Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [11%]; Catchment Partnership (WEIF); Defra [33%]; Eels in the Classroom; Environment Agency Volunteers; Fens Biosphere Development; New Life on the Old West.
- **Economic Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [80%]; Eastern Community Homes; Defra (33%); Rural Affordable Housing; Social Enterprise Consortium.

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

12. Fund transfers

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds	
	£	£	£
Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	6,495	-	(6,495)
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	4,822	(4,822)	-
CHESS+	4,244	-	(4,244)
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	1,861	-	(1,861)
Community Hubs - Fenland	5,486	-	(5,486)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	14,732	-	(14,732)
DEFRA	8,099	-	(8,099)
Eels in the Classroom	929	-	(929)
Environment Agency Volunteers	15,180	-	(15,180)
New Life on the Old West	15,018	-	(15,018)
Rural Affordable Housing	22,911	-	(22,911)
Machinery and equipment	(1,871)	1,871	-
Social Enterprise Consortium	2,529	-	(2,529)
Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)	13,780	-	(13,780)
Fenland Community Cancer Champions	12,958	-	(12,958)
HSF Additional Hub Funding	1,050	-	(1,050)
Fens Biosphere Development	265	-	(265)
	128,488	(2,951)	(125,537)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	5,643	-	(5,643)
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	15,178	(15,178)	-
CHESS+	5,444	-	(5,444)
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	11,946	-	(2,167)
Community Hubs - Fenland	4,237	-	(4,237)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	2,367	-	(2,367)
DEFRA	10,717	-	(10,717)
Digital Transformation Fund	5,340	(5,340)	-
Eastern Community Homes	2,092	-	(2,092)
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	499	-	(499)
Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)	2,718	-	(2,718)
Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)	3,200	-	(3,200)
Environment Agency Volunteers	10,886	-	(10,886)
Machinery and equipment	-	-	-
New Life on the Old West	31,405	-	(31,405)
Rural Affordable Housing	15,540	-	(15,540)
Rural Touring	269	-	(269)
Social Enterprise Consortium	3,888	-	(3,888)
Warm Hubs EC Ext	646	-	4,799
Warm Hubs in Winter	-	-	(39,051)
Warm Hubs SC Ext	13,181	-	10,646
Wisbech CLLD CPCA	10,359	-	(10,359)
	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment £	Restricted Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
Beginning of the year	16,560	13,415	29,975
Additions	1,871	-	1,871
At the end of the year	18,431	13,415	31,846
Depreciation			
Beginning of the year	15,752	13,415	29,167
Charge for the year	1,432	-	1,432
At the end of the year	17,184	13,415	30,599
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2024	1,894	1,343	3,237
As at 31 March 2025	1,247	-	1,247

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

14. Investments

	2025 £	2024 £
As at 1 April 2024	116,387	176,386
Additions	67,694	29,690
Disposals	-	(89,689)
Revaluation	-	-
As at 31 March 2025	184,081	116,387
Analysis of investments:		
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	91,391	83,697
United Trust	29,690	29,690
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
Reliance 1 year fixed term	60,000	-
	184,081	116,387

15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

Income Due	67,637	82,620
Accrued Income	27,756	92,462
Prepayments	5,219	13,866
	100,612	188,948

16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

Due within 1 year		
Accruals	7,747	32,944
Accrued Holiday Pay	1,199	2,155
Payroll Liabilities	232	2,497
Sundry Creditors	15,696	9,483
VAT	20,852	17,167
	45,726	64,246

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

Deferred income comprises income received in the year that is attributable to the following year in which the expenditure will be incurred.

	2025	2024
	£	£
Balance of deferred income as at 1 April 2024	6,913	9,883
Amount released to income earned from charitable activities	(6,913)	(2,970)
Amount deferred in the year	1,212	-
Balance of deferred income as at 31 March 2025	<u>1,212</u>	<u>6,913</u>

17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 17 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 11).

At 31 March 2025 there was no balance owing by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes.

19. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year.

Each Trustee completes an annual Declaration of Interests form and these are noted at every meeting of the Board and its Committees. Trustees and senior staff are also required to complete an annual Related Parties Schedule so that any possible transactions or arrangements made or entered into by Cambridgeshire ACRE involving an individual or his/her close family members can be identified.

Trustees are appointed as individuals but do have involvement with organisations which Cambridgeshire ACRE works with on a regular basis. During the past year, Cambridgeshire ACRE has received resource support from, or has supported, and in some case funded, activities with:

- Christchurch Parish Council – David Gibbs
- CP Learning Trust – Terry Jordan
- Newton in the Isle Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Weston Colville Parish Council – Ray Vidler
- Wisbech Community Development Trust – Terry Jordan
- Wisbech Town Council – Terry Jordan

In all situations, rigorous procurement or project management procedures are followed to ensure no single individual has undue influence over decisions.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

20. Designated and Capital Funds	Brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Capital funds					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	808	-	(1,432)	1,871	1,247
Equipment (Restricted)	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Funds	808	-	(1,432)	1,871	1,247
Designated Funds					
Digital Transformation Fund	64,660	-	-		64,660
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	4,822	-	-	(4,822)	-
Business Continuity and Development Fund	101,408	-	-		101,408
Total Designated Funds	170,890	-	-	(4,822)	166,068
Total Capital & Designated Funds	171,698	-	(1,432)	(2,951)	167,315

Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

Digital Transformation Fund:

The Charity's membership and stakeholder digital communication expectations are rapidly changing, with future advancements in technology requiring investment beyond the annual digital budget for running and maintenance costs. This fund has been established to allow for the charity to invest in digital solutions and innovation. Funds will be used for furthering the use of digital technology to provide improved member and stakeholder communications, to develop digital fundraising requirements and to increase project management efficiencies for members and partners. Funds might be used for such things as supporting the purchase of new software technology for communications and business efficiency; renewing and updating of websites and the buying new equipment.

Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund:

The charity celebrated its Centenary year in 2024. This fund was set up to provide for the undertaking of a programme of special events during that year of celebration in order to raise the profile of the charity's work and show how the charity has shaped rural community life in the County. Funds were used to strengthen the charity's relationships with key stakeholders and to position the organisation for the future.

Business Continuity and Development Fund:

The Business Continuity and Development Fund is held to support the development of new programmes of work including the engagement of consultants to prepare funding plans, to cover business uncertainties in costs for programme delivery; to support increasing demands for services where there is a commitment of 'match funding' to develop partnership approaches; to invest in the training staff in new areas of work in order to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Bourn Windmill	-	-	-	-	-
CHESS+	-	49,219	(44,975)	(4,244)	-
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	3,078	31,235	(18,934)	(1,861)	13,518
Community Hubs - Fenland	(42)	86,955	(81,427)	(5,486)	-
Community Hubs - South Cambs	26,042	100,000	(90,266)	(14,732)	21,044
DEFRA	-	44,180	(36,081)	(8,099)	-
Eastern Community Homes	4,810	1,500	(556)	-	5,754
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	-	-	-	-	-
Environment Agency Volunteers	3,635	42,711	(31,166)	(15,180)	-
Fens Biosphere Development	12,295	-	(12,030)	(265)	-
New Life on the Old West	(45)	79,619	(64,601)	(15,018)	(45)
Rural Affordable Housing	13,390	90,579	(57,052)	(22,911)	24,006
Rural Touring	-	-	-	-	-
Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)	-	166,909	(40,509)	(13,780)	112,620
Fenland Community Cancer Champions	-	60,655	(47,697)	(12,958)	-
Futureproofing Camb. Com. Bldgs	-	4,242	(1,481)	-	2,761
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	-	-	20,000
HSF Additional Hub Funding	-	21,000	(19,950)	(1,050)	-
Eals in the classroom	-	11,297	(3,157)	(929)	7,211
	68,929	857,899	(571,994)	(125,537)	229,297

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Catchment Partnership (WEIF)

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (having been funded on an annual basis since 2014/15). Grant funding is provided by the Environment Agency to stimulate engagement with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and to involve them in decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford River's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2025/26.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service Plus (CHESS+)

This project started in February 2023 and ran for 23 months to end December 2024. This was the second iteration of the CHESS project with grant funding provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who were the project lead. The project aimed to improve the health and wellbeing of 1,200 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved engaging with frontline workers to help them make project referrals and administering the fuel debt relief pot. A third iteration of the project, CHESS 3, commenced April 2025 and will run until 31 March 2027

Community Hubs – East Cambs

This project ran from May 2024 to March 2025 and was funded through Awards for All, Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together programme and East Cambridgeshire District Council. It allowed us to continue our work supporting community hubs in East Cambridgeshire district.

Community Hubs – Fenland

This project started in July 2023 and ran until March 2025. Funded through DCMS's Know Your Neighbourhood fund, the funding allowed us to develop and support a network of community-led Community Living Rooms across Fenland district which have reduced chronic loneliness and increased community volunteering. In Jun 2025, we were awarded some additional funds from the underspent national programme that will allow us to deliver further project activity in the period to March 2026.

Community Hubs – South Cambs

This project started in November 2023 and runs until October 2025. Funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council, we have continued to support the network of Community Hubs in South Cambridgeshire.

Defra

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (funding is provided on an annual basis). Defra requires us to deliver local strategic support to rural communities, enabling them to take action, sharing learning on sustainable funding models and providing access to local intelligence. Funding for 2025/26 has been confirmed.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Eastern Community Homes

This project started in April 2020 and ran until March 2025. The project aimed to improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. Funding was provided by a partnership of local authorities from across the East of England to underpin a regional Hub of trained advisers in each of the ACRE Network members in the region who provide advice and support for community groups.

Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)

This project involved the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Maldon District Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. Although managed by Cambridgeshire ACRE, the project is delivered by our sister organisation, the Rural Community Council of Essex. The project started in April 2024 and concluded at end March 2025. A further tranche of funding is expected in 2025/26.

Environment Agency Volunteers

This project started in March 2023 and ran until the end February 2025. The Environment Agency contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has brought about better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services. A further single year contract has been agreed for 2025/26.

Fens Biosphere Development

This fund held the remainder of the grant funding provided by the People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund for the purpose of developing and submitting a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens. A decision was ultimately taken not to proceed with the UNESCO nomination. During the course of the year, the remaining funding was transferred to the County Nature Partnership, Natural Cambridgeshire, to take forward the work.

New Life on the Old West

This project started in October 2020 and runs until end September 2025. A grant of £730k was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements on farmland and community green spaces in areas around the Old West river. The project is working with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

Rural Affordable Housing

This project started in April 2024 and finished in March 2025 (having been funded on an annual basis for many years). Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Additionally, during 2024/25 additional funding was provided through the Defra Rural Housing Enabler Programme. Partners and Defra have committed to provide a further year's funding for 2025/26.

Social Enterprise Consortium

Cambridgeshire ACRE entered into a consortium arrangement with Cambridge CVS, Hunts Forum, Peterborough CVS and Allia Impact, using funding provided by Social Enterprise East of England, to provide support to social enterprises and community-owned businesses across the County. Initially a pilot project in 2023/24, a second phase of the pilot ran from April 2024 – August 2024.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Cambs Community Hubs (Cadent)

Cambridgeshire ACRE has received funding through Cadent's Centres for Warmth programme to continue and extend its support for Community Hubs across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire. The funding allows us to employ a team of Village Agents who support individuals with improving their health and wellbeing. Cadent is particularly concerned that we should support people with income maximisation, energy efficiency advice and carbon monoxide safety advice. The project commenced in September 2024 and will run until end March 2026.

Fenland Community Cancer Champions

The Fenland Community Cancer Champions project aims to ensure people living in Fenland have improved knowledge about cancer that supports their access to earlier diagnosis and treatment. Funded by Macmillan Cancer Support the project started in May 2024 and will run for three years until end April 2027.

Futureproofing Camb. Com. Bldgs

This project will start in April 2025 and will run by three years to end March 2028. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, with match funding brought across from our Defra funding and membership fees, it seeks to enhance support for community buildings by providing a comprehensive suite of services and resources tailored to the needs of volunteer management committees. A new addition is the provision of sustainability advice, including energy audits for community buildings seeks to 'go greener' by installing energy efficiency measures.

HSF Additional Hub Funding

Cambridgeshire County Council distributes the Household Support Fund (HSF), the UK Government grant to support those most in need and to help with the rising cost of living. The funds permits them to allocate a certain proportion of funding for preventative measures and they granted funded to Cambridgeshire ACRE to passport onto our network of Community Hubs. This was a one-off initiative during 2024/25.

Eals in the classroom

This short-term project was delivered between February 2025 and end May 2025. Funded by the Centre for Landscape Regeneration, the project saw us work in two schools to give children hands-on experience in rearing endangered eels, learning about their life cycle and releasing them into the wild.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

22. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,247	-	1,247
Investments	18,013	166,068	-	184,081
Net current assets	159,905	-	229,297	389,202
Total	177,918	167,315	229,297	574,530

23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2024

	Year ended 31 March 2024			Total
	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	£
Income				
Donations	13,560	-	-	13,560
Charitable activities	1,273	-	810,446	811,719
Other trading activities	95,255	-	34,617	129,872
Investments	3,534	-	-	3,534
Total income	113,622	-	845,063	958,685
Expenditure				
Raising funds	4,511	-	-	4,511
Charitable activities	229,056	2,429	849,029	1,080,514
Total expenditure	233,567	2,429	849,029	1,085,025
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	(119,945)	(2,429)	(3,966)	(126,340)
Transfers between funds	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)	-
Net movement in funds	35,610	(22,947)	(139,003)	(126,340)
Reconciliation in funds:				
Total funds brought forward	157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426
Total funds carried forward	193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Notes to the accounts

Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who funded and supported our work over the last year, in particular:

Central Government

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Environment Agency

Local Authorities and Statutory Agencies

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords

Accent Group Ltd
Amplius (formerly the Longhurst Group)
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Cambridge Housing Society
English Rural Housing Association
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd

Lottery Distributors

Awards for All
National Lottery Community Fund
National Lottery Heritage Fund

Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations and Others

Allia Impact
Anglian Water
Cadent Gas Ltd
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Centre for Landscape Regeneration
Energy Industry Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust
Evelyn Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Macmillan Cancer Support
Papworth Trust
PECT
Plunkett UK
Resolve Poverty
Social Enterprise East of England
Trinity Denoir

Accounts



Registered Company no. 03690881

Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Cambridgeshire ACRE
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Officers and Professional Advisers

PRESIDENT

Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Stephanie Louise Baxter

Ann Lesley Blair (Chairperson)

David Anthony Gibbs

Richard John St Clair Harlow (appointed 9-Feb-2024)

Michael David Hellowell (resigned 27-Sep-2023)

Terry John Jordan (Vice-Chairman)

Hugh Kyle McCurdy (resigned 27-Sep-2023)

David Ian Olney (appointed 6-Apr-2023)

Jessica Lucy Sellick

Sarah Elizabeth Rae Severn CBE

Ray Vidler (Treasurer)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Alison Catherine Brown

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kirsten Jean Bennett (resigned 30-Jun-2024)

Hayley Elizabeth Neal (appointed 1-Jul-2024)

REGISTERED OFFICE

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

AUDITORS

Chater Allan LLP, 7 Quy Court Colliers Lane, Stow-Cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' & Directors' Report

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2024 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 9 October 2024. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of the trustees' responsibilities

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Objects of the charity

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Our vision

Thriving rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Our mission

To drive positive change and work with others to improve the lives of those that live and work in rural communities.

Public benefit

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are:

- *Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits:* The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Trustees' & Directors' Report

- *Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:* The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

Incorporation

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

Governance

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently 9 members of the Board.

Trustee recruitment

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and/or Loyalty and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

Trustee induction

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

Trustee training

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

Reserves

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve increased from £157,849 to £193,459. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of just under four months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has three designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 20 in the financial statements.

Investments

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits are split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd, United Trust Bank and Reliance Bank at

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' & Directors' Report

the balance sheet date.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks.

Review of activities

The review of activities details our key achievements during the year 2023/24 across the strategic aims set in the organisation's strategy.

Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside the rural communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We help them take action to make positive changes to their local neighbourhoods.

Whether it's supporting volunteers to lead community projects, bringing local organisations together to drive meaningful change or amplifying the voices of our parish and community members, our charity is deeply embedded in rural community life.

With our support, residents, groups and partners can seize opportunities and realise their aspirations to improve the places, services and facilities that are important to them.

This section details our key achievements during the year 2023/24 across the strategic aims set in the organisation's strategy.

Supporting community run assets

Community-run assets and owned assets like village halls, pubs and shops are at the heart of rural community life. They provide a vital hub for health and social activities, education and vital rural services to take place. Part of our role is to help these assets thrive.

We provide advice, support and training to the trustees of these community-run assets and help them run these to the highest-possible standards for the benefit of their communities.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- 143 village halls in membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE and receiving our quarterly newsletter summarising news and developments
- 279 cases of support successfully resolved from village halls requiring advice and guidance
- 7 further Hallmark accreditations awarded to village halls reaching the quality standard for a well-run facility (two at Level 1; four at Level 2; and one at Level 3).
- 4 training events attended by 58 village hall trustees so they might enhance their skills and knowledge for how to safely and successfully run their facility
- 5 village hall development projects supported with feasibility studies and building design advice.

Championing community-led housing and planning

We deliver housing needs surveys to find hidden housing need in rural communities and then work with local authorities, housing associations, town & parish councils and communities to build rural affordable homes, including some built through community-led approaches.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' & Directors' Report

We also support communities to research and develop neighbourhood plans to put in place planning policy for a neighbourhood area to guide future development.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- 33 affordable homes built on rural exception sites. Additionally, housing needs surveys identified 'hidden' need for 19 further affordable homes across 5 communities
- 6 Local Authorities from across the East of England supported Eastern Community Homes, our regional hub giving advice and support to 52 community-led housing groups. One event delivered, in conjunction with EELGA, to introduce community-led housing approaches to newly-appointed councillors at local planning authorities.
- 13 neighbourhood planning groups supported by our Neighbourhood Planning Service, including 6 new groups for 2023/24.

Tackling environmental challenges

We work with communities to help them tackle environmental issues challenges and consider predicted climate changes impacts.

We support their efforts to enhance their natural environment and improve community green spaces. We help communities plan for decarbonisation and net zero targets, as well as supporting them with issues of flooding and considering local mitigating actions.

We have also been highly successful at developing and leading environmental volunteering programmes.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- 26 volunteer lock wardens guided boaters through locks on the River Great Ouse providing 1,092 hours of volunteering support to the Environment Agency
- 57 volunteers picked up 80 bags of litter, cleaning up their local rivers in March and Ramsey and helping to prevent flooding.
- 182 new individuals/organisations successfully engaged by our Water Care Partnership which brings people together to collaborate to improve the water environment in the Old Bedford and Middle Level Catchment area.
- Final habitat works to be delivered through our New Life on the Old West project undertaken, including pond works at community green spaces at Little Thetford and Willingham. All landowners received guidance on how to manage and maintain their new habitats in future.
- 7 key farms/community green spaces received new interpretation boards showing the habitats works delivered through our New Life on the Old West project and encouraging passersby to engage with the nature around them.
- 298 species identification records submitted by trained our Nature Volunteers to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Environmental Records Centre.
- Over the life of the New Life on the Old West project, in excess of 3,500 community members have attended training events to learn new skills to undertake nature and biodiversity restoration projects in their own communities.

Strengthening the rural economy and employment

We are committed to developing and delivering projects that lever in funding to strengthen rural businesses, encourage support networks that bring people together and lead community-led development programmes that increases people's life chances.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- Our Wisbech CLLD Programme concluded having invested £884k funding into 10 organisations helping 158 people into work or training and 136 people into further education or training.
- Through our participation in the pilot phase of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Social Enterprise Consortium, supported 6 rural businesses to consider the next steps in their development.
- 3 events held to demystify social enterprise and to introduce to the concept of community owned business to our network. These were collectively attended by 93 individuals.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Trustees' & Directors' Report

Improving community health and wellbeing

We are committed to ensuring fairer and more equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in rural areas, where access to services can be much more difficult.

Through our work, we see at first-hand the issues that rurality can cause, especially where it is compounded by significant deprivation and isolation.

Cambridgeshire ACRE works with partners and communities to understand inequalities in health and wellbeing and to tackle these issues at a local level.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- 25 Warm Hubs across East and South Cambridgeshire assisted to transition to year-round delivery as Community Hubs. Additionally, 7 new Community Living Rooms were opened across Fenland district.
- 13,255 volunteer hours provided by those successfully leading Community Hubs/Living Rooms in their communities. When valued at the median pay rate for their district, these hours are worth over £233,000.
- 24,251 visits made by community members to Community Hubs/Living Rooms between Apr-2023 and Mar-2024. 15% of these visits are estimated to have been made by unique visitors, meaning an estimated 3,638 people across East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and South Cambridgeshire are making regular use of their local Community Hub/Living Room.
- 95 households supported through our Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service to clear £37,071 of fuel debt.

Working in partnership and providing consultancy

We work with a wide range of partners and nearly all the work we undertake involves collaboration and joint delivery of projects.

We often provide in-depth consultancy support to organisations and communities who use our expertise to help them achieve specific goals, delivering research, public consultation, partnership development & management, project development & funding or community / voluntary and cultural sector engagement.

Key achievements during 2023/24 include:

- 30+ partner organisations worked alongside us to deliver our work
- 16 sub-contracts issued to other voluntary and community sector organisations, helping to share the funding received and ensuring we delivered the best results
- 6 consultancy contracts completed to support communities with their community developments or partners with more complex work

Charity and governance activity

With 2024 being the charity's Centenary Year, during late 2023 efforts turned to creating a programme of activity that would celebrate Cambridgeshire ACRE's 100 years of community action. A travelling exhibition was created, consisting of 32 panels of information that are set out to tell both the charity's history and that of rural Cambridgeshire. On 5 December 2023, a press launch for the Centenary Year was held at King's College, Cambridge, the site of the very first meetings to set up the Cambridgeshire Rural Community Council in 1924.

Two of the organisation's long serving trustees (Mike Hellowell and Hugh McCurdy) stood down at our 2023 Annual General Meeting, but since then Cambridgeshire ACRE has recruited two new trustees (David Olney and Richard Harlow) who bring excellent skill sets to complement those held by our existing Board members. A major exercise was undertaken with a working group of trustees to completely refresh the organisation's risk register.

Cambridgeshire ACRE has continued to give much emphasis to its marketing activity, targeting efforts at engaging with particular audiences and increasing the quality of our social media content so that it speaks more directly to those we wish to reach about our agreed areas of focus. We have continued to send out a monthly e-newsletter, *Staying in Touch*, and to deliver regular online webinars through our 'Staying Connected' series.

We have worked with other organisations to collaborate on developing new projects and to find suitable funding for these. We have worked with Living Sport, the County sports partnership to develop a project on green social

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Trustees' & Directors' Report

prescribing (currently at expression of interest stage with the National Lottery Community Fund) and with Macmillan Cancer Support to design a new Fenland Community Cancer Champions (now funded and to be delivered between 2024 – 2027).

Financial review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2022/23 are shown in brackets)

For the financial year 2023/24 incoming resources were £958,685 (£1,014,577). This represents a decrease in income of 6%.

The end of the year saw a surplus of £35,610 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total expenditure exceeded income by £126,340. The restricted reserves have decreased from £207,932 to £68,929. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds decreased from £194,645 to £171,698, a decrease of £22,947. The unrestricted general reserve showed an increase during the year from £157,849 to £193,459; an increase of 23%.

Plans for future periods

2024 marks the Centenary of Cambridgeshire ACRE, a milestone we are celebrating with those who matter most to us: our members, volunteers, beneficiaries and partners. It is a time to reflect on our accomplishments and to reconfirm our commitment to providing outstanding service and support to the people and communities of rural Cambridgeshire.

This centenary not only represents a century of dedication and service to our community but also marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. As we embark on this new era, under the leadership of a new Chief Executive and within the context of a new government, we are initiating consultations with all our stakeholders to collaboratively develop a new five-year strategy. Our goal is to build on the rich legacy of the past hundred years while embracing future opportunities, driving Cambridgeshire ACRE to even greater success.

The core values that have guided Cambridgeshire ACRE for the past century; community support, rural advocacy and sustainable development, will remain at the heart of our strategic vision.

During the next year, some of our existing projects will be coming to an end, including the five-year New Life on the Old West environmental project, however, we also see new projects starting, such as Fenland Community Cancer Champions. New, old, existing and continuing projects are of equal importance to us and we will continue to deliver them to an outstanding level. We will continue to share the impact of these important projects through our monthly newsletter, "Staying in Touch".

We have recently worked with the ACRE Network to develop "No rural community left behind: Our recommendations for the next government" which was shared widely before the recent general election. We aim to leverage this report and its findings to collaborate with our newly elected Members of Parliament, ensuring the needs of rural communities are prioritised.

As always, funding will be a critical focus in the coming year. We need to continue to work with our existing funders to ensure our projects continue to operate, whilst investigating new partnerships and opportunities. Innovation will be central to all new projects we develop to meet the evolving needs of rural life. By embracing new technologies and creative approaches, we aim to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities. This includes enhancing access to services, improving infrastructure, and fostering economic development. Our commitment to innovation ensures that we can provide effective, sustainable solutions that not only respond to current needs but also anticipate future trends.

Through collaboration with stakeholders and a commitment to continuous improvement, we strive to deliver impactful projects that empower rural residents and ensure that no member of our rural community is left behind.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees' & Directors' Report

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The accounts

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2024. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Chairperson: 
Ann Lesley Blair

Company Secretary: 
Alison Brown

Date: 09 October 2024

e-space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of 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 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 directors' 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 charity'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 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' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 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.

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

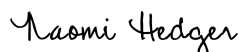
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Naomi Hedger (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
7 Quay Court
Colliers Lane
Stow-cum-Quay
Cambridge
CB25 9AU
20 November 2024

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 March 2024			Total	2023 Total
		Unrestricted funds	Designated/ capital funds	Restricted funds		
	Note	Unrestricted fund £	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	13,560	-	-	13,560	12,117
Charitable activities	3	1,273	-	810,446	811,719	907,055
Other trading activities	5	95,255	-	34,617	129,872	93,003
Investments	6	3,534	-	-	3,534	2,402
Total income		113,622	-	845,063	958,685	1,014,577
Expenditure						
Raising funds		4,511	-	-	4,511	5,059
Charitable activities	11	229,056	2,429	849,029	1,080,514	1,064,530
Total expenditure	7	233,567	2,429	849,029	1,085,025	1,069,589
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(119,945)	(2,429)	(3,966)	(126,340)	(55,012)
Transfers between funds	12	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)	-	-
Net movement in funds		35,610	(22,947)	(139,003)	(126,340)	(55,012)
Reconciliation in funds:						
Total funds brought forward		157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426	615,438
Total funds carried forward	22	193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426

Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

As at 31 March 2024

Company registration number: 03690881

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	13	-	808	-	808	3,237
Investments	14	-	116,387	-	116,387	176,386
		-	117,195	-	117,195	179,623
Current assets:						
Debtors	15	188,948	-		188,948	292,105
Cash at bank and in hand		68,757	54,503	68,929	192,189	139,372
		257,705	54,503	68,929	381,137	431,477
Liabilities:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	64,246	-	-	64,246	50,674
Net current assets		193,459	54,503	68,929	316,891	380,803
Total net assets		193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426
The funds of the charity:						
Restricted funds	21	-	-	68,929	68,929	207,932
Designated and capital funds	20	-	171,698	-	171,698	194,645
Unrestricted funds		193,459	-	-	193,459	157,849
		193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 09 October 2024

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



 Ann Lesley Blair, Chairperson

31 October 2024

.....
 Date

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(7,716)	(143,989)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	3,534	2,402
Purchase of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(2,170)
	<u>3,534</u>	<u>232</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>(4,182)</u>	<u>(143,757)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	312,758	456,515
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>308,576</u>	<u>312,758</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	192,189	139,372
Investments	116,387	173,386
	<u>308,576</u>	<u>312,758</u>
 Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(126,340)	(55,012)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,429	1,692
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(3,534)	(2,402)
(Increase) in debtors	103,157	(80,447)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	16,572	(7,820)
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>(7,716)</u>	<u>(143,989)</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

Legal Form Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Country of Incorporation Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Address of Registered Office: e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA.

Currency These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

Principal Activities Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

Public Benefit Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and Reserves All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

Fund Accounting The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 20 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 21 below.

Voluntary Income All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

Grant Income Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 21). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

Grant Expenditure The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

Membership The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

Investments The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

Interest When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

Taxation As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE
For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Value Added Tax (VAT) The charity is registered for VAT.

Governance Expenditure This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio updated in 2022 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

Netting Off of Income and Expenditure Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

Investments and Investment Income Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

Capital Fund The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

Designated Funds The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. The Project Development Fund is held to support the development of new projects (including the engagement of consultants to prepare plans or funding bids and the employment of staff beyond their funded contracts to develop further projects) to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE’s corporate strategy. The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Raising Funds The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

Going Concern The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees’ policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months’ unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

2. Donations

	31 March 2024			31 March 2023	
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated capital	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	13,560	-	-	13,560	12,117
	13,560	-	-	13,560	12,117

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

3. Charitable Activities

	31 March 2024			31 March 2023	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	810,210	810,210	904,923
Other charitable income	1,273	-	236	1,509	2,132
	<u>1,273</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>810,446</u>	<u>811,719</u>	<u>907,055</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

4. Analysis of Grants Received

	31 March 2024		31 March 2023	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Accent Nene Ltd	-	3,497	-	3,150
Arts Council National Lottery	-	9,848	-	-
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	3,497	-	3,150
Cambridge Housing Society	-	875	-	3,150
Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority	-	-	-	55,000
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	48,878	-	-
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	52,240	-	-
Cambridge Past Present & Future	-	37,963	-	7,800
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	3,497	-	3,150
Defra	-	79,405	-	44,180
Department for Work and Pensions	-	176,551	-	259,511
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	3,497	-	77,631
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	9,000	-	6,000
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	64,877	-	25,015
English Rural	-	3,497	-	-
Environment Agency	-	57,710	-	19,966
ESF	-	-	-	-
Fenland District Council	-	2,331	-	2,100
Hastoe Housing	-	3,497	-	3,150
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,331	-	2,100
Longhurst Group	-	3,497	-	3,150
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	145,638	-	236,041
Rural Payments Agency	-	-	-	25,678
Stagecoach East	-	-	-	5,000
Social Enterprise East of England	-	10,093	-	-
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	87,991	-	117,280
Wisbech Town Council	-	-	-	-
Other grants	-	-	101	2,620
	<u>-</u>	<u>810,210</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>904,822</u>

Sources of Restricted Funds:

Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE	418,327	519,660
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE	<u>391,883</u>	<u>385,162</u>
	<u>810,210</u>	<u>904,822</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2024				31 March 2023
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	95,183	-	34,617	129,800	92,957
Publications	72	-	-	72	46
	95,255	-	34,617	129,872	93,003

6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	3,534	-	-	3,534	2,402
	3,534	-	-	3,534	2,402

7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	391,883	391,883	385,162
Staff costs (Note 8)	101,704	-	312,374	414,078	411,777
Consultancy	-	-	1,450	1,450	6,170
Premises	4,411	-	-	4,411	4,985
Office running costs	27,459	-	904	28,363	24,038
Meetings & Workshops	105	-	6,709	6,814	2,319
Project delivery costs	-	-	63,409	63,409	89,755
Centenary event costs	16,644	-	-	16,644	-
Professional fees	3,266	-	32,797	36,063	30,618
Volunteer expenses	5,669	-	1,494	7,163	2,857
Housing Need Survey Costs	11,023	-	-	11,023	20,068
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	43,717	-	-	43,717	36,533
Depreciation	-	2,429	-	2,429	1,692
Publicity	4,511	-	32,923	37,434	36,742
Expensed equipment	142	-	4,944	5,086	2,570
Subscriptions	6,418	-	66	6,484	6,589
Miscellaneous expenditure	268	-	76	344	136
Audit fees	6,447	-	-	6,447	6,348
Non-audit fees	1,783	-	-	1,783	1,230
Total expenditure	233,567	2,429	849,029	1,085,025	1,069,589

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

8. Trustees and Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Wages and salaries	343,820	343,472
Accrued holiday pay movement	(7,860)	(387)
Employer's NI	25,787	28,541
Pension	38,340	24,644
Travel	7,277	8,000
Training	4,584	6,441
Recruitment	2,130	1,066
Total staff costs	<u>414,078</u>	<u>411,777</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>178,170</u>	<u>147,005</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £Nil (2023: £Nil) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189

9. Governance

	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
Audit fee	6,447	6,348
Non audit financial services	1,783	1,230
Annual General Meeting	558	1,300
Indemnity insurance	454	421
Selected core staff salaries	7,645	5,392
Expenses	<u>10,308</u>	<u>9,855</u>
	<u>27,195</u>	<u>24,546</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 6.14% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in 2022.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

10. Grants Given

Project	Grant Recipient	Year ended 31 March 2024 £	Year ended 31 March 2023 £
WCLLD	Clarion Futures	23,784	32,068
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	9,176	33,545
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	1,000	30,200
WCLLD	Ferry Project	156,599	88,980
WCLLD	Head to Toe	-	5,545
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	15,903	14,085
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	21,578	-
WCLLD	Rural Cambs CAB	-	25,729
WCLLD	Tin Fish Creative Communications Ltd	21,699	64,894
WCLLD	YMCA	-	-
Rural Touring	ADEC	3,000	2,222
CHESS	Various individuals	-	10,330
CHESS+	Various individuals	36,250	-
Community Hubs- East Cambs	Various hubs	26,424	-
Community Hubs- Fenland	Various hubs	33,500	-
Community Hubs- South Cambs	Various hubs	9,400	-
ECH (CPCA)	CHESS Homeless	-	4,800
Re-Opening Doors	Various village halls	-	480
Warm Hubs in Winter	Various hubs	33,570	72,259
Bourn Windmill		-	25
Total Grants Given		<u>391,883</u>	<u>385,162</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	431,388	115,639	6,566	553,593
Grant funding activity	-	-	391,883	391,883
Support costs	48,474	51,509	35,055	135,038
Total cost of activities 2024	479,862	167,148	433,504	1,080,514
Total costs in 2023	348,970	224,905	490,655	1,064,530

Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Management & HR	33,601	35,704	24,299	93,604
Finance & IT	7,565	8,039	5,471	21,075
Administration	7,308	7,766	5,285	20,359
Total support costs 2024	48,474	51,509	35,055	135,038
Total costs in 2023	17,421	76,839	22,159	116,419

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [67%]; Bourn Windmill; CHESS; Community Hubs (East Cambs, Fenland and South Cambs); Defra [33%]; Rural Touring; Warm Hubs in Winter (inc EC Ext and SC Ext).
- **Environmental Programmes:** Catchment Partnership (WEIF); Defra [33%]; Environment Agency Volunteers; Fens Biosphere Development; New Life on the Old West.
- **Economic Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [33%]; Eastern Community Homes; ECH (Chelmsford City Council); ECH (CPCA); ECH (Maldon District Council); Defra (33%); Rural Affordable Housing; Wisbech CLLD; and Wisbech CLLD CPCA .

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

12. Fund transfers

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds	
	£	£	£
Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	5,643	-	(5,643)
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	15,178	(15,178)	-
CHESS+	5,444	-	(5,444)
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	11,946	-	(2,167)
Community Hubs - Fenland	4,237	-	(4,237)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	2,367	-	(2,367)
DEFRA	10,717	-	(10,717)
Digital Transformation Fund	5,340	(5,340)	-
Eastern Community Homes	2,092	-	(2,092)
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	499	-	(499)
Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)	2,718	-	(2,718)
Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)	3,200	-	(3,200)
Environment Agency Volunteers	10,886	-	(10,886)
Machinery and equipment	-	-	-
New Life on the Old West	31,405	-	(31,405)
Rural Affordable Housing	15,540	-	(15,540)
Rural Touring	269	-	(269)
Social Enterprise Consortium	3,888	-	(3,888)
Warm Hubs EC Ext	646	-	4,799
Warm Hubs in Winter	-	-	(39,051)
Warm Hubs SC Ext	13,181	-	10,646
Wisbech CLLD CPCA	10,359	-	(10,359)
	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Bourn Windmill	6,191	-	(6,191)
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	25	-	(25)
Catchment Partnership	5,459	-	(5,459)
CHESS	2,396	-	(2,396)
CHESS+	880	-	(880)
Defra	6,796	-	(6,796)
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	(1,799)	-	1,799
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	5,414	-	(5,414)
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	22,453	-	(22,453)
Environment Agency Volunteers	13,663	-	(13,663)
Eels in the classroom	(58)	-	58
Fens Biosphere Development	4,873	-	(4,873)
Floating Pennywort Prevention	1,560	-	(1,560)
Machinery and equipment	(2,170)	2,170	-
New Life on the Old West	31,404	-	(31,404)
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	(33)	-	33
Rural Affordable Housing	3,815	-	(3,815)
Rural Touring	1,012	-	(1,012)
Support Cambs – Community Facilities	45	-	(45)
Warm Hubs in Winter	17,857	-	(17,857)
Wisbech CLLD Projects	5,313	-	(5,313)
	125,096	2,170	(127,266)

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment £	Restricted Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
Beginning of the year	16,560	13,415	29,975
At the end of the year	<u>16,560</u>	<u>13,415</u>	<u>29,975</u>
Depreciation			
Beginning of the year	14,666	12,072	26,738
Charge for the year	1,086	1,343	2,429
At the end of the year	<u>15,752</u>	<u>13,415</u>	<u>29,167</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2023	<u>1,894</u>	<u>1,343</u>	<u>3,237</u>
As at 31 March 2024	<u>808</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>808</u>

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

14. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
As at 1 April 2023	176,386	173,220
Additions	29,690	3,166
Disposals	(89,689)	-
Revaluation	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	<u>116,387</u>	<u>176,386</u>
Analysis of investments:		
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	83,697	83,697
United Trust	29,690	89,689
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
	<u>116,387</u>	<u>176,386</u>

15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

Income Due	82,620	106,086
Accrued Income	92,462	183,088
Prepayments	13,866	2,931
	<u>188,948</u>	<u>292,105</u>

16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

Due within 1 year		
Accruals	32,944	23,731
Accrued Holiday Pay	2,155	10,015
Payroll Liabilities	2,497	11
Sundry Creditors	9,483	7,040
VAT	17,167	9,877
	<u>64,246</u>	<u>50,674</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 11 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 10).

At 31 March 2024 there was no balance owing by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes.

19. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year.

Each Trustee completes an annual Declaration of Interests form and these are noted at every meeting of the Board and its Committees. Trustees and senior staff are also required to complete an annual Related Parties Schedule so that any possible transactions or arrangements made or entered into by Cambridgeshire ACRE involving an individual or his/her close family members can be identified.

During the year £1,380 (2022/23 - £12,236) was paid to Jessica Sellick, a Trustee, for professional services through the company of which she is a Director, Rose Regeneration. No amounts were outstanding at the year end (2022/23 - £nil).

Trustees are appointed as individuals but do have involvement with organisations which Cambridgeshire ACRE works with on a regular basis. During the past year, Cambridgeshire ACRE has received resource support from, or has supported, and in some case funded, activities with:

- Christchurch Parish Council – David Gibbs
- CP Learning Trust – Terry Jordan
- Horningsea Village Hall Trust – Michael Hellowell
- Newton in the Isle Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Newton Village Hall – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Community Centre and Recreation Ground – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Weston Colville Parish Council – Ray Vidler
- Wisbech Community Development Trust – Terry Jordan
- Wisbech Town Council – Terry Jordan

In all situations, rigorous procurement or project management procedures are followed to ensure no single individual has undue influence over decisions.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

20. Designated and Capital Funds	Brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Capital funds					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	1,894	-	(1,086)	-	808
Equipment (Restricted)	1,343	-	(1,343)	-	-
Total Capital Funds	3,237	-	(2,429)	-	808
Designated Funds					
Project Development Fund	72,552	-	-	(72,552)	-
Property and Office Accommodation	118,856	-	-	(118,856)	-
Digital Transformation Fund	-	-	-	64,660	64,660
Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund	-	-	-	4,822	4,822
Business Continuity and Development Fund	-	-	-	101,408	101,408
Total Designated Funds	191,408	-	-	(20,518)	170,890
Total Capital & Designated Funds	194,645	-	(2,429)	(20,518)	171,698

Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

Project Development Fund:

A fund to be used to support the development of new programmes of work.

Property & Office Accommodation Fund:

The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Changes to Designated funds during 2023/24:

Business Continuity and Development Fund

Sum: £100k

Rationale: The Business Continuity and Development Fund is held to support the development of new programmes of work including the engagement of consultants to prepare funding plans, to cover business uncertainties in costs for programme delivery such as the impact of recent rising costs; to support increasing demands for services where there is a commitment of 'match funding' to develop partnership approaches; to invest in the training staff in new areas of work in order to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy.

Digital Transformation Fund

Sum: £70k

Rationale: The Charity's membership and stakeholder digital communication expectations are rapidly changing, with future advancements in technology requiring investment beyond the annual digital budget for running and maintenance costs. This fund has been established to allow for the charity to invest in digital solutions and innovation. Investments will be used for furthering the use of digital technology to provide improved member and stakeholder communications, to develop digital fundraising requirements and to increase project management efficiencies for members and partners. Investments will support new software technology for communications and business efficiency; renewing and updating of websites and the buying new equipment.

Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund

Sum: £20k

Rationale: The charity celebrates its Centenary year in 2024. This fund is held to provide for the undertaking of a programme of special events and rural seminars during that year of celebration. The trustees wish to use the celebrations to raise the profile of the charity's work and show how the charity has shaped rural community life in the County. Investment will be used to strengthen the charity's relationships with key stakeholders and to position the organisation for the future.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Bourn Windmill	-	13,524	(13,524)	-	-
Catchment Partnership (WEIF)	3,089	15,000	(11,430)	(5,643)	1,016
CHESS+	(1,325)	64,877	(58,108)	(5,444)	-
Community Hubs - East Cambs.	-	52,240	(46,995)	(2,167)	3,078
Community Hubs - Fenland	-	73,317	(69,122)	(4,237)	(42)
Community Hubs - South Cambs	-	50,000	(21,591)	(2,367)	26,042
DEFRA	-	44,415	(33,698)	(10,717)	-
Eastern Community Homes	16,219	18,950	(28,267)	(2,092)	4,810
Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)	9,307	-	(8,808)	(499)	-
Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)	-	8,000	(5,282)	(2,718)	-
Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)	-	16,667	(8,717)	(3,200)	4,750
Environment Agency Volunteers	534	42,710	(28,723)	(10,886)	3,635
Fens Biosphere Development	13,779	-	(1,484)	-	12,295
New Life on the Old West	-	145,638	(114,278)	(31,405)	(45)
Rural Affordable Housing	-	68,737	(39,807)	(15,540)	13,390
Rural Touring	23,092	9,848	(32,671)	(269)	-
Social Enterprise Consortium	-	10,093	(6,205)	(3,888)	-
Warm Hubs EC Ext	-	-	(4,799)	4,799	-
Warm Hubs in Winter	39,051	-	-	(39,051)	-
Warm Hubs SC Ext	-	34,494	(45,140)	10,646	-
Wisbech CLLD	75,477	174,389	(250,022)	156	-
Wisbech CLLD CPCA	28,709	2,164	(20,358)	(10,515)	-
	207,932	845,063	(849,029)	(135,037)	68,929

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Bourn Windmill

Grant funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and delivered in partnership with Cambridge Past Present & Future, Cambridgeshire ACRE supported a project to conserve Bourn Windmill, one of the oldest windmills in the UK. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved delivering a programme of community engagement activity to involve local people in accessing the mill more and to increase the range of audiences who know about the mill. This project ended in July 2023.

Catchment Partnership (WEIF)

This project started in April 2023 and finished in March 2024 (having been funded on an annual basis since 2014/15). Grant funding is provided by the Environment Agency to stimulate engagement with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and to involve them in decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford River's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2024/25.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service (CHESS)

This project started in October 2020 and finished at end September 2022. Grant funding was provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who were the project lead. The project improved the health and wellbeing of 1,000 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who were suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved administering the fuel debt relief pot.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service Plus (CHESS+)

This project started in February 2023 and runs for 23 months to end December 2024. As with the previous CHESS project, grant funding is being provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who are the project lead. The project aims to improve the health and wellbeing of 1,200 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involves engaging with frontline workers to help them make project referrals and administering the fuel debt relief pot.

Community Hubs – East Cambs

This project ran from May 2023 to March 2024 and was funded through Cambridgeshire County Council's Care Together programme. It allowed us to continue our work supporting community hubs in East Cambridgeshire district.

Community Hubs – Fenland

This project started in July 2023 and will run until March 2025. Funded through DCMS's Know Your Neighbourhood fund, the funding has allowed us to develop a network of community-led Community Living Rooms across Fenland district which aim to reduce chronic loneliness and increase community volunteering.

Community Hubs – South Cambs

This project started in November 2023 and will run until October 2025. Funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council, we are able to continue to support the network of Community Hub in South Cambridgeshire (previously funded through Warm Hubs funding).

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Defra

This project started in April 2023 and finished in March 2024 (funding is provided on an annual basis). Defra requires us to deliver local strategic support to rural communities, enabling them to take action, sharing learning on sustainable funding models and providing access to local intelligence. Funding for 2024/25 has been confirmed.

Eastern Community Homes

This project started in April 2020 and currently runs until March 2025. The project aims improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. Funding is provided by a partnership of local authorities from across the East of England to underpin a regional Hub of trained advisers in each of the ACRE Network members in the region who provide advice and support for community groups.

Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)

This project involved the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Chelmsford City Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project is managed through Eastern Community Homes. The project started in April 2021 and concluded at end March 2024.

Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)

This project involved the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project has emerged from the work of Eastern Community Homes. The project started in January 2021 and concluded at end July 2023.

Eastern Community Homes (Maldon District Council)

This project involved the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Maldon District Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project is managed through Eastern Community Homes. The project started in April 2023 and concluded at end March 2024. A further tranche of funding is expected in 2024/25.

Environment Agency Volunteers

This project started in March 2023 and will run until end February 2025. The Environment Agency has contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has brought about better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services.

Fens Biosphere Development

This fund holds the remainder of the grant funding provided by the People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund for the purpose of developing and submitting a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens. A decision was ultimately taken not to proceed with the UNESCO nomination. The funder did not want the unspent funding returned. Some limited activity was undertaken during 2023/24 and it is anticipated that the remaining funding will be handed to Natural Cambridgeshire to continue the work during 2024/25.

New Life on the Old West

This project started in October 2020 and will run until end September 2025. A grant of £730k was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements on farmland and community green spaces in areas around the Old West river. The project is working with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Rural Affordable Housing

This project started in April 2023 and finished in March 2024 (having been funded on an annual basis for many years). Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Additionally, during 2023/24 additional funding was provided through the Defra Rural Housing Enabler Programme. Partners and Defra have committed to provide a further year's funding for 2024/25.

Rural Touring

This two-year project started in April 2020 but had to be paused at the end of Sep-20 due to the pandemic, resuming delivery in Apr-2021 with an extension to the delivery window agreed to end September 2023. Grant funding from Arts Council England supported the re-establishment of a rural touring scheme for the northern area of the County. Funding is used to identify and train village hall management committees to become 'promoters' of live performances and cinema screenings to be delivered from their community buildings making high quality arts experiences accessible to those who might not normally experience them.

Social Enterprise Consortium

Cambridgeshire ACRE entered into a consortium arrangement with Cambridge CVS, Hunts Forum, Peterborough CVS and Allia Impact, using funding provided by Social Enterprise East of England, to provide support to social enterprises and community-owned businesses across the County. The funding received in 2023/24 was from a 'pilot' phase and funding for a second phase of the pilot has been secured for 2024/25.

Warm Hubs in Winter (also Warm Hubs EC Ext and Warm Hubs SC Ext)

Grant funded by East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, using money from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System, Cambridgeshire ACRE facilitated the development of 38 community-led Warm Hubs that operated from community buildings across the Districts of East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire over the winter of 2022-23 supporting vulnerable and isolated people, as well as those on lower incomes. From April 2023, the remaining funding was separated into two separate funds (one for East Cambridgeshire and one for South Cambridgeshire) so that these warm hubs could be supported to transition to operate as year-round community hubs.

Wisbech CLLD

This project started in January 2017 and project delivery concluded in June 2023. Funding was provided through an ESF grant of £1.05m with match funding from local public funds (Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and Wisbech Town Council). The project encouraged local people to take the lead on supporting skills and employment activity that provides sustainable economic benefits to the Wisbech area.

Wisbech CLLD CPCA

Grant funding from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority was used to support an extension to the Wisbech Community-Led Local Development Programme until 31 December 2023. The funding was applied as match-funding to the Wisbech CLLD programme allowing underspent ESF funding via DWP to be released and allocated to existing and new projects that generated learning and skills outputs for a further cohort of participants.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

22. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	808	-	808
Investments	-	116,387	-	116,387
Net current assets	193,459	54,503	68,929	316,891
Total	193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086

23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2023

	Year ended 31 March 2023			
	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Income				
Donations	12,117	-	-	12,117
Charitable activities	1,468	-	905,587	907,055
Other trading activities	68,957	-	24,046	93,003
Investments	2,402	-	-	2,402
Total income	84,944	-	929,633	1,014,577
Expenditure				
Raising funds	5,059	-	-	5,059
Charitable activities	218,992	1,692	843,846	1,064,530
Total expenditure	224,051	1,692	843,846	1,069,589
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	(139,107)	(1,692)	85,787	(55,012)
Transfers between funds	125,096	2,170	(127,266)	-
Net movement in funds	(14,011)	478	(41,479)	(55,012)
Reconciliation in funds:				
Total funds brought forward	171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438
Total funds carried forward	157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Notes to the accounts

Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who funded and supported our work over the last year, in particular:

Central Government

Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Work & Pensions
Environment Agency

Local Authorities and Statutory Agencies

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Local Authorities specifically funding Eastern Community Homes

Cambridge City Council
Chelmsford City Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Maldon District Council
North Norfolk District Council
Uttlesford District Council

Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords

Accent Group Ltd
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
Cross Keys Homes Ltd
English Rural Housing Association
Flagship Housing
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd
Longhurst Group

Lottery Distributors

Arts Council England
National Lottery Heritage Fund

Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations

Allia Impact
Cambridge Past Present & Future
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Energy Industry Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation
Plunkett UK
Social Enterprise East of England
Trinity Denoir

Accounts



Registered Company no. 03690881
Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Cambridgeshire ACRE
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

PRESIDENT

The Right Reverend Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely

VICE PRESIDENT

Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Stephanie Louise Baxter

Ann Lesley Blair (Chairperson)

David Gibbs

Brian Wilfred Hayes (resigned 28 September 2022)

Michael David Hellowell (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)

Terry Jordan (Vice-Chairman)

Hugh Kyle McCurdy

David Olney (co-opted 6-Apr-2023)

Ben Poulton (resigned 23-May-2022)

Helena Schofield (resigned 27 March 2023)

Jessica Lucy Sellick

Sarah Severn CBE (co-opted 9-Feb-2023)

Elizabeth Ann Stazicker (resigned 28 September 2022)

Ray Vidler

Hazel Williams MBE (resigned 28 September 2022)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Alison Catherine Brown

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kirsten Jean Bennett

REGISTERED OFFICE

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

AUDITORS

Chater Allan LLP, 7 Quy Court, Colliers Lane, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2023 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 27 September 2023. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of the trustees' responsibilities

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Objects of the charity

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Our vision

Thriving rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Our mission

To drive positive change and work with others to improve the lives of those that live and work in rural communities.

Public benefit

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are:

- *Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits:* The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

- *Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:* The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

Incorporation

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

Governance

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently 10 members of the Board.

Trustee recruitment

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

Trustee induction

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

Trustee training

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

Reserves

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve decreased from £171,860 to £157,849. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of just under four months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has two designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 21 in the financial statements.

Investments

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits are split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd and United Trust Bank at the balance

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

sheet date.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks.

Review of activities

The review of activities details our key achievements during the year 2022/23 across the strategic aims set in the organisation's strategy.

Supporting community run assets

Community-run assets and owned assets like village halls, pubs and shops are at the heart of rural community life. They provide a vital hub for health and social activities, education and vital rural services to take place. Part of our role is to help these assets thrive.

We provide advice, support and training to the trustees of these community-run assets and help them run these to the highest-possible standards for the benefit of their communities.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- 145 village halls in membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE and receiving our quarterly newsletter summarising news and developments
- 340 cases of support successfully resolved from village halls requiring advice and guidance
- 16 Hallmark accreditations awarded to village halls reaching the quality standard for a well-run facility
- 7 training events attended by 171 village hall trustees so they might enhance their skills and knowledge for how to safely and successfully run their facility
- 6 village hall development projects supported with feasibility studies and new build design advice

Championing community-led housing and planning

We deliver housing needs surveys to find hidden housing need in rural communities and then work with local authorities, housing associations, town & parish councils and communities to build rural affordable homes, including some built through community-led approaches.

We also support communities to research and develop neighbourhood plans to put in place planning policy for a neighbourhood area to guide future development.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- 19 affordable homes built on rural exception sites. Additionally, 6 housing needs surveys identified 'hidden' need for 67 further affordable homes in five communities
- 18 Local Authorities from across the East of England supported Eastern Community Homes, our regional hub giving advice and support to community-led housing groups. 5 learning events on community-led housing were delivered to over 240 individuals
- 20 neighbourhood planning groups supported by our Neighbourhood Planning Service, including 7 new groups for 2022/23
- 4 neighbourhood plans supported by our team were 'made'

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

Tackling environmental challenges

We work with communities to help them tackle environmental issues challenges and consider predicted climate changes impacts.

We support their efforts to enhance their natural environment and improve community green spaces. We help communities plan for decarbonisation and net zero targets, as well as supporting them with issues of flooding and considering local mitigating actions.

We have also been highly successful at developing and leading environmental volunteering programmes.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- 22 volunteer lock wardens guided boaters through locks on the River Great Ouse providing 855 hours of volunteering support to the Environment Agency
- 18 volunteers picked up 129 bags of litter, cleaning up their local rivers in March and Ramsey and helping to prevent flooding
- 8 farms and 33 community green spaces across the landscape have been restored as good habitats for nature through the creation of 22 ponds, 1,245 metres of new native species hedgerow and the installation of 2 km of coir roll into fen drains
- 58 children took part in our Eels in the Classroom project, raising eels in tanks to learn about their lifecycle before releasing them back into the wild
- 24 volunteers recruited and trained as Nature Volunteers, supporting nature recording through citizen science as part of our New Life on the Old West project. 950+ community members attended training events to learn new skills to undertake nature and biodiversity restoration projects in their own communities

Strengthening the rural economy and employment

We are committed to developing and delivering projects that lever in funding to strengthen rural businesses, encourage support networks that bring people together and lead community-led development programmes that increases people's life chances.

Our place-making partnerships take a bottom-up approach to achieving sustainable rural development, boosting the local economy and getting more people into employment.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- £884k funding provided to 10 organisations through the Wisbech CLLD Programme to help those furthest from the workplace back into work or training
- 158 people helped back into work through taking part in the Wisbech CLLD programme
- 38 rural businesses/organisations supported through the Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER programme creating 75 new jobs within the rural economy. Through the programme, 6 new agricultural products and 19 new agricultural techniques were developed
- 136 people now undertaking further education or training as a result of taking part in the Wisbech CLLD programme

Improving community health and wellbeing

We are committed to ensuring fairer and more equitable health and wellbeing outcomes for people living in rural areas, where access to services can be much more difficult.

Through our work, we see at first-hand the issues that rurality can cause, especially where it is compounded by significant deprivation and isolation.

Cambridgeshire ACRE works with partners and communities to understand inequalities in health and wellbeing and to tackle these issues at a local level.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- 38 Warm Hubs opened across East and South Cambridgeshire
- 156 volunteers trained to successfully lead Warm Hubs in their communities
- 16,552 visits recorded at Warm Hubs between Oct-2022 and Mar-2023

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

- 145 households supported through our Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service to clear £54k of fuel debt.

Working in partnership and providing consultancy

We work with a wide range of partners and nearly all the work we undertake involves collaboration and joint delivery of projects.

We often provide in-depth consultancy support to organisations and communities who use our expertise to help them achieve specific goals, delivering research, public consultation, partnership development & management, project development & funding or community / voluntary and cultural sector engagement.

Key achievements during 2022/23 include:

- 50+ partner organisations worked alongside us to deliver our work
- 20 sub-contracts issued to other voluntary and community sector organisations, helping to share the funding received and ensuring we delivered the best results
- 7 consultancy contracts completed to support communities with their community developments or partners with more complex work

Charity and governance activity

The Board was pleased to welcome back the organisation's Chief Executive, Kirsten Bennett, in May 2022 following a period of long-term sick leave. The Chief Executive used the opportunity of her return to undertake a complete review of the organisation and to set a new focus and direction for Cambridgeshire ACRE's work. New emphasis was placed on partnership development, relationship building with other organisations and proposals for new work coming forward.

Cambridgeshire ACRE delivered a second phase of its marketing strategy, targeting efforts at engaging with particular audiences and increasing the quality of our social media content so that it speaks more directly to those we wish to reach about our agreed areas of focus. Raising the profile of Cambridgeshire ACRE with key decision-makers has helped them understand about our work and generated new interest in working in partnership with us.

Three of the organisation's longest serving trustees stood down at our 2022 Annual General Meeting, but since then Cambridgeshire ACRE has recruited two new trustees who bring excellent skill sets to complement those held by our existing Board members.

Financial review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2021/22 are shown in brackets)

For the financial year 2022/23 incoming resources were £1,014,577 (£841,393). This represents an increase in income of 21%.

The end of the year saw a deficit of £14,011 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total expenditure exceeded income by £55,012. The restricted reserves have decreased from £249,411 to £207,932. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds increased from £194,167 to £194,645, an increase of £478. The unrestricted general reserve showed a decrease during the year from £171,860 to £157,849; a decrease of 8%.

Plans for future periods

Our Strategy 'Towards 100 Years: Building Stronger Rural Communities - 2019 – 2024' underpins our delivery aims for the next year and our business plan sets out what we will do to achieve these aims.

Over recent years, we have recognised that the organisation needs to remain agile with the ability to respond to a dynamic set of circumstances such as the cost-of-living crisis. The trustees monitor and review our plans regularly during Board meetings and at away days where they discuss the strategic direction of the organisation in more detail.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

As we leave behind EU funding programmes, our priority is to maintain our existing wide stakeholder and funder relationships and to continue to build a pipeline of new work, whilst ensuring the funding opportunities we respond to continue to fit with our Strategy and the unmet needs of rural communities.

We continue to have an important role in providing project funds to support rural community action. 2022/23 has seen us leading and working alongside community volunteers to improve community assets, extend green spaces, support wellbeing projects and to establish community hubs. Our way of working is to provide as much grant funding to local communities as possible so that their ambitions are realised. We need to continue our work to unlock funds to support local delivery from grant funders and public commissioners so that the voice of rural communities is heard and volunteers can lead their own communities effectively.

The successful Warm Hubs in Winter project, set-up to support rural people through the cost-of-living crisis, has evolved to provide year-round support and has been re-named Community Hubs to reflect the aim to support people more holistically. We wish to extend access to community-led Community Hubs so that all rural communities across Cambridgeshire can benefit from being part of the Cambridgeshire Community Hubs Network and receive our support.

Our work to build our brand and profile has developed well and we plan to continue this strategy through better positioning our achievements to engage our key stakeholders and by growing our reach to include more dedicated networks supporting practitioners across all our work. We plan to continue the successful 'Staying In Touch' newsletter dedicated to providing informative content for our strategic partners and funders and to further develop our 'Staying Connected' online webinar events over the next year so they are well attended.

As 2024 approaches, it will be a landmark year for the Charity and exciting plans are already being developed to celebrate our Centenary. The Charity's archives tell some fascinating stories of rural community endeavours, and we will be using these achievements of the past to work alongside our members and partners to consider what services and facilities rural communities might need in the years ahead.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The accounts

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

Chairperson: 
Ann Lesley Blair

Company Secretary: 
Alison Brown

Date: 30 August 2023
e-space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of 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 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 directors' 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 charity'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 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' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 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.

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

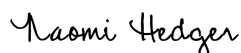
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Naomi Hedger (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
7 Quay Court
Colliers Lane
Stow-cum-Quy
Cambridge
CB25 9AU
13 November 2023

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 March 2023				2022
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
		Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds			
Note		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	12,117	-	-	12,117	12,448
Charitable activities	3	1,468	-	905,587	907,055	770,538
Other trading activities	5	68,957	-	24,046	93,003	56,756
Investments	6	2,402	-	-	2,402	1,651
Total income		84,944	-	929,633	1,014,577	841,393
Expenditure						
Raising funds		5,059	-	-	5,059	18,874
Charitable activities	11	218,992	1,692	843,846	1,064,530	851,360
Total expenditure	7	224,051	1,692	843,846	1,069,589	870,234
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(139,107)	(1,692)	85,787	(55,012)	(28,841)
Transfers between funds	12	125,096	2,170	(127,266)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(14,011)	478	(41,479)	(55,012)	(28,841)
Reconciliation in funds:						
Total funds brought forward		171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438	644,279
Total funds carried forward	22	157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426	615,438

Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

As at 31 March 2023

Company registration number: 03690881

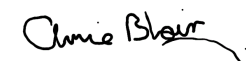
Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	13	-	1,894	1,343	3,237	2,759
Investments	14	-	176,386	-	176,386	173,220
		-	178,280	1,343	179,623	175,979
Current assets:						
Debtors	15	120,498	-	171,607	292,105	211,658
Cash at bank and in hand		88,025	16,365	34,982	139,372	286,295
		208,523	16,365	206,589	431,477	497,953
Liabilities:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	50,674	-	-	50,674	58,494
Net current assets		157,849	16,365	206,589	380,803	439,459
Total net assets		157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426	615,438
The funds of the charity:						
Restricted funds	21	-	-	207,932	207,932	249,411
Designated and capital funds	20	-	194,645	-	194,645	194,167
Unrestricted funds		157,849	-	-	157,849	171,860
		157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426	615,438

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 30 August 2023.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:



Ann Lesley Blair, Chairperson

09 November 2023

Date

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(143,989)	(63,185)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	2,402	1,651
Purchase of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,170)	(2,844)
	<u>232</u>	<u>(1,193)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>(143,757)</u>	<u>(64,378)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	456,515	520,893
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>312,758</u>	<u>456,515</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	139,372	286,295
Investments	173,386	170,220
	<u>312,758</u>	<u>456,515</u>
 Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(55,012)	(28,841)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,692	3,072
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,402)	(1,651)
(Increase) in debtors	(80,447)	(60,620)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	(7,820)	24,855
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>(143,989)</u>	<u>(63,185)</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

Legal Form Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Country of Incorporation Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Address of Registered Office: e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA.

Currency These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

Principal Activities Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

Public Benefit Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and Reserves All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

Fund Accounting The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 20 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 21 below.

Voluntary Income All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

Grant Income Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 21). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

Grant Expenditure The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

Membership The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

Investments The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

Interest When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

Taxation As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Value Added Tax (VAT) The charity is registered for VAT.

Governance Expenditure This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio updated in 2022 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

Netting Off of Income and Expenditure Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

Investments and Investment Income Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

Capital Fund The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

Designated Funds The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. The Project Development Fund is held to support the development of new projects (including the engagement of consultants to prepare plans or funding bids and the employment of staff beyond their funded contracts to develop further projects) to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy. The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Raising Funds The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

Going Concern The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees' policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

2. Donations

	31 March 2023			31 March 2022	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	-
Membership subscriptions	12,117	-	-	12,117	12,448
	12,117	-	-	12,117	12,448

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

3. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	31 March 2023 Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	31 March 2022 Total £
Grants (Note 4)	101	-	904,822	904,923	768,678
Other charitable income	1,367	-	765	2,132	1,860
	<u>1,468</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>905,587</u>	<u>907,055</u>	<u>770,538</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

4. Analysis of Grants Received

	Unrestricted £	31 March 2023 Restricted £	Unrestricted £	31 March 2022 Restricted £
Accent Nene Ltd	-	3,150	-	3,150
Arts Council	-	-	-	39,390
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	3,150	-	3,150
Cambridge Housing Society	-	3,150	-	3,150
Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority	-	55,000	-	-
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	-	-	17,851
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	-	-	56,687
Cambridge Past Present & Future	-	7,800	-	-
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	3,150	-	3,150
Defra	-	44,180	-	54,726
Department for Work and Pensions	-	259,511	-	202,554
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	77,631	-	3,150
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	6,000	-	16,500
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	25,015	-	46,965
Environment Agency	-	19,966	-	19,341
ESF	-	-	-	17,341
Fenland District Council	-	2,100	-	12,800
Hastoe Housing	-	3,150	-	3,150
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,100	-	2,100
Longhurst Group	-	3,150	-	3,150
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	236,041	-	197,898
Rural Payments Agency	-	25,678	-	56,785
Stagecoach East	-	5,000	-	-
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	117,280	-	3,150
Wisbech Town Council	-	-	-	3,539
Other grants	101	2,620	-	(1,000)
	<u>101</u>	<u>904,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>768,678</u>

Sources of Restricted Funds:

Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE	519,660	580,225
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE	<u>385,162</u>	<u>188,453</u>
	<u>904,822</u>	<u>768,678</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2023				31 March 2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	68,957	-	24,000	92,957	56,597
Publications	-	-	46	46	159
	<u>68,957</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,046</u>	<u>93,003</u>	<u>56,756</u>

6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	2,402	-	-	2,402	1,651
	<u>2,402</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,402</u>	<u>1,651</u>

7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	385,162	385,162	188,453
Staff costs (Note 8)	119,742	-	292,035	411,777	389,248
Consultancy	-	-	6,170	6,170	19,371
Premises	4,985	-	-	4,985	4,904
Office running costs	22,643	-	1,395	24,038	21,321
Operating lease rentals	-	-	-	-	-
Meetings & Workshops	-	-	2,319	2,319	7,861
Project delivery costs	-	-	89,755	89,755	103,177
Professional fees	206	-	30,412	30,618	33,778
Volunteer expenses	-	-	2,857	2,857	1,068
Housing Need Survey Costs	20,068	-	-	20,068	7,161
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	36,533	-	-	36,533	20,822
Depreciation	-	1,692	-	1,692	3,072
Publicity	5,059	-	31,683	36,742	53,848
Expensed equipment	645	-	1,925	2,570	606
Subscriptions	6,456	-	133	6,589	6,241
Miscellaneous expenditure	136	-	-	136	2,911
Audit fees	6,348	-	-	6,348	5,181
Non-audit fees	1,230	-	-	1,230	1,211
Total expenditure	<u>224,051</u>	<u>1,692</u>	<u>843,846</u>	<u>1,069,589</u>	<u>870,234</u>

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

8. Trustees and Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Wages and salaries	343,472	326,155
Accrued holiday pay movement	(387)	3,194
Employer's NI	28,541	27,086
Pension	24,644	23,353
Travel	8,000	5,564
Training	6,441	3,843
Recruitment	1,066	53
Total staff costs	<u>411,777</u>	<u>389,248</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>147,005</u>	<u>128,689</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £Nil (2022: £Nil) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189

9. Governance

	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
Audit fee	6,348	5,181
Non audit financial services	1,230	1,211
Annual General Meeting	1,300	13
Indemnity insurance	421	371
Selected core staff salaries	5,392	5,392
Expenses	<u>9,855</u>	<u>6,350</u>
	<u>24,546</u>	<u>18,518</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 6.14% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in 2022.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

10. Grants Given

Project	Grant Recipient	Year ended 31 March 2023 £	Year ended 31 March 2022 £
WCLLD	Clarion Futures	32,068	-
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	33,545	-
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	30,200	24,416
WCLLD	Ferry Project	88,980	44,697
WCLLD	Head to Toe	5,545	4,876
WCLLD	LEADA Cambs CIC	-	834
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	14,085	12,910
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	-	31,174
WCLLD	Rural Cambs CAB	25,729	14,522
WCLLD	Tin Fish Creative Communications Ltd	64,894	-
WCLLD	YMCA	-	15,663
Rural Touring	ADEC	2,222	2,000
CHESS	Various individuals	10,330	33,641
ECH (CPCA)	CHESS Homeless	4,800	1,500
Eastern Community Homes	Thorpe Le Soken CLT	-	500
Eastern Community Homes	Thaxted CLT Ltd	-	1,000
Re-Opening Doors	Various village halls	480	720
Warm Hubs in Winter	Various hubs	72,259	-
Bourn Windmill		25	
Total Grants Given		<u>385,162</u>	<u>188,453</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Direct activities	318,356	165,738	68,008	552,102
Grant funding activity	-	-	385,162	385,162
Support costs	30,614	59,167	37,485	127,266
Total cost of activities 2023	348,970	224,905	490,655	1,064,530
Total costs in 2022	161,595	367,004	322,761	851,360

Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes	Environmental Programmes	Economic Programmes	Total
	£	£	£	£
Management & HR	20,231	39,100	24,772	84,103
Finance & IT	5,254	10,154	6,433	21,841
Administration	5,129	9,913	6,280	21,322
Total support costs 2023	30,614	59,167	37,485	127,266
Total costs in 2022	17,421	76,839	22,159	116,419

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below. Some projects cover more than one activity, Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER for example covers farming, tourism and an element of Economic Programmes, an accurate split of activity is not practical and projects have therefore been allocated wholly to their main activity.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [67%]; Bourn Windmill; CHESS; Defra [33%]; Re-Opening Doors; Rural Touring; Support Cambridgeshire; Warm Hubs in Winter; and Wisbech Reads.
- **Environmental Programmes:** Defra [33%]; Environment Agency Volunteers; Eels in the Classroom; Fens Biosphere Development; Floating Pennywort Prevention; New Life on the Old West; and Water Environment Grant.
- **Economic Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [33%]; Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER; Eastern Community Homes; ECH (Chelmsford City Council); ECH (CPCA); Defra (33%); Rural Affordable Housing; Wisbech CLLD; and Wisbech CLLD CPCA .

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

12. Fund transfers

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds	
	£	£	£
Bourn Windmill	6,191	-	(6,191)
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	25	-	(25)
Catchment Partnership	5,459	-	(5,459)
CHESS	2,396	-	(2,396)
CHESS+	880	-	(880)
Defra	6,796	-	(6,796)
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	(1,799)	-	1,799
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	5,414	-	(5,414)
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	22,453	-	(22,453)
Environment Agency Volunteers	13,663	-	(13,663)
Eels in the classroom	(58)	-	58
Fens Biosphere Development	4,873	-	(4,873)
Floating Pennywort Prevention	1,560	-	(1,560)
Machinery and equipment	(2,170)	2,170	-
New Life on the Old West	31,404	-	(31,404)
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	(33)	-	33
Rural Affordable Housing	3,815	-	(3,815)
Rural Touring	1,012	-	(1,012)
Support Cambs – Community Facilities	45	-	(45)
Warm Hubs in Winter	17,857	-	(17,857)
Wisbech CLLD Projects	5,313	-	(5,313)
	125,096	2,170	(127,266)

Year ended 31 March 2022

Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	1,323	-	(1,323)
Catchment Partnership	5,774	-	(5,774)
CHESS	4,792	-	(4,792)
Defra	5,509	-	(5,509)
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	1,523	-	(1,523)
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	5,414	-	(5,414)
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	1,637	-	(1,637)
Environment Agency Volunteers	10,165	-	(10,165)
Fens Biosphere Development	16,648	-	(16,648)
Floating Pennywort Prevention	543	-	(543)
Machinery and equipment	(829)	2,844	(2,015)
New Life on the Old West	41,873	-	(41,873)
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	2,091	-	(2,091)
Rural Affordable Housing	4,067	-	(4,067)
Rural Touring	703	-	(703)
Support Cambs – Community Facilities	5,094	-	(5,094)
Support Cambs – Local Councils	2,904	-	(2,904)
Wisbech CLLD Projects	6,358	-	(6,358)
	115,589	2,844	(118,433)

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment £	Restricted Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
Beginning of the year	16,405	11,400	27,805
Additions	155	2,015	2,170
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	16,560	13,415	29,975
Depreciation			
Beginning of the year	14,252	10,794	25,046
Charge for the year	414	1,278	1,692
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	14,666	12,072	26,738
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2022	2,153	606	2,759
As at 31 March 2023	1,894	1,343	3,237

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

14. Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	83,697	82,128
United Trust	89,689	88,092
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
	176,386	173,220

15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

	2023 £	2022 £
Income Due	106,086	6,652
Accrued Income	183,088	192,973
Prepayments	2,931	12,033
	292,105	211,658

16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within 1 year		
Accruals	23,731	7,714
Accrued Holiday Pay	10,015	10,402
Payroll Liabilities	11	190
Sundry Creditors	7,040	34,862
VAT	9,877	5,326
	50,674	58,494

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 11 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 10).

At 31 March 2023 there was no balance owing by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes.

19. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year.

Each Trustee completes an annual Declaration of Interests form and these are noted at every meeting of the Board and its Committees. Trustees and senior staff are also required to complete an annual Related Parties Schedule so that any possible transactions or arrangements made or entered into by Cambridgeshire ACRE involving an individual or his/her close family members can be identified.

During the year £12,236 (2021/22 - £5,808) was paid to Jessica Sellick, a Trustee, for professional services through the company of which she is a Director, Rose Regeneration. No amounts were outstanding at the year end (2021/22 - £nil).

Trustees are appointed as individuals but do have involvement with organisations which Cambridgeshire ACRE works with on a regular basis. During the past year, Cambridgeshire ACRE has received resource support from, or has supported, and in some case funded, activities with:

- Bluntisham Parish Council – Helena Schofield
- Burwell Parish Council – Hazel Williams MBE
- Christchurch Parish Council – David Gibbs
- CP Learning Trust – Terry Jordan
- East Suffolk Council – Stephanie Baxter
- Folksworth, Washingley & Morborne Village Hall – Ann Blair
- Horningsea Village Hall Trust – Michael Hellowell
- Newton Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Newton Village Hall – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Community Centre and Recreation Ground – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Weston Colville Parish Council – Ray Vidler
- Wisbech Community Development Trust – Terry Jordan
- Wisbech Town Council – Terry Jordan

In all situations, rigorous procurement or project management procedures are followed to ensure no single individual has undue influence over decisions.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

20. Designated and Capital Funds	Brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Capital funds					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	2,153	-	(414)	155	1,894
Equipment (Restricted)	606	-	(1,278)	2,015	1,343
Total Capital Funds	2,759	-	(1,692)	2,170	3,237
Designated Funds					
Project Development Fund	72,552	-	-	-	72,552
Property and Office Accommodation	118,856	-	-	-	118,856
Total Designated Funds	191,408	-	-	-	191,408
Total Capital & Designated Funds	194,167	-	(1,692)	2,170	194,645

Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

Project Development Fund:

A fund to be used to support the development of new programmes of work.

Property & Office Accommodation Fund:

The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Changes to Designated funds during 2023/24:

Business Continuity and Development Fund

Sum: £100k

Rationale: The Business Continuity and Development Fund is held to support the development of new programmes of work including the engagement of consultants to prepare funding plans, to cover business uncertainties in costs for programme delivery such as the impact of recent rising costs; to support increasing demands for services where there is a commitment of 'match funding' to develop partnership approaches; to invest in the training staff in new areas of work in order to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy.

Digital Transformation Fund

Sum: £70k

Rationale: The Charity's membership and stakeholder digital communication expectations are rapidly changing, with future advancements in technology requiring investment beyond the annual digital budget for running and maintenance costs. This fund has been established to allow for the charity to invest in digital solutions and innovation. Investments will be used for furthering the use of digital technology to provide improved member and stakeholder communications, to develop digital fundraising requirements and to increase project management efficiencies for members and partners. Investments will support new software technology for communications and business efficiency; renewing and updating of websites and the buying new equipment.

Charity Centenary Celebration 2024 Fund

Sum: £20k

Rationale: The charity celebrates its Centenary year in 2024. This fund is held to provide for the undertaking of a programme of special events and rural seminars during that year of celebration. The trustees wish to use the celebrations to raise the profile of the charity's work and show how the charity has shaped rural community life in the County. Investment will be used to strengthen the charity's relationships with key stakeholders and to position the organisation for the future.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds

	Brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
Bourn Windmill	-	10,020	(3,829)	(6,191)	-
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	30	-	(5)	(25)	-
Catchment Partnership	1,530	16,212	(9,194)	(5,459)	3,089
CHESS	-	21,015	(18,619)	(2,396)	-
CHESS+	-	4,400	(4,845)	(880)	(1,325)
Defra	-	44,510	(37,714)	(6,796)	-
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	39,905	6,435	(31,920)	1,799	16,219
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	25,521	-	(10,800)	(5,414)	9,307
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	(1,411)	24,000	(136)	(22,453)	-
Environment Agency Volunteers	22,904	10,086	(18,793)	(13,663)	534
Eels In The Classroom	7,471	-	(7,529)	58	-
Fens Biosphere Development	19,930	-	(1,278)	(4,873)	13,779
Floating Pennywort Prevention	1,560	-	-	(1,560)	-
New Life on the Old West	-	187,598	(156,194)	(31,404)	-
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	447	-	(480)	33	-
Rural Affordable Housing	-	29,400	(25,585)	(3,815)	-
Rural Touring	48,169	-	(24,065)	(1,012)	23,092
Support Cambs - Community Facilities	-	46	-	(46)	-
Support Cambs - Local Councils	-	-	-	-	-
Warm Hubs in Winter	-	193,611	(136,703)	(17,857)	39,051
Water Environment Grant	-	19,346	(19,346)	-	-
Wisbech CLLD	49,610	9,585	(18,331)	(2,456)	38,408
Wisbech CLLD Projects	33,745	298,369	(295,045)	-	37,069
Wisbech CLLD CPCA	-	55,000	(23,435)	(2,856)	28,709
	249,411	929,633	(843,846)	(127,266)	207,932

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Bourn Windmill

Grant funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and working in partnership with Cambridge Past Present & Future, Cambridgeshire ACRE is supporting a project to conserve Bourn Windmill, one of the oldest windmills in the UK. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role is to deliver a programme of community engagement activity to involve local people in accessing the mill more and to increase the range of audiences who know about the mill.

Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER

This six and a half year project ran from May 2015 to December 2021. The very small movement in funds related to final accrued expenditure.

Catchment Partnership

This project started in April 2022 and finished in March 2023 (having been funded on an annual basis since 2014/15). Grant funding is provided by the Environment Agency to stimulate engagement with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and to involve them in decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford River's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2023/24.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service (CHESS)

This project started in October 2020 and finished at end September 2022. Grant funding was provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who were the project lead. The project improved the health and wellbeing of 1,000 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who were suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved administering the fuel debt relief pot.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service Plus (CHESS+)

This project started in February 2023 and will run for 23 months to end December 2024. As with the previous CHESS project, grant funding is being provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who are the project lead. The new project is aiming to improve the health and wellbeing of 1,200 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involves engaging with frontline workers to help them make project referrals and administering the fuel debt relief pot.

Defra

This project started in April 2022 and finished in March 2023 (funding is provided on an annual basis). Defra requires us to deliver local strategic support to rural communities, enabling them to take action, sharing learning on sustainable funding models and providing access to local intelligence. Funding for 2023/24 has been confirmed.

Eastern Community Homes

This project started in April 2020 and currently runs until March 2024. The project aims improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. Funding is provided by a partnership of 18 local authorities from across the East of England to underpin a regional Hub of trained advisers in each of the ACRE Network members in the region who provide advice and support for community groups.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)

This project involves the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Chelmsford City Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project has emerged from the work of Eastern Community Homes. The project started in April 2021 and will finish at end March 2024.

Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)

This project involves the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project has emerged from the work of Eastern Community Homes. The project started in January 2021 and will finish at end July 2023.

Environment Agency (EA) Volunteers

This project started in April 2016 and finished at the end October 2022. A further phase of the project commenced March 2023 and will run until end February 2025. The Environment Agency has contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has brought about better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services.

Eels in the Classroom

This short-term project was supposed to be delivered between March 2020 and August 2020, but, due to the pandemic, the start date was changed to March 2022 and the project ran until end August 2022. Funded by Anglian Water's Flourishing Environment Fund, the project saw us work in two schools to give children hands-on experience in rearing endangered eels, learning about their life cycle and releasing them into the wild.

Fens Biosphere Development

This fund holds the remainder of the grant funding provided by the People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund for the purpose of developing and submitting a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens. A decision was ultimately taken not to proceed with the UNESCO nomination. The funder did not want the unspent funding returned. Some limited activity was undertaken during 2022/23 to make applications to other funders for partnership environmental and climate change mitigation projects.

Floating Pennywort Prevention

This project ran from April 2021 and finished in March 2022. The very small movement in funds related to final accrued expenditure.

New Life on the Old West

This project started in October 2020 and will run until end March 2024. A grant of £730k was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements on farmland and community green spaces in areas around the Old West river. The project is working with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

Re-Opening the Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings

This project ran from April 2021 until end March 2022. The very small movement in funds related to final accrued expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Rural Affordable Housing

This project started in April 2022 and finished in March 2023 (having been funded on an annual basis for many years). Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Partners have committed to provide a further year's funding for 2023/24.

Rural Touring

This two-year project started in April 2020 but had to be paused at the end of Sep-20 due to the pandemic, resuming delivery in Apr-2021. We have since requested and received an extension to the delivery window to end September 2023. Grant funding from Arts Council England is supporting the re-establishment of a rural touring scheme for the northern area of the County. Funding is used to identify and train village hall management committees to become 'promoters' of live performances and cinema screenings to be delivered from their community buildings making high quality arts experiences accessible to those who might not normally experience them.

Support Cambridgeshire (Community Facilities and Local Councils)

This project ran from September 2015 until end November 2021. The very small movement in funds related to final accrued expenditure.

Warm Hubs in Winter

Grant funded by East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, using money from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System, Cambridgeshire ACRE facilitated the development of 38 community-led Warm Hubs that operated from community buildings across the Districts of East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire over the winter of 2022-23 supporting vulnerable and isolated people, as well as those on lower incomes. Due to its success, this project has continued into 2023/24 under the new name 'Community Hubs'.

Water Environment Grant

This project ran from April 2021 until end March 2022. Grant funding was provided by the Environment Agency for Cambridgeshire ACRE to address agricultural diffuse pollution and contribute to supporting improvements within the water body's Water Framework Directive status by trapping the sediment that runs from the land using coir rolls sown with a range of native marginal water plants.

Wisbech CLLD (and Wisbech CLLD Projects)

This project started in January 2017 and project delivering will conclude in June 2023. Funding is provided through an ESF grant of £1.05m with match funding from local public funds (Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and Wisbech Town Council). The project encourages local people to take the lead on supporting skills and employment activity that provides sustainable economic benefits to the Wisbech area. Projects that are brought forward must provide 50% match fund funding.

Wisbech CLLD CPCA

Grant funding from Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority is being used to support an extension to the Wisbech Community-Led Local Development Programme until 31 December 2023. The funding will be applied as match-funding to the Wisbech CLLD programme allowing underspent ESF funding via DWP to be released so it can be allocated to existing and new projects that will generate learning and skills outputs for a further cohort of participants.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

22. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,894	1,343	3,237
Investments	-	176,386	-	176,386
Net current assets	157,849	16,365	206,589	380,803
Total	157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426

23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2022

	Year ended 31 March 2022			
	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Income				
Donations	12,448	-	-	12,448
Charitable activities	480	-	770,058	770,538
Other trading activities	49,734	-	7,022	56,756
Investments	1,651	-	-	1,651
Total income	64,313	-	777,080	841,393
Expenditure				
Raising funds	18,874	-	-	18,874
Charitable activities	141,113	3,072	707,175	851,360
Total expenditure	159,987	3,072	707,175	870,234
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	(95,674)	(3,072)	69,905	(28,841)
Transfers between funds	115,589	2,844	(118,433)	-
Net movement in funds	19,915	(228)	(48,528)	(28,841)
Reconciliation in funds:				
Total funds brought forward	151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279
Total funds carried forward	171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2023

Notes to the accounts

Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who funded and supported our work over the last year, in particular:

Central Government

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Work & Pensions
Environment Agency
Rural Payments Agency

Local Authorities and Statutory Agencies

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Wisbech Town Council

Local Authorities specifically funding Eastern Community Homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council
Breckland Council
Cambridge City Council
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
East Suffolk Council
Epping Forest District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Maldon District Council
North Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Tendring District Council
Uttlesford District Council
West Suffolk Council

Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords

Accent Group Ltd
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
CHS Group
Cross Keys Homes Ltd
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd
Longhurst Group

Lottery Distributors

Arts Council England
National Lottery Heritage Fund

Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations

Cambridge Past Present & Future
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Energy Industry Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust
Stagecoach East
Trinity Denoir

Accounts



Registered Company no. 03690881

Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

PRESIDENT

The Right Reverend Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely

VICE PRESIDENTS

Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Stephanie Louise Baxter (co-opted 9-Feb-2022)

Ann Lesley Blair (Chairperson)

David Gibbs

Brian Wilfred Hayes (resigned 28 September 2022)

Michael David Hellowell (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)

Terry Jordan (Vice-Chairman)

Hugh Kyle McCurdy

Ben Poulton (co-opted 9-Feb-2022, resigned 23-May-2022)

Helena Schofield (co-opted 9-Feb-2022)

Jessica Lucy Sellick (co-opted 9-Feb-2022)

Elizabeth Ann Stazicker (resigned 28 September 2022)

Ray Vidler (co-opted 9-Feb-2022)

Hazel Williams MBE (resigned 28 September 2022)

COMPANY SECRETARY

Alison Catherine Brown

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kirsten Jean Bennett

REGISTERED OFFICE

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

AUDITORS

Chater Allan LLP, 7 Quy Court, Colliers Lane, Stow-cum-Quy, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2022 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 28 September 2022. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Objects of the Charity

To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Our Vision

Thriving rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Our Mission

To drive positive change and work with others to improve the lives of those that live and work in rural communities.

Public Benefit

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are:

- *Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits:* The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

- *Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public:* The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

Incorporation

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

Governance

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently 12 members of the Board.

Trustee Recruitment

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

Trustee Induction

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

Trustee Training

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

Reserves

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve increased from £151,945 to £171,860. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of just over four months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has two designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 20 in the financial statements.

Investments

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits are split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd and United Trust Bank at the balance sheet date.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

Pay Policy for Senior Staff

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type.

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks.

Review of Activities

The Review of Activities details our achievements and their impact on rural communities. The Review covers the full year 2021/22 and the period in the current year (2022/23) to the date of writing (Jul-2022).

Social and Community Action Programmes

For the first part of the year, Cambridgeshire ACRE continued to work through the Support Cambridgeshire partnership, in collaboration with Hunts Forum and Cambridge CVS, to deliver infrastructure services across the County on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. Cambridgeshire ACRE's specific responsibilities under this contract related to supporting those running Community Facilities and developing the Town and Parish Council sector. The final deliverable was conducting repeat surveys of the County's local council clerks and councillors with analysis and results being reported to the County Council and used to inform the annual Local Councils Conference delivered in January 2022.

At the end of 2021/22, membership of the Organisation stood at 269 members (an increase from 260 at end of 2020/21), with many new members commenting that they had appreciated the free support given by the organisation during the pandemic and wished to continue to access that going forward.

Our Community Facilities Advice Service provided 390 cases of support to community buildings across the County in the year 2021/22. This was a fall from the caseload for the previous year (635 cases) when the pandemic dramatically raised the volume of the queries received. The majority of queries this year concerned governance, health & safety and hiring arrangements.

Monthly online training sessions for trustees have been held throughout the year and attract a good audience. Sessions are also recorded so that they can be shared with a wider audience. Training sessions are complemented by regular e-newsletters and social media updates. The village halls community is making good use of Cambridgeshire ACRE's online members' network and we have begun to see the start of a strong peer support network with members asking questions and beginning to offer answers based on their own experiences.

Thanks to funding received from the Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Recovery Fund we were able to supplement our standard support offer with a year-long project to help community buildings address reopening issues and to support them to re-engage their communities as they resumed normal community life following the pandemic. Training provided included how to re-open your hall post-pandemic; how to market your village hall; how to recruit & induct new trustees and volunteers; and how to start up new activities in your hall. The project concluded with a three-month-long marketing campaign to promote the use of village halls both in communities and by local businesses.

We continued to deliver our Arts Council England-funded rural touring scheme project for the Cambridgeshire Fens. Following a six-month suspension due to the pandemic we resumed delivery in April 2021, re-engaging promoters and supporting them to feel confident enough to host live performances (either indoors or outdoors) or event film nights. Progress has been under difficult circumstances, as communities are still quite nervous about bringing groups of people together in enclosed spaces. We overcame this by offering four café cabaret-style events in outdoor spaces at Wisbech St Mary, Little Thetford, Isleham and Colne which encouraged people to come out of their homes to socialise in a safe way whilst watching some exciting performances. Somersham Victory Hall promoted a wonderful live

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

performance of 'The Snow Dancer' over Christmas 2021 and we have begun to see halls open to hosting film screenings with several already programmed for 2022/23.

We have continued our partnership with PECT to deliver the Energy Industry Redress Scheme-funded 'Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service'. Through this project we support people on low incomes to maintain a warm home. We have trained and supported a cohort of 80 volunteers and frontline workers to identify community members needing support and to make referrals to the project. PECT provides advice on staying warm and healthy and cutting energy bills, whilst Cambridgeshire ACRE makes payments to energy suppliers to help alleviate existing debt. 141 payments totalling £52,726 have been made since October 2020, leaving just under £1,000 to allocate before the project ends in September.

Environmental Programmes

Our Postcode Lottery-funded project to develop a nomination to UNESCO to designate part of the Fens as a Biosphere Reserve formally ended on 31 March 2022. We commissioned an external consultant to undertake some further consultation with local authorities and presented a report on findings to the project's Steering Group. Ultimately it proved impossible to secure the unanimous endorsement required from the Local Planning Authorities as a condition of the nomination so a decision was taken not to pursue this for the foreseeable future.

Our National Lottery Heritage Fund-funded project 'New Life on the Old West' gained momentum over the course of the year. Following a slow start due to the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, the project team has worked successfully with communities and landowners in the 'Old West' area of the Cambridgeshire Fens to undertake habitat improvement works on farm sites and community green spaces and deliver a huge programme of activities to engage local communities. Activities have included online talks, dawn chorus events, family 'grow wild' days, boat trips, a BioBlitz weekend and 'Open for Nature Days'. The project has successfully recruited 40 volunteers who have taken part in training on amphibians & reptiles, bats and dragonflies & damselflies. Volunteers support the project by recording nature sightings about the plants and animals that live in the area.

Our Water Environment Grant-funded project 'Trap the sediment before the water's pumped: Cleaning up the Old West' concluded at the end of March 2022. The project sought to address agricultural diffuse pollution by trapping the sediment that runs from the land through the installation of coir rolls along 2.2km of the drain network. A successful landowner training event was held in September 2021 where 11 landowners came together to learn how they could replicate the project's achievements.

We continued to lead the Water Catchment Partnership for the Old Bedford and Middle Level Catchment which aims to achieve better co-ordinated action by those who use water or influence land management as well as to gain great engagement of local people to tackle the significant pressures placed on the water environment. The Partnership delivered a successful project that supported the control of Floating Pennywort (an invasive non-native species) in the Middle Level water system and delivered two litter-picking events along watercourses in Ramsey and March that involved a large number of local volunteers and good examples of partnership working with The Rivers Trust and Fenland District Council.

Our Anglian Waterways Volunteering Scheme which had been suspended for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic resumed activities at two sites in June 2021. We held a further successful recruitment campaign, followed by theoretical and practical training sessions, and now have 24 volunteers undertaking lock management and providing information to boaters at Northampton Marina and on the River Great Ouse.

In March 2022, we started delivery of our innovative Eels in the Classroom project. The project aimed to increase the life chances of the critically endangered European Eel and help young people to appreciate and care for their local wildlife. During June and July 2022, children from Little Thetford Primary School and Over Primary School have cared for elvers (young eels) in aquarium tanks in their classrooms and studied their habits. In mid-July, the elvers were released back to St Germans Pumping Station, near King's Lynn, where they were originally caught. We hope there might be an opportunity to repeat and scale-up this project next year.

The organisation was commissioned by the Environment Agency to set-up and deliver three online seminars to raise awareness and understanding of the baseline Future Fens report by stakeholders and those communities situated in the Great Ouse Fens area. The events were delivered successfully in September/October 2021 and attended by 136 individuals, with a report capturing the discussions prepared and submitted to the Environment Agency.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

We also completed a short piece of consultancy work on behalf of Cambridge Past Present and Future (CPPF) undertaking some public consultation and involvement work in support of a National Heritage Lottery Fund application in respect of Bourn Windmill. The Lottery bid was successful and Cambridgeshire ACRE is now working in partnership with CPPF to deliver the community engagement aspects of the project.

Economic Programmes

We continued to lead the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership of Local Authorities and Registered Providers. The Partnership engages with local councils across the County to address the need for affordable homes in rural parishes. These parties entrust us with undertaking independent Housing Needs Surveys to establish hidden housing need. Five Housing Needs Surveys were undertaken over the last 12 months (at Landbeach, Willingham, Haslingfield, Spaldwick and Guilden Morden). There are currently potential rural exception sites identified in 11 parishes. Following a hiatus in housebuilding during the COVID-19 pandemic, we should see a number of schemes start on site during 2022/23.

We continued to deliver our Neighbourhood Planning Service during 2021/22 with assistance from two associate planning consultants. Neighbourhood Planning Groups began to consider resuming the development of their plans following the pandemic. We worked with eight different groups (at Soham, Great Gransden, Great Staughton, Werrington, Pampisford, Swavesey, Thriplow and Waterbeach). Two plans that Cambridgeshire ACRE worked on at Buckden and Waterbeach were 'made', or brought into force, during 2021/22.

Cambridgeshire ACRE continued to lead and facilitate Eastern Community Homes, the community-led housing hub for the East of England. The hub now has five accredited Community Led Housing Advisors, with four others likely to receive accreditation in 2022/23. The hub provided thought-leadership to local authority partners on community-led housing and during the year delivered two well-attended webinars looking at how community-led housing at scale can contribute to meeting growth agendas. 18 local authorities across the East of England currently contribute funding towards to the hub's work. At a community level, 42 community-led housing groups have received support from the hub's advisors. Additionally, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority and Chelmsford City Council have commissioned bespoke support packages for their areas and these have allowed additional help to be provided to groups here.

Our Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER programme which started back in May 2015 finally concluded at the end of December 2021. Over its life, the programme invested over £1.38m into projects supporting farm productivity, small business support, tourism, community services and culture & heritage. 75 jobs were created as a result of this investment.

Cambridgeshire ACRE continued its role as Accountable Body for the Wisbech Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme. Taking a bottom-up approach, the £2.1m CLLD programme is delivering a strategy to tackle the broad range of issues that currently present barriers to labour market participation. Grant funding agreements worth £782,317 to 11 projects with an overall value of £1.69m have now been issued, meaning 85% of the funding available has been committed. The programme has already exceeded its target numbers for moving participants into employment (156 successful participants against a target of 116) and helping the economically inactive into job search (102 successful participants against a target of 89). The Wisbech CLLD programme is scheduled to run until the end of December 2022.

Charity and Governance Activity

In August 2021 the trustees had to act to address the senior management capacity of the organisation due to the sudden absence of the Chief Executive, Kirsten Bennett, on a period of long-term sick leave. After an assessment of priorities they asked the Head of Business Services, Alison Brown, to act as the Chief Executive. This arrangement was continued until May 2022 when the Chief Executive was able to return to her job role.

The Board undertook a recruitment campaign to attract new trustees. A high number of applications were received. Following assessment of those applications, interviews were held and, ultimately, five new trustees were co-opted by the Board in February 2022. They then received training and induction to allow them to become familiar with their new role.

The first phase of our digital marketing strategy was delivered successfully during 2021/22 including the roll-out of our new branding, the launch of a new website in July 2021 and the transition to a new customer relationship management

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

and marketing system which has allowed us to communicate better with all our stakeholders and take a more proactive approach to letting people know how we are able to help them and meet their needs.

Opportunities to provide consultancy support continued to be limited during 2021/22 as organisations focused on post-COVID recovery, apart from those commissions already mentioned. Cambridgeshire ACRE is also a member of Cirican LLP, the Limited Liability Partnership run by the ACRE Network as a vehicle for undertaking joint consultancy work.

Financial Review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2020/21 are shown in brackets)

For the financial year 2021/22 incoming resources were £841,393 (£904,737). This represents a decrease in income of 7%.

The end of the year saw a surplus of £19,915 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total expenditure exceeded income by £28,841; this is largely attributable to the decrease in restricted funds. The restricted reserves have decreased from £297,939 to £249,911. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds decreased from £194,395 to £194,167, a decrease of £228. The unrestricted general reserve showed an increase during the year from £151,945 to £171,860; an increase of 13.11%.

Plans for Future Periods

As we move forward, the impacts of COVID-19 are still a concern and we will continue to provide services to support communities to reopen their village halls and regain the social activities that have been lost due to lockdowns. We are concerned with the escalating cost-of-living crisis and the war in Ukraine. The organisation will undoubtedly be affected by rising inflation and trustees are considering the potential impact on our operating costs, which are likely to increase quite considerably over the next years. Like many charities, longer term financial sustainability to continue to deliver our vital services to rural communities will remain a challenge and we will continue to diversify our income through applications for grants, consultancy work and trading. After a review of our organisational strategy, we have focused our work further to five key areas to allow us to deliver the necessary growth in services that communities need:

1. Addressing the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis
2. Supporting communities with climate change mitigation and adaptation and helping them reach net zero carbon targets
3. Delivering more community-led housing
4. Developing places through Neighbourhood Planning
5. Ensuring village halls are fit for the 21st century

We expect that the cost-of-living crisis will worsen and the impact on people across rural Cambridgeshire means we are likely to experience a rising demand for our services and those that can be provided in village halls. Working with village hall committees, we plan to support the most vulnerable, as well as those on lower incomes who are unable to pay their energy bills without compromising on other essentials, such as food, rent or hygiene, by opening the doors of village halls to provide 'Warm Hubs'.

Our environmental work has grown considerably over recent years. The organisation is well-positioned to support partners and rural communities to take forward their climate change and net zero plans. For example, we will offer specialist support with community-led nature restoration plans and flood mitigation to an increasing number of communities over the year ahead. We are aware that village halls need to have clear plans for decarbonisation and aim to provide volunteer management committees with additional support to find funding to help with building improvements over the coming year.

We will continue to strengthen our rural housing, community-led housing and neighbourhood planning work and will work with our Local Authority partners to provide further affordable homes in rural areas.

Our strategy for the year ahead is to develop services that support communities and individuals to mitigate the rising cost-of-living crisis, increase our services to communities supporting their climate change plans and increase our support for community-led housing while sustaining our own long-term financial viability.

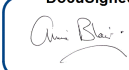
Cambridgeshire ACRE
Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022
TRUSTEES' & DIRECTORS' REPORT

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

The Accounts

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

DocuSigned by:

Chairperson: B74B3E2ED1C743D.....
Annie Blair

DocuSigned by:

Company Secretary: F830CF2D74EF445.....
Alison Brown

06 December 2022
Date:

e-space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, Ely, CB6 1RA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company'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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of 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 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 directors' 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 charity'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 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' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 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.

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

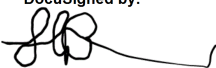
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:

 D3649D4FDD70453...

Stuart Graham Berriman (Senior Statutory Auditor)
 For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP
 Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
 7 Quay Court
 Colliers Lane
 Stow-cum-Quay
 Cambridge
 CB25 9AU

16 December 2022

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 March 2022				2021
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
		Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds			
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	12,448	-	-	12,448	56,439
Charitable activities	3	480	-	770,058	770,538	795,428
Other trading activities	5	49,734	-	7,022	56,756	50,341
Investments	6	1,651	-	-	1,651	2,529
Total income		64,313	-	777,080	841,393	904,737
Expenditure						
Raising funds		18,874	-	-	18,874	3,620
Charitable activities	11	141,113	3,072	707,175	851,360	724,084
Total expenditure	7	159,987	3,072	707,175	870,234	727,704
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(95,674)	(3,072)	69,905	(28,841)	177,033
Transfers between funds	12	115,589	2,844	(118,433)	-	-
Net movement in funds		19,915	(228)	(48,528)	(28,841)	177,033
Reconciliation in funds:						
Total funds brought forward		151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279	467,246
Total funds carried forward	22	171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438	644,279

Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

As at 31 March 2022

Company registration number: 03690881

Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	13	-	2,153	606	2,759	2,987
Investments	14	-	173,220	-	173,220	170,977
		-	175,373	606	175,979	173,964
Current assets:						
Debtors	15	211,658	-	-	211,658	151,038
Cash at bank and in hand		18,696	18,794	248,805	286,295	352,916
		230,354	18,794	248,805	497,953	503,954
Liabilities:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	58,494	-	-	58,494	33,639
Net current assets		171,860	18,794	248,805	439,459	470,315
Total net assets		171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438	644,279
The funds of the charity:						
Restricted funds	21	-	-	249,411	249,411	297,939
Designated and capital funds	20	-	194,167	-	194,167	194,395
Unrestricted funds		171,860	-	-	171,860	151,945
		171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438	644,279

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 19 August 2022.

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

DocuSigned by:



B74B3E2ED1C743D.....
Ann Lesley Blair, Chairperson

06 December 2022

.....
Date

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(63,185)	168,976
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	1,651	2,529
Purchase of investments	-	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,844)	(1,818)
	<u>(1,193)</u>	<u>711</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>(64,378)</u>	<u>169,687</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	520,893	351,206
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>456,515</u>	<u>520,893</u>
 Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	286,295	352,916
Investments	170,220	167,977
	<u>456,515</u>	<u>520,893</u>
 Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(28,841)	177,033
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,072	2,340
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(1,651)	(2,529)
(Increase) in debtors	(60,620)	17,038
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	24,855	(24,906)
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	<u>(63,185)</u>	<u>168,976</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

Legal Form Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Country of Incorporation Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Address of Registered Office: e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA.

Currency These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

Principal Activities Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

Public Benefit Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and Reserves All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

Fund Accounting The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 20 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 21 below.

Voluntary Income All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

Grant Income Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 21). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

Grant Expenditure The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

Membership The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

Investments The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

Interest When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

Taxation As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Value Added Tax (VAT) The charity is registered for VAT.

Governance Expenditure This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio established in May 2017 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

Netting Off of Income and Expenditure Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

Investments and Investment Income Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

Capital Fund The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

Designated Funds The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. The Project Development Fund is held to support the development of new projects (including the engagement of consultants to prepare plans or funding bids and the employment of staff beyond their funded contracts to develop further projects) to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy. The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Raising Funds The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

Going Concern The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees recognise the impact of COVID-19 on the charity could be significant and could resonate for several years. The trustees' policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

2. Donations

	31 March 2022			31 March 2021	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	-	-	44,180
Membership subscriptions	12,448	-	-	12,448	12,259
	<u>12,448</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,448</u>	<u>56,439</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

3. Charitable Activities

	31 March 2022				31 March 2021
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	-	-	768,678	768,678	765,400
Other charitable income	480	-	1,380	1,860	30,028
	<u>480</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>770,058</u>	<u>770,538</u>	<u>795,428</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

4. Analysis of Grants Received

	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	Restricted £
Accent Nene Ltd	-	3,150	-	3,000
Arts Council	-	39,390	-	-
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	3,150	-	3,000
Cambridge Housing Society	-	3,150	-	3,000
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	17,851	-	13,853
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	56,687	-	74,134
Chorus Homes (formerly Luminus Group)	-	-	-	3,000
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	3,150	-	3,000
Defra	-	54,726	44,180	14,163
Department for Work and Pensions	-	202,554	-	129,144
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	3,150	-	3,000
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	16,500	-	68,135
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	46,965	-	6,490
Environment Agency	-	19,341	-	56,511
ESF	-	17,341	-	90,961
Fenland District Council	-	12,800	-	12,700
Hastoe Housing	-	3,150	-	3,000
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,100	-	2,000
Longhurst Group	-	3,150	-	3,000
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	-	-	-	56,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	197,898	-	171,362
Rural Payments Agency	-	56,785	-	36,222
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	3,150	-	3,000
Wisbech Town Council	-	3,539	-	3,539
Other grants	-	(1,000)	-	3,186
	<u>-</u>	<u>768,678</u>	<u>44,180</u>	<u>765,400</u>

Sources of Restricted Funds:

Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE	580,225	604,843
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE	<u>188,453</u>	<u>160,557</u>
	<u>768,678</u>	<u>765,400</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2022			31 March 2021	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	49,671	-	6,926	56,597	50,224
Publications	63	-	96	159	117
	<u>49,734</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,022</u>	<u>56,756</u>	<u>50,341</u>

6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	1,651	-	-	1,651	2,529
	<u>1,651</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,651</u>	<u>2,529</u>

7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	188,453	188,453	157,557
Staff costs (Note 8)	80,584	-	308,664	389,248	392,384
Consultancy	-	-	19,371	19,371	6,697
Premises	4,904	-	-	4,904	4,335
Office running costs	10,497	-	10,824	21,321	5,363
Operating lease rentals	-	-	-	-	6,073
Meetings & Workshops	251	-	7,610	7,861	28,749
Project delivery costs	-	-	103,177	103,177	53,680
Professional fees	1,000	-	32,778	33,778	22,548
Volunteer expenses	368	-	700	1,068	41
Housing Need Survey Costs	7,161	-	-	7,161	4,298
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	20,822	-	-	20,822	10,674
Depreciation	-	3,072	-	3,072	2,340
Publicity	18,874	-	34,974	53,848	18,425
Expensed equipment	222	-	384	606	1,163
Subscriptions	6,042	-	199	6,241	5,976
Miscellaneous expenditure	2,870	-	42	2,912	984
Audit fees	5,181	-	-	5,181	4,618
Non-audit fees	1,211	-	-	1,211	1,799
Total expenditure	<u>159,987</u>	<u>3,072</u>	<u>707,175</u>	<u>870,234</u>	<u>727,704</u>

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 21.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

8. Trustees and Staff costs

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Wages and salaries	326,155	326,691
Accrued holiday pay movement	3,194	1,114
Employer's NI	27,086	30,877
Pension	23,353	24,699
Travel	5,564	622
Training	3,843	6,720
Recruitment	53	1,661
Total staff costs	<u>389,248</u>	<u>392,384</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>128,689</u>	<u>141,541</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £Nil (2021: £Nil) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189

9. Governance

	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
Audit fee	5,181	4,618
Non audit financial services	1,211	1,798
Annual General Meeting	13	1,335
Indemnity insurance	371	339
Selected core staff salaries	5,392	4,693
Expenses	<u>6,350</u>	<u>8,918</u>
	<u>18,518</u>	<u>21,701</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 6.14% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in 2022.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

10. Grants Given

Project	Grant Recipient	Year ended 31 March 2022 £	Year ended 31 March 2021 £
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	24,416	20,275
WCLLD	LEADA Cambs CIC	834	18,419
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	12,910	17,830
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	31,174	20,919
WCLLD	Rural Cambs CAB	14,522	3,703
WCLLD	Ferry Project	44,697	61,909
WCLLD	YMCA	15,663	-
WCLLD	Head to Toe	4,876	-
Rural Touring	ADEC	2,000	-
Wisbech Reads	20Twenty Productions	-	3,055
CHESS	Various individuals	33,641	11,447
ECH (CPCA)		1,500	-
Eastern Community Homes	Thorpe Le Soken CLT	500	-
Eastern Community Homes	Thaxted CLT Ltd	1,000	-
Re-Opening Doors		720	-
Total Grants Given		<u>188,453</u>	<u>157,557</u>

11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes £	Environmental Programmes £	Economic Programmes £	Total £
Direct activities	145,524	288,150	112,814	546,488
Grant funding activity	-	-	188,453	188,453
Support costs	17,421	76,839	22,159	116,419
Total cost of activities 2022	<u>162,945</u>	<u>364,989</u>	<u>323,426</u>	<u>851,360</u>
Total costs in 2021	<u>126,616</u>	<u>213,064</u>	<u>384,404</u>	<u>724,084</u>

Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes £	Environmental Programmes £	Economic Programmes £	Total £
Management & HR	11,512	50,778	14,643	76,933
Finance & IT	2,990	13,187	3,803	19,980
Administration	2,919	12,874	3,713	19,506
Total support costs 2022	<u>17,421</u>	<u>76,839</u>	<u>22,159</u>	<u>116,419</u>
Total costs in 2021	<u>24,917</u>	<u>51,415</u>	<u>26,875</u>	<u>103,207</u>

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

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11. Cost of Charitable Activities (continued)

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below. Some projects cover more than one activity, Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER for example covers farming, tourism and an element of Economic Programmes, an accurate split of activity is not practical and projects have therefore been allocated wholly to their main activity.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [67%]; CHESS; Defra [33%]; Re-Opening Doors; Rural Touring; Support Cambridgeshire; and Wisbech Reads.
- **Environmental Programmes:** Defra [33%]; Environment Agency Volunteers; Eels in the Classroom; Fens Biosphere Development; Floating Pennywort Prevention; New Life on the Old West; and Water Environment Grant.
- **Economic Programmes:** Core trading (business services) [33%]; Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER; Eastern Community Homes; ECH (Chelmsford City Council); ECH (CPCA); Defra (33%); Rural Affordable Housing; and Wisbech CLLD.

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 21.

12. Fund transfers

	Year ended 31 March 2022			Year ended 31 March 2021		
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds
	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds		Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds	
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	1,323	-	(1,323)	1,834	-	(1,834)
Catchment Partnership	5,774	-	(5,774)	5,274	-	(5,274)
CHESS	4,792	-	(4,792)	2,396	-	(2,396)
Defra	5,509	-	(5,509)	-	-	-
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	1,523	-	(1,523)	17,388	-	(17,388)
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	5,414	-	(5,414)	-	-	-
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	1,637	-	(1,637)	-	-	-
Environment Agency Volunteers	10,165	-	(10,165)	2,649	-	(2,649)
Eels in the classroom	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fens Biosphere Development	16,648	-	(16,648)	22,556	-	(22,556)
Floating Pennywort Prevention	543	-	(543)	-	-	-
Machinery and equipment	(829)	2,844	(2,015)	(1,818)	1,818	-
New Life on the Old West	41,873	-	(41,873)	20,936	-	(20,936)
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	2,091	-	(2,091)	-	-	-
Rural Affordable Housing	4,067	-	(4,067)	3,200	-	(3,200)
Rural Touring	703	-	(703)	424	-	(424)
Support Cambs – Community Facilities	5,094	-	(5,094)	14,061	-	(14,061)
Support Cambs – Local Councils	2,904	-	(2,904)	2,091	-	(2,091)
Wisbech CLLD Projects	6,358	-	(6,358)	4,285	-	(4,285)
	<u>115,589</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>(118,433)</u>	<u>95,276</u>	<u>1,818</u>	<u>(97,094)</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment £	Restricted Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
Beginning of the year	13,561	11,400	24,961
Additions	2,844	-	2,844
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>16,405</u>	<u>11,400</u>	<u>27,805</u>
Depreciation			
Beginning of the year	12,962	9,012	21,974
Charge for the year	1,290	1,782	3,072
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>14,252</u>	<u>10,794</u>	<u>25,046</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2021	<u>599</u>	<u>2,388</u>	<u>2,987</u>
As at 31 March 2022	<u>2,153</u>	<u>606</u>	<u>2,759</u>

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

14. Investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	82,128	81,315
United Trust	88,092	86,662
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
	<u>173,220</u>	<u>170,977</u>

15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

	2022 £	2021 £
Income Due	6,652	10,297
Accrued Income	192,973	138,844
Prepayments	12,033	1,897
	<u>211,658</u>	<u>151,038</u>

16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

	2022 £	2021 £
Due within 1 year		
Accruals	7,714	6,300
Accrued Holiday Pay	10,402	7,208
Payroll Liabilities	190	790
Sundry Creditors	34,862	2,130
VAT	5,326	17,211
	<u>58,494</u>	<u>33,639</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 10 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 11).

At 31 March 2022 £190 was owed by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes, this represents the monthly payment due for March (apart from the two schemes that were paid before the end of March). The figure owing was paid in April 2022 and is shown in note 16 incorporated in the payroll liabilities figure.

19. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights. All trustees give of their time freely and receive no remuneration for their charitable duties in the year.

Each Trustee completes an annual Declaration of Interests form and these are noted at every meeting of the Board and its Committees. Trustees and senior staff are also required to complete an annual Related Parties Schedule so that any possible transactions or arrangements made or entered into by Cambridgeshire ACRE involving an individual or his/her close family members can be identified.

During the year £5,808 (2020/21 - £3,826) was paid to Jessica Sellick, a Trustee, for professional services through the company of which she is a Director, Rose Regeneration. No amounts were outstanding at the year end (2020/21 - £nil).

Trustees are appointed as individuals but do have involvement with organisations which Cambridgeshire ACRE works with on a regular basis. During the past year, Cambridgeshire ACRE has received resource support from, or has supported, and in some case funded, activities with:

- Bluntisham Parish Council – Helena Schofield
- Burwell Parish Council – Hazel Williams MBE
- Christchurch Parish Council – David Gibbs
- CP Learning Trust – Terry Jordan
- East Suffolk Council – Stephanie Baxter
- Folksworth, Washingley & Morborne Village Hall – Ann Blair
- Horningsea Village Hall Trust – Michael Hellowell
- Newton Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Newton Village Hall – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Community Centre and Recreation Ground – David Gibbs
- Tydd St Giles Parish Council – David Gibbs
- Weston Colville Parish Council – Ray Vidler
- Wisbech Community Development Trust – Terry Jordan
- Wisbech Town Council – Terry Jordan

In all situations, rigorous procurement or project management procedures are followed to ensure no single individual has undue influence over decisions.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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20. Designated and Capital Funds	Brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Capital funds					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	599	-	(1,290)	2,844	2,153
Equipment (Restricted)	2,388	-	(1,782)	-	606
Total Capital Funds	2,987	-	(3,072)	2,844	2,759
Designated Funds					
Project Development Fund	72,552	-	-	-	72,552
Property and Office Accommodation	118,856	-	-	-	118,856
Total Designated Funds	191,408	-	-	-	191,408
Total Capital & Designated Funds	194,395	-	(3,072)	2,844	194,167

Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

Project Development Fund:

A fund to be used to support the development of new programmes of work.

Property & Office Accommodation Fund:

The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

21. Restricted Funds	Brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Carried forward £
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	32	10,546	(8,998)	(1,550)	30
Catchment Partnership	1,573	15,000	(9,269)	(5,774)	1,530
CHESS	-	57,642	(52,850)	(4,792)	-
Defra	-	44,180	(38,671)	(5,509)	-
Eastern Community Homes (was Community Led Housing)	60,849	16,500	(35,694)	(1,750)	39,905
ECH (Chelmsford City Council) (was CLH Chelmsford City Council)	38,135	-	(7,200)	(5,414)	25,521
ECH CPCA (was CLLH CPCA)	-	6,926	(6,700)	(1,637)	(1,411)
Environment Agency Volunteers	55,319	-	(22,250)	(10,165)	22,904
Eels In The Classroom	-	8,671	(1,200)	-	7,471
Fens Biosphere Development	29,999	27,000	(20,421)	(16,648)	19,930
Floating Pennywort Prevention	-	9,180	(7,077)	(543)	1,560
New Life on the Old West	-	196,892	(153,913)	(42,979)	-
Re-Opening Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings	13,853	-	(11,315)	(2,091)	447
Rural Affordable Housing	-	29,400	(25,106)	(4,294)	-
Rural Touring	38,609	39,390	(29,127)	(703)	48,169
Support Camps - Community Facilities	-	16,272	(11,178)	(5,094)	-
Support Camps - Local Councils	-	9,814	(6,910)	(2,904)	-
Water Environment Grant	-	61,127	(61,127)	-	-
Wisbech CLLD	31,307	167,397	(149,094)	-	49,610
Wisbech CLLD Projects	24,610	62,143	(46,422)	(6,586)	33,745
Wisbech Reads	3,653	(1,000)	(2,653)	-	-
	297,939	777,080	(707,175)	(118,433)	249,411

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Notes to the accounts

21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER

This six and a half year project started in May 2015 and finished in December 2021. Funding was provided through the EU-funded Rural Development Programme for England and was distributed through a Local Action Group using the LEADER approach to provide investment for start-up or enhancement of local businesses in parts of Cambridgeshire and West Norfolk. Project applications were made through Cambridgeshire ACRE but the Rural Payments Agency made payments directly to project recipients. The total project value was £2,100,000.

Cambridgeshire ACRE was permitted to claim against the project's Running Costs & Administration budget until end March 2022 to allow monitoring and evaluation of the programme on behalf of the Managing Authority to be concluded.

Catchment Partnership

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022 (having been funded on an annual basis since 2014/15). Funding is provided by the Environment Agency to stimulate engagement with local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and to involve them in decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford River's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2022/23.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service (CHESS)

This project started in October 2020 and will finish at end September 2022. Funding is provided through the Energy Industry Redress Scheme via our delivery partners PECT (Peterborough Environment City Trust) who are the project lead. The project aim was to improve the health and wellbeing of 1,000 vulnerable households in market towns and parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty by providing energy savings advice and support and offering fuel debt relief. Cambridgeshire ACRE's role involved administering the fuel debt relief pot.

Eastern Community Homes

This project started in April 2020 and currently runs until March 2023. The project aims improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. Funding is provided by a partnership of 18 local authorities from across the East of England to underpin a regional Hub of trained advisers in each of the ACRE Network members in the region who provide advice and support for community groups.

Eastern Community Homes (Chelmsford City Council)

This project involves the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Chelmsford City Council to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project is spin-off from the work of Eastern Community Homes. The project started in April 2021 and will finish at end March 2023.

Eastern Community Homes (CPCA)

This project involves the delivery of a bespoke support agreement with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to support the delivery of community-led housing in that local authority area. The project is spin-off from the work of Eastern Community Homes. The project started in January 2021 and will finish at end March 2023.

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21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Defra

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022 (funding has been provided on an annual basis but was required to be treated as a restricted grant for the first time in 2021/22). Defra requires us to deliver local strategic support to rural communities, enabling them to take action, sharing learning on sustainable funding models and providing access to local intelligence. Funding for 2022/23 has been confirmed, as part of a new three-year agreement.

Environment Agency (EA) Volunteers

This project started in April 2016 and will finish at end October 2022. The Environment Agency has contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has brought about better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services.

Eels in the Classroom

This short-term project was supposed to be delivered between March 2020 and August 2020, but, due to the pandemic, the start date was changed to March 2022 and the project will run until end August 2022. Funded by Anglian Water's Flourishing Environment Fund, the project has seen us work in two schools to give children hands-on experience in rearing endangered eels, learning about their life cycle and releasing them into the wild.

Fens Biosphere Development

This project started in April 2019 and was supposed to run for two years but ended up being extended for a third year, concluding at end March 2022. It was grant funded by the People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund with monies being passed via the Wildlife Trust BCN. The project's aimed was to develop and submit a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens. Whilst a decision was ultimately taken not to proceed with the UNESCO nomination, the project has provided useful partnership development and knowledge to apply to future partnership environmental and climate change mitigation activity.

Floating Pennywort Prevention

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022. Grant funded by the Anglian Water Invasive Species Fund, the project aimed to prevent the spread of Floating Pennywort into the Middle Level system of waterbodies by delivering communications and community engagement activities to raise public awareness. The project was a spin-off from our Catchment Partnership, whose members identified a pressing need for community education and learning.

New Life on the Old West

Following a separate period of development funding, this project started in October 2020 and will run for three years until end September 2023. A grant of £730k was awarded from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements on farmland and community green spaces in areas around the Old West river. The project will also work with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

Re-Opening the Doors of Cambridgeshire's Community Buildings

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022. A grant from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Coronavirus Community Fund was provided to support community volunteers to re-open the doors of Cambridgeshire's community buildings and village halls, and offer activities for communities to come together as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Activity included the development and delivery of a number of training sessions as well as an awareness-raising campaign to promote the use of village halls by rural communities.

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21. Restricted Funds (continued)

Rural Affordable Housing

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022 (having been funded on an annual basis for many years). Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Partners have committed to provide a further year's funding for 2022/23.

Rural Touring

This two-year project started in April 2020 but had to be paused at the end of Sep-20 due to the pandemic, resuming delivery in Apr-2021. We have since requested and received an extension to the delivery window to end September 2023. Grant funding from Arts Council England is supporting the reintroduction of a rural touring scheme for the northern area of the County. Funding is used to identify and train village hall management committees to become 'promoters' of live performances and cinema screenings to be delivered from their community buildings making high quality arts experiences accessible to those who might not normally experience them.

Support Cambridgeshire (Community Facilities and Local Councils)

This project started in September 2015 and ran for five year until end November 2021. Grant funding was provided by Cambridgeshire County Council to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to deliver infrastructure support services to local councils and village halls with the aim of building capacity in communities to become stronger and more resilient.

Water Environment Grant

This project started in April 2021 and finished in March 2022. Grant funding was provided by the Environment Agency for Cambridgeshire ACRE to address agricultural diffuse pollution and contribute to supporting improvements within the water body's Water Framework Directive status by trapping the sediment that runs from the land using coir rolls sown with a range of native marginal water plants.

Wisbech CLLD

This project started in January 2017 and is scheduled to run until end December 2022. Funding is provided through an ESF grant of £1.05m with match funding from local public funds (Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and Wisbech Town Council). The project encourages local people to take the lead on supporting skills and employment activity that provides sustainable economic benefits to the Wisbech area. Projects that are brought forward must provide 50% match fund funding.

Wisbech Reads

The fund comprised monies left over from our Wisbech Reads project which closed 31-Mar-2020. During the course of the year, the balance was transferred to a newly-constituted, externally-led 'Wisbech Read Easy' group for them to continue work raising literacy through community-led action.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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22. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,153	606	2,759
Investments	-	173,220	-	173,220
Net current assets	171,860	18,794	248,805	439,459
Total	171,860	194,167	249,411	615,438

23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2021

	Year ended 31 March 2021			
	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Income				
Donations	44,180	-	12,259	56,439
Charitable activities	22,863	-	772,565	795,428
Other trading activities	49,624	-	717	50,341
Investments	2,529	-	-	2,529
Total income	119,196	-	785,541	904,737
Expenditure				
Raising funds	3,620	-	-	3,620
Charitable activities	198,179	2,340	523,565	724,084
Total expenditure	201,799	2,340	523,565	727,704
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	(82,603)	(2,340)	261,976	177,033
Transfers between funds	95,276	1,818	(97,094)	-
Net movement in funds	12,673	(522)	164,882	177,033
Reconciliation in funds:				
Total funds brought forward	139,272	194,917	133,057	467,246
Total funds carried forward	151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279

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For the year ended 31 March 2022

Notes to the accounts

Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who supported our work over the last year, in particular:

Central Government

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Work & Pensions
Environment Agency
Rural Payments Agency

Local Authorities

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Wisbech Town Council

Local Authorities specifically funding Eastern Community Homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council
Breckland Council
Cambridge City Council
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
East Suffolk Council
Epping Forest District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Maldon District Council
North Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Tendring District Council
Uttlesford District Council
West Suffolk Council

Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords

Accent Group Ltd
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
CHS Group
Cross Keys Homes Ltd
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd
Longhurst Group

Lottery Distributors

Arts Council England
National Lottery Heritage Fund
People's Postcode Lottery through the Postcode Community Trust
Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations

Cambridgeshire Past Present & Future
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Energy Industry Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust
Trinity Denoir

CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1074032

Accounts



Registered Company no. 03690881

Registered Charity no. 1074032

Report and Financial Statement
for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Cambridgeshire ACRE

Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

PRESIDENT

The Right Reverend Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely

VICE PRESIDENTS

Julie Spence OBE CStJ QPM, Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire

TRUSTEES

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the company, who served during the financial year are as follows:

Ann Lesley Blair (Chairperson)

David Gibbs

Brian Wilfred Hayes

Michael David Hellowell (Vice-Chairman and Treasurer)

Terry Jordan (Vice-Chairman)

Hugh Kyle McCurdy

Elizabeth Ann Stazicker

Robert Turner (Resigned on 15 April 2020)

Hazel Williams MBE

COMPANY SECRETARY

Alison Catherine Brown

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Kirsten Jean Bennett

REGISTERED OFFICE

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA

BANKERS

Unity Trust Bank PLC, PO Box 7193, Planetary Road, Willenhall, WV1 9DG

AUDITORS

Chater Allan LLP, 4a Newmarket Road, Cambridge, CB5 8DT

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The trustees present their full report for the period ended 31 March 2021 to the Annual General Meeting of the charity held on 29 September 2021. This is also the directors' report required of a small company by the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of the Trustees' Responsibilities

Law applicable to incorporated charities in England and Wales requires the trustees who are also directors for the purpose of company law to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its financial activities during the year. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

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

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the charity has appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise to provide reasonable assurance that:

- the charity is operating efficiently and effectively;
- its assets are safeguarded against unauthorised use or disposition;
- proper records are maintained and financial information used within the charity or for publication is reliable;
- the charity complies with relevant laws and regulations.

The systems of internal control are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance against material misstatement or loss. They include:

- a strategic plan and an annual budget approved by the trustees;
- regular consideration by the trustees of financial results, variance from budgets and non-financial performance indicators;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

Objects of the Charity

- To promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the community in particular but not exclusively in the county of Cambridgeshire by assisting the work of statutory authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in pursuing any charitable purposes

Our Vision

Thriving rural communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Our Mission

To drive positive change and work with others to improve the lives of those that live and work in rural communities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Public Benefit

It is a legal requirement of the Charities Act 2006 that charities must demonstrate they provide a public benefit. The two key principles identified by the Charity Commission to prove public benefit are

- Principle 1: There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits.

The benefits provided by Cambridgeshire ACRE are detailed in the 'Review of Activities' section included in this statement. The Review of Activities gives detailed information on the benefits provided as they relate to the three key areas of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work; Social & Community Action Programmes; Environmental Programmes and Economic Programmes.

- Principle 2: Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public.

The main beneficiaries of Cambridgeshire ACRE's work are the local communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, although on occasion beneficiaries come from beyond this immediate area.

Incorporation

The company is a registered charity incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 in December 1998. The governing document is the Articles of Association as amended on 25 September 2019.

Governance

Cambridgeshire ACRE is controlled by the Board of Trustees which meets at least four times a year. It delegates day-to-day management of the organisation to the Chief Executive. There are currently eight members of the Board.

Trustee Recruitment

Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), when one third of all trustees retire and may put themselves forward for re-election for a period of three years. Cambridgeshire ACRE regularly reviews the need for new trustees and any areas of expertise that might need strengthening through further recruitment to the Board. The Board collectively considers prospective candidates and either recommends candidates for election at the AGM, or co-opts them until the next AGM, at which time they must retire and seek re-appointment.

Once elected by the AGM or co-opted by the Board, new trustees complete a declaration of eligibility to serve as a charity trustee and their appointment is notified to the Charity Commission. New trustees are sent a copy of the policy and procedure on Conflicts of Interest and asked to complete a declaration of interests which is reviewed each year.

Trustee Induction

New trustees are provided with a training session at which they are given an Induction Pack of key documents, such as Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Commission summary of responsibilities of charity trustees, the latest Annual Report and Financial Statement and the Strategy and Business Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive meet with a new trustee after 6 months to review how their induction has gone.

Trustee Training

Trustees' training needs may emerge during the induction process but are more systematically assessed through periodic meetings with the Chairperson and Chief Executive. Identified needs are dealt with immediately where possible, or otherwise included in Cambridgeshire ACRE's annual training plan alongside the training needs of staff. Trustees are encouraged to attend events run by Cambridgeshire ACRE and other conferences/meetings to develop their awareness of the working context, charity governance and key rural issues.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Reserves

The trustees have identified the need to retain a financial reserve as the charity's income is uncertain and can fluctuate from year to year. Cambridgeshire ACRE aims to hold in reserve no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure to ensure that it can meet its contractual obligations fully. The charity will continue its practice of budgeting prudently and actively seeking funds to finance its activities and maintain the reserve at the approved level. The Board reviews the reserves policy each year and monitors the level of the reserve at its quarterly meetings.

During the year the charity's general reserve increased from £139,272 to £151,945. After deduction of potential redundancy liabilities, the current level of general reserve provides a buffer of just over three months of unrestricted fund expenditure. This is considered acceptable under the current reserves policy.

The charity has two designated funds which are represented by investments and fixed assets. The purpose of these funds is detailed in note 21 in the financial statements.

Investments

Cambridgeshire ACRE has an investment policy that is reviewed annually by the Board. The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The deposit accounts are kept under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits. The strategy is to hold funds with a high level of liquidity for ready access when required. The deposits are split between Cambridge & Counties Bank Ltd and United Trust Bank at the balance sheet date.

Pay policy for senior staff

The trustees consider the board of directors, who are the charity's trustees, and the senior management team comprising the key management personnel of the charity, to be in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day to day basis. All trustees give of their time freely and no trustee received remuneration in the year. The pay of the senior staff is set by the trustees, benchmarking against pay levels in other charities of a similar size and type

Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the organisation is exposed, particularly those related to finances and operations, these are documented on a risk register the trustees have put in place, together with a Business Continuity Plan which sets out actions to be taken in the case of serious business interruption. Cambridgeshire ACRE has a formal procedure on risk management and the procedure and risks identified are reviewed continuously by the senior management team and annually by the trustees, they remain satisfied that measures are in place to manage those risks

Review of Activities

The Review of Activities shows the impact and the achievements of our work. The Review covers the full year 2020/21 and the period in the current year (2021/22) to the date of writing (Jul-2021). Throughout this period, Cambridgeshire ACRE's trustees have been mindful of the impacts of COVID-19, both short-term and longer-term, on the Organisation and on the charity sector more generally. Trustees met with greater frequency at the start of the pandemic to enable increased oversight of the Organisation's resources including undertaking monthly financial assessments and taking proactive steps to manage the impacts on staff, including moving towards working more flexibly and undertaking risk assessments to ensure compliance with COVID-19 secure guidelines.

Despite the pandemic, Cambridgeshire ACRE has worked alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs. Communities have benefitted from the dedicated support of our skilled and experienced team who are dedicated to helping improve rural life.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Social and Community Action Programmes

Cambridgeshire ACRE continued to work through the Support Cambridgeshire partnership, in collaboration with Hunts Forum and Cambridge CVS, to deliver infrastructure services across the County on behalf of Cambridgeshire County Council. Cambridgeshire ACRE's specific responsibilities under this contract relate to supporting those running Community Facilities and developing the Town and Parish Council sector.

Our Community Facilities Advice Service provided 635 cases of support to community buildings across the County in the year 2020/21. This was more than double the caseload for the previous year (309 cases in 2019/20). Keeping charity trustees informed and updated of emerging Government legislation and guidance, particularly around COVID-19, has been a critical aspect of our work over the last year. A key task was informing community buildings of the COVID-19-specific financial support available via local authorities. This financial support has been critical to ensuring the longer-term sustainability of this vital network of community hubs and we spent considerable time lobbying the local authorities to ensure community buildings were deemed eligible for this crucial support.

Trustees have responded well to attending our regular networking meetings online, where the topics covered have centred on COVID-related issues and recovery. These sessions have been complemented by regular blog and social media updates and e-newsletters. As guidance and legislative changes have occurred frequently, and at quite short notice, keeping everyone informed in a timely manner has been vital during these last few months.

As result of the additional work created through COVID-19, we applied to the Cambridgeshire Coronavirus Recovery Fund for additional funds to support community buildings as they emerge from lockdown. A sum of £13k was awarded and this is supporting a short-term project from April 2021 – March 2022 helping community buildings address reopening issues and supporting them to re-engage their communities as they resume normal community life following the pandemic.

Through our Town and Parish Council work we have continued to facilitate the delivery of the Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan 2017 – 2021. The key achievement over the past 12 months was the successful delivery of the Annual Local Councils Conference in October 2020 themed around supporting COVID-19 efforts and recovery. We used an online conferencing platform to provide a holistic conference experience that delivered as close to a real conference as possible, with an interactive exhibition space, a networking lounge and collaboration spaces for workshops. Workshops included 'Making our lives better: the future of technology in our communities'; 'Preparing for Emergencies'; 'Strengthening your town or parish council's offer to residents'; 'Enabling and Supporting Volunteering'; 'Improving collaborative working between Clerks and Councillors' and 'Developing, managing, maintaining and owning community assets' were successfully delivered and recorded so they could be watched on demand by those not able to attend in person. The event was attended by 371 delegates (the largest ever audience) and achieved very positive feedback from attendees

We played a key role in the Cambridgeshire COVID-19 Community Resilience Group throughout the year. This has involved attending fortnightly online meetings and supporting efforts through collection of local data to ascertain how rural communities were supporting their residents. Key data was collected through a survey of Village Halls and Community Buildings (May 2020) and a survey of Parish Councils (June 2020). Information collected was shared with the ACRE Network and with Defra to help them understand the impacts of COVID-19 locally.

At the end of 2020/21, membership of the Organisation stands at 260 members and the membership services provided have, more than ever, given trustees and local councillors the reassurance and support they have needed (by phone and online) over this difficult year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Social and Community Action Programmes continued...

We kicked off our Arts Council England-funded project to re-establish a rural touring scheme in the Cambridgeshire Fens area in April 2020. Working alongside our partners, Creative Arts East, we began working with community facilities to train them as event promoters. Unfortunately COVID-19 meant we eventually had to place this project on hold for a six month period at the end of September 2020. Work resumed from 1 April 2021 in re-engaging promoters and supporting them to feel confident enough to host live performances (either indoors or outdoors) or event film nights. We see this project as an important way for communities to begin to resume 'normal' community life again and we hope to have our first events scheduled for the Autumn.

In October 2020, we started a new project in partnership with PECT and funded through the Energy Savings Trust's Energy Redress Scheme, the Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service. The project aims to support people on low incomes with maintaining a warm home. Our role has been to set up a volunteering scheme for volunteers and frontline workers who identify community members needing support and make referrals to the project. Colleagues at PECT provide help with resources to stay warm and healthy and cutting energy bills. The Cambridgeshire ACRE team then makes payments to energy suppliers to help alleviate existing debt. 58 payments totalling nearly £23k have been made so far (out of a total of £50k to be spent by 30-Sep-2022).

Environmental Programmes

Throughout the year we have continued development of the Biosphere Development project working towards nominating part of the Fens to UNESCO as a Biosphere Reserve. Our focus has been on developing networks and partnerships with the 11 Local Authorities we need to support the UNESCO application. An online conference aimed at raising awareness of the Biosphere took place on 13 January 2021 which 174 delegates attended. Works continues on gaining the endorsements required from the Local Planning Authorities as a condition of the nomination.

Following a delay caused by COVID-19, we commenced delivery of a new project, 'New Life on the Old West', funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Following successful recruitment of an excellent project team, we are working with communities and landowners to undertake habitat improvement work within the 'Old West' area of the Cambridgeshire Fens to address ongoing decline and increase the resilience of fragile priority habitats and species, as well as delivering activities and creating interpretation to engage local communities. The project's new website setting out what it hopes to achieve over the coming three years has just been launched and can be found at www.newlifeoldwest.org.uk.

Our Water Environment Grant-funded project 'Trap the sediment before the water's pumped: Cleaning up the Old West' commenced in the Autumn. The project is seeking to address agricultural diffuse pollution and contribute to supporting improvements within the water body Water Framework Directive (WFD) status, by trapping the sediment that runs from the land through the installation of coir rolls along 2.2km of the drain network. So far, 1km of core rolls have been installed (with the remainder due to be installed in Spring 2022) and a landowner training event is planned for September 2021 to demonstrate to other landowners in the area what can be achieved.

We continued to lead the Water Catchment Partnership for the Old Bedford and Middle Level Catchment which aims to achieve better co-ordinated action by those who use water or influence land management as well as to gain great engagement of local people to tackle the significant pressures placed on the water environment. A key success was the submission of a successful funding application to Anglian Water for a project supporting the control of Floating Pennywort (an invasive non-native species) in the Middle Level water system. This project got underway in June 2021 and is being delivered in partnership with the Middle Level Commissioners.

Our Anglian Waterways Volunteering Scheme had to be suspended in June 2020 when the full impact of the COVID-19 pandemic took hold. As measures to end lockdown were announced, we worked with the Environment Agency to explore ways for volunteering to resume safely. Volunteers were finally able to resume activities at two sites in June 2021 undertaking lock management and providing information to boaters.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Economic Programmes

We continued to lead the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership of Local Authorities and Registered Providers. The Partnership engages with local councils across the County to address the need for affordable homes in rural parishes. These parties entrust us with undertaking independent Housing Needs Surveys to establish hidden housing need. Seven Housing Needs Surveys were undertaken over the last 12 months (Tilbrook; Pampisford; Somersham; Comberton; Steeple Morden; Fowlmere and Alconbury Weston). There are currently potential rural exception sites identified in 14 parishes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no schemes started on site in 2020/21 but we hope to see schemes start on site during Q2 2021/22.

We continued to deliver a paid-for Neighbourhood Planning Service during 2020/21 with assistance from two associate planning consultants. However, COVID had a considerable impact on Neighbourhood Planning Groups during 2020/21 with most pausing their work. We took this time to review the direction for the service and work is now focused on producing new community support materials, offering more online support options, encouraging new groups to undertake a plan and engaging with existing groups to encourage them to commence neighbourhood planning again.

Cambridgeshire ACRE led and facilitated the set-up of Eastern Community Homes, the new community-led housing hub for the East of England. To date, 18 community-led housing groups have benefited from the hub's support. Two further Housing Enablers completed the training to become accredited Community Led Housing Advisors. The brand and website continue to be valuable tools to promote important news, events and information. An offer to local authorities was distributed and, to date, 19 local authorities have pledged financial support to underpin the hub's activities. A launch week was held in March 2021, where six events were held to promote the hub, encourage engagement and inform about the community led housing sector.

We continued to be the accountable body for the Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER programme which fully spent its available funding in the last financial year. Post-payment monitoring activity had to cease during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic but has now recommenced.

Cambridgeshire ACRE also continued its role as Accountable Body for the Wisbech Community Led Local Development (CLLD) programme. Taking a bottom up approach, the £2.1m CLLD programme is delivering a strategy to tackle the broad range of issues that currently present barriers to labour market participation. Grant funding agreements worth £703,080 to 11 projects with an overall value of £1.47m have now been issued. Our target was to reach 1,184 unemployed and inactive participants to move them closer to employment or education/training and projects are already working with 1,881 participants, with 76% of the funding available committed. The grant programme has now been extended until the end of 2022.

In May 2021, the Government issued a prospectus for a UK Community Renewal Fund to support local areas to pilot imaginative new approaches and programmes that unleash their potential, instil pride, and prepare them to take full advantage of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it launches in 2022. Managed locally by a 'call' from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Cambridgeshire ACRE facilitated a partnership bid for funding modelled on our CLLD / LEADER approach that was submitted in May-21. The outcome of this bid, called 'Unleashing Fenland's Potential' is expected in August 2021.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Charity and Governance Activity

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambridgeshire ACRE adopted a more flexible working policy and all staff moved to working from home. We took a decision not to renew the lease on our office unit at e-space North, Littleport meaning this is now a permanent way of working for the organisation. Once COVID-19 restrictions permitted, we resumed face-to-face staff meetings to re-engender our sense of team spirit and support.

Opportunities to provide consultancy support were fairly limited during 2020/21. St Neots Town Council commissioned us to undertake a review of the operations of the Priory Centre within the town and this was delivered over a five month period to August 2020. The report has been useful to the Town Council in making decisions on the future running of this important community facility for St Neots.

Our contract to support the Girton Town Charity with the running of the William Collyn Community Centre in Girton came to a successful conclusion in September 2020. Although the Centre had to temporarily close its doors due to the pandemic between March 2020 and August 2020, we worked to support the charity to re-open the facility in September, putting in place measures for safe resumption of activities. The staff team employed by Cambridgeshire ACRE to run the facility transferred their employment to the Town Charity, with effect from 1 October 2020, with sufficient capacity having been built for successful management of the facility to continue in-house.

We continued our participation in Cirican LLP, the Limited Liability Partnership set up by the ACRE Network as a vehicle for undertaking joint consultancy work. Unfortunately, the impact of COVID-19 has meant that no contracts have been forthcoming so far.

We delivered our ACRE Network contract, funded by Defra, which requires us to engage with strategic stakeholders and local partnerships to support community led activity and develop solutions to rural challenges, including: digital infrastructure; digital skills and digital inclusion; rural life opportunities; social infrastructure; rural transport; renewable energy; housing and planning; and business support & social enterprise development. We continue to maintain strong links to Defra's Rural Policy Unit through the ACRE Network and have fed back to them on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on rural communities.

Work commenced on developing a new digital marketing strategy for Cambridgeshire ACRE in March 2021. Following a review of current marketing activity, including hearing from staff, trustees and members, a new brand and strategy were delivered. From this, a new website was developed that we hope better conveys the services we are able to offer communities and our partners. Alongside this we have invested in a new customer relationship management and marketing system. This will allow us to better communicate with all our stakeholders and take a more proactive approach to letting people know how we are able to help them and meet their needs.

Financial Review (throughout this section comparable figures for the year 2019/20 are shown in brackets)

For the financial year 2020/21 incoming resources were £904,737 (£812,461). This represents an increase in income of 11.36%.

The end of the year saw a surplus of £12,673 on the Unrestricted fund. Nearly all costs were contained within approved budgets. Total Income exceeded expenditure by £177,033; this is largely attributable to an increase in the level of restricted funds from £133,057 to £297,939. The restricted fund is neutral for Cambridgeshire ACRE as the funds are held on behalf of the funders and are returned if not spent.

Designated and capital funds decreased from £194,917 to £194,395, a decrease of £522. The unrestricted general reserve showed an increase during the year from £139,272 to £151,945; an increase of 9.1%.

Cambridgeshire ACRE Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Plans for Future Periods

The trustees continue to consider how best to apply the organisation's financial and staff resources, so they best meet the needs of rural communities. It is envisaged that, as well as continuing to deliver current programmes of activity, we will:

- Continue to monitor delivery of our organisational strategy, considering any further developments around the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to adapt or change delivery of our plans, projects and services.
- Champion the needs of, and support, community facilities (village halls) as they work to re-engage local community groups and services post-COVID-19.
- Continue to support the future development of the local council sector by conducting biennial surveys of local council clerks and councillors and working alongside Cambridgeshire County Council and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils to refresh the Cambridgeshire Local Council Development Plan 2017 – 2022, establishing priorities for the next five years.
- Consider new ways to work with rural communities through supporting with the recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 including support with volunteering, digital skills and social enterprise.
- Work to ensure that Eastern Community Homes (Community-Led Housing Hub for the East of England) continues to develop in a financially-sustainable manner and ultimately delivers more community-led homes in the region.
- Deliver the Unleashing Fenland's Potential project so that we position ourselves and partners to bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund when it is launched in 2022.
- Re-establish our Neighbourhood Planning Service as a high-quality support service for those communities wanting to develop a neighbourhood plan.
- Continue to undertake appropriate consultancy assignments, either generated through Cambridgeshire ACRE's own networks or through Cirican LLP, as a way of offering professional development opportunities to staff and strengthening our collaborative working skills.
- Deliver our new digital marketing strategy using the tools we have invested into in order to raise our organisational profile even further.

Statement as to Disclosure of Information to Auditors

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Cambridgeshire ACRE
Annual Report
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Accounts

These accounts follow previous practice of the charity and have been compiled in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102), commonly known by the acronym SORP. The comparative figures have been extracted from the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2020. These were audited by the auditors, Chater Allan LLP of Cambridge, and filed with the Charity Commission. The auditor's report on those accounts was unqualified. Figures shown in these accounts have been rounded to the nearest whole pound.

DocuSigned by:

Chairperson:
Ann Lesley Blair

DocuSigned by:

Company Secretary:
Alison Brown

13 September 2021
Date:

e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We have audited the financial statements of Cambridgeshire ACRE for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, (which also comprises the Summary Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheets, the Cash Flow Statement 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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.
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of 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 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 directors' 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 charity'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 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' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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 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 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 in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanation we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to take advantage of the small companies' exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report.

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 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 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.

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:

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the annual financial statements from our general commercial and charitable company specific experience, through discussion with the Trustees (as required by auditing standards), and from inspection of the charitable company's regulatory correspondence, and we discussed with the Trustees the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indication to non-compliance throughout the audit; the audit team are deemed both competent and capable of identifying non-compliance with rules and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the annual financial statements varies considerably. Firstly, the charitable company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the annual financial statements including financial reporting legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related annual account items. Secondly, the charitable company is subject to other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance non-compliance with industry regulations. We assessed the risk of fraud in the financial statements through discussion with management and from our experience of the charitable company. We communicated identified fraud risk areas throughout our team and remained alert to any indication of fraud throughout the audit. In particular, we assessed the potential impact of the global pandemic known as Covid-19 on the risk of fraud. We did not identify any instances of fraud during the course of our audit.

Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Trustees and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Through these procedures, we did not become aware of any actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

This report is made solely to Cambridgeshire ACRE 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 those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 and the Charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Stuart Graham Berriman (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Chater Allan LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Beech House
4a Newmarket Road
Cambridge
CB5 8DT

Date: 26 October 2021

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account

		Year ended 31 March 2021				2020
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total	Total
		Unrestricted	Designated/	funds		
	Note	fund	capital funds			
		£	£	£	£	£
Income						
Donations	2	44,180	-	12,259	56,439	40,174
Charitable activities	3	22,863	-	772,565	795,428	590,527
Other trading activities	5	49,624	-	717	50,341	178,734
Investments	6	2,529	-	-	2,529	3,026
Total income		119,196	-	785,541	904,737	812,461
Expenditure						
Raising funds		3,620	-	-	3,620	8,954
Charitable activities	11	198,179	2,340	523,565	724,084	705,757
Total expenditure	7	201,799	2,340	523,565	727,704	714,711
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(82,603)	(2,340)	261,976	177,033	97,750
Transfers between funds	12	95,276	1,818	(97,094)	-	-
Net movement in funds		12,673	(522)	164,882	177,033	97,750
Reconciliation in funds:						
Total funds brought forward		139,272	194,917	133,057	467,246	369,496
Total funds carried forward	23	151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279	467,246

Continuing Operations

None of the charity's activities were acquired or discontinued during the current or previous year.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

As at 31 March 2021

Company registration number: 03690881

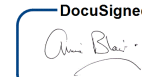
Statement of Financial Position

	Note	Unrestricted funds Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Fixed assets:						
Tangible assets	13	-	599	2,388	2,987	3,509
Investments	14	-	170,977	-	170,977	168,242
		-	171,576	2,388	173,964	171,751
Current assets:						
Debtors	15	151,038	-	-	151,038	168,076
Cash at bank and in hand		34,546	22,819	295,551	352,916	185,964
		185,584	22,819	295,551	503,954	354,040
Liabilities:						
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	33,639	-	-	33,639	58,545
Net current assets		151,945	22,819	295,551	470,315	295,495
Total net assets		151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279	467,246
The funds of the charity:						
Restricted funds	22	-	-	297,939	297,939	133,057
Designated and capital funds	21	-	194,395	-	194,395	194,917
Unrestricted funds		151,945	-	-	151,945	139,272
		151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279	467,246

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

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 1 September 2021

Signed on behalf of the trustees:

DocuSigned by:

 B74B3E2ED1C743D.....
 Ann Lesley Blair, Chairperson

12 September 2021

.....
 Date

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of Cash Flows

	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	168,976	37,564
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest and dividends from investments	2,529	3,026
Purchase of investments	-	(3,000)
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(1,818)	(4,297)
	<u>711</u>	<u>(4,271)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>169,687</u>	<u>33,293</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	351,206	317,913
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	<u>520,893</u>	<u>351,206</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period held as:		
Cash at bank and in hand	352,916	185,964
Investments	167,977	165,242
	<u>520,893</u>	<u>351,206</u>
Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities		
Net income/ (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	177,033	97,750
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	2,340	1,734
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,529)	(3,026)
(Increase) in debtors	17,038	(81,800)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	(24,906)	22,906
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>168,976</u>	<u>37,564</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) (2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

Legal Form Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee.

Country of Incorporation Cambridgeshire ACRE is incorporated in the United Kingdom.

Address of Registered Office: e-Space North, 181 Wisbech Road, Littleport, CB6 1RA.

Currency These financial statements are presented in sterling which is a functional currency.

Principal Activities Cambridgeshire ACRE works alongside communities through a wide range of programmes designed to target specific rural issues or specific community needs.

Public Benefit Cambridgeshire ACRE meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Income and Reserves All of the net income and assets are applied towards the objects of the charity.

Fund Accounting The charity's general funds consist of funds the charity may use for its purposes at its discretion.

The charity has designated certain funds for specific purposes. These are explained in more detail in note 21 below. The trustees have decided that setting aside funds in this way is a useful financial discipline which will help the charity to make the best use of its resources even though there is no legal force to these designations.

The charity's restricted funds are those where the donor has imposed restrictions on the use of the funds, which are legally binding, or are restricted income funds expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of a particular aspect of the objects of the charity.

Details of the funds and of the restrictions are given in note 22 below.

Voluntary Income All voluntary income is included in income when it is virtually certain the income will be received. Where the donor requires the sum to be invested to provide income for the charity's purposes it is treated as an endowment.

Grant Income Grants not for a specific purpose are credited directly to income. Restricted funds are set up where grants are for a specific purpose. Any balance or shortfall of income in the year is credited to a specific restricted fund (see note 22). Any surplus arising on the ceasing of a specific purpose is dealt with in accordance with the wishes of the grant giver.

Grant Expenditure The charity makes grants from specific funds. These are included in expenditure for the year in which they are paid. Money passed through projects to other bodies are reported as grants.

Membership The charity's Membership Scheme is run on an annual basis and includes parish councils, statutory authorities, charitable organisations and some individuals.

Investments The charity's investments consist of cash deposits. The trustees keep the deposit accounts under review to ensure that an adequate rate of interest is being paid on the charity's deposits.

Interest When receivable or payable interest is included when credited to the relevant account.

Taxation As Cambridgeshire ACRE is a registered charity, interest is included gross and no tax is payable on its activities.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

Value Added Tax (VAT) The charity is registered for VAT.

Governance Expenditure This relates to costs incurred in running the charity and follows the apportionment ratio established in May 2017 (see note 9). Governance costs are allocated to costs of charitable activities.

Netting Off of Income and Expenditure Items of income and expenditure are netted off where income is a direct re-charge of expenses to Cambridgeshire ACRE. No other items of income and expenditure have been netted off.

Fixed Assets and Depreciation Fixed assets costing more than £500 are included at actual cost, i.e. inclusive of irrecoverable VAT, less annual depreciation calculated on a straight line basis as follows:

- Computer equipment - 33.3%
- Office equipment - 20%
- Office furniture and telephone installation - 10%

Investments and Investment Income Investments are included in the accounts at market value. Credit is taken for interest when the interest is credited to the relevant account.

Capital Fund The capital fund represents the book value of equipment.

Designated Funds The designated funds are used to make annual provisions to cover otherwise uneven patterns of expenditure. The Project Development Fund is held to support the development of new projects (including the engagement of consultants to prepare plans or funding bids and the employment of staff beyond their funded contracts to develop further projects) to implement Cambridgeshire ACRE's corporate strategy. The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

Raising Funds The cost of raising funds heading on the statement of financial activities includes printing, publicity and marketing costs.

Going Concern The grant and project income of the charity continues at an acceptable level. The trustees are satisfied that available sources of finance and future funding income are sufficient to enable the charity to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due. The trustees recognise the impact of COVID-19 on the charity could be significant and could resonate for several years. The trustees' policy to manage costs and keep a level of reserves sufficient to cover no less than three months' unrestricted gross expenditure gives confidence that the charity will continue as a going concern for the foreseeable future.

2. Donations

	31 March 2021			31 March 2020	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Grants (Note 4)	44,180	-	-	44,180	29,180
Membership subscriptions	-	-	12,259	12,259	10,994
	44,180	-	12,259	56,439	40,174

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

	31 March 2021				31 March 2020
	Unrestricted Funds	Designated capital	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
3. Charitable Activities					
Grants (Note 4)	3,000	-	762,400	765,400	583,389
Other charitable income	19,863	-	10,165	30,028	7,138
	<u>22,863</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>772,565</u>	<u>795,428</u>	<u>590,527</u>

Income is recognised in accordance with the SORP (FRS 102). As a result, income to Restricted Funds is included in advance of expenditure being incurred and in some cases in advance of the commencement date of a particular project.

4. Analysis of Grants Received

	31 March 2021		31 March 2020	
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted
	£	£	£	£
Accent Nene Ltd	-	3,000	-	3,000
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association	-	3,000	-	3,000
Cambridge Housing Society	-	3,000	-	-
Cambridge & County Developments	-	-	-	3,000
Cambridgeshire Community Foundation	-	-	-	1,800
Cambridgeshire County Council	-	74,134	-	63,690
Cambridgeshire Culture	-	-	-	28,748
Chorus Homes (formerly Luminus Group)	-	3,000	-	3,000
Cross Keys Homes Ltd	-	3,000	-	3,000
DEFRA	44,180	14,163	29,180	21,045
Department for Work and Pensions	-	129,144	-	117,347
East Cambridgeshire District Council	-	3,000	-	3,000
ECH Local Authority Partnership	-	68,135	-	-
Energy Savings Trust (Via PECT)	-	6,490	-	-
Environment Agency	-	56,511	-	58,718
ESF	-	90,961	-	-
Fenland District Council	-	12,700	-	12,700
Hastoe Housing	-	3,000	-	3,000
Huntingdonshire District Council	-	2,000	-	2,000
Longhurst Group	-	3,000	-	3,000
Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government	-	56,000	-	93,920
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	171,362	-	109,900
Norfolk and Norwich Festival Trust	-	-	-	779
Rural Payments Agency	-	36,222	-	39,588
South Cambridgeshire District Council	-	3,000	-	3,000
Wisbech Town Council	-	3,539	-	4,539
Other grants	3,000	14,039	-	1,615
	<u>47,180</u>	<u>762,400</u>	<u>29,180</u>	<u>583,389</u>

Sources of Restricted Funds:

Grants to Cambridgeshire ACRE	604,843	513,841
Grants via Cambridgeshire ACRE	<u>157,557</u>	<u>69,548</u>
	<u>762,400</u>	<u>583,389</u>

Details of grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are disclosed in note 10 of the accounts. Grants paid via Cambridgeshire ACRE are recognised as income because Cambridgeshire ACRE is responsible for the monitoring and allocation of the grant expenditure.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

5. Other Trading Activities

	31 March 2021			31 March 2020	
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	Total £
Business Services, consultancy and training	49,624	-	600	50,224	178,572
Publications	-	-	117	117	162
	<u>49,624</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>717</u>	<u>50,341</u>	<u>178,734</u>

6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	2,529	-	-	2,529	3,026
	<u>2,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,529</u>	<u>3,026</u>

7. Total Expenditure

Grants given (Note 10)	-	-	157,557	157,557	69,548
Staff costs (Note 8)	155,802	-	236,582	392,384	451,463
Consultancy	-	-	6,697	6,697	32,580
Premises	4,335	-	-	4,335	17,364
Office running costs	3,414	-	1,949	5,363	19,284
Operating lease rentals	6,073	-	-	6,073	6,073
Meetings & Workshops	210	-	28,539	28,749	29,120
Project delivery costs	-	-	53,680	53,680	10,712
Professional fees	-	-	22,548	22,548	8,939
Volunteer expenses	41	-	-	41	2,193
Housing Need Survey Costs	4,298	-	-	4,298	15,520
Neighbourhood Plan Costs	10,674	-	-	10,674	20,718
Depreciation	-	2,340	-	2,340	1,734
Publicity	3,620	-	14,805	18,425	12,941
Expensed equipment	168	-	995	1,163	311
Subscriptions	5,777	-	199	5,976	6,507
Miscellaneous expenditure	970	-	14	984	3,074
Audit fees	4,618	-	-	4,618	4,510
Non-audit fees	1,799	-	-	1,799	2,120
Total expenditure	<u>201,799</u>	<u>2,340</u>	<u>523,565</u>	<u>727,704</u>	<u>714,711</u>

A detailed description of the Restricted Fund activities, listed by individual project, is given in note 22.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

8. Trustees and Staff costs	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Wages and salaries	326,691	379,081
Accrued holiday pay movement	1,114	(2,278)
Employer's NI	30,877	32,027
Pension	24,699	28,185
Travel	622	12,079
Training	6,720	1,915
Recruitment	1,661	454
Total staff costs	<u>392,384</u>	<u>451,463</u>
Key personnel cost	<u>141,541</u>	<u>139,315</u>
No employee earned over £60,000.		
Average number of employees:	Number	Number
Charity	<u>10</u>	<u>13</u>

The trustees, being directors of the company, are not paid for the time they spend on their duties. They receive out of pocket expenses in connection with those duties and a total of £0 (2020: £236 for 2 trustees) was claimed during the year by trustees. Professional indemnity insurance cover has been provided for trustees and staff at an estimated annual cost of £189

9. Governance	Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Audit fee	4,618	4,510
Non audit financial services	1,799	2,120
Annual General Meeting	1,335	1,100
Trustee meetings and expenses	-	252
Indemnity insurance	189	339
Selected core staff salaries	4,693	4,617
Expenses	<u>8,918</u>	<u>12,645</u>
	<u>21,551</u>	<u>25,582</u>

Figures represent the costs associated with constitutional and statutory requirements of administering the charity. Indirect costs or direct costs not wholly allocated are apportioned. The apportionment ratio of 4.5% is calculated on the number of days spent on governance expressed as a percentage of total days, the ratio was last updated in 2017.

10. Grants Given		Year ended 31 March 2021 £	Year ended 31 March 2020 £
Project	Grant Recipient		
WCLLD	CP Learning Trust	20,275	25,519
WCLLD	LEADA Cambs CIC	18,419	17,744
WCLLD	People & Animals UK	17,830	20,514
WCLLD	Rosmini Centre Wisbech	20,919	5,771
WCLLD	Rural Cambs CAB	3,703	-
WCLLD	Ferry Project	61,909	-
Wisbech Reads	20Twenty Productions	3,055	-
CHESS	Various individuals	11,447	-
Total Grants Given		<u>157,557</u>	<u>69,548</u>

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

11. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Social & Community Action Programmes £	Environmental Programmes £	Economic Programmes £	Total £
Direct activities	101,699	161,649	199,972	463,320
Grant funding activity	-	-	157,557	157,557
Support costs	24,917	51,415	26,875	103,207
Total cost of activities 2021	126,616	213,064	384,404	724,084
Total costs in 2020	232,897	139,114	333,746	705,757

Allocation of Support Costs to Activities:

	Social & Community Action Programmes £	Environmental Programmes £	Economic Programmes £	Total £
Management & HR	17,116	35,318	18,461	70,895
Finance & IT	3,978	8,208	4,290	16,476
Administration	3,823	7,889	4,124	15,836
Total support costs 2021	24,917	51,415	26,875	103,207
Total costs in 2020	61,943	39,028	44,896	145,867

The support costs shown in the table above have been allocated on an actual basis where possible. The management, finance and administration costs are a sub-division of the actual totals charged and have been apportioned on the basis of core staff salaries.

For the purposes of activity based costing the core and restricted fund projects have been allocated in the table below. Some projects cover more than one activity, Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER for example covers farming, tourism and an element of Economic Programmes, an accurate split of activity is not practical and projects have therefore been allocated wholly to their main activity.

- **Social and Community Action Programmes:** 33% of core Defra grant, 67% of core trading (business services), Rural Touring, Support Cambridgeshire, and Wisbech Reads.
- **Environmental Programmes:** 33% of core Defra grant, Catchment Partnership, Environment Agency Volunteers, Fens Biosphere Development, New Life on the Old West, and Water Environment Grant.
- **Economic Programmes:** 33% of core Defra grant, 33% of core trading (business services), Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER, CHESS, Wisbech CLLD, WCLLD Projects, Community Led Housing, and Rural Affordable Housing.

A full list of the restricted fund projects and their purpose is given in note 22.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

12. Fund transfers

	Year ended 31 March 2021			Year ended 31 March 2020		
	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Unrestricted funds		Restricted
	Unrestricted fund	Designated / capital	funds	Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital	funds
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	1,834	-	(1,834)	5,629	-	(5,629)
Catchment Partnership	5,274	-	(5,274)	6,452	-	(6,452)
CHESS	2,396	-	(2,396)	-	-	-
Community Led Housing	17,388	-	(17,388)	5,667	-	(5,667)
EA Volunteers Extension	2,649	-	(2,649)	10,089	-	(10,089)
Fens Biosphere Development	22,556	-	(22,556)	22,441	-	(22,441)
Machinery and equipment	(1,818)	1,818	-	(769)	4,297	(3,528)
New Life on the Old West Development	20,936	-	(20,936)	47	-	(47)
Project Development Fund	-	-	-	2,015	(2,015)	-
Property & Office Accommodation Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rural Affordable Housing	3,200	-	(3,200)	6,859	-	(6,859)
Rural Touring	424	-	(424)	-	-	-
Support Cambs – Community Facilities	14,061	-	(14,061)	11,955	-	(11,955)
Support Cambs – Local Councils	2,091	-	(2,091)	9,312	-	(9,312)
Wisbech CLLD Project	4,285	-	(4,285)	9,593	-	(9,593)
Wisbech Reads	-	-	-	5,861	-	(5,861)
	<u>95,276</u>	<u>1,818</u>	<u>(97,094)</u>	<u>95,151</u>	<u>2,282</u>	<u>(97,433)</u>

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Unrestricted Equipment	Restricted Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
Beginning of the year	13,561	9,582	23,143
Additions	-	1,818	1,818
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>13,561</u>	<u>11,400</u>	<u>24,961</u>
Depreciation			
Beginning of the year	12,404	7,230	19,634
Charge for the year	558	1,782	2,340
Disposals	-	-	-
At the end of the year	<u>12,962</u>	<u>9,012</u>	<u>21,974</u>
Net Book Value			
As at 31 March 2020	<u>1,157</u>	<u>2,352</u>	<u>3,509</u>
As at 31 March 2021	<u>599</u>	<u>2,388</u>	<u>2,987</u>

All fixed assets are used for charitable purposes.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

14. Investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Cambridge & Counties 120 Day Fund	81,315	80,242
United Trust	86,662	85,000
Cirican LLP	3,000	3,000
	<u>170,977</u>	<u>168,242</u>

15. Sundry Debtors and Prepayments

	2021 £	2020 £
Income Due	10,297	55,618
Accrued Income	138,844	108,510
Prepayments	1,897	3,948
	<u>151,038</u>	<u>168,076</u>

16. Sundry Creditors and Accruals

	2021 £	2020 £
Due within 1 year		
Accruals	6,300	15,506
Accrued Holiday Pay	7,208	6,094
Payroll Liabilities	790	774
Sundry Creditors	2,130	26,806
VAT	17,211	9,365
	<u>33,639</u>	<u>58,545</u>

17. Contingent Liabilities

Certain donations and grants are potentially repayable should the aims and objectives of the charity not be achieved. The trustees, however, are of the opinion that this possibility is remote and therefore the income has been recognised within the accounts for the period under review.

In the event of its activities ceasing the charity would be liable to meet notice and redundancy payments to staff. The trustees are of the view that such liabilities could be met by the existing General Reserve.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

18. Pension Scheme

All new eligible job holders are automatically enrolled to the NEST pension scheme. Staff make a contribution of 5% of salary and the charity adds an employer's contribution of 5% (10% for staff employed before November 2012). Staff employed before June 2014 were able to take out their own schemes or join the Pension Trust Growth or Ethical Plans, these options were withdrawn following the introduction of auto enrolment in April 2017. At the balance sheet date there were 10 employees in pension schemes (equivalent figure for the previous year was 11).

At 31 March 2021 £790 was owed by Cambridgeshire ACRE to the various pension schemes, this represents the monthly payment due for March (apart from the two schemes that were paid before the end of March). The figure owing was paid in April 2021 and is shown in note 16 incorporated in the payroll liabilities figure.

19. Financial Commitments

As at 31 March, the charity had commitments under other operating leases (not land or property) that cannot be cancelled as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Within 1 year	-	3,036
2 to 5 years	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,036</u>

20. Related Parties

No one individual controls the charity with all trustees having equal voting rights.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes to the accounts

21. Designated and Capital Funds

	Value brought forward £	Income/ Revaluation £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Value carried forward £
Capital funds					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	1,157	-	(558)	-	599
Equipment (Restricted)	2,352	-	(1,782)	1,818	2,388
Total Capital Funds	3,509	-	(2,340)	1,818	2,987
Designated Funds					
Project Development Fund	72,552	-	-	-	72,552
Property and Office Accommodation	118,856	-	-	-	118,856
Total Designated Funds	191,408	-	-	-	191,408
Total Capital & Designated Funds	194,917	-	(2,340)	1,818	194,395

Equipment:

A capital fund to reflect the value of the tangible fixed assets held equal to the net book value of the assets. The equipment can be held in either unrestricted or restricted funds.

Project Development Fund:

A fund to be used to support the development of new programmes of work.

Property & Office Accommodation Fund:

The Property and Office Accommodation Fund was set-up to cover the risks in having a rented office. Although Cambridgeshire ACRE currently has no leased office space, this fund provides for that eventuality, should it become necessary.

22. Restricted Funds

	Value brought forward £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Value carried forward £
Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER	32	14,163	(14,163)	-	32
Catchment Partnership	498	15,000	(13,925)	-	1,573
CHESS	-	23,441	(23,441)	-	-
CLH Chelmsford City Council	-	38,135	-	-	38,135
Community Led Housing	55,707	86,600	(81,458)	-	60,849
EA Volunteers Extension	24,109	39,520	(8,310)	-	55,319
Fens Biosphere Development	23,317	110,000	(103,318)	-	29,999
New Life on the Old West Development	-	34,572	(34,572)	-	-
Re-Opening Doors	-	13,853	-	-	13,853
Rural Affordable Housing	-	31,000	(31,000)	-	-
Rural Touring	-	49,238	(10,629)	-	38,609
Support Cambs - Community Facilities	-	33,604	(33,604)	-	-
Support Cambs - Local Councils	-	24,906	(24,906)	-	-
Water Environment Grant	-	38,213	(38,213)	-	-
WCLLD Projects	6,088	168,273	(143,054)	-	31,307
Wisbech CLLD	16,598	65,023	(57,011)	-	24,610
Wisbech Reads	6,708	-	(3,055)	-	3,653
Total	133,057	785,541	(620,659)	-	297,939

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Notes to the accounts

22. Restricted Funds (continued)

Included in the expenditure total above are the projects' share of central core costs. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102) (October 2019), the management fee element of these costs has been treated as a transfer in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Cambridgeshire Fens LEADER:

Provides investment for start-up or enhancement of local businesses in parts of Cambridgeshire and west Norfolk. EU grant. Project application made through Cambridgeshire ACRE but RPA make the payments directly to recipients. Total Project £2,100,000. Project was due to end 31/03/20 but an extension to 31/12/2021 has been agreed. Running Costs & Administration budget (RCA) £260,496 can be claimed up to 31/03/2022 to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to carry out monitoring and evaluation of the programme on behalf of the Managing Authority.

Catchment Partnership:

Grant funded by the Environment Agency, this project engages local communities, groups, businesses and organisations and involves them in the decision-making and activities to improve the Old Bedford river's water ecology. A further year of funding has been secured for 2021/22.

Cambridgeshire Home Energy Support Service (CHESS)

Funded by the Energy Industry Redress Scheme managed by the Energy Savings Trust, the grant is distributed to us by the Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) to improve the health and well-being of 1,000 vulnerable households in Market Towns and Parishes across northern Cambridgeshire, who are suffering from or at risk of fuel poverty.

CLH Chelmsford City Council

As part of its work delivering Eastern Community Homes, the Community Led Housing hub for the East of England, the Hub may enter into bespoke support agreements with individual local authorities to deliver against specific objectives to increase the delivery of community-led housing within a specific local authority's area. One such agreement has been entered into with Chelmsford City Council for a two year period, with work to commence from Apr-21.

Community Led Housing:

A project to develop a hub to improve housing supply in the East of England by increasing the number of additional affordable homes delivered by the community-led housing sector. This will be achieved through a regional Hub made up of trained advisers from across the ACRE Network members in the East of England who will provide essential support for communities who wish to develop community-led housing projects. Funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

EA Volunteers

Since April 2016, the Environment Agency has contracted Cambridgeshire ACRE to run a volunteer scheme to help it manage its statutory navigation objectives within the Anglian Region. By using volunteers, the Environment Agency has engendered better engagement with local communities and gained local support to help deliver essential services. A contract extension was awarded for a further 2 years from 1 November 2019, but the project was temporarily halted as a result of COVID-19 in Jun-20. It recommenced in 2021 for the remaining contract duration.

Fens Biosphere Development

Grant funded by People's Postcode Lottery Dream Fund with monies being passed via the Wildlife Trust BCN this was originally a two year project, extended to three years. The project involves developing and submitting a UNESCO Biosphere nomination for the Cambridgeshire Fens.

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22. Restricted Funds (continued)

New Life on the Old West Development:

A grant of £730k has been obtained from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver 88 wildlife habitat enhancements to the green spaces and surrounding countryside in areas around the Old West river. The project will also work with people living in the surrounding communities to increase their access to local nature and help a wide range of children and adults to develop new skills and learn about their unique fenland wildlife and natural heritage.

Re-Opening Doors

A recovery grant from Cambridgeshire Community Foundation's Coronavirus Community Fund to support community volunteers to re-open the doors of Cambridgeshire's community buildings and village halls, and offer activities for communities to come together as they recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will run for a single year Apr-21 – Mar-22 and will include the development and delivery of a number of training sessions as well as an awareness-raising campaign to promote the use of village halls by rural communities.

Rural Affordable Housing

Grant funding is provided by district councils and housing associations, as members of the Cambridgeshire Rural Affordable Housing Partnership, to allow Cambridgeshire ACRE to facilitate the development of affordable housing schemes for people living in rural Cambridgeshire. Funding for 2021/22 has been secured.

Rural Touring

A grant from Arts Council England National Lottery funding to support the reintroduction of a rural touring scheme for the northern area of the County. The two-year project will identify and train village hall management committees to become 'promoters' of live performances and cinema screenings to be delivered from their community buildings making high quality arts experiences accessible to those who might not normally experience them. Commencing Apr-2020, the project was paused at the end of Sep-20 due to the pandemic but resumed delivery in Apr-2021. The hiatus period will be added to the end of the original delivery period.

Support Cambridgeshire (Community Facilities and Local Councils)

A project to enable all communities to take more responsibility in order to nurture strong and resilient communities focusing on community facilities. Grant funding provided by Cambridgeshire County Council with match funding contributions from DEFRA grant and Cambridgeshire ACRE.

Water Environment Grant

To address agricultural diffuse pollution and contribute to supporting improvements within the water body WFD status by trapping the sediment that runs from the land using coir rolls sown with a range of native marginal water plants. Funded by the Environment Agency.

William Collyn Community Centre Management

To undertake the management and running of the Centre on behalf of the Girton Town Charity. Project concluded on 30/09/2020 when staff employed on this project were TUPE'd from Cambridgeshire ACRE's employment to that of GTC.

Wisbech CLLD:

A project to encourage local people to take the lead on activity that provides sustainable economic benefits to the Wisbech area. Focusing upon skills & employment and targeting deprivation. £1,050,000 ESF funding with match funding £177,000 from local authorities. Grant applicants match fund at 50%.

Wisbech Read Easy

Funds left over from our Wisbech Reads project which closed 31-Mar-2020. Closing balance was transferred to expenditure-only project 'Wisbech Read Easy' for 2020/21 but no activity took place due to COVID-19.

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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23. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Tangible fixed assets	-	599	2,388	2,987
Investments	-	170,977	-	170,977
Net current assets	151,945	22,819	295,551	470,315
Total	151,945	194,395	297,939	644,279

24. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2020

	Year ended 31 March 2020			Total
	Unrestricted Unrestricted fund £	Designated/ capital funds £	Restricted funds £	£
Income				
Donations	29,180	-	10,994	40,174
Charitable activities	1,455	-	589,072	590,527
Other trading activities	175,172	-	3,562	178,734
Investments	3,026	-	-	3,026
Total income	208,833	-	603,628	812,461
Expenditure				
Raising funds	8,954	-	-	8,954
Charitable activities	281,009	1,734	423,014	705,757
Total expenditure	289,963	1,734	423,014	714,711
Net gains/(losses) on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	(81,130)	(1,734)	180,614	97,750
Transfers between funds	95,151	2,282	(97,433)	-
Net movement in funds	14,021	548	83,181	97,750
Reconciliation in funds:				
Total funds brought forward	125,251	194,369	49,876	369,496
Total funds carried forward	139,272	194,917	133,057	467,246

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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Notes to the accounts

Cambridgeshire ACRE wishes to thank the individuals, community groups, organisations and statutory partners who supported our work over the last year, in particular:

Central government

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Work & Pensions
Environment Agency
Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government
Rural Payments Agency

Local Authorities

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
Cambridgeshire County Council
East Cambridgeshire District Council
Fenland District Council
Huntingdonshire District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Wisbech Town Council

Local Authorities specifically funding Eastern Community Homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Council
Breckland Council
Cambridge City Council
Chelmsford City Council
Colchester Borough Council
East Suffolk Council
Epping Forest District Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Maldon District Council
North Norfolk District Council
Norwich City Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Suffolk County Council
Tendring District Council
Uttlesford District Council
West Suffolk Council

Housing Associations / Registered Social Landlords

Accent Group Ltd
Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association
CHS Group
Chorus Homes
Cross Keys Homes Ltd
Hastoe Housing Association Ltd
Longhurst Group

Lottery Distributors

Arts Council England
National Lottery Heritage Fund
People's Postcode Lottery through the Postcode Community Trust
Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire

Grant Makers, Trusts and Foundations

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
Energy Redress Fund through Energy Savings Trust
Trinity Denoir