

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05880006 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1119310

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

BK Plus Audit Limited (Statutory Auditor)
6 Manor Park Business Centre
Mackenzie Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9TX

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

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COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

TRUSTEES	Paul James (Chair) (appointed Chair 5.12.23) Cavus Batki (Former Chair) (resigned 5.12.23) Rachel Claire Brindley (resigned 5.12.23) Tim Harman (resigned 5.12.23) Geoffrey Peter Sparkes (resigned 5.12.23) Claire Thompson Alan Charles Machin Jacqueline Millar (Treasurer) Barry Chapman Sarah Rowan Sarah Whitelock Geoffrey York (appointed 23.1.24) Mark Jonathan Holliday (appointed 18.4.24) Edward Timothy Richard Tallents (appointed 23.4.24) Tracey Smart (appointed 18.6.24) Victoria Atherstone (appointed 10.9.24)
REGISTERED OFFICE	Suite 12 Corinium House Corinium Avenue Barnwood Point Gloucester Gloucestershire GL4 3HX
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	05880006 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1119310
AUDITORS	BK Plus Audit Limited (Statutory Auditor) 6 Manor Park Business Centre Mackenzie Way Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL51 9TX
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	Paul Riddick
BANKERS	HSBC UK 2 The Promenade Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL50 1LR

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objectives and aims

The objectives of the charity according to its Memorandum and Articles of Association are to provide transport services and volunteering opportunities in the County of Gloucestershire and surrounding areas (hereinafter called 'area of benefit') and to promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the community in the area of benefit.

Significant activities

The core activity of the charity is the provision of transport for people with mobility problems in the area of benefit, thereby tackling loneliness and social isolation and promoting independence and an improved quality of life.

Public benefit

In planning the charity's activities for the year, the trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. The focus of the charity's activities during the year, which explains the delivery by the charity of public benefit, is set out below under 'achievement and performance'.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities

This financial year has been about continuing the growth in passenger numbers (journey numbers have grown year on year since the pandemic, although not yet recovering fully), and growing our services. In partnership with Motability, we introduced a new accessible service in the north Cotswolds - a service not available in that area before. Our biggest demand remains for trips to health appointments, but increasingly we have seen growth in our 'shopper' service (door-to-door travel to a supermarket) and for 'special trips' (i.e. days out, for example to Weston-Super-Mare etc). We have also seen increased passenger use of our bus routes. This is evidence of increased confidence after the pandemic, with social activities becoming more important to our customers.

During this financial year we received pleasing news that we had been selected by Gloucestershire County Council to run its Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service in three areas - Tewkesbury, Berkeley Vale and South Cotswolds. These services, called the 'Robin', will operate from June 2024. This will entail growing our fleet and staff numbers to provide two accessible minibuses in each area, operating 7am - 7 pm six days a week. Whilst this is a significant undertaking for us we believe our customer service ethos will ensure the services are successful.

We have been financially supported by several charities through grants - Edward Gosling Foundation, Thriving Communities, Severn Trent, Glos Community Foundation, the Freemasons and others. We very much appreciate this assistance which has allowed us to provide essential transport for the most vulnerable in our communities. We have also continued our close working partnership with Gloucestershire County Council and we are grateful for their continued support.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Charitable activities - continued

Governance

The Board has met in person throughout this financial year, although there is an option to join on Teams if it is not convenient to travel. The AGM was again conducted in a hybrid way with the Board meeting face to face and guests joining the meeting remotely. The AGM for 2024 will be a more open event – the first for several years. All governance complied with Charity Commission guidance. At the last AGM three of our most experienced Trustees stood down, due to tenure. In their place we have recruited four new Trustees, all of whom possess significant skills and experience in their fields. One of those stepping down was our Chair, Cavus Batki. Paul James was elected as the new Chair.

In addition, we are honoured to have appointed a new Patron – Dr Cathy Stannard takes the helm and her depth of knowledge will be a huge asset to our charity.

Our People

We would like to thank our staff and volunteers for their commitment through the year. To accommodate the additional demand in the year we employed one additional customer service assistant in the office.

The biggest challenge during the year was recruiting new volunteer drivers to replace those who did not return after lockdowns – this totalled about a third of volunteer numbers. It was evident that volunteer recruitment post-pandemic was much more difficult than before (this phenomenon has been experienced across the third sector), and the charity has expended a great deal of effort and innovation in recruitment drives. This has been necessary because demand increased throughout the year, not only from existing passengers but also from new Members. Largely demand was related to attendance at health appointments and at some points Membership was growing at between five and eight a week. Obviously, this meant travel requests grew exponentially, increasing the necessity to recruit more volunteer drivers. The recruitment process was partially successful, and numbers have grown, but will need to continue just to get back to pre-pandemic levels. Of course, even more volunteer drivers than that would be useful and welcomed.

Our staff and volunteers have again provided a quality service in sometimes difficult circumstances, and we are extremely grateful for their professionalism, dedication and enthusiasm.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

The financial results for the year 2023/24 show a significant improvement on the prior years as demand continues to rise to pre Covid levels.

During the year 2023/24 the Charity generated an income of £1,042,405 and had a total expenditure of £999,896 resulting in a surplus of £42,529 for the year.

The principal source of funding has been from the core charitable activities provided through grants and fares for individual services with income on these rising by 21% on the prior year.

Expenditure increased by 11% on the prior year, the main pressure on expenditure relating to salaries as the minimum wage continues to rise. All expenditure is closely monitored to ensure the charity achieves best value for money across all areas.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

The Trustees consider the financial integrity of the charity as part of their ongoing review of the risks facing the organisation. The aim of the Trustees is to increase the Charity's free reserves (being those unrestricted reserves that are not represented by the value of the fixed assets) to equate to gross budgeted expenditure for three months.

The total reserved held at 31 March 2024 were £241,790 of which £205,418 were free reserves and £36,372 restricted reserves. The restricted reserves were in relation to capital reserve of £10,372, £7,500 Thriving Communities for volunteer expenses and training, £14,500 North Cotswolds S106 for volunteer recruitment and £4,000 J & M Britton for the Better Connexions project.

Three months gross budgeted expenditure currently equates to circa £240K. Our free reserves at 31 March 2024 were £205,418. This position continues to improve year on year and our forecasts show we will reach this target in the near future.

FUTURE PLANS

Our vision is that everyone in Gloucestershire has the personalised transport services they need to lead full and active lives. During the financial year demand for our services has continued to increase. In order to try and meet that demand we will need more volunteer drivers (volunteer numbers decreased significantly during the pandemic and have not recovered). To that end we will recruit a Volunteer Manager who will recruit, train and be the point of contact for volunteers.

We will also recruit a Strategic Development Manager, whose role will be to ensure best utilisation of the fleet and other resources by partnering with other third sector organisations, to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

These initiatives should enable the charity to expand its offer and move towards achieving its ambition.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 18 July 2006, as amended by special resolutions on 28 September 2006, 2 March 2007, 28 September 2009, 25 March 2014 and 2 October 2018 and a board resolution on 15 December 2009.

On 19 June 2015 by Special Resolution, the charity changed its name from Third Sector Services to Community Connexions.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Power of appointment of new trustees is vested in the surviving or continuing trustees.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Organisational structure

In accordance with its constitution the charity is controlled by a Board of Trustees that meets at least quarterly. There are between five and fifteen trustees at any one time, all of whom are elected every year at the Annual General Meeting. One third of the board must retire at each Annual General Meeting but in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association may be re-elected.

The Board meets quarterly but has four committees which report to the Board on their portfolios. The committees are Finance, Community Engagement, Policy and HR, and Business Development and Operations. Each Committee is chaired by a Trustee (utilising their areas of expertise), has at least one further Trustee as a member, together with the appropriate staff members. In this way the Trustees' knowledge and experience can be utilised to take the charity forward.

Pay for all staff is set by the full Board after taking advice from the Finance committee. That committee benchmarks salaries whilst remaining mindful of the charity's budget.

Remuneration of key management personnel

Remuneration of the Senior Management Team is reviewed annually by the Board, with reference to benchmark figures against similar roles in the sector.

Recruitment, induction and training of new trustees

The charity has a structured trustee recruitment process. One of our most experienced Trustees will step down at the AGM but the charity has successfully recruited several new excellent quality Trustees. Their knowledge and experience has greatly contributed to the charity. One of our strengths is the quality and dynamism of our Board, utilising their skills through sub-committees to improve our services and ensure compliance with regulations.

Trustees are appointed following written application and interview and upon receipt of satisfactory references. As part of the recruitment process, they meet with the Chief Executive, existing trustees and visit the office, to help them gain a detailed insight into the services Community Connexions offers as well as the role and responsibilities of a trustee. New trustees are supported by the Chair and Chief Executive to understand their role and responsibilities. As part of their induction programme, they meet with key members of the staff and volunteer team, experience some of the transport services from the service user perspective and are also given copies of all key charity documents and signposted to relevant Charity Commission guidance.

Related parties

The charity has no subsidiary undertakings or related organisations, save for its dormant subsidiary company, Community Connexions Trading Limited.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risk on behalf of the organisation. They have analysed risks between:

- governance
- operations
- finance
- external factors
- internal factors
- compliance
- road risk (with regard to Community Transport)

The trustees monitor the charity's exposure to risk going forward. They are content that they identified and mitigated against the major risks faced by the organisation during the year. They are satisfied that systems are in place to manage exposure.

In 2023/24 the major risks were identified as;

- Volunteer recruitment insufficient to meet growing demand.
- Business plan relies heavily on GCC contracts.
- Staff recruitment more difficult, especially drivers.
- Premises inadequate for growing organisation.
- Employment law changes could effect the business plan

Through careful management none of those risks had any major impact upon the charity but, of course, some remain a risk going forward.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Community Connexions for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS


REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

AUDITORS

The auditors, BK Plus Audit Limited (formerly Andorran Limited) (Statutory Auditor), will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 5 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul James', written in a cursive style.

Paul James - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Community Connexions (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Statement of Financial Position, the 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 (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 charitable company'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 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 Report of the Independent Auditors 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

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 Report of the Trustees for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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 take advantage of the small companies exemption from the requirement to prepare a Strategic Report or in preparing the Report of the Trustees.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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 a Report of the Auditor that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it 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.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that, despite us planning and performing our audit in accordance with auditing standards, one or more material misstatements in the financial statements may have gone undetected by our audit. As with any audit, there is a risk that irregularities and fraud will go undetected where they involve matters such as misrepresentations from management, collusion, deliberate omissions and override of controls. It is not the role of the auditor to prevent non-compliance and we cannot be expected to detect every instance of non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

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:

- enquiries of management including a pre audit meeting;
- obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation of policies concerning the laws and regulations applicable to the business;
- understanding how the company complies with its regulatory framework by making enquiries of management ;
- considering the culture inherent in the company and whether this represents a culture of honesty and ethical behaviour with a strong emphasis of detection and prevention of fraud.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements - continued

We assessed the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement and considered how fraud might occur. The audit procedures performed included, but were not limited to:

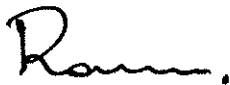
- challenging management assumptions and estimates;
- identifying and testing unusual journal entries;
- assessing how the relevant laws and regulations have been complied with and noting any instances of non compliance;
- reviewing the financial statements for compliance with relevant Accounting Standards and accounting legislation applicable to a small company;
- considering how those charged with governance have addressed the possibility of an override of essential controls or other influence over the financial reporting processes.

In addition, we also considered other non financial laws relevant to the company. These do not necessarily have a direct influence on the financial statements but might affect the company's ability to operate.

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company'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 charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Roger Downes FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of BK Plus Audit Limited (Statutory Auditor)
6 Manor Park Business Centre
Mackenzie Way
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 9TX

21 November 2024

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	4	10,602	-	10,602	17,394
Charitable activities	6				
Charitable Activity		902,440	126,507	1,028,947	852,531
Investment income	5	2,782	-	2,782	620
Other income		74	-	74	567
Total		<u>915,898</u>	<u>126,507</u>	<u>1,042,405</u>	<u>871,112</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	7				
Charitable Activity		<u>899,369</u>	<u>100,507</u>	<u>999,876</u>	<u>898,054</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		16,529	26,000	42,529	(26,942)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		199,261	-	199,261	226,203
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>215,790</u></u>	<u><u>26,000</u></u>	<u><u>241,790</u></u>	<u><u>199,261</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS (REGISTERED NUMBER: 05880006)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14	10,372	14,500	24,872	15,016
Investments	15	1	-	1	1
		<u>10,373</u>	<u>14,500</u>	<u>24,873</u>	<u>15,017</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	143,620	-	143,620	156,128
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>240,693</u>	<u>11,500</u>	<u>252,193</u>	<u>234,790</u>
		<u>384,313</u>	<u>11,500</u>	<u>395,813</u>	<u>390,918</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	(143,457)	-	(143,457)	(165,302)
		<u>240,856</u>	<u>11,500</u>	<u>252,356</u>	<u>225,616</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>240,856</u>	<u>11,500</u>	<u>252,356</u>	<u>225,616</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>251,229</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>277,229</u>	<u>240,633</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(35,439)	-	(35,439)	(41,372)
		<u>215,790</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>241,790</u>	<u>199,261</u>
NET ASSETS					
		<u>215,790</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>241,790</u>	<u>199,261</u>
FUNDS	21				
Unrestricted funds:					
General fund				205,418	184,245
Designated Fund - Capital Reserve				<u>10,372</u>	<u>15,016</u>
				<u>215,790</u>	<u>199,261</u>
Restricted funds				<u>26,000</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>241,790</u>	<u>199,261</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 5 November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



Jacqueline Millar - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	37,668	95,016
Interest paid		(1,117)	(1,245)
Net cash provided by operating activities		<u>36,551</u>	<u>93,771</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(16,143)	(6,008)
Interest received		2,782	620
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(13,361)</u>	<u>(5,388)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Loan repayments in year		(5,787)	(2,837)
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(5,787)</u>	<u>(2,837)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>17,403</u>	<u>85,546</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>234,790</u>	<u>149,244</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>252,193</u></u>	<u><u>234,790</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	42,529	(26,942)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	6,287	5,810
Interest received	(2,782)	(620)
Interest paid	1,117	1,245
Decrease in debtors	12,508	3,039
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(21,991)	112,484
Net cash provided by operations	37,668	95,016

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	234,790	17,403	252,193
	<u>234,790</u>	<u>17,403</u>	<u>252,193</u>
Debt			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(5,791)	(146)	(5,937)
Debts falling due after 1 year	(41,372)	5,933	(35,439)
	<u>(47,163)</u>	<u>5,787</u>	<u>(41,376)</u>
Total	187,627	23,190	210,817

The notes form part of these financial statements

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. CHARITY INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee (company number: 05880006 England & Wales) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission in England and Wales (charity number: 1119310). The registered office is Suite 12 Corinium House, Corinium Avenue, Barnwood Point, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL4 3HX.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) '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)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

Going concern

The Trustees have considered the future forecasts to address the on-going viability of the Charity. Budgets were prepared for 2024/25 and 2025/26 which show a healthy surplus expected for both periods. Management accounts have been prepared to 30 September 2024 which shows results broadly in line with budget. As a result, the Trustees are confident that there are no material uncertainties about the ability to continue and that the Charity remains a going concern.

Preparation of consolidated financial statements

The financial statements contain information about Community Connexions as an individual company and do not contain consolidated financial information as the parent of a group. The charity is exempt under Section 399(2A) of the Companies Act 2006 from the requirements to prepare consolidated financial statements.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Where entitlement to grant income is subject to performance conditions, income is recognised as the performance conditions are met.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Governance costs

These costs are incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory compliance.

Tangible fixed assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Motor vehicles	- Over the period of the lease
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets

Assets costing greater than £500 are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Those costing less than £500 are written off to the SOFA in the year that the expenditure is incurred.

Related party exemption

The charitable company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries within the group.

Taxation

As a recognised charity, the organisation is exempt from Corporation Tax as far as it relates to its charitable objects. It is not, however, exempt from VAT and irrecoverable VAT is included in the costs of those items to which it relates.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and 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.

Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

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.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

In the application of the Charity's accounting policies the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors which are considered to be relevant.

Depreciation of tangible fixed assets is based on the Charity's judgement of their useful lives and residual values. The depreciation rates used are disclosed in the tangible fixed asset policy above and the carrying values of the assets are disclosed in note 14.

Where entitlement to grant income is subject to performance conditions, income is recognised as the performance conditions are met.

4. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	10,602	17,394

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	2,782	620

6. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		31.3.24	31.3.23
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Charitable Activity	545,627	421,340
Fares	Charitable Activity	462,069	411,859
Registration fees	Charitable Activity	21,072	18,431
Fundraising	Charitable Activity	179	901
		<u>1,028,947</u>	<u>852,531</u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Gloucestershire County Council- SLA grants	362,899	336,018
North Cotswolds Set Up Grant	100,699	2,972
Social Services Transport	38,728	34,734
Bus Service Operators Grant	15,493	15,372
Barnwood Trust	7,500	-
Inman Charity	5,000	-
Carried forward	<u>530,319</u>	<u>389,096</u>

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

6. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Brought forward	530,319	389,096
Severn Trent	4,808	-
Gloucestershire Community Foundation	4,000	-
J & M Britton	4,000	-
Gloucestershire County Freemasons	2,000	-
Langtree Trust	500	-
Gloucestershire County Council NHS Support	-	12,744
National Lottery Community Fund	-	10,000
Thriving Communities	-	7,500
The Hospital Saturday Fund	-	2,000
	<u>545,627</u>	<u>421,340</u>

7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 8)	Support costs (see note 9)	Totals
	£	£	£
Charitable Activity	<u>993,854</u>	<u>6,022</u>	<u>999,876</u>

8. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Staff costs	607,640	519,911
Vehicle leasing	138,132	128,232
Other vehicle expenses	111,871	127,965
Insurance	4,120	2,783
Telephone	7,279	6,921
Postage and stationery	5,098	4,338
Advertising	6,889	7,260
Sundries	1,403	1,528
Bank charges	1,371	908
Property costs	31,926	27,839
Computer costs	16,792	14,416
Volunteer driver expenses	35,566	35,644
Training and recruitment	2,523	1,377
Legal and consultancy	240	45
Professional fundraisers	15,600	6,500
Depreciation	6,287	5,810
Interest payable and similar charges	1,117	1,245
	<u>993,854</u>	<u>892,722</u>

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. SUPPORT COSTS

		Governance costs
		£
Charitable Activity		<u>6,022</u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	Charitable Activity	Total activities
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	<u>6,022</u>	<u>5,332</u>

10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,022	5,332
Depreciation - owned assets	6,287	5,810
Other operating leases	<u>138,132</u>	<u>128,232</u>

11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ending 31 March 2024 nor for the year ending 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

Trustees are paid expenses for attending meetings and duties directly related to their duties as a trustee. No trustee was reimbursed expenses in the year (2023: £nil).

12. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	567,188	486,740
Social security costs	32,332	26,287
Other pension costs	8,120	6,884
	<u>607,640</u>	<u>519,911</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Full time	11	12
Part time	26	26
	<u>37</u>	<u>38</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. STAFF COSTS - continued

The key management personnel of the Charity comprised the Chief Executive Officer, the Transport Manager, the Finance Manager and the Marketing Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £132,842 (2023: £114,164).

Redundancy pay of £4,851 was paid to two employees during the year.

13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	2,394	15,000	17,394
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activity	830,059	22,472	852,531
Investment income	620	-	620
Other income	567	-	567
Total	833,640	37,472	871,112
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable Activity	855,582	42,472	898,054
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(21,942)	(5,000)	(26,942)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	221,203	5,000	226,203
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	199,261	-	199,261

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2023	22,700	13,649	36,349
Additions	15,000	1,143	16,143
At 31 March 2024	37,700	14,792	52,492
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	13,251	8,082	21,333
Charge for year	3,952	2,335	6,287
At 31 March 2024	17,203	10,417	27,620
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	20,497	4,375	24,872
At 31 March 2023	9,449	5,567	15,016

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Shares in group undertakings £
MARKET VALUE	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	1
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	1
At 31 March 2023	1

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

Community Connexions Trading Limited

Registered office: Suite 12, Corinium House, Corinium Avenue, Barnwood Point, Gloucester, GL4 3HX

Nature of business: Dormant

	% holding	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Class of share:			
Ordinary £1	100		
Aggregate capital and reserves		1	1

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	72,067	91,198
Other debtors	17,964	27,964
VAT	17,446	14,023
Prepayments and accrued income	36,143	22,943
	<u>143,620</u>	<u>156,128</u>

17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 19)	5,937	5,791
Trade creditors	21,527	28,154
Social security and other taxes	9,637	7,994
Other creditors	1,857	1,687
Accruals and deferred income	104,499	121,676
	<u>143,457</u>	<u>165,302</u>

Included in accruals and deferred income is:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Deferred income balance brought forward	112,199	-
Received in year	93,120	112,199
Released to SOFA	(112,199)	-
	<u>93,120</u>	<u>112,199</u>

Deferred income relates to a Levelling Up Minibus Grant (2023: Motability grant and the Slimbridge Shuttle service).

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 19)	<u>35,439</u>	<u>41,372</u>

19. LOANS

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	<u>5,937</u>	<u>5,791</u>
Amounts falling between one and two years:		
Bank loans	<u>6,087</u>	<u>5,937</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans	<u>19,202</u>	<u>18,728</u>

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

19. LOANS - continued

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Amounts falling due in more than five years:		
Repayable by instalments:		
Bank loans	10,150	16,707

The loan was a Bounce Back loan from HSBC and was drawn down in September 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board of Trustees have agreed to extend the original loan period to 10 years, although it can be repaid during this period. Only the interest at 2.5% was being paid until October 2022 and then capital and interest are being repaid for the remainder of the loan period.

20. LEASING AGREEMENTS

Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases fall due as follows:

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Within one year	97,266	94,953
Between one and five years	275,927	21,438
	<u>373,193</u>	<u>116,391</u>

21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	184,245	22,316	(1,143)	205,418
Designated Fund - Capital Reserve	15,016	(5,787)	1,143	10,372
	<u>199,261</u>	<u>16,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>215,790</u>
Restricted funds				
Thriving Communities	-	7,500	-	7,500
North Cotswolds set up grant	-	14,500	-	14,500
J & M Britton	-	4,000	-	4,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>199,261</u>	<u>42,529</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>241,790</u>

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	915,898	(893,582)	22,316
Designated Fund - Capital Reserve	-	(5,787)	(5,787)
	<u>915,898</u>	<u>(899,369)</u>	<u>16,529</u>
Restricted funds			
Thriving Communities	7,500	-	7,500
North Cotswolds set up grant	100,699	(86,199)	14,500
Volunteer Recruitment & Training	14,308	(14,308)	-
J & M Britton	4,000	-	4,000
	<u>126,507</u>	<u>(100,507)</u>	<u>26,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,042,405</u>	<u>(999,876)</u>	<u>42,529</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General fund	206,385	(16,132)	(6,008)	184,245
Designated Fund - Capital Reserve	14,818	(5,810)	6,008	15,016
	<u>221,203</u>	<u>(21,942)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199,261</u>
Restricted funds				
Stroud Hospital League of Friends	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>226,203</u>	<u>(26,942)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>199,261</u>

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	833,640	(849,772)	(16,132)
Designated Fund - Capital Reserve	-	(5,810)	(5,810)
	<u>833,640</u>	<u>(855,582)</u>	<u>(21,942)</u>
Restricted funds			
Stroud Hospital League of Friends	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Thriving Communities	7,500	(7,500)	-
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	15,000	(15,000)	-
The Hospital Saturday Fund	2,000	(2,000)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	10,000	(10,000)	-
North Cotswolds set up grant	2,972	(2,972)	-
	<u>37,472</u>	<u>(42,472)</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>871,112</u>	<u>(898,054)</u>	<u>(26,942)</u>

Details of Designated Funds

Capital reserve

An amount equal to the value of unrestricted tangible fixed assets is held as a designated reserve.

Details of Restricted Funds

Thriving Communities

A grant from Gloucestershire County Council to be used towards volunteer expenses and training and additional running costs of minibuses which carry groups or those living with disability.

Stroud Hospital League of Friends

A grant restricted to the Stroud Service.

National Lottery Community Fund

A grant towards staff costs.

The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust

A donation towards transport to health appointments.

The Hospital Saturday Fund

A grant towards core running costs for accessible minibus provision for vulnerable community members in Gloucestershire to attend medical appointments.

North Cotswolds set up grant

This was section 106 money for a volunteer recruitment campaign centred on Tetbury.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training Fund

Funds used towards the training and recruitment of volunteers.

J & M Britton

Funds used towards trips initiatives and related community transport.

COMMUNITY CONNEXIONS

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Transfers between funds

Transfers are made between restricted and unrestricted funds at the end of every accounting period in cases where:

- (i) The activity of the restricted fund has come to an end and there is an unspent balance that is not repayable to the funder (s), when the surplus is transferred to unrestricted funds;
- (ii) the restricted fund is in deficit and has either come to an end or there is no prospect of a surplus in a later period, which the deficit is eliminated by transfer from unrestricted funds; and
- (iii) to transfer the value of tangible fixed assets from restricted to unrestricted funds when the asset has been purchased from a restricted fund donation but is held for a general and not a restricted purpose.

22. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The Charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £8,120 (2023: £6,884). Contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £1,857 (2023: £1,686).

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Various funders retain the right to claw back grants should the use of the funds not be in accordance with the terms of the grant. As far as the trustees are aware no such liability exists at the year-end.

24. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024.