



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

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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 Quay Court, Colliers Lane, Stow-cum-Quay, Cambridge, CB25 9AU

Cambridgeshire ACRE

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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.

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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 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

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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'

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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

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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.

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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

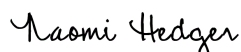
Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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

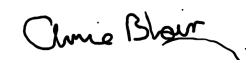
Statement of Financial Position

	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

	31 March 2023				31 March 2022
	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated capital £	Restricted Funds £	Total £	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

	31 March 2023		31 March 2022	
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Unrestricted £	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, Wasingley & 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

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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.

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

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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

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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

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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