

Company registration number: 04242937

Charity registration number: 1089503

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

known as

CLES Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Beever and Struthers
Statutory Auditor
One Express
1 George Leigh Street
Manchester
M4 5DL

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

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Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	C Wilkins Cllr P Dennett N Bolger A Donald Cllr D P Meller Cllr B Craig R Deegan H Thomas J Dromey S Halliwell
Secretary	S L Longlands
Senior Leadership Team:	
Chief Executive Officer	S L Longlands
Other Members of the Team	T Lloyd Goodwin S MacDonald
Charity Registration Number	1089503
Company Registration Number	04242937
Principal and Registered Office	52 Oak Street Swan Square Manchester M4 5JA
Auditor	Beever and Struthers Statutory Auditor One Express 1 George Leigh Street Manchester M4 5DL
Solicitors:	Bates, Wells & Briathwaite 61 Charterhouse Street London EC1M 6HA
Bankers	Co-operative Bank PLC 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4EP

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 30 June 2024.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The objectives of the Charity are to:

- Educate the public by exclusively charitable means and in particular to promote, encourage and conduct research into subjects connected with the formulation, direction, organisation, administration and effects of economic, fiscal, regeneration and employment policies and initiatives in the United Kingdom whether on a local, regional or national level and all related subjects and disciplines including those of an international character and to publish the useful results of such research.
- Promote sustainable development for the public benefit, by promoting sustainable means of achieving local economic growth and regeneration.
- Promote the effectiveness and efficiency of the charitable and voluntary sector for the public benefit by providing advice, information, training and seminars on subjects related to the contribution made by the charitable and voluntary sector to the creation and development of local communities and places.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, we have been informed by the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and many of our publications and activity is free to view and download

Mission and Aims

Established in 1986, CLES is a Manchester based charity working towards a future where local economies benefit people, place and the planet. This will happen when wealth and power serve local people, rather than the other way around, enabling communities to flourish. We have an international reputation for our pioneering work on community wealth building and are recognised as the curators of the movement in the UK.

We act as a critical friend to local places helping to bring anchor organisations together, connect them to local economies and together devise solutions and deliver change. We use this experience of delivering change on the ground to advocate for change nationally. We do this in a number of ways.

- Act as a champion for radical economic change for places and communities experiencing social, economic, and environmental inequality.
- Work to improve the effectiveness of local state organisations including Councils and Health organisations as well as agencies and organisations in addressing these problems by developing practice and informing policy locally and nationally.
- Develop skills and ideas of public officials who should, as far as possible, reflect the diverse communities in which they serve.
- Inform and educate the public and stakeholders about the value and benefits to local economies of high-quality public services, this includes publishing and distribution of pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, films, and instructional matter on any medium.
- Promote, encourage, carry out or commission research, surveys, studies or other work, making the useful results available.
- Organise and assist in the provision of conferences, training, facilitated workshops and other educational activities.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

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Although most of the charity's work is undertaken through paid assignments, clients are willing to allow the results of the work to be more widely disseminated so as to the benefit of the public. In focusing its efforts in particular work areas CLES takes account of the relative public benefit expected to flow from work, as well as considering the financial viability of the activities.

Review of the year - Highlights and impact of 2023/24

During 2023/24 CLES work covered a range of key policy areas and topics in line with our charitable purpose and mission. Some of the key highlights included:

- Worked on 27 projects including commissioned and grant funded work with more than 35 partners across the UK and Ireland. These projects included the development of community wealth building plans, social value frameworks, procurement, employment and progression, regional economic development and local government finance. Contract income during 2023/24 was down on previous years whilst the proportion of our income from grants increased.
- We held our annual community wealth building summit in Manchester in November 2023 which attracted more than 150 delegates from local places across England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and internationally. The focus was on community wealth building in the context of a broken economic model and was supported through sponsorship from Power to Change, Barrow Cadbury, Anthony Collins, Metropolis at Manchester Metropolitan University and the Democracy Collaborative. The report on the need for a new direction in local economic development - *This must be the place* - was published to coincide with the event
- We participated in the party conferences with fringe events at The Conservative, Labour, and the Scottish National Party Conferences in the Autumn of 2023.
- We published 10 new reports and briefing papers on our website including work on freeports, economic development, levelling up and gender equality in local economies. The CLES team have worked hard to disseminate findings from our research and to influence the wider policy debate including authoring more than 20 blogs, comment and opinion pieces in a range of national and trade press publications including The Guardian, The New Statesman, The Municipal Journal and the Local Government Chronicle. We were also invited to contribute to a range of national debates via broadcast media including LBC Radio, BBC Radio Manchester and the BBC Politics Show North West.

In the latter part of 2023/24 a general election was announced for the 4th July 2024. Therefore we used the findings and evidence of what works from our projects and programmes to publish a manifesto with the aim of inviting all political parties to rediscover the power of local and take six bold actions to harness the power of local to deliver economic change:

1. Reverse austerity, power local economies
2. Reframe devolution
3. Make wealth building everyone's business
4. Empower places to lead climate action
5. Power up local employment pathways

Subsequently we also updated our guidance papers on community wealth building for local councillors and MPs in the UK.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

- (1) **London Borough of Barnet:** The London Borough of Barnet Council sought to further develop their Community Wealth Building approach for the borough's local economy. CLES were commissioned by the London Borough of Barnet to better understand how wealth flows around the borough and how this wealth can be harnessed to take on some of the challenges facing Barnet residents across the borough. In particular, the Council sought to understand:
 - what Barnet's residents want from a Community Wealth Building approach - via the recruitment of up to six community-based researchers to understand pressing issues facing residents across Barnet
 - how and where wealth flows and grows within the Borough - via analysis of data on local growth, land and property, business ownership and income inequality
 - the Council's spend profile, the existing local business base and where spend could be redirected locally - via analysis of Barnet Council's procurement data for spend analysis by geography, sector, and supplier type -
 - what steps toward more progressive procurement practices can the procurement team take forward - via socialising findings from stages 1-3 and conducting workshops focused on education and priority setting

This work has resulted in a new approach to social value within the Borough and some clear recommendations about how to improve wealth flows for communities in the longer term.
- (2) **Colegau Cymru:** This project drew on CLES' knowledge of community wealth building and social value to work with Cwmpass to explore social value within the Further Education (FE) sector in Wales, a topic largely unexplored until now. It delved into understanding how FE institutions in Wales contribute to societal well-being beyond their traditional educational roles. The research adopted a comprehensive methodology involving examining strategic drivers, conducting stakeholder interviews, and reviewing existing literature, the study aimed to shed light on the multifaceted ways in which FE institutions generate social value. Through an in-depth exploration of social value, the study concluded with actionable recommendations that can inform strategic decision-making and enhance the overall effectiveness of FE institutions in contributing to the betterment of society. The report and approach were adopted by Colegau Cymru.
- (3) **London Borough of Islington:** One of our objectives in 2023/24 was to expand our work on planning and community wealth building. To this end, we worked with Islington Borough Council to explore how planning can be used to actively build wealth and social value for local businesses and communities within the current system. This included desk review and a round table discussion with key stakeholders to debate the opportunities to push for better outcomes within the existing system as well as to identify the key barriers which block progress and highlight where further policy change is needed particularly in the context of a forthcoming general election where planning was a key areas of discussion nationally.
- (4) **London Borough of Brent** An introductory workshop to community wealth building. This covered theory and practical examples of how community wealth building is being used to create more inclusive and healthier economies. It also provided a deep dive into procurement and social value to help Brent discover the economic and social value of adopting a community wealth building approach. This has encouraged the Council to included community wealth building into its newly published Corporate Plan.

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- (5) **Stroud District Council:** CLES have been working with Stroud District Council to develop their community wealth building ambition. The primary objectives of this work have been to:

- Develop a thorough understanding of how community wealth building is understood within the Council and the progress made to date across the five key areas of employment, spend, land/assets, ownership and finance.
- Explore how the Council could go further to build on the work that has been done to date and increase the positive impact of community wealth building for the local economy.
- Understand how progress on community wealth building can move beyond the Council to local communities, including participation with the many community and voluntary organisations across the area.

The report from this work was presented to full Council and there is now agreement to move forward with the implementation of the plan through a cross departmental working group which CLES will support into 2024/25

Longer term strategic programmes of work

During 2023/24 we have also continued to develop and expand the number of longer term strategic programmes of work at CLES. These include:

- **Reclaiming our Regional Economies (RORE)** - funded by the National Lottery, Power to Change, Friends Provident, Barrow Cadbury and Friends Provident. This project began in February 2022. CLES works in partnership with the New Economics Foundation, Centre for Thriving Places and Co-ops UK in three combined authority areas in England (South Yorkshire, West Midlands and the North East). The aim is to explore the role and delivery function of English devolution in delivering progressive economic development. A new report based on the findings of the RORE to date was published this year ahead of the UK General Election.
- **Implementation of community wealth building in Dublin City Council** - this programme of work has been expanded in 2023/24 and means that CLES is continuing to work with senior staff at the Council to implement the social value framework, develop the city's anchor network and continue to explore how community wealth building approaches to employment and place can be implemented. As part of this work, a new community wealth building guide for Councillors in Ireland was published.
- **Understanding Regional health inequalities** - funded by the Health Foundation and delivered in partnership with the Kings Fund. This was a new programme of work secured in 2023/24 which explores how to embed health and wealth within the context of English Devolution. The project looks particularly at the West Midlands, but the work has wider implications for the debate on English devolution. More on the launch of this project can be found on the CLES website.
- **Friends Provident Foundation** - core funding grant. CLES benefitted from core grant funding from the Friends Provident Foundation during 2023/24 which enabled us to continue our work to deliver communities of practice with key stakeholders in community wealth building. It also supported our work on community wealth building and the environmental crisis contributing to the publication of a new report on climate and local action.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Financial review

The financial figures for 2023/24 show that CLES made a loss of £135,340.

This is set against a forecast surplus of a £88,000. At 30 June 2024 the Group holds £182,937 (2023: £318,277) in reserves, of which £4,015 (2023: £nil) are restricted. A further £4,062 (2023: £3,117) are represented by tangible fixed assets, leaving £174,860 (2023: £315,160) in free reserves

To monitor financial risks within the organisation, CLES continues to regularly review its financial situation on monthly basis within the Senior Leadership Team and on a quarterly basis with the Board of Trustees and Directors.

Principal funding sources

CLES has a diversity of funding sources. This includes:

Grant awards from philanthropic funders, academic institutions and other funders who want to support CLES' charitable mission and ideas.

Commissioned activities from local government, which support the charitable aims and allow us to explore, develop and share practice amongst the wider community and public. This commissioned activities are secured both through commissioned tenders (where there is clear alignment with our mission and objectives) and proactively through organisations wanting us to directly support their efforts to deliver community wealth building and inclusive economic change.

We also receive donations in support of our events and speaking engagements

New relationships which cover different geographies and variants of the charities core charitable purposes are also actively pursued on an ongoing basis.

Risk management

The trustees and senior leadership team have a risk management strategy and approach which comprises:

- A regular review of finances through the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees.
- The use of the in house CLES Planner to monitor income and capacity within the CLES team and regular discussions at weekly senior leadership and management meetings.
- A quarterly review of our financial position and reporting back at quarterly meetings of the Trustees.

We review cashflow on a monthly and quarterly basis and have an ongoing process of issuing sales invoices and proactive debt chasing. Trustees discuss the quarterly management accounts, and regular meetings and discussions take place separate to the formal board meetings. Key risks ahead include:

Changes in public sector expenditure: Given the profile of our income, much of which is with government organisations, our exposure to changes in public sector expenditure is a key risk factor for CLES. A key element of managing this risk, is a regular review of incoming resources, projected forward 18 months. In addition, we continue to explore ways to diversify our funding relationships so that they increasingly include philanthropic and civil society organisations as well as combined authorities. 2023/24 has seen a decrease in contract income which will be something we will be monitoring closely in 2024/25.

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Economic and political context: As an organisation concerned with social justice and the economy, the political and policy context has a significant influence on our work and who funds it. 2023/24 was a year during which there was significant political and economic turbulence both in the UK and international and this has had a direct impact on our economic fortunes. This is a risk that is endemic to our business but looking forward there are reasons to be optimistic given the change in Government in the UK which has created new opportunities for research and advocacy to fulfil our charitable mission.

Staff recruitment and retention is a ongoing risk for CLES' work. The labour market for our work is highly competitive at the current time. CLES works hard to benchmark our salaries to ensure that they remain competitive alongside good terms and conditions, with opportunities for staff development. We also have become an accredited living hours and living wage employer and continue to implement a four day week.

Going concern

2023/24 has been a challenging year for CLES with a £135k deficit. This has been as a result of a fall in contract income, particularly in Quarters 1 and 2 of the previous 12 months; combined with greater than usual uncertainty within the political and economic context in the UK in the months which preceded the general election on 4 July 2024.

However, there are reasons to be optimistic about the future economic position of the organisation. The Trustees and Senior Management team have taken steps to reduce costs through a restructure of the senior management team and by identifying potential savings in other parts of the organisation's budget. In addition, the wider political and economic context for our work has changed substantially with the arrival of the new UK Government. This has created significantly more favourable market conditions for our work and enabled us to pursue new opportunities to fulfil our charitable mission. We have also restructured the wider CLES team providing a stronger organising logic for how we work together, part of the rationale for which is to enable greater collaboration on income generation and delivery.

There are also reasons to be optimistic based on our current and future pipeline of work which shows that as of the end of Quarter 1, we have obtained approximately 70% of funding for the year ahead suggesting that the market for our work has improved.

However, we will be working closely with the CLES team and Trustees to monitor costs and income on a regular basis in order to manage and mitigate these risks going forward.

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue, therefore, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

CLES is a company limited by guarantee governed by its memorandum and articles of association dated 28 June 2001, as amended by Special Resolution dated 16 December 2010 and 13 August 2012. The byelaws were amended on 7 May 2015.

Trustee recruitment and retireals

CLES has a well-established structure of governance, which has served the organisation effectively in recent years. In the last year there has been some movement in the Board and a process launched during 2022 to recruit new board members to the organisation. This process has been completed successfully and the new board members have now successfully completed their first year of service to the Board. The annual retireals meeting detailed in our governance document ensures a regular review of board membership.

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

Chief Executive

The day to day management of the organisation is delegated to the Chief Executive, Dr Sarah Longlands who works in partnership with the senior leadership teams to run the organisation.

Organisation of Board meetings

The full board of Trustees meets four times a year. Meetings concur with end of quarter financial work and reporting and usually last up to 2 ½ hours. They are usually hybrid meetings and are mainly held in Manchester with the option to join online (reflecting the geographical diversity of Trustees)

The CEO meets with the Chair in regular 1 to 1's on at least a monthly basis. In these meetings ongoing operational considerations are discussed, as well as longer term goals in relation to organisational objectives and business plan. The agenda and content for any forthcoming Board meetings are also discussed.

On occasion sub-committees are formed. These look at issues raised which need a deeper consideration. In 2023/24, a finance sub committee has been formed to oversee the budget setting process, preparation of annual accounts and the annual audit.

Non delegated authority includes Governance policy, staff terms and conditions, annual budget, remuneration of the CEO. Delegated areas include all areas of day to day operations, recruitment, remuneration of staff (excluding the CEO).

Pay and remuneration for senior staff

The CEO's pay and remuneration is decided by the Board. This takes place via an appraisal process, conducted by the Chair of the Board.

All other senior staff appraisals are conducted by the CEO and line managers, with recommendations going to the board for assessment in accordance with annual budget considerations and negotiations with the recognised Trade Union in line with CLES' recognition agreement with Unite.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland". The report and accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and

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Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report)

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

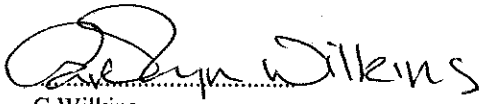
Disclosure of information to auditor

Each trustee has taken steps that they ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditor is aware of that information. The trustees confirm that there is no relevant information that they know of and of which they know the auditor is unaware.

Small companies provision statement

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 4 Dec 2011 and signed on its behalf by:


C Wilkins
Trustee

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited (the 'charity') for the year ended 30 June 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account), Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 30 June 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in note to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' 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 charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report (Incorporating the Directors' Report).

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to the prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirements to prepare strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' responsibilities (set out on page 8 and 9), the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and addressing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, our procedures included the following:

- We obtained an understanding of laws, regulations and guidance that affect the Charitable Company, focusing on those that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on its operations. Key laws, regulations and guidance that we identified included the Companies Act 2006, tax legislation, health and safety legislation and employment legislation.
- We enquired of the Trustees and reviewed correspondence and Trustee meeting minute for evidence of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations. We also reviewed controls the Trustees have in place, where necessary, to ensure compliance.
- We gained an understanding of the controls that the Trustees have in place to prevent and detect fraud. We enquired of the Trustees about any incidence of fraud that had taken place during the accounting period.
- The risk of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations was discussed within the audit team and tests were planned and performed to address these risks.
- We reviewed the financial statements disclosures and supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- We enquired of the Trustees about actual and potential litigation and claims.
- We performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that might indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- In addressing the risk of fraud due to management override of controls we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and assessed whether the judgments made in making accounting estimates were indicative of a potential bias.

Due 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. For example, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations and cannot be expected to detect all fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

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Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Beever and Struthers

.....
Sue Hutchinson FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Beever and Struthers, Statutory Auditor

One Express
1 George Leigh Street
Manchester
M4 5DL

Date: 16 December 2024

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 30 June 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	3	10,555	-	10,555	-
Charitable activities	4	775,213	310,517	1,085,730	1,241,973
Investment income	5	1,363	-	1,363	-
Total income		<u>787,131</u>	<u>310,517</u>	<u>1,097,648</u>	<u>1,241,973</u>
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(926,486)</u>	<u>(306,502)</u>	<u>(1,232,988)</u>	<u>(1,113,322)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(926,486)</u>	<u>(306,502)</u>	<u>(1,232,988)</u>	<u>(1,113,322)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(139,355)</u>	<u>4,015</u>	<u>(135,340)</u>	<u>128,651</u>
Net movement in funds		(139,355)	4,015	(135,340)	128,651
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		<u>318,277</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,277</u>	<u>189,626</u>
Total funds carried forward	21	<u><u>178,922</u></u>	<u><u>4,015</u></u>	<u><u>182,937</u></u>	<u><u>318,277</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 21.

The notes on pages 17 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

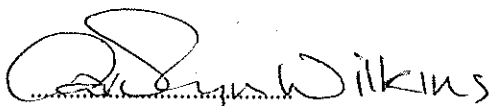
(Registration number: 04242937)

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	4,062	3,117
Investments	14	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
		<u>4,064</u>	<u>3,119</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	15	401,363	309,048
Cash at bank and in hand	16	<u>143,020</u>	<u>371,033</u>
		544,383	680,081
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(210,710)</u>	<u>(364,923)</u>
Net current assets		<u>333,673</u>	<u>315,158</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		337,737	318,277
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	<u>(154,800)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net assets		<u>182,937</u>	<u>318,277</u>
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	21	4,015	-
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		<u>178,922</u>	<u>318,277</u>
Total funds	21	<u>182,937</u>	<u>318,277</u>

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

The financial statements on pages 14 to 32 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 4/12/24, and signed on their behalf by:


C Wilkins
Trustee

The notes on pages 17 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(135,340)	128,651
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		2,735	4,760
Investment income	5	<u>(1,363)</u>	<u>-</u>
		(133,968)	133,411
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in debtors	15	(92,315)	(57,622)
Decrease in creditors	17	(5,422)	(74,507)
Increase in deferred income	18	<u>6,009</u>	<u>84,623</u>
Net cash flows from operating activities		<u>(225,696)</u>	<u>85,905</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	1,363	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	13	<u>(3,680)</u>	<u>(2,201)</u>
Net cash flows from investing activities		<u>(2,317)</u>	<u>(2,201)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(228,013)	83,704
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July		<u>371,033</u>	<u>287,329</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June		<u><u>143,020</u></u>	<u><u>371,033</u></u>

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 17 to 32 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)) (issued in October 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

2023/24 has been a challenging year for CLES with a £135k deficit. This has been as a result of a fall in contract income, particularly in Quarters 1 and 2 of the previous 12 months; combined with greater than usual uncertainty within the political and economic context in the UK in the months which preceded the general election on July 2024.

However, there are reasons to be optimistic about the future economic position of the organisation. The Trustees and Senior Management team have taken steps to reduce costs through a restructure of the senior management team and by identifying potential savings in other parts of the organisation's budget. In addition, the wider political and economic context for our work has changed substantially with the arrival of the new UK Government. This has created significantly more favourable market conditions for our work and enabled us to pursue new opportunities to fulfil our charitable mission. We have also restructured the wider CLES team providing a stronger organising logic for how we work together, part of the rationale for which is to enable greater collaboration on income generation and delivery.

There are also reasons to be optimistic based on our current and future pipeline of work which shows that as of the end of Quarter 1, we have obtained approximately 70% of funding for the year ahead suggesting that the market for our work has improved.

However, we will be working closely with the CLES team and Trustees to monitor costs and income on a regular basis in order to manage and mitigate these risks going forward.

There are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue, therefore, the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Judgements and estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets, liabilities, revenue, and expenditure. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The items in the financial statements where these judgments and estimates have been made include:

- Determining any necessary provision for bad or doubtful debts.
- Depreciation. Fixed assets are depreciated over an estimated useful economic life, considering residual values, where appropriate.
- Valuation of the provision needed for the pension liability.

Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the Charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. In the following circumstances, the income is deferred and included in other creditors:

- The income relates to a future accounting period
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of the work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done.
- Not all the terms and conditions of the grant have been met, including the incurring of expenditure and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Donations

Donations from individuals and other bodies (not being of the nature of a grant) are recognised when receivable.

Grant income

Grants, whether of a capital or revenue nature, are recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions have been met and it is probable that the income will be received.

Earned income

Earned income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for services and goods supplied, net of discounts and VAT.

Investment income

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

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500.00 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

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

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

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

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	10,555	10,555	-
	<u>10,555</u>	<u>10,555</u>	<u>-</u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Research and consultancy - Fees	651,353	-	651,353
Research and consultancy - Grants	61,583	310,517	372,100
Membership subscriptions	31,033	-	31,033
Events and publications	31,244	-	31,244
	<u>775,213</u>	<u>310,517</u>	<u>1,085,730</u>

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Research and consultancy - Fees	744,358	-	744,358
Research and consultancy - Grants	55,221	376,704	431,925
Membership subscriptions	34,533	-	34,533
Events and publications	31,157	-	31,157
	<u>865,269</u>	<u>376,704</u>	<u>1,241,973</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,363	1,363	-
	<u>1,363</u>	<u>1,363</u>	<u>-</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Direct costs	Direct salaries	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£	2024
				£
Research and consultancy	105,228	678,848	337,334	1,121,410
Membership subscriptions	854	10,959	43,328	55,141
Events and publications	23,280	11,493	21,664	56,437
	<u>129,362</u>	<u>701,300</u>	<u>402,326</u>	<u>1,232,988</u>

	Direct costs	Direct salaries	Support costs	Total
	£	£	£	2023
				£
Research and consultancy	56,085	599,356	340,911	996,352
Membership subscriptions	-	10,365	43,480	53,845
Events and publications	25,128	16,257	21,740	63,125
	<u>81,213</u>	<u>625,978</u>	<u>406,131</u>	<u>1,113,322</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

7 Analysis of support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Research and consultancy £	Membership and subscriptions £	Events and publications £	Governance costs £	Total 2024 £
Salaries	188,293	25,794	12,897	30,952	257,936
Marketing costs	27,696	3,258	1,629	-	32,583
Establishments costs	27,184	3,198	1,599	-	31,981
Insurance	3,233	380	190	-	3,803
Legal and professional	10,970	1,291	645	-	12,906
Administration costs	25,312	2,978	1,489	-	29,779
Finance charges	5,668	667	333	-	6,668
Staff training and recruitment	11,530	1,356	678	-	13,564
Board expenses/meeting costs	-	-	-	267	267
Depreciation	2,325	274	137	-	2,736
Auditors fee	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Allocation of governance costs	35,122	4,132	2,066	(41,219)	101
	<u>337,333</u>	<u>43,328</u>	<u>21,663</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>402,324</u>

	Research and consultancy £	Membership and subscriptions £	Events and publications £	Governance costs £	Total 2023 £
Salaries	174,392	23,889	11,945	28,667	238,893
Marketing costs	18,834	2,216	1,107	-	22,157
Establishments costs	25,510	3,001	1,500	-	30,011
Insurance	3,537	416	208	-	4,161
Legal and professional	20,824	2,450	1,225	-	24,499
Administration costs	38,913	4,578	2,290	-	45,781
Finance charges	205	24	12	-	241
Staff training and recruitment	20,986	2,469	1,235	-	24,690
Board expenses/meeting costs	-	-	-	1,578	1,578
Depreciation	4,046	476	238	-	4,760
Auditors fee	-	-	-	9,360	9,360
Allocation of governance costs	33,664	3,961	1,980	(39,605)	-
	<u>340,911</u>	<u>43,480</u>	<u>21,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>406,131</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Basis of allocation

Reference	Method of allocation
Salaries	Estimate of time spent
Marketing costs	Estimate of usage (Net of any direct attribution)
Property costs	Estimate of usage
All other costs	Estimate of usage
Depreciation	Estimate of usage

8 Net (outgoing)/incoming resources

Net (outgoing)/incoming resources for the year include:

	2024 £	2023 £
Operating leases - other assets	21,750	21,750
Audit fees	10,000	9,360
Other non-audit services	4,200	4,100
Depreciation of fixed assets	<u>2,735</u>	<u>4,760</u>

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year. During the previous year, the charity paid travel expenses to two trustees totalling £1,081.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	812,148	757,403
Social security costs	89,190	85,518
Pension costs	<u>65,275</u>	<u>26,424</u>
	<u>966,613</u>	<u>869,345</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Number of employees

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full-time equivalent employees (FTE) and average headcount (HC) was as follows:

	2024	2024	2023	2023
	HC	FTE	HC	FTE
	No	No	No	No
Employees	18	18	18	17
	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>17</u>

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2024 No	2023 No
£60,001 - £70,000	2	1
£90,001 - £100,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £274,675 (2023 - £257,633).

11 Auditors' remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £
Audit fee	10,000	9,360
All other non-audit services	<u>4,200</u>	<u>4,100</u>
	<u>14,200</u>	<u>13,460</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

12 Taxation

The income and gains of the charity are exempt from taxation to the extent they are applied to its charitable activities.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 July 2023	2,655	3,735	32,213	38,603
Additions	-	-	3,680	3,680
At 30 June 2024	2,655	3,735	35,893	42,283
Depreciation				
At 1 July 2023	2,655	3,606	29,225	35,486
Charge for the year	-	100	2,635	2,735
At 30 June 2024	2,655	3,706	31,860	38,221
Net book value				
At 30 June 2024	-	29	4,033	4,062
At 30 June 2023	-	129	2,988	3,117

14 Fixed asset investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Shares in group undertakings and participating interests	2	2

Details of undertakings

Details of the investments in which the charity holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Undertaking	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held		Principal activity
			2024	2023	

Subsidiary undertakings

CLES European Research Network Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary shares	100%	100%	Dormant
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Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

The profit for the financial period of CLES European Research Network Limited was £Nil (2023: £Nil) and the aggregate amount of capital and reserves at the end of the period was £(2) (2023: £10,186).

The company was dormant in the current and prior year. The company was dissolved on 2 July 2024.

15 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	214,445	174,725
Prepayments	18,595	17,276
Accrued income	168,323	117,047
	<u>401,363</u>	<u>309,048</u>

16 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank	<u>143,020</u>	<u>371,033</u>

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	24,447	23,562
Other taxation and social security	44,454	64,548
Pension scheme creditor	17,200	172,000
Accruals	33,977	20,190
Deferred income	90,632	84,623
	<u>210,710</u>	<u>364,923</u>

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred income at 1 July 2023	84,623	73,743
Resources deferred in the period	6,009	10,880
Deferred income at year end	<u>90,632</u>	<u>84,623</u>

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024 £
Other creditors	<u>154,800</u>

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

19 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Land and buildings		
Within one year	27,954	7,806
Between one and five years	99,392	29,526
	<u>127,346</u>	<u>37,332</u>

20 Pension and other schemes

Greater Manchester Pension Fund

In respect of certain long-standing employees, the charity participates in the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF), an independently administered defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out by the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme. THE GMPF is a multi-employer scheme, and in accordance with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission the charity accounts for those contributions as if it were a defined contribution scheme.

It has done so because is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities on a consistent and reasonable basis. Contributions are charged to the SOFA in the period in which they are payable. As there are now no active members of the GMPF, CLES has exited the scheme and the transfer of the liability has been agreed to repaid over ten years.

Employees are required to join a compulsory employer's contributory pension. The employer's contribution starts at the equivalent to 6% of their gross pa to the employees' stakeholder pension scheme, a money purchase scheme.

All pension contributions are charged to the SOFA in the year in which they are payable.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

21 Funds

	Balance at 1 July 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 30 June 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
<i>General</i>				
General funds	318,277	787,131	(926,486)	178,922
Restricted funds				
NIHR Public Health Research Programme	-	1,148	(1,148)	-
Regional Action Plan	-	269,810	(269,810)	-
City REDI	-	18,301	(18,301)	-
Innovate	-	9,175	(9,175)	-
WMCA	-	12,083	(8,068)	4,015
Total restricted funds	-	310,517	(306,502)	4,015
Total funds	318,277	1,097,648	(1,232,988)	182,937

	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
<i>General</i>					
General funds	139,626	865,269	(736,618)	50,000	318,277
<i>Designated</i>					
Designated funds	50,000	-	-	(50,000)	-
Total unrestricted funds	189,626	865,269	(736,618)	-	318,277
Restricted					
Scottish Government secondment	-	30,662	(30,662)	-	-
Barrow Cadbury Trust - Anchor Network	-	1,982	(1,982)	-	-
NIHR Public Health Research Programme	-	22,234	(22,234)	-	-
Power to Change	-	107,766	(107,766)	-	-
LGIU	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Alex Ferry Foundation	-	15,300	(15,300)	-	-
Regional Action Plan	-	132,260	(132,260)	-	-
Columbia Threadneedle	-	46,500	(46,500)	-	-
Total restricted funds	-	376,704	(376,704)	-	-

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Balance at 1 July 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 30 June 2023 £
Total funds	<u>189,626</u>	<u>1,241,973</u>	<u>(1,113,322)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>318,277</u>

Description of Restricted Funds

Scottish Government

Secondment to the Scottish Government to support the development of Community Wealth Building in a Scottish context.

Power to Change

Funding directly via OSF as a legacy funding arrangement as they withdrew from the UK.

NIHR

Public Health research programme

LGIU

Future of economic development

Alex Ferry Foundation

Research into Freeports policy in England.

Columbia Threadneedle

Investigation into women's experience of the economy in Leeds.

Regional Action Plan

Action plan for a new economy

Barrow Cadbury - Anchor Network

Network facilitation

City REDI

Local Policy Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Co-ordinating Hub is hosted by City-REDI at the University of Birmingham, doing place-based research.

Innovate

Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership will focus on delivering the low carbon infrastructure Oldham needs to get to Net Zero

WMCA

Secondment to West Midlands Combined Authority to lead on community wealth building in the West Midlands

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

22 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds at 30 June 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	4,062	-	4,062
Fixed asset investments	2	-	2
Current assets	540,368	4,015	544,383
Current liabilities	(210,710)	-	(210,710)
Creditors over 1 year	(154,800)	-	(154,800)
Total net assets	<u>178,922</u>	<u>4,015</u>	<u>182,937</u>
		Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds at 30 June 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets		3,117	3,117
Fixed asset investments		2	2
Current assets		680,081	680,081
Current liabilities		(364,923)	(364,923)
Total net assets		<u>318,277</u>	<u>318,277</u>

23 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 July 2023 £	Financing cash flows £	At 30 June 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>371,033</u>	<u>(228,341)</u>	<u>142,692</u>
Net debt	<u>371,033</u>	<u>(228,341)</u>	<u>142,692</u>
		Financing cash flows £	At 30 June 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>287,329</u>	<u>83,704</u>	<u>371,033</u>
Net debt	<u>287,329</u>	<u>83,704</u>	<u>371,033</u>

24 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

Centre for Local Economic Strategies Limited

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2024

25 Prior year Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Charitable activities	865,269	376,704	1,241,973
Total income	865,269	376,704	1,241,973
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	(736,618)	(376,704)	(1,113,322)
Total expenditure	(736,618)	(376,704)	(1,113,322)
Net income	128,651	-	128,651
Net movement in funds	128,651	-	128,651
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	189,626	-	189,626
Total funds carried forward	318,277	-	318,277