



**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**

**Contents**

---

	Page
Officers and Professional Advisers	1
Trustees' & Directors' Report	2
Report of the Independent Auditors	9
Statement of Financial Activities	12
Balance Sheet	13
Statement of Cash Flows	14
Notes to the Accounts	15

# **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

## Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 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

## Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 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

## Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

### 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

---

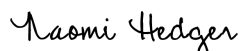
### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

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				2023
		Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total	Total
		Unrestricted fund	Designated/ capital funds			
Note		£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>						
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
<b>Total income</b>		<b>113,622</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>845,063</b>	<b>958,685</b>	<b>1,014,577</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Raising funds		4,511	-	-	4,511	5,059
Charitable activities	11	229,056	2,429	849,029	1,080,514	1,064,530
<b>Total expenditure</b>	7	<b>233,567</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>849,029</b>	<b>1,085,025</b>	<b>1,069,589</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(119,945)</b>	<b>(2,429)</b>	<b>(3,966)</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>	<b>(55,012)</b>
Transfers between funds	12	155,555	(20,518)	(135,037)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>35,610</b>	<b>(22,947)</b>	<b>(139,003)</b>	<b>(126,340)</b>	<b>(55,012)</b>
<b>Reconciliation in funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		157,849	194,645	207,932	560,426	615,438
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	22	<b>193,459</b>	<b>171,698</b>	<b>68,929</b>	<b>434,086</b>	<b>560,426</b>

#### 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 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>						
Tangible assets	13	-	808	-	808	3,237
Investments	14	-	116,387	-	116,387	176,386
		-	117,195	-	117,195	179,623
<b>Current assets:</b>						
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
<b>Liabilities:</b>						
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	64,246	-	-	64,246	50,674
<b>Net current assets</b>		193,459	54,503	68,929	316,891	380,803
<b>Total net assets</b>		193,459	171,698	68,929	434,086	560,426
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>						
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 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>		
Net cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities	(7,716)	(143,989)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>		
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>
 <b>Reconciliation of net income/ (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities</b>		
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
	<u>13,560</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,560</u>	<u>12,117</u>

# 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
	<u>95,255</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,617</u>	<u>129,872</u>	<u>93,003</u>

#### 6. Investment Income

Deposit interest received	3,534	-	-	3,534	2,402
	<u>3,534</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,534</u>	<u>2,402</u>

#### 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	<u>233,567</u>	<u>2,429</u>	<u>849,029</u>	<u>1,085,025</u>	<u>1,069,589</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 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 £
<b>Cost</b>			
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>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
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>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
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

<b>Due within 1 year</b>		
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 £
<b>Capital funds</b>					
Equipment (Unrestricted)	1,894	-	(1,086)	-	808
Equipment (Restricted)	1,343	-	(1,343)	-	-
<b>Total Capital Funds</b>	<b>3,237</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,429)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>808</b>
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
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
<b>Total Designated Funds</b>	<b>191,408</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(20,518)</b>	<b>170,890</b>
<b>Total Capital &amp; Designated Funds</b>	<b>194,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,429)</b>	<b>(20,518)</b>	<b>171,698</b>

#### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,459</b>	<b>171,698</b>	<b>68,929</b>	<b>434,086</b>

#### 23. Statement of financial activities - Comparative figures for 2023

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



# **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