

Company registration number: 04681564

Charity registration number: 1101616

Lewisham Local Limited

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025



Goldwins Limited
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London
NW6 2EG

Lewisham Local Limited

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Lewisham Local Limited

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees

Ayesha Gareeboo

Joyce Jones (resigned 28 September 2025)

Gemma Juma

Tina Price-Johnson (resigned 6 February 2025)

Mary Pickles

Jonathan Prince

Allison Streetly

Peter Webb (resigned 25 September 2024)

Roy Witter (Chair)

Secretary

Gülen Petty (appointed 1 May 2024)

Samuel Hawksley (resigned 1 May 2024)

Charity Registration Number

1101616

Company Registration Number

04681564

The charity is incorporated in England and Wales.

Registered Office

Parkside Community Centre

1 Copperwood Place

SE10 8GE

Independent Auditor

Goldwins Limited

75 Maygrove Road

West Hampstead

London, NW6 2EG

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank p.l.c

Lewisham

151 Lewisham High St

London, SE13 6AA

From the Chair

Dear Friends and Partners,

As we look back on 2024–2025, I am incredibly proud of how Lewisham Local has continued to strengthen its role as a trusted partner at the heart of our borough. This has been a year of renewed focus and steady growth under the leadership of our new Chief Executive, Gülen Petty, whose energy and community-first vision have guided us confidently into the next chapter of our work.

Together, our Board of Trustees and dedicated staff team have navigated a complex funding landscape while continuing to deliver meaningful support for Lewisham's communities. We have deepened partnerships, secured vital new investment, and celebrated the success of flagship programmes such as Food Justice, Lewisham Giving, and the Black Infrastructure Support Project.

Each initiative reflects our shared belief that when people and organisations come together, Lewisham becomes stronger, fairer, and more connected. Every thread adds strength and colour to Lewisham's fabric.

Our achievements this year are a direct result of the commitment and collaboration of everyone involved - our treasured staff, volunteers, community partners, funders, and, of course, the residents who inspire all that we do. On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt thanks for your unwavering support, generosity, and belief in our mission.

The year has also reminded us of the importance of sustainability and adaptability. The cost-of-living crisis continues to test local services and residents alike, but it has also shown the resilience of our community.

As Trustees, we remain focused on ensuring Lewisham Local's long-term stability through diversified funding, strong governance, and ongoing investment in our people and systems.

Looking ahead, we will continue to champion partnership, inclusion, and innovation. With a capable and passionate team in place, and the trust of our community behind us, I am confident that Lewisham Local will keep growing its impact and helping Lewisham thrive.

Thank you for your support - your commitment is what makes our shared success possible.

Sincerely,
Roy Witter

From the Chief Executive

Dear friends and partners,

As I reflect on my first full year as Chief Executive of Lewisham Local, I am immensely proud of what our charity has achieved, hand in hand with our community.

The past year has been one of growth, collaboration, and renewed purpose. Despite ongoing challenges for many Lewisham residents, our collective energy and collaborative spirit has continued to shine through.

Every project highlighted in this report stands as a testament to what is possible when people and organisations come together to contribute, give, and share – whether it be their time, skills, or resources. Through our Food Justice work, volunteering programmes, local giving initiatives, and community networks, we've seen first-hand the power of connection to create lasting change.

Lewisham Local is more than a charity - it's a partnership of people who care deeply about this borough and its future. From our staff team and volunteers to our funders, trustees, and community partners, everyone plays a vital role in building a fairer, greener, and more connected Lewisham.

Looking ahead, our focus is on deepening that collaboration: strengthening the voluntary sector, expanding our reach to underrepresented communities, and ensuring our internal systems and digital tools help us work even more effectively.

Thank you to everyone who has supported and championed our work this year. Together, we are showing what it means to be in Lewisham - generous, inclusive, and resilient.

Warm regards,

Dr Gülen Petty, CEO

Lewisham Local Limited

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee as defined by the Companies Act 2006 and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The company was established under a Memorandum and Articles of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The Charity aims to have a diverse Board of Trustees, made up of residents, professionals and individuals with lived experience of the organisation's projects and issues it is trying to address. The Trustees are a diverse group of people with varied experiences and knowledge in the local area, business, and voluntary sectors. Trustees may be appointed at any time and reappointments are on rotation every year at the AGM. A Trustee eligibility audit is carried out on a yearly basis as well as an audit of the current skills on the Board so that any gaps can be filled through new Trustee recruitment.

The Charity ensures that the Board of Trustees represents the diversity of our Borough and the users of the organisation. Due to the charity's growth and increasing breadth of work, Trustees agreed to increase the number of Trustees on the Board in order to provide increased oversight of our work as well as gain new skills and lived experience of our projects and the issues we address through our work, including poverty and isolation. Trustees also aimed to recruit younger Trustees to further enhance the diversity of the Board.

Meetings

The Board of Trustees meets six times a year and determines strategic direction and policy. The Board met in October 2024 for our annual Strategic Away Day to review performance, analyse the context around the organisation and identify opportunities to enhance the organisation's work and sustainability.

Organisational structure

The Chief Executive is accountable to the Board of Trustees and oversees the operations of the organisation and manages staff and freelance workers. We have continued to grow our staff and financial income and therefore our structure of Programme Managers has provided good oversight of our work and brought projects together into key themes. According to funding and project needs, other staff or freelance workers support on project delivery. In 2024-25 there were 20 staff (18 full time equivalent).

Chief Executive (1.0)

Food Justice Programme Manager	Voluntary Sector Programme Manager	Volunteering Programme Manager	Local Giving Programme Manager	
Food Partnerships Coordinator	Community Directory Coordinator	Time Bank Coordinator	Fundraising and Comms Coordinator	Finance & Office Coordinator
FoodCycle Coordinator	Fundraising Development Manager – Equalities	Volunteering & Work Placement Coordinator	Grants Coordinator Business Engagement Coordinator	
Community Development Worker (Businesses)	Digital Access Project Coordinator	Bank of Things Coordinator		
	Community Development Worker	Wild Cat Wilderness Coordinator		

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Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Related parties

There were no related parties during the financial year.

Wider network

The charity currently does not operate within a wider network.

Risk Management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed to and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The charity maintains a risk register and has a risk management strategy to identify and mitigate risks. The high risks are brought to the attention of the Board to minimise any potential impact on the charity. The charity carries out monitoring and evaluation and provides reports to its funders. The charity ensures it has financial procedures, health and safety policy and safeguarding procedures in place. They are reviewed annually to reflect changing legislation and to refresh knowledge and practice.

OBJECTIVES

Objectives

To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the public and particularly, but not limited to, the public who live and work in the London Borough of Lewisham and surrounding boroughs, including: a) to promote volunteering, time banking, the giving of time and skills to engage and support local residents including those considered to be suffering from the disadvantage of social exclusion; b) to promote philanthropy to relieve poverty distress and sickness in the interests of social welfare with the aim of improving the conditions of life of the public; c) to promote and broker partnership working and training within the voluntary and charitable sector, statutory and private sectors in the interests of the furtherance of and achievements of the above purposes.

Aim and activities

The charity uses an asset-based approach and activities to involve people in volunteering and sharing their skills to connect and create community cohesion. The charity facilitates stakeholders from the voluntary, statutory, education and business sectors to collaborate and share their assets like resources, training, expertise, time and money to help alleviate poverty and reduce social isolation.

Our Vision - A connected Lewisham community that gives, shares and works together to build happier and healthier communities.

Our Mission - Connect and collaborate with individuals and organisations, encouraging all to give and share what they can to respond to needs in the community and strengthen Lewisham's voluntary and community groups.

Our Values

- Everyone in the community is an asset and able to contribute, give and share
- We are inclusive, welcoming and open to all
- We are collaborative and committed to working together with a positive attitude
- We are dynamic and responsive to Lewisham's communities' needs and willing to innovate
- We value the diversity of Lewisham's communities and are committed to proactively representing Lewisham's diversity in our Staff, Trustees and projects

Living Wage Employer

The organisation is committed to the Living Wage movement and is an accredited Living Wage Employer by the Living Wage Foundation.

Modern Slavery

As Lewisham Local is well below the threshold of £36m set by the Modern Slavery Act 2015, the Company is not legally required to have a policy on modern slavery. However, the Act is a positive piece of legislation aiming to safeguard workers from exploitation and we support the aims of this legislation. Lewisham Local has a zero-

Lewisham Local Limited

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

tolerance approach to modern slavery and human trafficking and is committed to continually improving our policies and procedures to help identify and combat modern slavery and human trafficking.

Public benefit statement

Lewisham Local's charitable purpose is enshrined in its objects and the Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

This charity welcomes all sections of society and is for public benefit. The charity has a strong and consistent track record of service to the public, working with individuals in the community, especially the elderly and vulnerable but also across all generations and ethnicity. The activities of the charity are rooted in valuing, welcoming, including and empowering people. This is evidenced by evaluations, feedback, reports, case studies and photographs that demonstrate the charity's public benefit.

Equality

Across our Staff and Trustee team we are committed to being reflective of the diverse community we serve.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Highlights from the Year

- Distributed £236,647 number of grants to projects
- 5,799 Community Meals served
- 3,652 Volunteer hours provided at Food Cycle
- Supported more than 700 organisations via the Lewisham Community Directory
- Supported 2,000 residents through Digital Access for All
- We welcomed 2,000+ visits to community events at Wild Cat Wilderness
- Over 500 businesses engaged with Lewisham Local discount card scheme
- 385 young people received essentials as part of Bank of Things project
- 93 people placed into volunteering
- 300+ individuals received fundraising development support
- Time Bank members performed at the Old Vic as part of the 12 Choirs of Christmas project, celebrating intergenerational creativity

Promoting Access to Good Healthy Food

i) Food Justice Programme

Lewisham Local's Food Justice Programme continues to play a vital role in creating a fairer, healthier, and more sustainable local food system. Over the past year, we have worked closely with community partners, the Council, and local residents to tackle food inequality, strengthen collaboration, and celebrate Lewisham's growing reputation as a leader in food justice.

Key Achievements

- 5,308 guests served through FoodCycle Lewisham
- 9,888 kg of surplus food rescued
- 5,799 community meals provided
- 3,652 volunteering hours contributed

- £135,009 invested in 19 community food projects, supporting over 20,000 people
- Awarded the Silver Sustainable Food Places Award in July 2024

These achievements demonstrate the strength of Lewisham's community response and our collective commitment to ensuring that every resident has access to nutritious, culturally appropriate food.

ii) **Good Food Lewisham**

Now in its third year, Good Food Lewisham – the borough's food partnership – brings together passionate residents, local organisations, and businesses working to improve Lewisham's food landscape. Funded by Lewisham Council, with a two-year extension confirmed, the partnership continues to champion better access to good food, sustainable local supply chains, and community-led solutions.

Highlights from 2024/25

- 82 good food businesses supported
- 13 Good Food Business Charters signed
- 72 Good Food Pledges made
- 18 community groups supported to reduce food waste
- 142 gardeners connected through the Food Growing Network
- 62 food giving groups listed in the Lewisham Community Directory
- 15 food hubs supported across the borough

This year we launched a three-year action plan co-designed with residents and members of the network, setting clear priorities for sustainable food development. The partnership also coordinated the successful application for the Silver Sustainable Food Places Award, recognising Lewisham's leadership on issues such as food poverty, diet-related health inequalities, and local economic resilience.

Network Development

Throughout the year, our focus has been on:

- Expanding food growing opportunities across the borough
- Strengthening the Good Food Business Network
- Encouraging uptake of the Healthy Start scheme to support families on low incomes
- Coordinating collective action on food waste and redistribution

The partnership hosted a celebration event at The Albany in September 2024, honouring the dedication of community groups and partners improving Lewisham's food system.

"It is great to be part of such a proactive, enthusiastic team and Borough. People are always looking at new opportunities and ways to work better."

– *Good Food Lewisham Network Member*

iii) **Lewisham Food Justice Alliance**

Funded by Lewisham Council, Lewisham Local hosts a Food Justice Programme Manager to coordinate delivery of the borough's Food Justice Action Plan (launched April 2023). The programme, extended until April 2027, drives collaboration across sectors to reduce food insecurity and ensure access to healthy, affordable food for all.

Achievements

- Established the Lewisham Food Justice Alliance and five task-and-finish groups, engaging 51 representatives from community and statutory partners
- Most actions now rated green (22 green, 18 amber, 17 ongoing, 1 red as of March 2025)
- Distributed £110,026 in Food Justice Community Grants, supporting 19 projects and more than 20,000 residents
- Achieved measurable improvements in:
 - Partnership connections and collaboration
 - Awareness of food insecurity and available support
 - Access to local food data
- Contributed significantly to Lewisham's Silver Sustainable Food Places Award

"We all have limited resources and time, but this group and wider alliance has allowed us to combine resources and share information to make the best of what we have."

– *Task & Finish Group Participant*

Partnership and Community Impact

The programme has supported a strong alliance of organisations, including Action Against Hunger, AFRIL, Citizens Advice Lewisham, Coco Collective, Clarion Housing, the Legendary Community Club, Lewisham Foodbank, and many others.

Together, we are creating long-term solutions to food injustice through shared learning and collective action.

iv) Food Roots 2

The Food Roots 2 programme, led by the Greater London Authority, has been instrumental in supporting local food partnerships to develop sustainable and resilient solutions to food insecurity. In October 2023, Lewisham Local was awarded a Level 2 grant, enabling us to strengthen coordination within our Good Food Lewisham partnership and expand collaboration across the borough.

This funding allowed us to increase team capacity by employing a Community Development Worker and a part-time Volunteering Coordinator, helping us to almost double the reach of our Food Justice work.

The Food Roots 2 programme deepened collaboration across Lewisham's food networks and helped equip community organisations with new tools to address the root causes of food poverty. Our targeted campaigns significantly raised awareness of the Healthy Start scheme in the most disadvantaged areas of the borough, contributing to higher uptake.

Key Achievements

- Produced and distributed a "Free and Low-Cost Food in Lewisham" leaflet to reach residents offline
- Partnered with Advice Lewisham to train 20 representatives from food aid organisations in "advice first aid" skills
- Delivered monthly peer-led workshops promoting "money-first" approaches and local financial wellbeing support

- Developed and shared a Healthy Start training presentation, used in borough-wide sessions and at Hexagon Housing's Training Day
- Ran a borough-wide campaign featuring Healthy Start posters on billboards near markets
- Established a new Early Years Network to connect midwives, family hubs, and practitioners promoting Healthy Start
- Supported food projects to recruit and manage volunteers, promoting 27 roles and filling 10 new volunteer placements

v) **FoodCycle Lewisham**

FoodCycle Lewisham remains one of Lewisham Local's most visible and loved frontline projects. Delivered in partnership with the national charity FoodCycle and hosted weekly at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre, it offers free, nutritious, three-course vegetarian meals made entirely from surplus food that would otherwise go to waste.

The project not only tackles food insecurity but also provides a safe, welcoming space where residents can share meals, make connections, and feel part of the community.

2024/25 Highlights

- 5,308 guests served, including 310 takeaways
- 9,888 kg of surplus food rescued
- 5,799 community meals provided - a 30% increase on last year
- 3,652 volunteer hours contributed - a 40% increase year-on-year

"FoodCycle is a place where as a single person living alone I can meet and socialise in a safe environment. The volunteers manage conflict/aggression and calm the situation. I feel safe."

– Guest feedback

Key Achievements

- Embedded the successful Wednesday meal in partnership with the Lewisham Irish Community Centre, complementing the long-running Saturday session.
- Attracted new volunteers, including employee groups from large local businesses, boosting visibility and fundraising opportunities.
- Strengthened social impact:
 - 75% of guests reported feeling more connected to their local community
 - 64% felt less lonely
 - 75% said attending gave them something to look forward to each week
 - 77% made new friends through the project
- 100% of volunteers said they would recommend FoodCycle Lewisham to others.

Promoting Local Giving

Through our 'Lewisham Giving' programme, we aim to support people access to places and spaces to increase a sense of belonging, connection and community ownership over decisions across the borough. We do that by mobilising residents, businesses and other sectors to harness their time, skills, expertise or resources for the benefit of the wider community.

Supported by the City Bridge Foundation and the London Funders network, Lewisham Giving continues to grow as a model of place-based collaborative philanthropy.

Key Achievements

- £236,647 in grants distributed to local groups and projects
- Over 500 businesses engaged in giving activity
- Five-year partnership launched with Peabody Community Foundation and Parkside Estate
- 92 organisations fundraising through the Lewisham Community Lottery, raising £19,968 in one year

i) Building a Culture of Local Giving

Lewisham Local's knowledge of community needs and our unique connections with community groups have enabled us to further develop this work and channel resources towards community needs in a responsive way.

We distributed £236,647 in grants to local community groups and projects, in partnership with Lewisham Council. These include the Warm Welcomes, Essentials and Food Justice grant programmes. Key themes included food insecurity, fuel poverty, social isolation and cost of living support to residents.

Our ability to support groups at a local level who are often excluded from accessing funds from large traditional grantmakers acts as critical infrastructure within the borough, helping to strengthen the overall ecosystem.

Our deep community knowledge enables us to channel funds effectively to local groups addressing food insecurity, fuel poverty, and social isolation. Across our grantmaking this year:

- 73% of supported groups reported increased access to funding
- 79% strengthened their resources and resilience

Quotes from our partners capture the impact of this support:

"Warm Welcomes makes our space accessible to unwaged people or those experiencing homelessness. It allows more people to connect with the Albany and our values."

– *The Albany*

"Our boiler had completely broken down, and the grant enabled us to afford to stay open during winter – this grant has literally kept this warm space operational."

– *V22 Sydenham Library*

"Our strong relationships help us to identify those in most need and also that families will approach us for support. They are so grateful to receive vital funding."

– *Friends of St Mary, Lewisham*

ii) Participatory and Inclusive Giving

We are particularly proud of our Participatory Grant-Making Fund with the Peabody Community Foundation, worth £425,000 over five years. Residents on the Parkside Estate lead decision-making, ensuring funding is rooted in lived experience and genuine community need.

“Being a panellist has empowered me to co-design fair funding criteria, and embrace new digital tools like CRM systems to assess applications more efficiently and collaboratively.”

– *Sylvester, Parkside Fund Steering Group Member*

iii) Community Outreach

Community outreach events such as the Iftar celebration and a series of business-engagement events have solidified relationships with businesses and the community and built awareness of giving across the borough.

iv) Lewisham Local Card

A key success for the Lewisham Local card this year has been the sale of £12,000 worth of cards to Lewisham Council, purchased for their staff. Subsequently, five other local companies and charities followed with similar bulk-purchases of the card.

Partnering with the council and other large employers has injected scale into the Lewisham Local Card, which, together with the income from wider card sales and donations from local business and individuals, puts us in position to launch the Community Fund for the first time in late 2025.

v) Lewisham Warm Welcomes

The Warm Welcomes programme continued to provide much-needed spaces for connection and comfort during the cost-of-living crisis. Working with 50 community organisations - including libraries, churches, community centres, and even The Den (Millwall Football Stadium) - we helped ensure that residents could find warmth, food, and community.

- Distributed £125,000 in grants to 43 organisations
- Recorded 31,000+ visits across the network, up from 18,000 the previous year
- Offered activities from sewing to singing to exercise and dementia-friendly sessions
- Reached particularly high participation among residents aged 55–74
- Found that “talking to other people” remained the most common reason for visiting

The programme shows how small grants and co-ordinated support can transform local wellbeing, proving that community connection is as vital as warmth itself. Social connection remained the primary reason for visits to the centres, highlighting the value of this programme to the community in the face of economic and social challenges in Lewisham.

vi) Lewisham Community Lottery

92 community organisations are now actively fundraising using the platform. 207 local people bought tickets to fundraise for the groups and this has raised over £19,968 for Lewisham’s good causes in one year. We look forward to building on this progress over the next year.

Strengthening Lewisham’s Voluntary Sector

Lewisham Local continues to play a central role in strengthening the borough’s voluntary and community sector. Through capacity-building, mentoring, digital inclusion, and grant support, we help local organisations become more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable.

Key Achievements

- Fundraising development support for 300+ individuals
- Mentoring and training for 80 individuals and 35 Black Community-Based Organisations (BCBOs)
- 2,000 residents supported through Digital Access for All
- 700+ organisations listed in the Lewisham Community Directory
- £125,000 in Warm Welcomes grants distributed to 43 organisations

i) The Black Infrastructure Support Project (BISP)

The BISP has been pivotal in empowering Black-led and Black-serving community organisations in Lewisham. This year, the project:

- Helped establish the Lewisham Black Voluntary Sector Network, a powerful collective voice for BCBOs.
- Provided mentoring to 35 groups and training to 80 individuals.
- Delivered rapid advice to over 200 people through a 24/7 WhatsApp helpdesk.
- Supported 75% of participating BCBOs to secure more funding than ever before.
- Connected 25 community champions with professional legal and financial advice.
- Delivered the Black VCS Expo '23, attended by over 100 BCBO leaders, raising the sector's visibility and influence.

Through collaboration with the FDM Equalities Project and local partners, BISP continues to nurture a thriving ecosystem of support for Black-led organisations, improving access to mentoring, digital skills, and fundraising tools.

ii) Fundraising Development: Empowering Lewisham's Communities

Our Fundraising Development (Equalities) project strengthens groups led by and serving people with protected characteristics. In 2024/25, it:

- Trained 291 individuals, leading to a 15% increase in funding applications and a 10% rise in successful awards.
- Helped groups secure over £150,000 in new funding.
- Facilitated connections between groups and funders, resulting in five new partnerships and three joint funding applications.
- Hosted 12 Friday Fundraising Club sessions and supported 15 groups through the in-depth Fundraising Plus Programme, with 70% securing new grants and 90% increasing confidence
- Organised a borough-wide Fundraising Conference with 50 groups and funders.

These initiatives have boosted confidence, skills, and long-term sustainability across Lewisham's diverse voluntary sector.

iii) Digital Access for All

The Digital Access for All (DAFA) project continues to close the digital divide by equipping residents with the skills and tools needed to access online services. Over 2,000 people have been supported through drop-in centres, training, and device provision, focusing on older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income households.

Key achievements include:

- Launching new digital drop-in centres in Orchard Gardens, Newstead, and Downham
- Delivering tailored programmes, such as Microsoft Office and Excel training for Lewisham Parent Carers
- Providing laptops and home support for residents with accessibility needs
- Promoting digital inclusion through partnerships with Catbytes, Lewisham Council, and the Good Things Foundation

Digital Access For All has empowered individuals and community organisations to improve their digital skills, access online services and participate more fully in the digital world. The project has enhanced confidence and independence among participants and strengthened digital capacity within community organisations.

iv) Lewisham Community Directory

Our Community Directory continues to serve as a vital information hub, connecting residents to services, community groups, and public sector organisations. By December 2024, it included 613 community groups and 99 public sector services. Hundreds of people use the directory each month to connect and access information.

User feedback highlights its clarity and accessibility, with engagement time increasing steadily across the year. The directory remains a cornerstone of collaboration, allowing individuals and organisations to find help, connect, and share resources.

Volunteering, Health & Wellbeing

Volunteering is at the heart of Lewisham Local's mission to build a connected, compassionate community. Our volunteering projects support residents to find meaningful opportunities, strengthen wellbeing, and enhance local organisations' capacity to deliver services.

Headline Figures

- 121 volunteer roles advertised
- 93 individuals placed into volunteering
- 805 new subscribers to the volunteering newsletter

i) Support into Volunteering (Volunteering Brokerage)

This project connects individuals with volunteering opportunities and supports organisations to recruit, manage, and retain volunteers effectively. Personalised support is given to help Lewisham residents to find suitable roles, as well as support to community groups to help promote their roles, and advice and guidance on how to manage volunteers. The project also facilitates quarterly volunteer coordinators networking meeting where community groups are offered workshops and training.

In 2024/25, we focused on supporting people ready to volunteer with targeted community groups - particularly those led by Black communities, mental health and wellbeing organisations, youth initiatives, and food groups.

We also worked with Lewisham Council to co-develop an employee volunteering programme, enabling staff to use up to 14 hours of paid volunteering leave each year. The initiative launches in April 2025 and will provide invaluable support to community groups across the borough.

Originally funded for three years through the Council's Main Grants, this project has now received additional funding and been extended to March 2026, ensuring continued delivery and growth.

We also continue to provide training on topics such as How to Write a Volunteer Handbook, Corporate Volunteering, and Volunteer Recruitment and Retention.

ii) Time Bank

The Time Bank project allows residents - particularly older people - to share skills, connect, and support one another through group activities and one-to-one exchanges.

Our membership counts around 100 people. This year, the project is in its second year of a three-year funding cycle from the National Lottery.

Highlights this year include:

- Relocating sessions into the community during office refurbishments, which broadened participation.
- Hosting three Bring & Fix events with partners, where volunteers repaired items from jeans to lampshades.
- Performing at the Old Vic as part of the *12 Choirs of Christmas* project, celebrating intergenerational creativity.
- Marking Windrush and Black History Month with community-led events.

The Time Bank's groups - such as *Tea & Chat*, *Coffee Club*, *Choir*, and *Friday Art* - continue to provide friendship, purpose, and joy for members.

"Coming to the Time Bank makes me feel free and relaxed. It gives me something to look forward to each week. I recently joined the Tea & Chat sessions and greatly enjoy the yearly seaside outings"

– *Time Bank Member*

"I joined four months ago, to socialise and make new friends. I feel happier after each session. I attend the Coffee Club, water all the indoor plants, and it feels good to have this responsibility and to be helpful while at the same time making connections with new people."

– *Time Bank Member*

iii) Wild Cat Wilderness

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, Wild Cat Wilderness continues to thrive as a community green space, connecting people with nature and one another. The site offers volunteering, outdoor learning, and wellbeing activities that promote environmental stewardship and social connection.

2024/25 Highlights

- Hosted 10 Wild Workshops for adults and a 10th Birthday Festival, with over 500 attendees
- Welcomed 2,000+ visits to community events throughout the year
- Delivered twice-weekly volunteering sessions, plus corporate and community days

- Installed a new fence and gate at the Bellingham entrance, enabling woodland restoration work
- Built a new compost toilet in the orchard area to support volunteers and visitors
- Partnered with organisations including Rose Tree, Signal, and Portage Group, supporting women recovering from abuse, children with autism, and families with SEND children
- Continued strong partnerships with local schools, offering weekly forest school sessions for over 300 children per week

Impact

A survey of visitors showed:

- 96% reported improved mental health
- 86% felt better physical health
- 89% learned new or improved skills

“It’s a refreshing space where children come to life and it positively nurtures their social, emotional and mental health.”

– *Forest School Teacher*

“Forest School is a space where I feel one with nature, enjoying the smell, sight, sounds of the beauty of nature around me.”

– *Forest School attendee*

Sustainability and Community Engagement

We had a full programme of free activities and events for families during the school holidays and a summer programme called Wild Explorers with 15 events. Our spring/Easter time events were fully booked with about 100 people attending each and the two Halloween related events attracted over 120 people.

Income generation through plant sales, workshops, site hire, and handmade goods supports the site’s maintenance. Seasonal events such as *Wassail*, *Wild Pancakes*, and *Pumpkin Fun* continue to bring local families together and celebrate nature in Lewisham.

Adult workshops included fruit tree pruning plus the ten we put on as part of our anniversary celebrations. Across the year we had more than 2000 visits at our community events alone, engaging local people in nature.

iv) Bank of Things

Now in its third year, Bank of Things provides essential items such as toiletries and school supplies to young people aged 11–25. Operating from Lewisham Shopping Centre, the project ensures that no young person has to go without the basics needed for education, confidence, and wellbeing.

Highlights from 2024/25

- Supported 385 young people with essential items
- Expanded outreach through new pop-up sessions at Orchard Gardens Community Centre and Family Fun Days
- Partnered with Fresh Kits for Kids to deliver a uniform giveaway for over 100 families (worth £5,000 in items)

- Placed collection bins at Better Leisure Centres and other local sites, increasing donations borough-wide
- Organised an overnight fundraising bike ride with 50 riders, raising over £2,300
- Distributed 303 Christmas gift bags (worth £50 each) in partnership with Youth First, Young Women's Hub, and the Salvation Army's *Giving Tree* appeal

Partnerships and Growth

We continue to receive generous support from Lewisham Hygiene Bank, The Beauty Banks, local schools, churches, and businesses. Special thanks go to Amro and Mullally, local construction firms that contributed gifts and volunteer support, and to St Andrew's Catford, which has backed the project for three consecutive years.

We recognised that we were only serving a small portion of the borough through operating in a fixed location and started to look into expanding our reach. We received funding from The Elizabeth Legacy Fund and Clarion Futures to do so.

In the first quarter we focused on delivering this new outreach program, notably recruiting our Youth Outreach worker and delivering weekly pop-ups at Orchard Garden's Community Centre and hosting the first Family Fun Day. The Fun Day was open to all, completely free of charge, and included crafts, food, music, games, a bouncy castle and a pop-up Bank of things.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Funding sources

The charity is grateful for the financial support funders have kindly provided. The principal funders were The London Borough of Lewisham, The City Bridge Trust, National Lottery and Merchant Taylors Foundation.

Additional funding came from The Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe, London Plus, NAVCA, Sustainable Food places, The Beatrice Laing Trust, Elizabeth Fund, Greater London Authority, Tesco Groundwork, Lendlease Foundation, Clarion and Hubhub Foundation.

Lewisham Local would like to thank members of the community who gave so generously to the organisation and its projects through community fundraising appeals.

Lewisham Local undertakes fundraising activities through its supporters via fundraising events, individual giving. We do not have face to face (or door to door) fundraising activities. We also raise funds from trusts and foundations and corporate partnerships. Lewisham Local is a member of the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to its Code of Fundraising Practice and its associated rulebooks for fundraising activities.

Lewisham Local is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulation and only contacts prospective and existing supporters in line with its Privacy Policy and Data Protection Statement. Lewisham Local recognises the importance of protecting vulnerable supporters and follows the guidance issued by the Institute of Fundraising and the Fundraising Regulator on treating donors fairly.

Lewisham Local supports its staff and fundraisers who come into contact with supporters in providing high-quality customer care, ensuring anyone donating to the charity is in a position to make a free and informed decision. Lewisham Local welcomes feedback on its fundraising activities and has a complaint policy which outlines how the charity will react should a complaint be received regarding its fundraising methods. Lewisham Local has received no complaints during the year.

Lewisham Local Limited

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Financial Risks

The ongoing cuts from central government to local government continue to have a deep impact on the local voluntary sector as we continue to see cuts to their grant funding. Medium and long-term planning is difficult with few core funds available increasing reliance on short-term project funding. Economic challenges look set to stay the many challenges created by inflation. We are increasingly seeing valuable local voluntary organisations closedown due to funding pressures. New opportunities are emerging with the public sector thinking differently about how it delivers for communities.

Key risks:

- Loss of core funding through local government cuts and changing focus
- Inflation increasing costs and reducing the value of existing charity reserves
- Increasing competition from other voluntary sector organisations bidding for reduced funding
- Building reserves during an ongoing economic uncertainty.

The charity is currently stable, having been able to increase its unrestricted reserves. However, the loss of core funding from Lewisham Council and a shift to project funding presents a challenge for us to cover our overheads. Trustees are financially prudent but are aware that there may be a need at times to use some unrestricted funds to manage this gap. Nevertheless, the charity remains able and willing to trial innovative new ideas for the community and respond quickly to emerging needs through fundraising campaigns and new projects. The charity must continue to attract core funding where possible and will continue to develop income generation activities to raise unrestricted funds and maintain reserves as well as developing new projects that contribute to a share of overhead costs.

Financial review

The significant source of funding has been from the London Borough of Lewisham Council. Other financial assistance was given by charitable trusts, corporate supporters and private donors. The results of the year are shown on Page 22.

There was a surplus in the year of £28,600. When the surplus is added to the funds brought forward of £728,954, this leaves a figure of £757,554 for total funds carried forward at 1 April 2025.

Reserves policy

The charity aims to retain up to six months of annual expenditure but no less than three months in unrestricted reserves for essential staffing and running costs. This will enable the continuation of its core activity in the case of funding crises or other needs. The Trustees review this policy annually in line with the budget and the adopted projects for the financial year.

On 31st March 2025, Lewisham Local's reserves were £356,897 restricted, £53,751 designated, and £346,906 unrestricted (free) reserves.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The core value of 'Repair, Reuse, and Recycle' is important to the workings of the charity. The charity aims to avoid waste where possible and is mindful of creating excessive materials and printing. Where possible, items are re-purposed at various projects and people are also asked to donate surplus items like tools and cooking equipment. We have several projects that particularly promote reducing environmental impact such as:

- Foodcycle Lewisham - using supermarket surplus food waste to cook a weekly vegetarian community meal
- Refill Lewisham - free water refill scheme to reduce single-use plastic waste
- Lewisham Warmer Together - Campaign to raise awareness and funds of fuel poverty and to train energy champions to educate others in the community how to reduce their bills
- Bring & Fix - community repair events to fix household items for free

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The charity has grown in size and impact, demonstrating its agility and flexibility to respond to the changing funding landscape and to new opportunities to make a difference for local people and community groups. The next year presents challenges for the charity after losing a core grant from Lewisham Council and the restructuring of our work has been important to enable a shift to a project focus. Finding new funders for our longstanding grassroots projects will be key as funding for Timebank and Wild Cat Wilderness come to an end.

The charity will continue to be collaborative, strategic and responsive to existing and emerging needs that only seem to be increasing for Lewisham's communities. Launching new funding campaigns and projects to address these needs and support community groups will be a key area of growth.

Statement of Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Lewisham Local Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

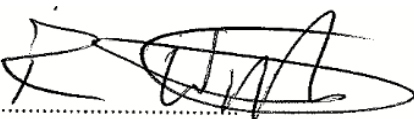
Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and 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.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 24 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Roy Witter
Chairman and trustee

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Lewisham Local Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lewisham Local Limited (the 'Charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the 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 applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including [Financial Reporting Standard 102: The Financial Reporting Standard](#) applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of 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 for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the 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 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 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 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.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Lewisham Local Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2025

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Annual Report.

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

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

Responsibilities of the trustees

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

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the 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.

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud are set out below.

Independent auditors' report

To the members of Lewisham Local Limited

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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

- We enquired of management, which included obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation, concerning the charity's policies and procedures relating to the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- We inspected the minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- We reviewed the financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments, assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias and tested significant transactions that are unusual or those outside the normal course of business.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities]. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

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



Anthony Epton (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of
Goldwins Limited
Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

25 November 2025

Lewisham Local Limited
Statement of Financial Activities
(incorporating an income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2025

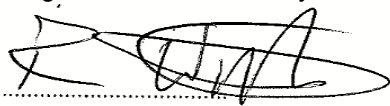
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	32,354	14,052	46,406	33,170
Charitable activities	4	116,034	898,168	1,014,202	1,135,969
Other Trading Activities	5	2,196	-	2,196	2,642
Other Income	6	47,144	3,536	50,680	47,022
Total income		197,728	915,756	1,113,484	1,218,803
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities		136,331	948,553	1,084,884	1,049,190
Total expenditure	7	136,331	948,553	1,084,884	1,049,190
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers		61,397	(32,797)	28,600	169,613
Transfers between funds		7,323	(7,323)	-	-
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		68,720	(40,120)	28,600	169,613
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	16	331,937	397,017	728,954	559,341
Total funds carried forward		400,657	356,897	757,554	728,954

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.
There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.
The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Lewisham Local Limited
Balance Sheet
As at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets:					
Investments	11		<u>171,000</u>		-
			<u>171,000</u>		
Current assets:					
Debtors	12	110,568		201,644	
Cash at bank and in hand	18	<u>514,486</u>		<u>532,710</u>	
		<u>625,054</u>		<u>734,354</u>	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(38,500)</u>		<u>(5,400)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>586,554</u>		<u>728,954</u>
Total net assets			<u>757,554</u>		<u>728,954</u>
Funds	16				
Restricted funds			356,897		397,017
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds		53,751		37,093	
General funds		<u>346,906</u>		<u>294,844</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			<u>400,657</u>		<u>331,937</u>
Total funds			<u>757,554</u>		<u>728,954</u>

Approved by the trustees on 24 November 2025
and signed on their behalf by:



Roy Witter (Chair)

Company registration number: 04681564

The attached notes form part of the financial statements.

Lewisham Local Limited
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities:					
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	16		152,776		12,710
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Sale/ (purchase) of Investments		(171,000)		-	
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			(171,000)		-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(18,224)		12,710
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			532,710		520,000
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	17		514,486		532,710

1 Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

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 - effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company 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 or note.

b) Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c) Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Income received in advance for the provision of specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

d) Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

i) Operating leases

Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j) Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £2,000. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	25%
Computer equipment	33%

k) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o) Pensions

The Charity operates a Defined Contributions pension scheme.

2 Detailed comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £
Income from:			
Donations	22,500	268,060	290,560
Charitable activities	39,190	839,389	878,579
Other Trading Activities	2,642	-	2,642
Other Income	28,092	18,930	47,022
Total income	92,424	1,126,379	1,218,803
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities:	36,072	1,013,118	1,049,190
Total expenditure	36,072	1,013,118	1,049,190
Net income / expenditure before transfers	56,352	113,261	169,613
Transfers between funds	(22,926)	22,926	-
Net income / expenditure	33,426	136,187	169,613
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	298,511	260,830	559,341
Total funds carried forward	331,937	397,017	728,954

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Designated £	General £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Appeals and Donations	28,646	3,708	14,052	46,406	33,170
	28,646	3,708	14,052	46,406	33,170

Lewisham Local Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Income From Charitable Activities

	Designated	General	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Contract Income	-	50,000	233	50,233	478,369
Grants - Local Authority	-	29,977	503,308	533,285	352,251
Grants - Regional /	-	-	30,656	30,656	44,976
Grants - Trusts & Foundations	32,996		363,971	396,967	257,390
Fees and Supplies	-	217	-	217	-
Fundraising	2,844	-	-	2,844	2,983
Total	35,840	80,194	898,168	1,014,202	1,135,969

5 Income From Other Trading Activities

	Designated	General	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Local Card Sales	2,196	-	-	2,196	2,642
Total	2,196	-	-	2,196	2,642

6 Other income

	Designated	General	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Other Income	12,763	15,911	3,086	31,760	25,821
Rental Income	12,487	5,983	450	18,920	21,201
Total	25,250	21,894	3,536	50,680	47,022

7 Analysis of expenditure

	Charitable activities	Support & Governance costs	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
Project costs	92,723	-	92,723	118,502
Computer software and maintenance	53,456	-	53,456	33,576
Events and Hospitality	16,689	-	16,689	22,018
Cost of trustee meetings	62	-	62	291
Marketing and publicity	5,014	-	5,014	9,295
Legal and professional	6,510	-	6,510	6,178
Volunteer expenses	1,223	-	1,223	3,018
Grant funding of activities	236,647	-	236,647	295,590
Staff costs	-	615,199	615,199	519,778
Rent and rates	-	22,598	22,598	11,043
Light, heat and power	-	10,976	10,976	12,853
Insurance	-	2,675	2,675	2,079
Printing, postage and stationery	-	1,861	1,861	712
Trade subscriptions	-	3,092	3,092	1,747
Cleaning	-	4,262	4,262	4,475
Travel and subsistence	-	3,159	3,159	1,608
Accountancy and bookkeeping	-	2,400	2,400	-
Audit Fee	-	5,500	5,500	5,400
Bank charges	-	41	41	73
Private health insurance	-	797	797	954
	412,324	672,560	1,084,884	1,049,190
Support costs	672,560	(672,560)		
Total expenditure 2025	1,084,884	-	1,084,884	
Total expenditure 2024	1,049,190	-	1,049,190	

Of the total expenditure, £136,331 (2024: £36,072) was unrestricted and £948,553 (2024: £1,013,118) was restricted.

Support and governance costs refer to the costs involved in operational activity which support the delivery of the charitable aims. They are allocated on the basis of full-time equivalent staff working on each activity.

8 Net income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):	2025	2024
	£	£
Auditor's remuneration:		
Net Audit fees	4,583	4,500

9 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	533,773	451,469
Social security costs	50,321	41,352
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	31,105	26,957
Other staff costs	-	-
	615,199	519,778

No employee received employee benefits (excluding employer pension) exceeding £60,000 during the year (2024: No employee).

The total employee benefits including pension contributions of the key management personnel were £52,808 (2024: £56,606).

None of the trustees received any remuneration and reimbursement for any expenses during the year (2024: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2024: £nil).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Charitable activities	17	18
	17	18

10 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

11 Investment

	2025 £	2024 £
Market value at start of year	-	-
Additions at cost	171,000	-
Disposals at market value	-	-
Realised gains / (losses)	-	-
Unrealised gains / (losses)	-	-
Market value at year end	171,000	-

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	110,568	201,644
Prepayments	-	-
	110,568	201,644

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	1,098	-
Accruals	5,500	5,400
Taxation and social security	9,152	-
Deferred income	22,750	-
	38,500	5,400

14 Pension scheme

The Charity operates a defined Contributions pension scheme.

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current Assets	385,406	53,751	356,897	796,054
Current Liabilities	(38,500)	-	-	(38,500)
Net assets at the end of the year	346,906	53,751	356,897	757,554

Analysis of net assets between funds 2024

	Unrestricted £	Designated £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Current Assets	300,244	37,093	397,017	734,354
Current Liabilities	(5,400)	-	-	(5,400)
Net assets at the end of the year	294,844	37,093	397,017	728,954

Lewisham Local Limited
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For the year ended 31 March 2025

16 Movements in funds

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Mar 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:					
Bank of Things - Christmas Appeal	474		(474)	-	-
Bank of Things - Elizabeth Fund	6,961		(6,961)	-	-
Bank of Things – Clarion Futures	4,870		(4,870)	-	-
Bank of Things -- Town Centre Small Grants	1,000		(1,000)	-	-
Bank of Things – Sainsbury's/Neighbourly	-	500	(500)	-	-
BoT - Clarion Futures 25	-	1,963	-	-	1,963
BoT-OG&Hubbub Nov 24	-	9,000	(7,382)	-	1,618
Local Giving: WcW Bees Appeal	1,840		-	-	1,840
Unit 19	7,323			(7,323)	-
Wild Cat Wilderness - National Lottery Community	9,052	64,270	(63,725)	-	9,597
The Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe - Time Bank	-			-	-
Time Bank - National Lottery Community Fund	2,781	54,166	(57,741)	-	(794)
Time Bank Waldron Center	-			-	-
Time Bank Windrush	-	500	(500)	-	-
London Plus - Community Emergency Resilience	4,893	-	(4,893)	-	-
London Borough of Lewisham - Building People	7,229	(7,243)	14	-	-
LBL Volunteer Brokerage	13,826	30,000	(31,064)	-	12,762
TimeBank - Co-Op funding Oct 24 - Sept 25	-	1,055	695	-	1,750
London Borough of Lewisham: Inclusion Growth	7,763		(248)	-	7,515
London Borough of Lewisham: Launchpad	12,517	-	-	-	12,517
City Bridge Trust: Lewisham Local	16,759	64,745	(39,808)	-	41,696
London Borough of Lewisham - Warm Welcomes	73,579	125,000	(179,793)	-	18,786
Local Giving - Essentials Grants 2 - LBL & Merchant	-	46,000	(46,000)	-	-
Lewisham Local Giving Fund	3,348	4,183	7,699	-	15,230
Local Giving - Peabody-24-29	-	85,000	(106)	-	84,894
LBL - Household Support Fund 4 (Essentials & Food	60,630	-	(60,630)	-	-
City Bridge Foundation - Place Based Funding	30,997	93,872	(89,663)	-	35,206
Lewisham Foodbank	-			-	-
Merchant Taylors Foundation - Cost of Living	-			-	-
The Beatrice Laing Trust - Food Cycle Lewisham	5,143		(5,143)	-	-
London Borough of Lewisham - Catford Food Projects	-			-	-
FoodCycle Haberdashers	1,560		(1,560)	-	-
Children England - Food Growing	500			-	500
London Borough of Lewisham - Food Justice	57,969	40,450	(76,125)	-	22,294
Greater London Authority - Food Roots	-			-	-
Sustainable Food Places - Good Food Lewisham	5,860		(5,860)	-	-
London Borough of Lewisham - Food Growing	4,578	44,136	(40,107)	-	8,607
Good Food - GLA Food Roots 2	25,883	31,106	(32,735)	-	24,254
London Borough of Lewisham - Every Rushey Green	1,146	5,147	(6,293)	-	-
London Borough of Lewisham - Community Directory	15,702	40,000	(22,383)	-	33,319
London Borough of Lewisham - Fundraising	3,433	61,906	(65,339)	-	-
London Borough of Lewisham - Black Infrastructure	1,280	60,000	(55,660)	-	5,620
London Borough of Lewisham - Digital Inclusion	8,121	60,000	(50,398)	-	17,723
				-	
Total restricted funds	397,017	915,756	(948,553)	(7,323)	356,897
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
BoT-(Unrestricted)	4,356	5,268	(7,007)	-	2,617
Bank of Things Unrestricted		114	-	-	114
Foodcycle Lewisham	25,951	20,771	(22,042)	-	24,680
Time Bank	-	1,148	(435)	-	713
Lewisham Local Card sales	803	15,336	(8,441)	-	7,698
Wild Cat Wilderness	5,983	15,251	(4,352)	-	16,882
Unrestricted - Designated Funds - PARENT	-	1,047	-	-	1,047
Total Designated Funds	37,093	58,935	(42,277)	-	53,751

Lewisham Local Limited
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For the year ended 31 March 2025

General funds

Unrestricted (General)	-	66,052	61,262	-	127,314
Overhead	-	4,974	(100,676)	-	(95,702)
LBL - Toilets	-	49,125	(40,957)	-	8,168
Unit 19	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Unit 19 Unrestricted-Jan25	-	-	1,317	7,323	8,640
LBL - Borough of Culture	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Unrestricted - General Funds - PARENT	289,844	3,642	-	-	293,486
Total General Funds	294,844	138,793	(94,054)	7,323	346,906

Total unrestricted funds

331,937	197,728	(136,331)	7,323	400,657
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Total funds

728,954	1,113,484	(1,084,884)	-	757,554
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Movements in funds 2024

	At 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 2024 £
Restricted funds:					
Tesco Groundwork - Bank of Things	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Merchant Taylors Foundation - Bank of Things	3,729	-	(3,729)	-	-
The Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe - Bank of Things	(504)	3,500	(3,500)	504	-
London Borough of Lewisham: Bank of Things	6,616	-	(6,616)	-	-
Hubbub Foundation - Bank of Things	3,000	1,100	(4,100)	-	-
Bank of Things - Christmas Appeal	-	6,756	(6,282)	-	474
Bank of Things - Elizabeth Fund	-	16,189	(8,724)	(504)	6,961
Bank of Things – Clarion Futures	-	5,000	(130)	-	4,870
Local Giving: WcW Bees Appeal	1,840	-	-	-	1,840
Unit 19	-	15,000	(7,677)	-	7,323
Wild Cat Wilderness - National Lottery Community Fund	-	30,574	(21,522)	-	9,052
Town Centre Small Grants	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
The Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe - Time Bank	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-
Time Bank - National Lottery Community Fund	-	27,270	(21,392)	(3,097)	2,781
Time Bank Waldron Center	-	500	(500)	-	-
Time Bank Windrush	-	1,050	(1,050)	-	-
London Plus - Community Emergency Resilience	5,000	5,000	(5,107)	-	4,893
London Borough of Lewisham - Building People Changing Minds	9,269	16,666	(18,706)	-	7,229
LBL Volunteer Brokerage	-	30,250	(16,424)	-	13,826
Time Bank - Warm Welcome	-	-	2,600	(2,600)	-
London Borough of Lewisham: Inclusion Growth Builder	15,858	-	(8,095)	-	7,763
London Borough of Lewisham: Launchpad	12,517	-	-	-	12,517

Lewisham Local Limited
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For the year ended 31 March 2025

City Bridge Trust: Lewisham Local	5,974	64,700	(53,915)	-	16,759
London Borough of Lewisham - Warm Welcomes	18,111	215,000	(162,132)	2,600	73,579
Lendlease Grants (Deptford Landings)	-	-	(21,565)	21,565	-
Lewisham Local Giving Fund	-	3,348	-	-	3,348
Local Giving - Essentials Grants 2 - LBL & Merchant Taylors	-	92,000	(92,000)	-	-
LBL - Household Support Fund 4 (Essentials & Food Justice)	-	69,000	-	(8,370)	60,630
City Bridge Foundation - Place Based Funding	-	95,966	(64,969)	-	30,997
Lewisham Foodbank	(600)	-	-	600	-
Merchant Taylors Foundation - Cost of Living	14,060	-	-	(14,060)	-
The Beatrice Laing Trust - Food Cycle Lewisham	3,000	6,000	(3,257)	(600)	5,143
London Borough of Lewisham - Catford Food Projects	1,232	6,537	(8,150)	381	-
FoodCycle Haberdashers	-	3,600	(2,040)	-	1,560
Children England - Food Growing	500	-	-	-	500
London Borough of Lewisham - Food Justice	101,955	40,450	(84,436)	-	57,969
Greater London Authority - Food Roots	13,200	-	(13,200)	-	-
Sustainable Food Places - Good Food Lewisham	13,860	-	(8,000)	-	5,860
London Borough of Lewisham - Food Growing	1,920	45,956	(43,298)	-	4,578
Good Food - GLA Food Roots 2	-	44,976	(19,093)	-	25,883
London Borough of Lewisham - Every Rushey Green Resident Deserves a Voice	3,311	28,686	(30,851)	-	1,146
London Borough of Lewisham - Community Directory	2,699	40,000	(25,889)	(1,108)	15,702
London Borough of Lewisham - Fundraising Development	7,707	60,100	(64,374)	-	3,433
London Borough of Lewisham - Black Infrastructure Support	8,511	60,000	(67,231)	-	1,280
London Borough of Lewisham - Digital Inclusion	1,668	60,000	(53,547)	-	8,121
Time Bank	-	1,728	(4,825)	3,097	-
Cost of Living Appeal	-	2,157	(24,587)	22,430	-
Food'n'Fun in the Fields Festival	(603)	2,820	(3,197)	980	-
LBL - Toilets	-	24,500	(25,608)	1,108	-
Total restricted funds	260,830	1,126,379	(1,013,118)	22,926	397,017

Lewisham Local Limited
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2025

	At 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	At 31 Mar 2024
Unrestricted funds:					
Designated funds:					
Bank of Things	-	4,356	-	-	4,356
Foodcycle Lewisham	11,072	14,155	1,106	(382)	25,951
Food'n'Fun in the Fields Festival	979	-	-	(979)	-
Lewisham Local Card sales	-	2,662	(1,859)	-	803
Wild Cat Wilderness	8,398	18,993	(21,408)	-	5,983
Total Designated Funds	20,449	40,166	(22,161)	(1,361)	37,093
General funds					
Integrated Care System	-	9,000	(9,000)	-	-
LBL - Borough of Culture	-	5,000	-	-	5,000
General funds	278,062	38,258	(4,911)	(21,565)	289,844
Total General Funds	278,062	52,258	(13,911)	(21,565)	294,844
Total unrestricted funds	298,511	92,424	(36,072)	(22,926)	331,937
Total funds	559,341	1,218,803	(1,049,190)	-	728,954

Purposes of restricted funds

London Borough of Lewisham: Lewisham Inclusive Growth Builder Fund - funds for digital costs, promotion and marketing.

London Borough of Lewisham: Covid Support - covid measures funding, infection control and testing.

Small Charities Coalition: funds for Kickstart project; to create six month jobs for young people.

Local Giving: Wild Cat Wilderness bees appeal.

Prudential: for FoodCycle Lewisham to provide a weekly meal for isolated people affected by food poverty. Town Centre Small Grants - funds for bank of things and to promote Lewisham Local Card.

London Catalyst: Launchpad seedcorn funding for Health and Wellbeing Projects.

London Borough of Lewisham: Launchpad grants for distribution Lendlease - Grant distribution projects addressing the impacts of Covid-19 on BAME communities in Lewisham

The City Bridge Trust (Lewisham Local): towards a Director of Lewisham Local plus associated running costs for the development and consolidation of Lewisham Local Lewisham Foodbank - funds to be shared with other food projects through Lewisham Local

The City Bridge Trust (Wild Cat Wilderness): for salaries and associated direct costs of the Wild Cat Wilderness project

London Borough of Lewisham: resource for young people for educational and other wellbeing supplies, and support and additional activities

Co-op Local Community Fund: to run arts and crafts workshops in Bellingham NAVCA - Warm welcomes - supporting our Warm Welcomes initiative distributing grants to local groups

Tesco Groundwork: Bank of Things - Distributing hygiene and educational supplies to young people in need.

Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe: Time Bank - Coordinator and activity costs supporting local people to improve their health and wellbeing through sharing time and skills.

Lee Charity of William Hatcliffe: Bank of things - Activity costs distributing hygiene and educational supplies to young people in need.

London Plus: Community Emergency Resilience - Building a network of local organisations and partnering with Lewisham Council to increase our preparedness for future emergencies.

Merchant Taylors Foundation: Bank of Things - Activity costs distributing hygiene and educational supplies to young people in need.

Merchant Taylors Foundation: Cost of Living - Match funding our Cost of Living campaign to give small grants to community organisations supporting residents through the cost of living crisis with food, energy advice, signposting to additional support.

Sustainable Food Places: Good Food Lewisham - Strengthening networks between food growing groups, growers, related organisation and increasing food growing and awareness of different food cultures. a partnership with Grow Lewisham CIC.

The Beatrice Laing Trust: Food Cycle Lewisham - Core costs for our project and to launch a new second community meal.

Children England: Food Growing - Small grants for local people to start food growing activities in their communities.

London Borough of Lewisham: Food Justice - In partnership with Lewisham Council develop the Food Justice Action Plan and the Food Justice Alliance

London Borough of Lewisham: Warm welcomes - Coordinate a programme of local community organisations supporting residents through the Cost of Living crisis. Warm Welcomes would offer a safe, warm space with social activities and refreshments as well as additional signposting support.

Greater London Authority: Food Roots Winter Crisis Grants - Expanding our food partnership work to help improve the sustainability and resilience of local efforts to address food insecurity.

London Borough of Lewisham: Catford Food Projects - Coordination support for our FoodCycle Project and wider support for other food projects in Catford.

London Borough of Lewisham: Volunteering Brokerage - Supporting individuals into volunteering roles and working with voluntary sector organisations to promote roles to the wider public.

London Borough of Lewisham: Every Rushey Green Resident Deserves a Voice - Pilot project to build the connections of local businesses, residents and community groups to understand the needs and aspirations for the local community.

London Borough of Lewisham: Community Directory - Maintaining a digital directory of community organisations within Lewisham

London Borough of Lewisham: Fundraising Development - Providing fundraising development support to equalities focused organisations, initially focused on organisations led by and for black and/or disabled communities in Lewisham

London Borough of Lewisham: Black Infrastructure Support - Providing capacity building support for organisations led by and for black communities in Lewisham, a partnership with Kinaraa CIC.

London Borough of Lewisham: Digital Inclusion - Increase access to digital devices and digital support across Lewisham, facilitating a network of partners focused on digital inclusion, in partnership with Catbytes CIC.

London Borough of Lewisham: Warm Welcomes - Coordinate a project of 50+ local community spaces allowing free access to warm space, hot refreshments and signposting support, including distributing grants and facilitating a network of organisations

17 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net income / (expenditure) for the reporting period	28,600	169,613
(as per the statement of financial activities)		
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	91,076	(143,591)
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	33,100	(13,312)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	152,776	12,710

18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2024	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	532,710	(18,224)	-	514,486
Total cash and cash equivalents	532,710	(18,224)	-	514,486
Total cash and cash equivalents 2024	520,000	12,710	-	532,710

19 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Each member is liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 in the event of the charity being wound up.

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year (2024: none).