

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

Company number: 08071971

**REPORT AND ACCOUNTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

Charity registration number: 1147527

Company registration number: 8071971

**Business address**

Leigh Park Community Centre  
Dunsbury Way  
Leigh Park  
Havant  
PO9 5BG

**Auditors & Registered office address**

Morris Crocker  
Station House  
50 North Street  
Havant  
PO9 1QU

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank PLC  
West Street  
Havant

**Directors / Trustees during the year and to date**

Beverley Jones  
Trevor Lewis  
Janet Lefley  
Jennifer Owens  
Dr John Evans  
Denis Gibson  
Clive Graham  
Paul Kirkwood  
David Eley  
Tina Pullin  
Vivienne Carter  
Ezra Yinnon  
Clare Savage  
Simon Ap Mortimore  
Owain Little

Chairman during the year, Resigned 31 July 2024  
Resigned 1 April 2023  
Vice Chair during year (Appointed Chair 31 July 2024)  
Resigned 24 November 2023  
  
Resigned 31 March 2024  
  
(Appointed Vice Chair 31 July 2024)  
Resigned 30 September 2024  
Appointed 6 December 2023  
Appointed 8 March 2024  
Appointed 8 September 2023, Resigned 15 January 2024  
Appointed 12 September 2024  
Appointed 12 September 2024  
Appointed 12 September 2024

**Chief Executive Officer**

Tim Houghton

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to this Annual Report of the Trustees and Directors of Communities First Wessex (CFW) for the year ending March 2024

CFW continues to play a key role in developing a thriving voluntary sector across Hampshire, empowering communities, mobilising our members and delivering critical community services to make life better for everyone.

CFW has had another solid year, further strengthening and delivering our purpose by securing new income and delivering high-quality services. We have continued to support individuals, communities and organisations in tackling the impact of the cost-of-living and in developing new services in the post pandemic world. We have also supported partners and organisations providing refuge for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. Our success has resulted in a strong balance sheet, an increase in unrestricted reserves and demonstrable social impact.

Our outstanding staff team and volunteers continue to support the most vulnerable groups and individuals in our community making sure that their needs are identified and met. The Board recognise the difficult future which all charities are entering and have overseen a robust root and branch review of the organisation to make sure we are fit for purpose going forward. The Board continue to drive the organisation to continue to achieve our joint vision and to adapt and change to meet the new challenges as they arise. We believe that the organisation supported by the staff and volunteer teams are best placed to lead and support our members and community organisations into the future.

The Board are aware that without the staff team and volunteers CFW would not be the successful organisation that it is. We are in awe of the commitment and passion that the staff team continue to bring to their work despite concerns about funding. We would like to thank Tim and his staff team for rising to the challenges that the last year has brought. We would particularly like to thank all of those staff and volunteers involved in direct delivery without whom CFW would not be the high performing organisation that it is.

As Chair I would also like to thank all of the current and past Board members for their commitment to CFW and the time that they give up to support and drive the organisation forward. Without their time, energy and skills we would be a much depleted organisation.

CFW would like to thank Hampshire County Council for their support this year and their ongoing commitment to supporting some services into 2025. We would also like to thank our Borough and District Councils for their support and funding as well as the many Parish and Town Councils whom we have interacted with this year.

We would also like to extend our thanks to all of our partners across the last year and especially to all of our members for their continuing support of CFW. Together we will go forward into 24/25 stronger and committed to building new partnerships working together to support those in our communities who are most vulnerable. We are determined to continue to provide support to our members to generate additional funds to continue to deliver the outstanding support services that they currently deliver.

*Jan Lefley – Chairperson*

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **Management and Governance**

Communities First Wessex (CFW) (trading as Community First) is a Registered Charity and Company Limited by Guarantee. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, established in 2012 and amended by special resolution in May 2015, July 2017 and January 2018.

CFW was created following the merger of 5 district CVSs operating at scale with central management and governance, whilst retaining local teams and services embedded in and reflecting the needs of the communities we serve. We are continuing this strategy by merging with Gosport Voluntary Action in October 2024 and by delivering support to organisations in Eastleigh under contract with Eastleigh Borough Council from April 2024

#### **Board of Directors and Senior Management**

The Trustees of the Charity are Directors of the Company. They are responsible for setting the strategy of CFW, ensuring effective financial stewardship and governance. An Executive Committee meets monthly to support the main board, ensuring we have the resources, staff and capacity to deliver the strategy and meet our financial targets. Task-specific groups are created when required.

The Senior Leadership Team comprising the Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer and Finance Director is responsible for the day-to-day management of the organisation, partnership and programme development and service delivery. The structure and priorities of the Senior Leadership Team are regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors taking account of future funding requirements and changes.

#### **Recruiting and Supporting Directors**

- We draw on the skills and experience of existing Directors matching these to the needs and activities of the business set out in our strategy
- Skill gaps are identified by the Executive Committee and actions to address these are agreed by the board. Nominations are invited throughout the year through open adverts alongside contact with members, partners and individuals with the requisite skills and experience and we advertise through local networks, contacts and companies.
- We are mindful of the need to ensure a diverse board reflecting the communities with which we work and the groups we support.
- Directors are provided with background information about the organisation, our work and values and the wider role of serving as a charity Trustee using the Charity Commission's recommended guidance.
- Directors are offered training and encouraged to attend events and meet staff and volunteers to gain a good understanding of some of the challenges and opportunities we face
- We have recruited new Directors during 2023/24 and will continue to do so during 24/25 to replace those who have retired and to ensure we have the necessary skills and expertise to deliver our objectives.

#### **Aims, Objectives, Activities and Achievements**

The Charity's objects are:

- a) to promote any charitable purposes for the benefit of the public in Hampshire and surrounding areas, including the advancement of education, the protection of health

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

and the relief of poverty, distress and sickness, and to provide people with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to charitable purposes.

- b) to promote, organise and facilitate co-operation and partnership working between third sector, statutory and other relevant bodies in Hampshire and its environs.

#### **Delivering public benefit**

Communities First Wessex (CFW) supports a thriving, active and influential voluntary sector across Hampshire and surrounding areas, through our leadership of the Hampshire CVS network and direct delivery in East Hampshire, Havant, Winchester, Fareham, Eastleigh, Gosport and the New Forest. We also deliver transport services in Basingstoke & Deane and Gosport and trauma-informed and sexual abuse counselling throughout north and mid Hampshire. Our Health and Wellbeing and Social Prescribing networks provide countywide support to all organisations supporting people in need.

As a membership organisation we believe that we are stronger by working together. We've continued to grow our membership, holding successful network events throughout the year and providing effective digital self-serve toolkits and resources enabling us to offer more and better support to local VCSE organisations.

#### **Our performance and achievements in 2023/24**

- Directly supported and engaged 660 VCSE organisations
- In September 2023 we merged with Wheels For Freedom, a charity providing mobility services in Dorset and based in Poole. This further enhanced our Shopmobility offer.
- Recruited and mobilised an additional 448 volunteers and 130 young volunteers, and engaged 350 clients on our Positive Pathways supported volunteering programme. 196 new organisations signed up to our Volunteering programme reflecting the appetite and demand for more volunteers. We also delivered 2,027 hours of volunteer time on our Timebank initiative based in Woolmer Forest, Bordon in East Hampshire.
- Secured £434,000 of additional investment in VCSE organisations.
- Trained 1,950 learners including upskills volunteers and paid staff in VCSE sector and supporting those facing barriers to employment.
- Carried 49,900 passengers on our community transport, 64,400 school passengers on 3,500 school bus journeys, and 23 hirers benefitted from our Wheels to Work moped hires. Our mobility scooters were hired 3,500 times from our shopmobility locations and from events including Goodwood and the New Forest Show.
- Had 82,000 visits to our Community Hubs in Clanfield and Leigh Park
- Supported 175 young carers in the New Forest and provided over 1500 respite hours through activities
- Helped 494 victims of sexual trauma and abuse through our START counselling service.

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Provided a lifeline to 254 clients of our Home Help service and helped 162 households with gardening.
- Supported 40 High Intensity Users through our community support service and delivered 760 healthy walks helping people keep active, stay well and socially connected.

### Financial Review

Revenue grew, and overall financial performance remained strong. We had a total income of £3.720m in 2023/24, compared to £3.346m in 22/23.

The Charity has a defined salary pension scheme with Hampshire County Council. The adjustment in the actuarial valuation on our defined salary pension scheme resulted in a loss (before administration costs) of £1k (2022/23 £629K). HCC now manages our investments in the same way as funds are managed for HCC and other large organisations in the scheme. This significantly reduces the total notional exit liability of Community First from £675k to £100k. Winchester City Council and Fareham Borough Council guarantee to underwrite any deficit arising from the pension fund valuation in respect of those members of the scheme previously employed by organisations operating in their respective areas. At 31 March 2024, this amounted to approximately £36.6k for Winchester and £13.5k for Fareham. A full analysis of the pension liability including deferred liability, guaranteed underwriting, top up payments and charges and residual material liability is set out in note 18 to the accounts.

The charity continues to take appropriate steps to diversify its funding base, securing further grants and commissions, managing costs and identifying new sources of income to build on its strengths and track record in public service delivery and to support the voluntary and community sector. We have retained our overall staff team of @ 120 delivering hybrid and flexible working to balance capacity with opportunity.

### Income sources

Principal sources of funding include;

- Infrastructure grant from Hampshire County Council with CFW reappointed as single contracted organisation to deliver infrastructure support for VCSE and encourage volunteering and grants from Havant Borough Council, East Hampshire District Council, Fareham Borough Council, and New Forest District Council. A new VCSE infrastructure support service started in Eastleigh in April 2024, commissioned by Eastleigh Borough Council.
- Grant funding from Hampshire and IOW Integrated Care Board to support health & wellbeing forums, the Social Prescribing Network and deliver wellbeing programmes tackling health inequalities and those in need of additional support.
- Hampshire County Council contracts supported by the Boroughs and Districts, for Community Transport, Dial-A-Ride, Call and Go and SEN school transport contracts and Wheels to Work. Further income was generated from fares.
- Ministry of Justice grant (administered by the Office of Police & Crime Commissioner), and HCC grant for START counselling and Lotus residential service.
- Hampshire Learns funding (via HCC) for training with an increase in value and number of Lots delivered.
- Grants from Winchester City Council, Fareham Borough Council & Chichester District Council and hire income from customers and events for Shopmobility.

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- The National Lottery Community Fund for Positive Pathways in Havant and to support Time Banking in Woolmer Forest and to deliver the final year of our Youth Volunteering Programme.
- The Lottery and grant funding from HCC also supported our New Forest Young Carers programme.
- We received a legacy donation from Its Your Choice following their closure and subsequent winding up to support Young People in the New Forest.
- Following merger with Wheels For Freedom we received a donation of cash and assets of £78K and took on a further lottery grant funded programme and other grants

#### Reserves

The Board of Directors has determined that the Charity should seek to maintain a level of reserves to cover the following eventualities;

- Unrestricted reserves equivalent to up to 6 months of planned running costs in line with Charity Commission guidelines and Company Law.
- A designated reserve was created to cover unforeseen events and the possibility that funding might not always be obtained. The calculation of this reserve considers
  - Six months support services' running costs
  - Outstanding rent commitments (up to break clause dates)
  - Outstanding lease and hire commitments to end of contract
  - Provision for legal costs
  - Provision for property dilapidations
- The Purpose of designating reserves is to
  - cover any loss on realisation of any fixed assets and any additional contractual liabilities
  - accumulate funds for specific purposes as determined by the Board of Trustees from time to time.
  - invest in innovative services which can be piloted and tested to better meet the needs of our beneficiaries including vulnerable people by the creation of the Community First Investment Fund. The aim of such enterprises and innovative services is to reduce the charity's dependence on public sector funding by finding more reliable sources of funding for its services.
- Restricted reserves are held to cover the extent that funds for restricted purposes have not been fully expended. No additional reserves will be established for restricted projects. This policy enables CFW to continue operations whilst awaiting receipt of Grants many of which are paid in arrears, to pay contractual liabilities in the event that grants are discontinued or significantly reduced whilst services are realigned and to recover the potential loss on fixed asset investments in the event that funding is withdrawn, or contracts ended prematurely.
- A provision will be maintained against general reserves to offset the Charity's obligation to fund any deficit on the Hampshire County Council pension fund scheme. This provision will be reviewed and if necessary revised annually in line with the Actuarial valuation.

At 31 March 2024 we have £1,258,176 in unrestricted reserves. £31,858 of this is designated to support the development of on-going activities (see note 15). A reserve of £500,000 has been created to cover any unforeseen events as well as the possibility that funding might not always be obtained and ensure continuity of our core function and services for at least 3 months. The Community First Investment Fund has £641,318 to help us to access new funding and income streams and pump prime innovative ideas for new services for our beneficiaries.

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

The level of reserves and the policy is reviewed annually. In addition, and independent of reserves, accruals will be established at the end of each year and reviewed quarterly thereafter, to cover any expenses that can reasonably be estimated, such as sickness pay, insurance claim excesses, equipment and services received but not invoiced.

#### **Managing Risk**

A Risk Register identifies the key risks and records actions taken to mitigate these which is reviewed by Directors and the Senior Leadership Team. Where appropriate, systems or procedures have been established to mitigate the risks the charity faces.

#### **Our significant risks**

We face significant on-going risk to our revenues which are predominantly from public sector contracts and grants, principally HCC, which are subject to future public sector spending cuts and threats to the overall public finance position as costs of delivering statutory social care and children's services increase and global economic uncertainty prevails. Expenditure remains under close scrutiny as local authority grants and commissioned services are subject to significant cuts in 2025 in Community Transport and Community Development resulting in less money at a time when demand for our services and requests for support from our members is increasing. We are reducing our reliance on core grants and diversifying our activities to attract new sources of income. We are also cutting costs and adjusting staffing levels and office costs accordingly. We continue to explore opportunities to further increase scale, impact and generate revenues, through partnership working, collaboration and possible mergers. We are also exploring new opportunities for generating sales and raising revenue by expanding our transport, diversifying our training and growing wellbeing services which are in high demand. As public sector funding continues to diminish more customer/beneficiaries may be asked to pay towards services, but we are also seeking opportunities to maximise our assets and expertise to generate income which can be reinvested in essential community support and services.

We maintain strict internal controls and procedures for authorising transactions and payments which reduce financial risks and minimise risk of fraud. Only authorised signatories can sign or commit the organisation to enter into grant agreements, make payments and contractual or other liabilities. We review our financial procedures annually to ensure that authorisation levels remain appropriate and robust and work closely with our bank to minimise risk of fraud

We deliver services to vulnerable people including those who are elderly, frail, disabled, suffer mental illness or abuse or lack confidence and to young people from a wide range of backgrounds. Protecting and safeguarding those who are vulnerable remains a high priority.

Our high risk services include;

- Transport: risk of road traffic collisions and in assisting frail and disabled passengers on and off vehicles and in hiring Mopeds (Wheels to Work) and mobility scooters
- Supported Volunteering providing social connections, volunteering, work experience and support for people with mental illness and other health conditions, including those with a history of substance misuse and ex-offenders, helping them rebuild their confidence and contribute to society.
- START providing specialist support for survivors of childhood sexual abuse or recent sexual violence and trauma
- Young Carers; providing support for young people in looking after family members with long-term conditions



## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### TRUSTEES REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

- Home Helps; helping older and disabled people to stay safe and well in their own homes
- Clanfield Sports Centre; helping people participate in sporting and leisure activities

We invest in and provide wellbeing support to staff, offer family-friendly employment contracts and policies and have embedded hybrid working which has flexibility to balance staff and organisational priorities. We continue to invest in staff training, ensuring compliance with health and safety and safe operating procedures. Procedures are in place and are reviewed regularly to protect our staff, volunteers and service users. Lessons learnt are shared with commissioners and partners and are used to amend procedures to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for service users, staff and volunteers.

#### Directors' responsibilities

Law applicable to charitable companies in England & Wales requires the directors to prepare the trustees report and financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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 company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- There is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware: and
- The directors 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 the information.

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

A combined directors and trustees report is being presented to meet company law requirements.

Approved by the Board and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Jan Lefley

Date: 30 September 2024

Chair of Board of Directors

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Communities First Wessex for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, 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 Policies) including FRS102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 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 have conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK), (ISAs(UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the 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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information, 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, 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, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard

#### **Opinion on Other 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.

#### **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.

## **COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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 Independent Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

From discussion with management and those charged with governance information about the entity is documented to assess the activity within the organisation. We discuss management's assessment of risk in respect of irregularities, fraud and going concern.

Based on these discussions and our own assessments we determined that the key risk areas were income recognition in respect of cut off issues and management override concerning the size of the organisation.

We set financial statement materiality level based on the level of income. As a not for profit organisation raising income is its primary focus which is why income was used to determine the level of materiality. Our overall assessment of risk was used to determine performance materiality at an appropriate level. Substantive audit tests were designed after assessing and performing walkthrough tests. The walkthrough testing confirmed documented systems which have been designed to act as a preventative measure against fraud and error which appear to be operating as documented. Substantive testing tested a sample of the population, representative of the population, to identify errors. The testing did not identify any material misstatements in areas tested.

Audit substantive tests concluded no material errors over the key risk areas of income recognition and management override.

The audit considers the organisation is not exposed to material risk of error as a result of assessing laws and regulations that are appropriate to the organisation.

Management assessed there is no going concern risk. The audit undertook a review of budgets, management accounts and the review of board minutes and came to the same conclusion as management.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Report of the Independent Auditors.

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the 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 company'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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Stuart Mackie FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Morris Crocker Limited

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditors  
Station House  
North Street  
Havant  
Hampshire  
PO9 1QU

Date:

2/10/24

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	20,770	123,180	143,950	33,384
Investment Income		10,052	-	10,052	2,402
Trading Income					
Miscellaneous income		16,444	-	16,444	22,410
Charitable activities					
Grants & contracts	4	1,819,662	996,914	2,816,576	2,664,658
Fare revenue	4	204,343	-	204,343	161,392
Rental income	4	214,377	19,916	234,293	193,507
Other income	4	282,447	12,151	294,598	268,771
		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2,568,095</b>	<b>1,152,161</b>	<b>3,720,256</b>	<b>3,346,525</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Fundraising		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	2,560,588	1,140,113	3,700,701	3,261,251
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>2,560,588</b>	<b>1,140,113</b>	<b>3,700,701</b>	<b>3,261,251</b>
Net (losses)/gains on investments	3	13,008	-	13,008	(6,994)
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>20,515</b>	<b>12,048</b>	<b>32,564</b>	<b>78,280</b>
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	14, 15	<b>(47,049)</b>	<b>47,049</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Actuarial(losses)/gains on defined benefit pension funds	18	1,000	-	1,000	629,000
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>(25,534)</b>	<b>59,097</b>	<b>33,564</b>	<b>707,280</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>1,283,709</b>	<b>398,817</b>	<b>1,682,526</b>	<b>975,246</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,258,176</b>	<b>457,914</b>	<b>1,716,090</b>	<b>1,682,526</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

Company number: 8071971

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	9		222,399		130,651
Investments	10		153,346		140,338
			<u>375,745</u>		<u>270,989</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	11	3,174		2,154	
Debtors	12	310,883		393,464	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>1,549,768</u>		<u>2,116,812</u>	
		1,863,825		2,512,430	
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year:</b>	13	<u>423,479</u>		<u>1,008,893</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>1,440,346</u>		<u>1,503,537</u>
<b>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>			1,816,090		1,774,526
Defined pension scheme liability	18	(100,000)		(92,000)	
<b>NET ASSETS INCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</b>			<u>1,716,090</u>		<u>1,682,526</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
<b>UNRESTRICTED FUNDS</b>					
Designated funds	15		531,858		389,575
General funds	15		592,318		761,134
Unrestricted funds excluding pension liability			<u>1,124,176</u>		<u>1,150,709</u>
Pension reserve	15		134,000		133,000
Total unrestricted funds			<u>1,258,176</u>		<u>1,283,709</u>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS</b>	14		457,914		398,817
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>1,716,090</u>		<u>1,682,526</u>

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with FRS 102.

Approved by the trustees on 30 September 2024  
and signed on their behalf by:



Jan Lefley  
Chairperson



Paul Kirkland  
Deputy Chairperson

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**Company number: 8071971****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Cash (used in)/ provided by operating activities</b>	24	<u>(434,981)</u>	<u>409,314</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Interest income		10,052	2,402
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(107,521)	(19,071)
Assets acquired on merger		(42,771)	-
Sale of tangible fixed assets		8,177	0
<b>Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<u>(132,063)</u>	<u>(16,669)</u>
(Decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(567,044)	392,645
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year</b>		2,116,812	1,724,167
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<u>1,549,768</u>	<u>2,116,812</u>

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

#### 1 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice.

#### 2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation and uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

##### (a) Basis of accounting

Under an agreement with Community First New Forest (31 March 2020), Winchester Area Community Action (1 May 2015) and Community Action Fareham (1 April 2018), certain funds were donated to Communities First Wessex and activities combined. These combinations are in substance a gift and the excess of the fair value of the assets received or the liabilities assumed is recognised as exceptional income in the Statement of Financial Activities. Additionally, Communities First Wessex assumed an obligation to fund the Winchester Area Community Action and Community Action Fareham pension liabilities. These liabilities are recognised as a loss in the Statement of Financial Activities and is shown as an exceptional expense in the year of merger.

Communities First Wessex 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.

##### (b) Income

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the charity and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- Voluntary income is received by way of grants, donations, legacies and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, when entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.
- Investment income is included when receivable.
- Incoming resources from activities for generating funds, including those from a trading subsidiary, are accounted for when earned.
- Resources are deferred when, at the end of an accounting period, they have been received but the charity has yet to become unconditionally entitled to them.
- Income from the supply of services from contracts is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. Contract income is recognised on the basis of the time spent in providing the service as a proportion of the total time to be spent to fulfil the contract. Where income is received in advance, the income is deferred until the service has been provided.

##### (c) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. It includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Costs of generating funds comprise of the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising.
- Charitable expenditure comprises of those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include audit fees and the costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly.

##### (d) Tangible Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated in the balance sheet at cost less depreciation. Fixed assets are capitalised for ongoing use within the company, where the individual cost of the asset exceeds £2,000.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their residual value, in equal annual instalments over the estimated useful lives of the assets, at the following rates:

Plant and machinery	25% reducing balance
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	33% reducing balance
Land and Buildings	Over the period of the lease



## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

(e) **Fixed Asset Investments**

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

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

(f) **Stocks**

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value after due regard for obsolete and slow moving items.

(g) **Recognition of debtors**

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

(h) **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments and bank overdrafts. In the balance sheet, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities.

(i) **Recognition of liabilities**

A liability arises as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure.

(j) **Unrestricted funds**

Unrestricted funds are donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

(k) **Restricted funds**

Restricted funds comprise funds granted or donated for specific purposes as laid down by the grantor or donor. Income generated from assets acquired from restricted funds is restricted in the same way as the original grant or donation. Expenditure which satisfies the restrictions is charged to the appropriate restricted fund together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

(l) **Operating leases**

Rentals applicable to operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period in which the cost is incurred.

(m) **Deferred income**

Income is deferred where the charity is not yet entitled to the use of the resources. When the pre-conditions for use are met then the income is recognised.

(n) **Pensions**

The charity participates in a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions in respect of the company's defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the profit and loss account for the year in which they are payable to the scheme. Differences between contributions payable and contributions actually paid in the year are shown as either accruals or prepayments at the year end.

The charity also participates in a defined benefit pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held and managed separately from those of the charity.

The deficit on the scheme, representing the shortfall on the value of the scheme assets below the present value of the scheme liabilities is recognised as a liability on the balance sheet to the extent that the employer charity is able to recover a surplus or has a legal or constructive obligation for the liability. A corresponding pension reserve is included within total unrestricted funds. A proportion of the deficit; that part relating specifically to the former employees of Winchester Area Community Action, is the subject of a guarantee from Winchester City Council. In addition, that part relating specifically to the former employees of Community Action Fareham, is the subject of a guarantee from Fareham Borough Council.

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)****(o) Going Concern**

The trustees have prepared, reviewed and formally approved detailed trading and cash flow projections covering the period to 31 March 2025. On the basis of these projections they have assessed that CFW has adequate financial resources and the appropriate structures in place to manage its operational risks. In addition, the budgeting and forecasting process has taken account of the current economic and funding climate and its potential impact on our various sources of income and expenditure. Therefore, the Trustees are confident that there is a reasonable expectation that CFW has adequate resources and control mechanisms to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and, on this basis the Trustees believe, to the best of their belief and knowledge, that CFW remains a going concern for at least the period to March 2025 and, accordingly these financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

**3 NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Donations	(143,950)	(33,384)
Depreciation	51,517	43,093
(Profit)/Loss on sale of assets	(1,152)	-
Unrealised(loss)/ gain on fixed asset investments	13,008	(6,994)
Auditor's remuneration - audit	8,000	8,000

Under the terms of a merger agreement with Wheels For Freedom effective 1 September 2023, the reserves of that organisation were donated to Communities First Wessex and included in donations above - £78,804

**4 INCOMING RESOURCES FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Transport services	Information & support	Core activity	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Grants	195,453	1,112,729	365,055	1,673,237	1,505,731
Contracts	1,143,339	-	-	1,143,339	1,158,927
Fare income	204,343	-	-	204,343	161,392
Rental income	19,916	212,227	2,150	234,293	193,508
Other income	51,626	205,795	37,177	294,598	268,771
	<u>1,614,677</u>	<u>1,530,752</u>	<u>404,382</u>	<u>3,549,810</u>	<u>3,288,329</u>

Included in Grants above are the following amounts received from:

	2024	2023
	£	£
UK Government grants	1,426,323	1,250,718
Grants- other agencies	246,914	255,013
	<u>1,673,237</u>	<u>1,505,731</u>

UK Government grants includes £263,036 received from the Ministry of Justice (OPCC) for support for victims of Rape and Sexual Abuse (2023 £247,654). Other grants includes £136,056 received from the BIG Lottery (2023 £161,175).

**5 STAFF COSTS**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,968,123	1,751,156
Social security costs	141,584	123,175
Pension contributions	70,253	66,165
Redundancy costs	59,784	-
	<u>2,239,745</u>	<u>1,940,496</u>

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)**

One employee received emoluments over £60,000 during the current year (2023: 1)

No trustee received any remuneration including pensions. During this or the prior year no trustees were reimbursed expenses.

The average number of employees during the year, calculated on the basis of full time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
Provision of services	105	101
Management & administration	10	10
	<u>115</u>	<u>111</u>

**Key management personnel**

	2024	2023
	£	£
Remuneration paid to key management personnel during the year (11), 2023(10)	<u>484,295</u>	<u>437,844</u>

**6 VOLUNTEERS**

The charity relies on the invaluable contribution of unpaid volunteers who enable us to add value to our service providers.

Our volunteers act as drivers for community transport and our voluntary car scheme, they assist with Shopmobility and health and Wellbeing services and support the activities in our community buildings.

**7 CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Transport services	Information & support	Core activity	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>COSTS DIRECTLY ALLOCATED TO ACTIVITIES</b>					
Staff costs	746,772	864,135	271,393	1,882,300	1,634,249
Volunteer costs	1,949	2,492	19	4,460	2,948
Transport costs	334,874	-	-	334,874	329,489
Administration	23,608	54,764	16,200	94,572	111,712
Depreciation and (profit)/ loss on sale of assets	40,201	1,690	12,454	54,345	43,093
Other direct costs	24,924	519,119	19,917	563,960	388,869
	<u>1,172,328</u>	<u>1,442,200</u>	<u>319,983</u>	<u>2,934,511</u>	<u>2,510,360</u>
<b>SUPPORT COSTS ALLOCATED</b>					
Rent, rates & utilities	83,348	128,917	8,443	220,708	217,528
Staff costs	117,878	62,693	149,264	329,835	316,792
Administration	65,594	43,762	50,468	159,824	111,970
Provision for doubtful debts	-	-	509	509	1,445
Bank charges and interest	6,075	5,714	61	11,850	9,846
Governance Costs	9,642	4,836	3,986	18,464	16,310
Pension fund - current service cost	-	-	-	21,000	58,000
Pension fund - Interest cost	-	-	-	4,000	19,000
	<u>282,537</u>	<u>245,922</u>	<u>212,731</u>	<u>766,190</u>	<u>750,891</u>
	<u>1,454,865</u>	<u>1,688,122</u>	<u>532,714</u>	<u>3,700,701</u>	<u>3,261,251</u>

All support costs have been allocated on the basis of actual costs incurred

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)**

8	GOVERNANCE COSTS	2024 £	2023 £
	Legal and professional fees	3,719	3,642
	Audit, accountancy and actuarial fees	9,788	9,620
	Cost of AGM and incidental trustee meetings	4,957	3,048
		<u>18,464</u>	<u>16,310</u>

9	TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS	Land and Buildings £	Plant and machinery including Motor Vehicles £	Fixtures fittings and equipment £	Total £
	<b>Cost</b>				
	At 1 April 2022	14,696	373,910	143,091	531,697
	Additions	30,310	88,010	31,970	150,290
	Disposals	(14,696)	(41,760)	-	(56,456)
	At 31 March 2023	<u>30,310</u>	<u>420,160</u>	<u>175,061</u>	<u>625,531</u>
	<b>Depreciation</b>				
	At 1 April 2023	14,696	279,776	106,574	401,046
	Charge for the year	541	36,898	14,078	51,517
	Eliminated on disposal	(14,696)	(34,735)	-	(49,431)
	At 31 March 2024	<u>541</u>	<u>281,939</u>	<u>120,652</u>	<u>403,132</u>
	<b>Net book value</b>				
	At 31 March 2024	<u>29,769</u>	<u>138,221</u>	<u>54,409</u>	<u>222,399</u>
	At 1 April 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>94,134</u>	<u>36,517</u>	<u>130,651</u>

10	INVESTMENTS	Unlisted investments £
	<b>Cost or Valuation</b>	
	At 1 April 2023	140,338
	Additions	-
	Revaluation	13,008
	At 31 March 2024	<u>153,346</u>

11	STOCKS	2024 £	2023 £
	Finished goods	<u>3,174</u>	<u>2,154</u>

12	DEBTORS	2024 £	2023 £
	Trade debtors	138,044	266,836
	Other debtors	39,824	34,353
	Prepayments & accrued income	133,014	92,274
		<u>310,883</u>	<u>393,464</u>

# COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

13	CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	2024 £	2023 £
	Trade creditors	55,112	46,468
	Other taxation and social security	59,302	97,100
	Other creditors	47,289	52,248
	Accruals & deferred income	261,776	813,077
		<u>423,479</u>	<u>1,008,893</u>

### Deferred income

Deferred income is grants received for future accounting periods

	2024 £	2023 £
Brought forward	704,909	696,089
Amounts released to incoming resources	(558,892)	(550,283)
Amounts deferred in year	73,331	559,103
Amounts carried forward	<u>219,348</u>	<u>704,909</u>

14	RESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
	Shopmobility Chichester	(22,942)	-	-	22,942	-
	DART	4,262	-	-	-4,262	-
	Access Group	2,770	-	-	-2,770	-
	SBS	(4,127)	-	-	4,127	-
	Young Carers	35,090	85,005	(73,018)	-	47,077
	Wheels to Work	36,163	86,915	(90,023)	-	33,054
	START	211,930	306,253	(355,409)	-	162,774
	Positive pathways	-	55,365	(55,365)	-	-
	Shopmobility Winchester	110,473	57,455	(49,793)	-	118,135
	Shopmobility Winchester - asset fund	24,108	-	(875)	-	23,233
	Woolmer Timebanking	-	60,610	(60,610)	-	(0)
	Young Volunteering	-	17,332	(17,332)	-	-
	LCPS	-	239,855	(241,177)	1,322	(0)
	Community Friends	-	4,295	(12,373)	8,078	0
	Health and Wellbeing	-	-	-	-	-
	Christmas Lunch Club	1,274	2,521	(2,498)	-	1,297
	Wheels For Freedom	-	88,051	(40,510)	-	47,541
	Health and Wellbeing	(185)	117,177	(127,130)	17,612	7,475
	ITS your Choice	-	31,328	(14,000)	-	17,328
	<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>398,817</u>	<u>1,152,161</u>	<u>(1,140,113)</u>	<u>47,049</u>	<u>457,914</u>

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

#### Comparative for funds movement

RESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
Shopmobility Chichester	(17,038)	20,416	(26,320)	-	(22,942)
DART	4,262	-	-	-	4,262
Access Group	2,770	-	-	-	2,770
SBS	(4,127)	-	-	-	(4,127)
Young Carers	26,448	82,171	(73,529)	-	35,090
Wheels to Work	26,979	82,092	(72,908)	-	36,163
START	214,744	334,790	(337,604)	-	211,930
Positive pathways	-	50,958	(50,958)	-	-
Shopmobility Winchester	106,817	56,172	(52,516)	-	110,473
Shopmobility Winchester - asset fund	24,108	-	-	-	24,108
Woolmer Timebanking	-	59,755	(59,755)	-	-
Young Volunteering	-	36,314	(36,314)	-	-
COMF	-	6,011	(6,011)	-	-
Community Friends	-	3,232	(3,232)	-	-
Health and Wellbeing	-	221,213	(221,398)	-	(186)
Christmas Lunch Club	459	2,980	(2,164)	-	1,275
Social Prescribing Network	-	2,688	(2,688)	-	-
Skills and employment hub	-	21,608	(21,608)	-	-
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>385,422</b>	<b>980,400</b>	<b>(967,005)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>398,817</b>

The source of each fund is different and they are received from various bodies including Winchester City Council, Hampshire County Council and The Big Lottery. The funds are restricted to the purposes as listed.

#### Wheels to work

Provision of a moped service for young people travelling to work

#### Christmas Lunch Club

An annual event for those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day

#### START (formerly RASAC)

Counselling and help line services for victims of rape and sexual abuse.

#### Shopmobility

Hire out of Shopmobility vehicles such as wheel chairs and electric scooters in Havant, Chichester and Winchester areas

#### Community First Delivers

A Big Lottery funded project providing support during the COVID 19 pandemic for delivery of food and transport

#### Young People's volunteering

A project to promote and encourage young people to volunteer

#### Positive Pathways

To support local residents who need assistance to volunteer in their community

## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

#### 14 RESTRICTED FUNDS (continued)

##### Woolmer Timebanking

A Big Lottery funded timebanking project based in Woolmer, Hampshire

##### Park Play

A play Café based at Leigh Park Community Centre, Havant, Hampshire

##### Surgery Signposter Linkworker

To facilitate surgery based signposting

##### CONTAIN OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT FUND

To support ongoing public health initiatives and proactive containment and intervention measures to reduce the spread of COVID 19

##### Skills and Employment HUB

A weekly skills and employment hub

##### DART/Access Group

To provide disability awareness raising training and to provide easy access path trails

##### Young Carers

Providing support to young people who are carers for dependant relatives in the New Forest

##### Social prescribing network

Provision for support for the Social Prescribing network in South East Hampshire

##### SBS Leader development programme

Mentoring and training for community group leaders

##### Community Friends

A Befriending scheme based in the New Forest

##### Health and Wellbeing

A number of connected projects to reduce high intensity user pressure on NHS resources

15 UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2024 £
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Transport services Havant - asset fund	9,262	-	(2,313)	-	6,949
Transport Winchester - asset fund	5,156	-	(1,289)	-	3,867
Transport services East Hampshire - asset fund	22,889	-	(2,732)	-	20,157
Transport services New Forest - asset fund	2,268	-	(1,383)	-	885
	39,575	-	-	-	31,858
Required reserves policy	350,000	-	-	150,000	500,000
Community First Investment Fund	810,134	2,581,103	(2,552,871)	(197,049)	641,318
General funds excluding exceptional item	810,134	2,581,103	(2,560,588)	-	641,318
<b>Obligation to fund WACA, CAF and CFNF pension liability</b>					
15	(49,000)	-	-	-	(49,000)
	761,134	-	-	-	592,318
<b>Pension reserve (Deferred pension liability £100,000 less obligation of £49,000, and net movement of £176,000)</b>					
15	133,000	-	1,000	-	134,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>1,283,709</b>	<b>2,581,103</b>	<b>(2,559,588)</b>	<b>(47,049)</b>	<b>1,258,176</b>

# COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

### 15 Comparative for funds movement

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	At 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2023 £
<b>Designated funds</b>					
Transport services Havant - asset fund	12,436	-	(3,174)	-	9,262
Transport Winchester - asset fund	6,875	-	(1,719)	-	5,156
Transport services East Hampshire - asset fund	24,685	-	(1,796)	-	22,889
Transport services New Forest - asset fund	4,112	-	(1,844)	-	2,268
	48,108	-	(8,533)	-	39,575
<b>Other</b>					
Required reserves policy	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
	350,000	-	-	-	350,000
Community First Investment Fund	736,716	2,366,125	(2,292,707)	-	810,134
General funds excluding exceptional item	736,716	2,366,125	(2,292,707)	-	810,134
<b>Obligation to fund Winchester Area Community Action</b>					
Community action Fareham pension liability	(869,000)	-	-	820,000	(49,000)
	(132,284)	2,366,125	(2,292,706)	820,000	761,134
<b>Pension reserve (Deferred pension liability £1071,000 less WACA reserve £458,000, CAF reserve of £166,000 and CFNF reserve of £245,000 and costs of £130,000 included within support costs)</b>	324,000	629,000	-	(820,000)	133,000
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	589,824	2,995,125	(2,301,240)	-	1,283,709
Community First Investment Fund					
To support new initiatives and projects					

### 16 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	TOTAL 2024 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Fixed assets	329,968	45,777	375,745	270,989
Current assets	1,134,996	628,829	1,763,825	2,512,430
Liabilities	(206,787)	(216,692)	(423,479)	(1,100,893)
	1,258,176	457,914	1,716,090	1,682,526

### 17 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension commitment under this scheme for 2024 was £43,119 (2023: £32,879). There were 60 members in the scheme at the year end (2023: 69).



## COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

#### 18 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION SCHEME

The company contributes to a defined benefits pension scheme run by Hampshire County Council providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension fund includes members from both Community First HEH, Winchester Area Community Action, (which combined on 1 May 2015), Community Action Fareham (which combined on 1 April 2018) Community First New Forest (which combined on 1 April 2020)

The deferred pension liability of £100,000 included in the Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024 is derived from the pension scheme's actuarial report for that year.

Winchester City Council has guaranteed to underwrite any deficit arising from the pension fund valuation in respect of those members of the scheme previously employed by WACA. At 31 March 2024, this amounted to approximately £39,852 (at 31 March 2023 £36,600). Fareham Borough Council has guaranteed to underwrite any deficit arising from the pension fund valuation in respect of those members of the scheme previously employed by CAF. At 31 March 2024, this amounted to approximately £13,481, (at 31 March 2023 £12,403).

The contributions are determined by a qualified actuary on the basis of triennial valuations using the projected unit method. The most recent full valuation was at 31 March 2022, which has been updated to reflect conditions at the balance sheet date. The assumptions that have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rate of increase in salaries and pensions. It was assumed by the actuaries that salary increases would average 3.8% per year and that the present and future pensions would increase at the rate of 2.8% per year.

The HCC Pension liability shown in the Accounts is based on the last HCC Pension Fund (the scheme) valuation dated 31st March 2022 and would have been the sum payable to the scheme had Community First exited the scheme at that date.

The scheme has a top-up payments arrangement in place to which scheme members, including Community First, contribute to ensure that the scheme becomes fully funded, without any need to incur exit liabilities, at the end of a 22 year period as specified by the HCC actuaries.

However, should Community First exit the scheme e.g. when the last active member leaves, before the end of the 22 year period, there would be a residual exit liability, the scale of which would depend on when the event occurs and the extent to which the top-up arrangements have reduced the outstanding exit liabilities

Liabilities outstanding on exit are termed 'orphan liabilities'. HCC has recognised that many organisations would not be able to afford substantial exit payments, which could impact on an organisation's ability to continue, resulting in the loss of valuable community services.

Consequently, HCC has changed the basis on which investments are made using these organisations' funds, in future managing their investments in the same way as funds are managed for HCC and other large organisations in the scheme. The impact of this change, based on an exit as at 31 March 2022, would be to reduce the total notional exit liability of Community First from £675,000 to £100,000, which becomes the material liability of the organisation.

The pension charge for the year was £27,282 (2023 £33,432),

The defined benefit scheme is closed to new members and so under the projected unit method the current service cost would be expected to increase over time as members of the scheme approach retirement.

	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>Value of scheme assets and liabilities</i>		
Fair value of assets	3,781,000	3,516,000
Present value of fund liabilities	(3,881,000)	(3,608,000)
Pension scheme deficit	<u>(100,000)</u>	<u>(92,000)</u>
<i>Movements in year</i>		
Service cost	(21,000)	(58,000)
Interest cost	<u>(4,000)</u>	<u>(19,000)</u>
	(25,000)	(77,000)
Contributions	16,000	31,000
Actuarial (losses)/gains on assets and liabilities	<u>1,000</u>	<u>629,000</u>
Movements in the year	(8,000)	583,000
<b>Pension scheme deficit at 1 April</b>		
- WACA	(36,664)	(269,000)
- CAF	(12,403)	(91,000)
- CFNF	(18,945)	(139,000)
- CFHEH	<u>(23,988)</u>	<u>(176,000)</u>
	(92,000)	(675,000)
<b>Pension scheme deficit at 31 March</b>	<u><u>(100,000)</u></u>	<u><u>(92,000)</u></u>

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)****19 RELATED PARTIES**

No other related party transactions have occurred other than those noted in the accounts.

**20 CONTROLLING PARTY**

The ultimate controlling party of the entity is deemed to be the Board of Trustees.

**21 OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS**

As at 31 March 2024 the charity had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows;

Operating leases which expire:

	Land and buildings		Other	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
Within 1 year	34,548	33,981	35,988	19,800
Between 2 to 5 years	66,884	89,178	65,772	16,500
	<u>101,432</u>	<u>123,159</u>	<u>101,760</u>	<u>36,300</u>

Within the Statement of Financial Activities are expenses totalling £128,673 relating to operating leases (2023 £108,295)

**22 CAPITAL COMMITMENTS**

As at 31 March 2024 the company did not have any capital commitments (2023 £24,577)

**23 POST BALANCE SHEET EVENT**

On 1st September 2024 the Company signed an agreement to merge with Gosport Voluntary Action, a non incorporated charity based in Gosport, Hampshire effective 1st October 2024.

**24 RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movement in funds	33,564	707,280
Add back depreciation charge	51,517	43,093
Add profit on disposal of fixed assets	(1,152)	-
(Gain)/ loss on investments	(13,008)	6,994
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	(10,052)	(2,402)
Increase in stock	(1,020)	(2,154)
Decrease /(increase) in debtors	82,583	208,385
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(585,414)	29,547
Movement in pension fund	8,000	(583,000)
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(434,981)</b>	<b>409,314</b>

**COMMUNITIES FIRST WESSEX**

(Company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital)

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)****25 COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

(Including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>INCOME</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	18,072	15,312	33,384	118,547
Investment Income		2,350	52	2,402	95
Trading Income					
Miscellaneous income		22,410	-	22,410	19,815
Charitable activities					
Grants & contracts	4	1,731,030	933,628	2,664,658	2,610,227
Fare revenue	4	161,392	-	161,392	130,306
Rental income	4	174,504	19,003	193,507	171,119
Other income	4	256,367	12,404	268,771	274,529
		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>2,366,125</b>	<b>980,400</b>	<b>3,346,525</b>	<b>3,324,637</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Fundraising		-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	7	2,294,246	967,005	3,261,251	3,112,921
Exceptional item:					
Obligation to fund Community First New Forest pension liability expensed	18	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>2,294,246</b>	<b>967,005</b>	<b>3,261,251</b>	<b>3,112,921</b>
<b>Net (losses)/gains on investments</b>	3	<b>(6,994)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,994)</b>	<b>6,047</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS</b>		<b>64,885</b>	<b>13,395</b>	<b>78,280</b>	<b>217,763</b>
<b>TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS</b>	14, 15	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Actuarial(losses)/gains on defined benefit pension funds</b>	18	<b>629,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>629,000</b>	<b>457,000</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) FOR THE YEAR</b>		<b>693,885</b>	<b>13,395</b>	<b>707,280</b>	<b>674,764</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD</b>		<b>589,824</b>	<b>385,422</b>	<b>975,246</b>	<b>300,483</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>1,283,709</b>	<b>398,817</b>	<b>1,682,526</b>	<b>975,246</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.