CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales · Charity number 1161998

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	09544506
Registered	2015-06-03
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Broul Cottage Bath Road Nailsworth Stroud GL6 0QL
Phone	07865083463
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Website	www.wearecast.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE PROMOTION OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF CHARITIES AND THE EFFECTIVE USE OF CHARITABLE RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY PROVIDING SERVICES TO CHARITIES WHICH SUPPORT AND ACCELERATE THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN FURTHERING CHARITABLE PURPOSES; ANDTO FURTHER SUCH OTHER EXCLUSIVELY CHARITABLE PURPOSES THROUGH THE USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION FROM TIME TO TIME DETERMINE.

Activities: To support charities and funders to use digital technologies to achieve charitable outcomes.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Other Finance, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£1,041,759	£1,119,263	£108,043	9
2024-03-31	£1,702,858	£2,239,815	£185,547	11
2023-03-31	£2,047,779	£2,019,468	£722,504	11
2022-03-31	£1,432,195	£2,140,875	£694,193	13
2021-03-31	£6,268,164	£5,794,910	£1,402,873	17

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Gaia-Ines Fasso	Chair	2020-11-25
Ha Thi Thu Cole		2024-09-24
Kathryn Alison Collins		2020-11-25
Lara Burns		2020-11-25
Ms Emma Thomas		2015-05-01
Nicola Jane Granger		2024-09-24
Pema Jane Radha		2020-11-25

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales - Charity number 1161998

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09544506 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

FOR

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 2025. 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

Introduction

CAST (Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology) is a UK charity working to accelerate the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of the charity.

Since 2015, we have been supporting social impact organisations to make the fullest use of digital technology - and working with funders, partners, digital specialists, government and other stakeholders to create a networked environment of support for the sector. Over the past 12 months, CAST has been increasingly focusing on supporting the sector with AI.

Our mission is to ensure that every UK social impact organisation has the skills, confidence and opportunity to harness the full power of digital. We work directly with social impact organisations, helping them to become more responsive to their audiences' changing needs, behaviours and expectations, more test-driven, and more confident in embedding digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services.

We also work closely with funders, advisory bodies, advocacy collectives, sector leaders and digital specialists, to radically improve the quality and range of digital tools, training, funding and advice available to the sector - and to maximise the uptake of these offerings.

We continually strive to make connections between all parts of the sector, as well as across the supporting infrastructure - e.g. sharing needs, priorities, concerns and success stories with regard to AI across and between the social sector and funding community, in order to mobilise a collective support effort. Central to this is our commitment to working in the open: we share what we are learning, and build on the work of others through reuse. This reduces the costs of change, whilst enabling pace and scale.

By building social sector organisations' digital capacity, CAST helps them to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST's vision is for an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

The capacity for charities and social impact organisations to create public benefit relies increasingly on their access to - and effective use of - digital tools and approaches. The spaces where people gather, connect and access information are, in the main, continuing to shift from physical to digital. And so if charities do not have a strong digital presence - and the confidence and support to adopt new technology such as AI as it emerges - their vital services will become less visible and accessible, and their influence will be diminished.

This is where CAST comes in: we work with charities and social impact organisations to help them embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance as standard - and to explore new technologies such as AI as they emerge. We also work closely with funders and sector leaders to create an environment which supports and encourages charities to explore the full potential of existing and emerging technologies.

As laid out in our Theory of Change, we support charities to develop their agency (developing skills, relationships and practices); presence (creating charity and sector owned technologies) and influence (supporting leaders to have greater voice within and beyond the sector) in the technologies that affect us all.

The way in which we deliver support can be described by three parts: we incubate sector and community-led interventions, building the best environments and teams to develop and scale social impact through digital; we design and deliver training, peer support and programmes that help develop the agency and capability of individuals and organisations to use digital, data and design to achieve their objectives - and we host and support collections of experiments into how emerging technology, particularly AI, can bring about social value: supporting shared testing and learning so the sector makes quicker progress in the ethical use of digital, data and design for positive social impact. At the heart of all three parts is CAST as a connector - between charities, funders, leaders and digital experts.

Our connection with multiple touchpoints across the sector means that we are at the forefront of understanding emerging trends and needs - and flexing our approaches accordingly, in order to offer the most valuable and timely support to the sector and the communities it serves. As such, a major part of our focus over the past 12 months has been working with thousands of social impact organisations, funders and sector leaders to identify the key challenges and opportunities with regard to AI, and design multiple strands of support and connection, engineered to meet the most pressing needs and priorities.

CAST's work revolves around the core aim of building up social impact organisations' digital agency, presence and influence - so that they become stronger and more sustainable within themselves, and better able to deliver consistent value to the public.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

Providing direct support via in-depth programmes

Over the reporting period, CAST has connected with thousands of social impact organisations, helping them to harness the full power of digital - and with hundreds of funders, partners, digital specialists and other key stakeholders to create an environment that supports this.

We have provided in-depth support via a number of in-depth, long-term programmes, namely the Youth Sector Innovation Incubator, Community Explore, Digital Campus and Deloitte Digital Connect.

The Youth Sector Innovation Incubator (YSII) saw CAST join forces with National Citizen Service Trust (NCS) to set up three projects (or 'Incubators'), each tackling a unique challenge, with the ultimate aim of creating a suite of innovative digital solutions to boost social cohesion among young people. Central to the programme was the specific design of the model: each challenge was tackled by a cohort comprising a digital partner, three youth sector organisations and a group of young people, whose valuable involvement was woven into every stage of the project: read more about this in our midpoint YSII blog.

The programme ran from November 2024 until March 2025 - and although just weeks into the programme, the government announced that NCS would be winding down from March 2025, we worked with the digital partners to ensure the smooth and uninterrupted running of each cohort. The programme resulted in three products: the cohort for Challenge 1 (tasked with creating online experiences designed to engage young people reluctant to attend in-person programmes) produced Youth Voice; Challenge 2 (tasked with supporting young people to better understand, and examine how they use and engage with, generative AI) produced Real Chat AI - and Challenge 3 (tasked with embedding the learnings that young people have gained from undertaking NCS experiences) produced the Brilliance tool.

Feedback from all of the groups involved in the programme was very positive: in a post-programme survey of the young people who participated in the project, 100% stated that not only had they felt involved in the design process in a meaningful way, but that they felt their contributions to the project had made a positive impact. And 94% stated that they were proud of their involvement in the project, and felt positive about the future of the tool. The youth sector organisations involved spoke positively about their experiences of co-designing with young people, as evidenced in these Q&A pieces with Beats Bus, Warrington Youth Zone and FotoNow. In a post-programme survey, 89% of participants from youth organisations stated that they felt more confident applying user-centred, test-driven design practices to their work, with the same number stating that they had built or improved their external networks as a result of taking part in the programme. Commenting as theprogramme wrapped up, NCS's outgoing Director of Delivery Services Chris Brown stated: 'This project surpassed our expectations. The prototypes that have come out not only add immediate value for the sector, in some cases they are truly ground-breaking. I really hope that CAST's way of working can become the blueprint for future developments in the sector.' [See testimonials reel for full quote.]

We are currently in the process of pulling together all the evaluation from the NCS project into a report to present to DCMS (the Department for Culture, Media and Sport) - and we'll be publishing findings and key learnings from each of the incubator teams, so that the wider sector can benefit from these. We'll also be actively seeking follow-on funding for each of the products created.

Community Explore is CAST's six-month Funder Plus programme, designed to help community businesses explore the development of Community Tech using user-centred design processes. The most recent version of the programme - provided as part of Power to Change and Promising Trouble's Discovery Fund - wrapped up in May 2024 and was delivered through a mix of content and learning experiences. As the programme wrapped, participants were encouraged to think about pitching for further funding, and supported to create short videos setting out their solution ideas to funders. We also made a library of Community Explore assets available to the wider sector. Feedback from programme participants was very positive, with 100% stating that the programme helped them increase their confidence in carrying out user research to better understand beneficiaries' needs.

Digital Campus is a 13-month programme of support from CAST, which provides participants with access to tools, support and hands-on training to build their knowledge and confidence with digital. During the most recent version of the programme - which was rolled out for a consortium of organisations convened by Refugee Action, and wrapped up in December 2024 - we ran a series of three AI masterclasses designed specifically for the forced migration sector, and delivered a Housing Co-Design project with participating organisations.

Deloitte Digital Connect is a programme designed and delivered in partnership with Deloitte. Over the course of six months, participants are supported to make progress on an existing organisational digital challenge by putting their beneficiaries at the heart of the solution. The third edition of the programme wrapped up in May 2024, with 100% of participants reporting increased confidence in applying user-centred design, and 95% feeling more confident leading digital projects. More information can be found in the impact report and testimonials reel - as well as in post-programme interviews with The Brilliant Club and Advice NI.

Since the third edition of the programme wrapped up, Deloitte have been investing in the core capacity of the CAST team to deliver AI-related support that is targeted towards the most critical needs of the sector - and scaled to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit. Using learnings from post-programme surveys and wider sector research, as well as insights from the CAST and Deloitte panel session (in which nonprofits shared real-life AI use cases), we have worked together to develop a suite of events and resources designed to support the sector's response to AI.

Helping to improve digital skills and confidence across the sector

In addition to the longer-term support interventions as laid out above, we have also continued to run our short-course Design Hops, which teach participants a step-by-step method for user centred digital design. During the reporting period, we delivered a Design Hop funded via the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation initiative (see the 'Providing continuity for Catalyst-led services' section on page 9 of this report). We shared the Design Hop information and signup link via our newsletter and social media channels, as well as with more than 100 CVS organisations, in order to reach a wider diversity of participants. We also tweaked the delivery of the initiative in line with feedback we'd received from previous Design Hops.

22 people (from 21 organisations) participated in the Design Hop. In a post-programme survey, 69% of respondents indicated that they had shared the user research techniques and resources learnt on the Design Hop with colleagues, supporting the hypothesis that the Design Hop has a wider reach and impact, extending beyond the participants themselves. In addition, 77% of survey respondents indicated that, following the Design Hop, their thinking had shifted to some degree from solution thinking towards problem thinking - and 100% of participants stated that they felt more confident using a design process within the organisation they represent, following the Design Hop.

We've also continued our Digital Foundations work, supporting social sector staff to improve their digital skills and confidence, so that they are better equipped to support the individuals and communities they serve. A central component of this initiative has been testing essential skills resources developed as part of the Digital Skills Framework, created in partnership with Scouts. In the summer of 2024, we published an article outlining five strategies for boosting staff engagement with digital skills, based on the learnings from our research project with organisations piloting the Framework. During the reporting period, we were seeking funding, alongside maintaining the Framework's Steering Group, who were providing input on how to govern, develop and scale the framework. Due to a lack of funding, we have not been able to progress this at the scale we had hoped; however, one of the organisations that has embedded the Framework has provided suggestions and resources, so we will be implementing these, as well as further developing the new AI resources section - and we plan to make the Framework public in the coming months.

The initiative also feeds into the work of the Digital Poverty Alliance, which has shown core needs around raising public awareness about the importance of digital skills, and the range of support that is available. CAST has been an active member of the Digital Poverty Alliance (DPA)'s National Delivery Committee for the past two years. Throughout this time, we contributed to shaping national conversations and actions aimed at tackling digital poverty across the UK. Our involvement allowed us to collaborate with a wide range of partners and share insights from our work with civil society organisations to inform policy and practice. Our participation in the committee continued until December 2024, when the DPA undertook a strategic review of its governance and engagement structures. As part of this review, the National Delivery Committee was disbanded to make way for a new phase of activity and stakeholder engagement. CAST remains committed to supporting efforts to eliminate digital poverty and will continue to engage with the DPA and other sector partners in future initiatives, including contributing to its new Charity Network.

We've also made updates to our evergreen digital skills resources, including the Digital Toolkit - a collection of 30 free tools and resources, designed to support organisations moving through the process of researching, defining and developing a digital product, platform or service. Over the reporting period, we have redesigned sections and updated page layouts to improve the user experience, and added in two new AI resources, each with their own new workbooks in Google Slides. We've also been linking to the resources in the Toolkit more frequently - including in our Digital Skills Framework and self-serve AI course - which has led to an increase in traffic and page views to the site: throughout the reporting period, the site attracted 5,400 page views - a 41% increase on the same period last year.

Identifying needs - and mobilising support - around AI

Over the past year, we - along with many others across the sector - have observed a sharp rise in the prevalence of AI, to the point where it is now forming the basis for the majority of emerging needs, opportunities and concerns, across not only the social sector but also the supporting infrastructure of funders and other organisations.

We've seen this evidenced not just on a qualitative basis, through the regular conversations we're having with charities, social impact organisations, funders and sector leaders - but also via the quantitative data that comes in through our various communications channels: for example, the three most-accessed pages of our website from January to March 2025 were all AI-related, clearly demonstrating the rising demand for - and interest in - AI-related support and activity.

By way of response, we have focused much of our time over the past year into supporting charities, social impact organisations, funders and other stakeholders to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by AI, in order to bring about positive social change.

Central to this, has been our AI survey: a sector-wide study, designed to gauge needs, behaviours, priorities and concerns with regard to AI. We rolled out the first version early in 2024, and used the results - in conjunction with other research including the Charity Digital Skills Report - to provide support directly to charities and social impact organisations, as well as to influence the response from grantmakers: we summarised the survey results and our associated support offerings in this AI blog. Naturally, AI is now a thread that weaves throughout many of our projects, programmes and peer groups as standard, and so it appears in other areas of this report - but in this section, we'll take a look at some of the key standalone AI support interventions offered by CAST over the reporting period.

AI for Grantmakers group: We set up the AI for Grantmakers group in December 2023 - and it has subsequently grown to comprise 270 people from more than 200 Trusts and Foundations across the UK. The group meets online every six weeks to discuss the challenges and opportunities presented by AI - and in February 2025, we collaborated with The National Lottery Community Fund to host an in-person event at London's Bishopsgate Institute, designed to help align funders' efforts to support the sector with AI. The event was attended by 140 people from Trusts and Foundations around the UK; we have summarised the key insights and reflections shared in this AI funder event summary blog.

Charity AI Task Force: February's funder event (see above) saw the official launch of the Charity AI Task Force, set up and co-chaired by Dan Sutch (Director of CAST) and Zoe Amar (Founder, Zoe Amar Digital). The task force (which emerged as a concept following an in-person gathering of sector leaders in November 2024, convened by CAST and Zoe Amar) aims to champion the responsible, inclusive and collaborative use of AI across the social sector. The launch resulted in media coverage across a range of key sector titles - and prompted interest from more than 50 organisations interested in joining the current 20+ member organisations. One of the Task Force's first collective activities was to draft and deliver a response to the government's AI Opportunities Action Plan; discussion around this took place during the reporting period, with the resulting response being delivered at the start of May 2025 and generating coverage in key sector titles.

AI self-serve course: We've seen, through research results - and heard, through frequent conversations with organisations all over the UK - that one of the most common blockers in terms of starting to experiment with AI, is simply not knowing where to begin. To help address this, and support people to start taking the first steps towards responsible experimentation with AI, we launched a self-serve AI course in January 2025. The course consists of seven weekly emails, each containing a guided activity designed to help participants comfortably familiarise themselves with AI - and discover how it can make day-to-day work life easier.

Since launch, the AI self-serve course sign-up page has attracted more than 3,700 unique users, with more than 1,000 people starting the course - and an average open rate of 72% across the seven emails (it was particularly encouraging to note that this barely tailed off as the content progressed: the final email returned an open rate of 65%, which is exceptionally high for such a course). Feedback has been very positive: 97% of survey respondents described the course content as 'engaging and relevant' - and respondents returned an average result of 9 out of 10 when asked how likely they were to continue applying what they'd learned. Following the success of this course, we are planning a follow up offer that builds on this beginners' version and offers more intermediate learning.

Campus: We have put together a platform containing 70+ charity and funder AI-related pilot projects, 60+ free-to-access AI resources (including blogs, tutorials, guides, podcasts, toolkits and courses) and a 'Getting started with AI' hub, containing support information and events to help people along their AI journey. We're continuing to test and iterate the platform, and hope to roll it out for wider access later in the year.

Working with IVAR: In March 2025, we joined forces with The Institute For Voluntary Action Research, to strengthen lines of communication and connection across and between charities and grantmakers - with the ultimate aim of empowering more confident, robust and well-informed responses to AI across the board. Through the new collaboration - supported by IVAR's Research Development Fund - we'll be capturing and sharing stories, insights and practical examples of AI use, so that charities are informed and inspired to experiment safely with AI. And in order to create a continuous feedback loop, we will share developments between funding groups and charities, where agreed and feasible. We'll also look to strengthen connections between IVAR's 'Open and Trusting' community of 150 grant-making organisations and CAST's AI for Grantmakers peer group.

In addition, we have continued to update the 'living library' of frameworks, guides, case studies, courses, toolkits and other resources available in our online AI hub; added AI tools into both our Digital Toolkit and Digital Skills Framework; continued to share our AI Canvas and AI Spheres visual and worked with The Developer Society, Trust for London and Paul Hamlyn Foundation to develop and test a locally hosted 'Safe Sector AI' platform (soon to be available) - bringing the benefits of interacting with tools such as ChatGPT and Claude, with the absolute security of knowing where the data is stored and how it is being used. We are also actively involved in AI-related projects across the network: in March 2025, we took up an offer from DataKind UK to participate in their peer group on building responsible chatbots, and in the early part of 2025, we were involved in helping organisations to test Knowbot, an AI-powered website assistant for charities.

We have also delivered AI-focused talks and workshops at more than 30 events, including The Civic AI Observatory Unconference, London Funders' Festival of Learning, the Superhighways conference, the Charity Digital AI Summit and the Connected by Data Unconference - as well as several AI 'Lunch and Learn' sessions for funders. In total, we have reached more than 2,000 people from social sector organisations directly through these sessions - but we've also endeavoured to share insights, learnings and useful links via our communications channels wherever possible, so that the wider sector can benefit. Since November of last year, CAST's Director Dan Sutch has also been acting as the National Lottery's AI innovator in residence, supporting the organisation's exploration into AI - and ensuring charity and community voice is at the heart of it.

During the reporting period, we launched and completed a new survey, incorporating questions from the previous version as well as new sections (e.g. on environmental impact and AI tools used), in order to capture an accurate and timely picture. The survey - which ran from December 2024 until February 2025 - received 266 responses (over 100 more than the previous version), which we synthesised to draw out key themes, needs and priorities. We shared the key findings - as well as associated support offerings - at an online event in April 2025, and in a survey blog in May 2025.

We will be using the results of this new survey - again, in conjunction with other sector research - to develop and curate support designed to meet the most pressing needs across the sector. In addition, we will be sharing learnings and recommendations from some of the experimental AI tools we've been developing in-house. We are also in the process of appointing two new roles: a Head of Design for AI, and a Head of Technical AI Experiments. These two roles will bring greater senior leadership in the design and testing of early stage products - which, once validated, will enable us to work with our development team to build out scalable products.

At CAST, we take a holistic approach when looking at AI, exploring the 'macro' picture alongside the 'micro'. We reflect - and encourage charities and funders to do the same - on what shifts in people's behaviours and expectations might mean for organisations' missions, and how changes in the socio-techno economic context will affect power dynamics and working conditions. We are committed to shaping conversations and designing support structures that ensure everyone has equal access to AI, and the power to use it for social good.

Providing continuity for Catalyst-led services

Catalyst was set up by CAST in 2019 with the aim of 'bringing a social purpose to the digital revolution'. Over the following five years, it grew to become a thriving network of nonprofits, digital support partners and funders, working together to collectively realise a digitally enabled and resilient social sector. On 1st April 2024, Catalyst transitioned to become a Community Interest Company (CIC), with a renewed vision, mission and model.

Catalyst now operates entirely independently of CAST: it is a separate legal entity, focused on creating a future where tech is fair, regenerative and life-enhancing. Naturally, there remains a degree of crossover in terms of our respective aims and ambitions, and we remain a part of the Catalyst network, collaborating on the Open IP for Funders initiative (see details further down this section). We are also committed to providing sustained support, wherever possible, for those initiatives previously overseen by Catalyst, in order that the sector can continue to benefit from the valuable service on offer.

To this end, we were delighted to receive funding in July 2024 from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to convene a network of support, comprising eight initiatives, which were previously receiving support from Catalyst. The network - which will be in place until at least July 2026 - comprises Agencies for Good, Design Hops, Digital Candle, the Digital Leads Network, Digital Trustees, Dovetail and The Curve - as well as a reuse infrastructure strand, providing support to enable reuse of open, sector owned technologies.

We will be working together to align activities, and to promote any support offerings widely: as part of this commitment, several members of the network attended SCVO's The Gathering in February 2025, co-hosting a session to showcase the various strands of support available.

In addition, CAST has taken responsibility for the Shared Digital Guides platform (formerly managed by Catalyst), so that the sector can continue to benefit from a steady stream of step-by-step Guides - written by charities, for charities. During the reporting period, 11 new Guides were uploaded: six of these were sourced by CAST (three of which focused on AI), whilst five were contributed by Catalyst as part of a commitment set at the point of transition. During the reporting period, the site attracted 7,700 unique visitors, with a combined total of almost 15,400 page views: these figures remain almost unchanged, compared to the previous reporting period. However, the amount of people visiting a second Guide has increased to 5,300 (from 4,300 in the previous period).

Last Autumn, we also transferred two self-serve courses from Catalyst's platform to the CAST site: Learn User Research is a seven-week course with information on different types of user research, recruiting principles, question writing and interview synthesis, whilst Learn Design Thinking is a five-week course, with information on turning data into actionable ideas, testing ways to adapt services, and creating delivery roadmaps. Collectively, the sign-up pages have attracted 800 unique visitors since launching on the CAST site, with around 250 people signing up to take the courses. Over the coming months, we're planning to review each course in order to update the content and add any new topics as needed.

We are continuing to work with Catalyst on the Open IP for Funders initiative, which aims to encourage and support funders to implement open IP (intellectual property) within grant agreements, and to encourage open IP amongst the charities they support. Over the reporting period, the initiative continued to engage with funders - and an example of the Open IP work in practice, was a collaboration with Power to Change: all participants on their Discovery Fund were invited to take part in CAST's Community Explore programme (see the Providing direct support via in-depth programmes section on page 4), and working with National Citizen Service to ensure the outputs from the Incubators were open source and creative commons. A particular exploration here is aligning the 'community-owned' nature of digital products that emerge from co-design processes and the open-IP approach which underpins wider sharing and adoption.

Convening networks and sparking connections

We know that the role of digital lead can be an isolated and challenging one: many people with responsibility for digital within charities lack support - and yet across the charitable sector there exists a wealth of rich insight and generous leadership.

We're keen to bring together those people that have worked on digital projects and programmes, so that they can share their experiences, achievements and challenges - and learn from and support one another. CAST's Digital Leads Network (DLN) connects social sector staff working on digital projects with each other, as well as with sector experts. The network provides participants with a range of resources and learning opportunities, including access to a network of like-minded professionals, and a variety of events and webinars.

The DLN experienced significant growth in 2024-25, expanding from fewer than 100 members at the start of 2024, to 283 members (from 248 UK charities) by April 2025. Between January and April 2025 alone, we welcomed 91 new members, averaging nearly 25 new sign-ups each month. Members span a wide range of charities: the network currently comprises 117 small-medium organisations (under £1m), 85 large organisations (£1m-£10m) and 46 major to super-major charities (over £10m). New members are diverse in seniority and specialisms, with 53% in executive or senior leadership roles, and others working across digital innovation, operations, communications, and data.

The DLN has become a vital space for charity digital leads to connect, learn and share. Throughout the reporting period, engagement has increased considerably, with new members joining, record attendance at meetups and strong participation in workshops and peer groups. Members report increased confidence, improved digital skills and stronger sector connections. And in June 2024, we responded to feedback from members by setting up a new dedicated AI peer group for the DLN. The group - which now comprises more than 100 members - acts as a space to collectively explore the opportunities and challenges of AI - and ensure inclusive impacts of AI in society. Throughout the reporting period, six AI peer group meetings took place, with members learning from peers at Access Social Care, Learning with Parents, Catch22, RSPCA and Friends of the Earth. Many members are now piloting AI tools such as responsible chatbots.

The DLN has also platformed charity voices at events including the AI in Grantmaking conference, Charity Digital AI Summit, and CharityCamp UK, giving charity digital leads a stronger voice in sector-wide conversations. In 2025, we conducted a start-of-year survey to understand how the network is supporting members - and the responses were overwhelmingly positive, with high onboarding satisfaction and appreciation for the supportive peer environment, clarity of communications and ease of engagement.

Throughout the reporting period, we've showcased the activities of the DLN across our newsletter, social media channels and website - as well as with regular articles on Medium, including a piece showcasing impact and next steps - and spotlight interviews with members Alice Kershaw, Dan Farmer, Magid El-Amin and Liam Sweeney. Looking ahead, the DLN will focus on enhancing peer connections, supporting smaller organisations, improving access to resources and aligning future activities with member priorities.

Alongside the more structured Digital Leads Network, we have continued to run the Coffee Connections service, matching peers within the social sector every two months for an informal chat about digital. Across the reporting period, matches took place in April, June, September and November 2024 - and January and March 2025, with 782 matches being made in total made across this time.

As well as making these ongoing matches with existing participants, we have worked with The Developer Society to develop a reusable version of Coffee Connections, so that we can set other organisations up with their own instances. We've so far set up the service for the Trades Union Congress (TUC): they currently have 13 people signed up on their own instance and will be testing it out before we look at rolling it out more widely. CAST's Digital Leads Network also has plans to use the matching service with their members.

Developing innovative digital products

As well as supporting social organisations directly, we are keen to identify gaps in which the development of new digital products or platforms could play a role in increasing efficiencies through saving social sector organisations time, resources and money, helping these organisations understand opportunities for service improvements, and ultimately helping communities to have a better service experience.

The incubators with National Citizen Service (see the Providing direct support via in-depth programmes section on page 3) provided a core part of this approach. In addition, this year saw the post-incubation transition of Kompasi from CAST into Disrupt Foundation. Having developed and tested Kompasi over the past 18 months, we worked to transition Kompasi to be led by a new team within Disrupt Foundation as part of the next phase - aiming to grow the number of people and organisations benefiting from this platform.

Working with The Developer Society, we have developed Worthwhile AI - a first example of 'sector and community owned' AI - an AI service provided to charities that provides a safe sandbox for them to experiment with generative AI in an environment that is governed by our charitable objectives and that prioritises data security. We're currently testing Worthwhile AI as a sandbox for charities to develop their experience and confidence with generative AI; as a tool within the grantmaking process, and as a tool to engage charity staff with case studies about AI usage. We'll be developing Worthwhile AI (and aligned sector-owned AI tools) as a priority in the coming year.

Additionally, in June 2024, we began work helping to shape British Cycling's Youth Development Awards - part of the organisation's ambition to help every child discover the lifelong joy of riding a bike. Due to staffing changes, British Cycling were looking for additional support to develop this new product. The aim was for CAST to build on British Cycling's existing research, design and testing so far, and provide digital, design and product expertise to take this work to the next stage.

Between June 2024 and February 2025, CAST supported British Cycling to: generate insight from coaches on what works well when supporting young riders; test, prototype and design a product that support clubs to create positive experiences for new riders; create and launch an MVP (which received 10,300 page views during the test period); test the proposition with coaches; recommend technical requirements to integrate with the existing British Cycling digital estate - and undertake a discovery phase with parents into their needs and motivations when supporting their child to learn and progress in cycling. For more information, see this co-written British Cycling weeknote from October 2024, looking back on MVP development and forwards to the testing phase.

Opening up dialogue between fundraisers and grantmakers

GrantAdvisor UK is a free platform designed to encourage open dialogue between UK social impact organisations and grantmakers, by collecting authentic, real-time reviews and comments on grantseekers' experiences of working with funders.

Two years on from launch, the site now contains 570 anonymous reviews from grantseekers, with 44 funders registered on the service. Funders that registered during the reporting period include Francis Scott Trust, Barking and Dagenham Giving, Quilter Foundation, Foundation Scotland, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Richmond Foundation and Childwick Trust - and we also supported Joseph Levy Foundation to re-onboard.

In the spring of 2024, we interviewed four funders who had seen a significant increase in their reviews, to find out what they had learned - and hear about changes they were making as a result. As part of this work, we used AI to synthesise themes from the qualitative data and create reports for each of these funders, in order to support these reflective conversations and play back the impact that information gathered from anonymous review has on grantmaking practices and behaviours. We published the results of this analysis and conversations - with Steve Morgan Foundation, City Bridge Foundation, Yapp Charitable Trust and Joffe Charitable Trust - on our Medium platform in April and May of last year.

We continued to explore opportunities to engage the fundraising community in this initiative, including presenting at London Funders' Festival of Learning in May 2024 and the Fundraising Everywhere Trust and Major Donor Conference in December 2024. And we've made improvements to the platform, based on feedback and new learning from funders - e.g. we've included quotes from recent interviews with funders, to show the impact that gathering reviews has on funder practice. We find most funders who register want to have a conversation with the GrantAdvisor team, so we also updated our FAQs to respond to some of the commonly asked questions, and updated the Comms Pack for funders to include 10 tips to support funders to gather reviews.

During the reporting period, the platform attracted 3,600 unique visitors, and 12,000 page views. In January 2025, we ceased posting on X - and instead created Bluesky accounts for both CAST and GrantAdvisor UK.

We are also working on opening up lines of communication across and between charity and funder communities via our work with IVAR and through our AI for Grantmakers peer group: see the Identifying needs - and mobilising support - around AI section on page 6 for details.

Providing support and advice via consultancy work

In addition to programmes, resources, services and platforms, we also work on a one-on-one basis with organisations, providing a range of bespoke consultancy services which include modular support on project management, ways of working, MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning), user-centred research and design, co-production, service delivery - and much more. During the reporting period, we worked with the organisations as below:

The Clothworkers' Foundation: In a 12-month project, which began in February 2025, we are providing support on all applications for digital infrastructure grants, both Large and Small, under the Open Grants Programme. We participated in training with Clothworkers to build understanding of - and confidence in - assessing and making decisions on digital applications - and from there, we completed the set up, to ensure we had accurate maintenance of data relating to decisions, grant amounts, and grant management contact.

In the first two months, up to and including March 2025, the CAST team assessed 24 grant applications for amounts between £15,000 and £50,000. From this, grants worth approximately £112,000 were made to 10 digital projects - from CRM integrations and web developments, to elearning platforms and app developments.

The programme is planned to continue until the end of January 2026 and during this period we expect that approximately £770,000 worth of grants will be made to between 70 - 80 organisations. As part of the process, we also plan to make contact with successful and unsuccessful applicants to introduce them to further support around digital infrastructure and to provide access to the Digital Leads Network for all suitable grantees. We would also like to support Clothworkers to use GrantAdvisor UK to capture feedback about applicants' experiences of applying for funding.

Lucy Faithfull Foundation: In an ongoing project which began in 2023, we are helping the Foundation to deliver their groundbreaking Intercept project. Throughout the reporting period, we continued to support the Foundation to deliver the project and embed an innovation approach across the organisation through coaching, workshops and 'task and finish' activities that are deep dives to help move particular pieces of work on, such as making sense of chatbots and exploring games. This support will continue throughout 2025.

Refugee Council: In an eight-month project, which began in October 2024, we are exploring a practical way to support practitioners and young people navigating age disputes. We have been working with Refugee Council and the Childhood First partnership to develop a resource for anyone who comes across a child refugee who has been deemed to be an adult, and wants to help them. This includes staff and volunteers in accommodation such as hotels; charity sector volunteers and staff, and staff in semi-independent accommodation or other local authority settings - as well as those working in Health, Education and Housing.

We ran a co-design workshop for the partnership to shape the toolkit, undertook in-depth user research interviewing practitioners from across the sector, and tested prototypes with practitioners. The MVP was launched to the partnership in April 2025, and further iteration is planned for later this year with a bigger launch to the wider sector. Alongside this we have been working to support Refugee Council to co-design, with young refugees, a resource to help explain the process to the young people affected. This resource is expected to be ready for use by mid 2025.

Prudence Trust: Providing light touch support over three years as Prudence Trust supports two organisations using digital tools to support young people's mental health. This is a new area of work for Prudence Trust and our support aims to help both the charities they're funding and the Prudence Trust team.

Lawn Tennis Association and Deloitte: In early 2025, CAST began a collaboration with Deloitte and the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to design a mobile-first digital skills platform for the LTA's 16-25-year-old community activators. The goal is to improve digital confidence, employability and long-term opportunities for young people from lower socio-economic backgrounds through tennis-themed, engaging content. The project runs from April to June 2025. Expected outcomes for the project include: a clear understanding of the target group's digital needs; prototypes of content and rewards, tested and validated by users - and a foundation for a scalable digital platform aligned with the Essential Digital Skills Framework. The project offers potential for wider application across other youth and sport-based programmes.

The Digital Services Consortium (DSC): In a two-year project, which began in February 2025, we are working as an Evaluation and Learning partner to the DSC - an alliance of 12 leading UK charities who work to support disabled and seriously ill young people and their families. We are working to embed shared principles, establish robust learning loops and impact measurement, and support true collaboration and evolution across the programme as they create and grow the digital and hybrid services. The work will result in two evaluation reports and a partnership that is more able to collaborate and learn from each other. We're working to co-design the programme's evaluation framework as well as offer support to develop the digital leads in the partnership.

Trades Union Congress (TUC): As part of the TUC's 'Leading Change' programme, we worked once again with the TUC Digital Lab to design and deliver a transformative digital change leadership module as part of the TUC's prestigious flagship leadership development programme. This two day module aims to empower union leaders with experience of digital leadership, design and transformation approaches.

The King's Fund: We continue to support The King's Fund to explore the role of digital, and AI in particular in their work, and in their mission to improve health and care for all. Our support has covered consultancy, supporting peer groups and providing resources and challenge at all levels of the organisation to engage critically with AI and digital tools.

Showcasing CAST's identity and purpose

Over the past year, we have strengthened our efforts to amplify the visibility and awareness of CAST: the organisation itself; the services we offer, and the networks and connections we are creating - so that our support can reach as many individuals and organisations as possible.

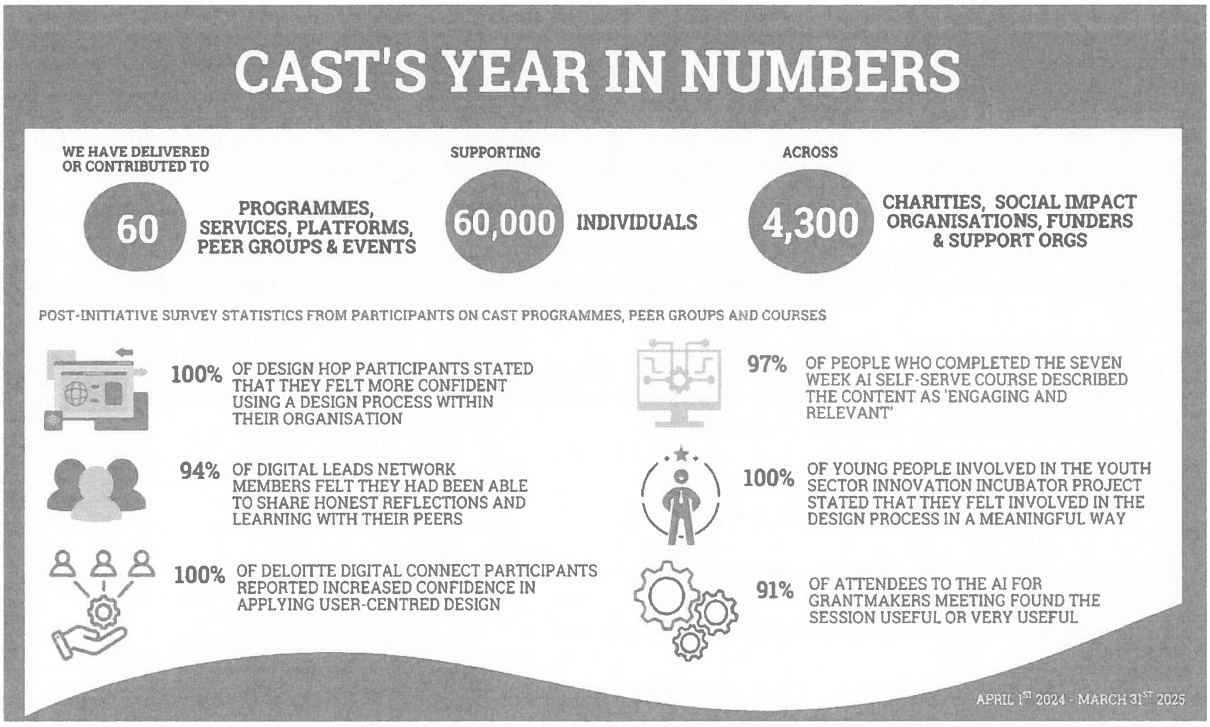
Central to this storytelling has been our Medium platform, which acts as a hub to capture learnings, reflections and advice from all those within the CAST community. During the reporting period, 54 articles were published, collectively attracting more than 9,300 views: this is a significant increase on last year, both in terms of article numbers and views.

We're openly sharing stories and perspectives directly from the small but mighty core team involved in programme delivery, as well as from those in supporting roles. During the reporting period, eight of the CAST team wrote and submitted Medium articles, with topics including AI experimentation, AI and funding, digital transformation, AI for the refugee and forced migration sector, the power of co-design, AI and inclusion, capacity-building through networking, using data and AI for social good, tackling digital exclusion, grantseekers' perspectives on grantmaking and building human connection. As well as providing content designed to inform and inspire the sector, we highlighted aspects of CAST as an organisation, with details of our staff retreat and the development of our wellbeing policy, as well as a series of Q&A pieces introducing the CAST team.

We've continually updated our website with the latest projects, programmes, resources, events and opportunities - as well as with updated impact figures and organisational developments (e.g. our updated core values, which we redesigned collectively as a team in May 2024). Website figures for the reporting period are significantly higher than this time last year (19,600 unique users, compared to 6,800 for the previous period) - this is likely due to the fact that we started sending a regular (generally monthly) newsletter in June 2024 - which tends to generate thousands of click-throughs per issue, many of which are to the CAST site.

We also continue to share regular posts across social media: we post regularly on our LinkedIn channel, and until early this year we also posted almost daily on X. In February 2025, we ceased posting on X and focused instead on our Bluesky account: set up in September 2024, this has grown swiftly, and currently has more than 2,100 followers.

Throughout the reporting period, we reached more than 40,000 people via our communications channels (website, social media, newsletter, Medium and YouTube) alone. The infographic below provides a snapshot of our impact over the reporting period; see the impact page of our website for more information. As we move forward, we are building on the wealth of positive testimonials to further strengthen our presence and support.


CAST'S YEAR IN NUMBERS
WE HAVE DELIVERED OR CONTRIBUTED TO
60
PROGRAMMES, SERVICES, PLATFORMS, PEER GROUPS & EVENTS
SUPPORTING
60,000
INDIVIDUALS
ACROSS
4,300
CHARITIES, SOCIAL IMPACT ORGANISATIONS, FUNDERS & SUPPORT ORGS
POST-INITIATIVE SURVEY STATISTICS FROM PARTICIPANTS ON CAST PROGRAMMES, PEER GROUPS AND COURSES
100% OF DESIGN HOP PARTICIPANTS STATED THAT THEY FELT MORE CONFIDENT USING A DESIGN PROCESS WITHIN THEIR ORGANISATION
94% OF DIGITAL LEADS NETWORK MEMBERS FELT THEY HAD BEEN ABLE TO SHARE HONEST REFLECTIONS AND LEARNING WITH THEIR PEERS
100% OF DELOITTE DIGITAL CONNECT PARTICIPANTS REPORTED INCREASED CONFIDENCE IN APPLYING USER-CENTRED DESIGN
97% OF PEOPLE WHO COMPLETED THE SEVEN WEEK AI SELF-SERVE COURSE DESCRIBED THE CONTENT AS 'ENGAGING AND RELEVANT'
100% OF YOUNG PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE YOUTH SECTOR INNOVATION INCUBATOR PROJECT STATED THAT THEY FELT INVOLVED IN THE DESIGN PROCESS IN A MEANINGFUL WAY
91% OF ATTENDEES TO THE AI FOR GRANTMAKERS MEETING FOUND THE SESSION USEFUL OR VERY USEFUL
APRIL 1ST 2024 - MARCH 31ST 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Total income of £1.0m is 39% below overall income for 2023/24, but is 10% above CAST-only income for 2023/24, excluding Catalyst - which became a separate entity from April 2024.

Income comprised £208k of grant funding from the Disrupt Foundation, £105k of grant income from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, service income of £575k, and a number of smaller grants and donations.

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £1.1m during the year.

Of this expenditure, £157k was paid out as direct grants, and £289k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £103k on support costs and £13k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

The Charity has a risk-based reserves policy.

This entails assessing the ideal reserve level through review of a number of key elements.

These elements at present (excluding restricted funds) are :-

- Any funds received as time-limited, unrestricted income, which have not yet been spent
- A basic working capital buffer, equivalent to one month's operating costs - this is not to cover loss of income, but simply a timing buffer
- Potential loss of income cover - this will reflect the income pipeline at the point of annual budget finalisation, on a risk basis - with no cover needed for 100% certain income, then 10% cover needed for income included in the budget with a 90% likelihood, etc.
- Potential unforeseen cost income - this element will be hardest to estimate, but will be assessed on a risk basis for known risk areas - for example, a risk of additional costs relating to the possible Catalyst transition, or the excess of insurance policies.

These are cumulative, i.e. added to give a total reserves requirement, within a margin of +/- 20%.

Applying this policy indicates a reserves target for the year end of £218,000.

Year end reserves were considerably below this target level, at only £108k in total (£48k unrestricted). This was due to a number of factors, primarily, the timing of funding and of the commencement of new projects; and a strategic decision to invest in the development of AI knowledge and services. The dip in reserves was anticipated, along with a post year-end increase in reserves, which had reached £168k in total (£72k unrestricted) by the end of June 2025. Unrestricted reserves are expected to be within the target range by January 2026. The trustees therefore regard CAST's year end reserves position as acceptable, whilst recognising the need to develop increased reserves in future periods.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The unprecedented pace of adoption of generative AI - and the opportunities and impacts that brings - demands that we continue to increase our focus on supporting mission-driven organisations to respond to these changes, and to get to a position where the communities they serve can be central to the decisions and uses around AI. We will continue to support charity practitioners, mission driven organisations and focus on sector-strengthening approaches that ensure that civil society has a stronger influence.

To do this, CAST will continue to focus on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. Developing the agency ensures charity practitioners can critically engage with digital and AI tools, appropriately using them to create greater impact in their work. We'll continue to invest in training; capacity building; leadership development and sharing examples of emerging practices. We'll continue to focus on strengthening the number and depth of relationships between charity digital leads - especially through the Digital Leads Network and the AI for Grantmakers peer group.

Developing the presence of social impact organisations in technology aims to ensure the values of civil society are embedded within digital tools. We'll continue to support social impact organisations to develop digital services and products; we'll continue to incubate technologies and initiatives that help to create the digital infrastructure for civil society, and we'll continue to focus on growing the use and reuse of open, sector and community owned technologies. We will focus our efforts on creating and supporting sector- and community-owned technologies - those technologies built, designed with, and owned by the sector and those impacted by their use. This includes further development of safe tools for charity practitioners to build their confidence and experience, as well as the development of sector-owned tools that can be reused across the sector.

Ensuring social impact organisations have greater influence and reach remains a key part of our strategy, and demands even greater focus in the year ahead. We will continue to support initiatives that strive to platform sector leaders and connect them with those in positions of power and authority. As part of this, we will continue our work co-chairing the Charity AI Task Force and advocating for the responsible, inclusive and collaborative use of AI across the social sector.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges. The trustees who served during the period were as follows: Emma Thomas, Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò, Prue Quarcoo, Pema Radha, Ha Cole and Nic Granger OBE.

Current trustees (as of November 2025) are as follows: Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò (Chair), Pema Radha, Ha Cole and Nic Granger OBE. To aid the effective governance of the charity, we also operate a Finance and Audit committee (Chaired by Nic Granger OBE) with delegated authority as set out in an agreed Scheme of Delegation.

With huge thanks and gratitude, two of our trustees, Emma Thomas and Prue Quarcoo stepped down during this period. Both of these trustees have played a huge role in supporting and extending the impact of CAST, for which we are all incredibly grateful. In particular, Prue helped form and lead our Finance and Risk committee. Emma Thomas was one of our founding trustees, having served on CAST's Board for ten years, including one year as Chair, and has been instrumental in our formation and development.

In mid 2024 we undertook a recruitment exercise as a result of our Governance review to recruit two new trustees to the Board, specifically in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. Through this process we recruited Ha Cole, Chief AI Officer, Tech for Social Impact, Microsoft EMEA and Nic Granger OBE, Chief Information and Financial Officer for the North Sea Transition Authority to the Board.

The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews the risks faced by the charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis. A strong risk management process is in place whereby delivery, strategic, and organisational risks are identified, recorded, and, where appropriate, escalated to the management team and trustees. Risks are also discussed weekly at Platform Team meetings and reflected in evolving organisational priorities.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- **Strengthening financial resilience and securing long-term funding.** CAST continues to maintain a strong reputation with funders and a growing pipeline of opportunities, particularly in areas such as AI and digital capability. As our work often leads sector innovation, we recognise that funding can follow in cycles, with peaks of investment often arriving after CAST has already stepped into new spaces. While the timing of funding decisions can be unpredictable, we are actively managing this through strong oversight of cashflow, a flexible reserves policy, and by deepening relationships with both existing and new funders. We are focused on building multi-year, core funding partnerships and aligning business development more closely with our strategic areas of impact.
  At the same time, CAST remains responsive to risk, in a prioritised way, should unexpected dips in revenue occur.
- **Navigating ethical complexity and pace of AI development.** The speed of change in generative AI presents both opportunity and risk. CAST must maintain a balanced position, advancing sector capacity for 'worthwhile AI' while also acknowledging potential harms. Our belief is that supporting charities to develop a critical understanding of AI best supports the sector to have a louder voice in championing the needs of our communities - and that to get to this critical understanding the sector must be supported to engage with, experience and understand the opportunities and challenges of AI. We have strengthened our leadership in this area with new AI focussed hires, continued development of the Charity AI Task Force, and strong engagement with funders and sector organisations. We remain committed to a thoughtful, collaborative approach to shaping the sector's role and voice in AI innovation.
- **Strategic influence and relevance.** Delivering on the third pillar of CAST's strategy, sector-wide and beyond-sector influencing, requires us to strengthen our external engagement and align our influencing activity with our internal expertise. We are building this capability through partnerships; networked influencing through the Charity AI Task Force; working in partnership with sector-leading organisations, and increased participation in sector events and forums. Our ongoing work to centre the voices of charities and communities in the national digital conversation is a critical part of this risk mitigation.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Emma Thomas	(resigned 30 April 2025)
Mary McKenna MBE	(resigned 30 June 2024)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(resigned 24 September 2024)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Ha Thi Thu Cole	(appointed 24 September 2024
Nicola Granger OBE	(appointed 24 September 2024)

Auditors
Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers
Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology 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.

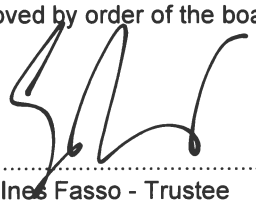
STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on .....19th November 2025..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
Gaia-Ines Fasso - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 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 CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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 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:

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of employment law, data protection and anti-bribery and corruption legislation, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Charities acts, Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to overstate profit and management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and Trustee Directors, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations;
- As required by ISA 240, incorporating an element of unpredictability into our audit testing.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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.

Gavin Whitter FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Date: 4/12/25

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.25 Total funds £	31.3.24 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	1,232	-	1,232	119,993
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		625,152	415,375	1,040,527	1,582,865
Total		626,384	415,375	1,041,759	1,702,858
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	13,068	-	13,068	21,292
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		738,670	367,525	1,106,195	2,218,523
Total		751,738	367,525	1,119,263	2,239,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(125,354)	47,850	(77,504)	(536,957)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		173,409	12,138	185,547	722,504
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		48,055	59,988	108,043	185,547

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	3,016	4,127
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	230,675	106,893
Cash at bank		39,853	387,771
		270,528	494,664
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(165,501)	(313,244)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		105,027	181,420
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		108,043	185,547
NET ASSETS		108,043	185,547
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		48,055	173,409
Restricted funds		59,988	12,138
TOTAL FUNDS		108,043	185,547

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 and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on .....19th November 2025..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Gaia-Ines Passo - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(346,618)	(320,998)
Net cash used in operating activities		(346,618)	(320,998)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,300)	(2,166)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	560
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,300)	(1,606)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(347,918)	(322,604)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		387,771	710,375
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		39,853	387,771

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25 £	31.3.24 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(77,504)	(536,957)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,280	1,410
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	1,131	583
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(123,782)	201,915
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(147,743)	12,051
Net cash used in operations	(346,618)	(320,998)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.25 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	387,771	(347,918)	39,853
	387,771	(347,918)	39,853
Total	387,771	(347,918)	39,853

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. 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.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that financial risks are manageable, through appropriate monitoring of new income streams, and readiness to respond promptly in the event of adverse variances. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies, the trustee directors may be required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on the historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are currently no critical estimates or judgements requiring disclosure in addition to the accounting policies described.

Income
Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services
The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT
All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

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

Plant and machinery - 33% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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.

continued...

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Donations	1,232	119,993

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	31.3.25	31.3.24
		£	£
Grants	Digital capacity development	465,469	1,403,164
Service income	Digital capacity development	575,058	179,701
		1,040,527	1,582,865

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Refugee Action	31,294	14,463
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	22,500	220,000
Esmee Fairbairn	105,000	15,000
City Bridge Trust	10,000	230,800
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	-	593,736
Sport England	-	30,177
Tides Foundtion	57,299	-
Yapp Charitable trust	-	2,500
Tudor Trust	-	5,000
The Disrupt Foundation	208,076	255,738
Joffle	-	10,500
Power to Change	-	25,250
Digital Skills Consortium	8,800	-
Trust for London	22,500	-
	465,469	1,403,164

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Staff costs	13,068	21,292

continued...

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	845,730	157,117	103,348	1,106,195

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Staff costs	513,738	452,675
Subcontractors	289,090	945,417
Travel and subsistence	8,618	13,583
Other direct costs	34,284	103,482
	845,730	1,515,157

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Digital capacity development	157,117	328,445

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
The Developer Society	132,000	90,000
Deloitte Digital Connect	(3,445)	108,060
We the Catalysts CIC	-	130,385
Platypus	7,050	-
Third Sector Lab	21,512	-
	157,117	328,445

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme is run in partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects. The support included:

- Mentoring and troubleshooting on their named project. (Delivered by over 30 Deloitte UK volunteer digital experts via 52 one-to-one calls).
- Group training sessions: 24 workshops on digital and design practices (delivered by Deloitte UK and CAST)
- Peer support sessions: 14 peer support and Lunch & Learn sessions. (Delivered by CAST)
- Self-serve support: over 100 bespoke digital resources shared with digital leads

The Developer Society
Onward grants to the Developer Society were for the Disrupt Foundation project and the AI Knowledge Hub.

Esmee Fairbairn Project
Onward grants to Platypus Digital and Third Sector Lab were part of the Esmee Fairbairn project.

continued...

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	96,326	7,022	103,348

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

Management

	31.3.25 Digital capacity development	31.3.24 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	53,240	279,756
Social security	12,378	30,133
Pensions	4,169	13,791
Rent	4,088	5,534
Telephone	-	380
Postage and stationery	574	371
Sundries	519	856
Equipment repairs and renewals	242	76
Software and licence expenses	2,607	-
Administration services	13,060	21,969
Bank charges	1,286	1,351
Training	300	5,111
Professional fees	-	3,306
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	1,452	2,834
Recruitment costs	-	600
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,280	1,410
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	1,131	583
	96,326	368,061

Governance costs

	31.3.25 Digital capacity development	31.3.24 Total activities
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,960	6,660
Trustee meeting and expenses	28	160
Legal fees	34	40
	7,022	6,860

continued...

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,960	6,660
Depreciation - owned assets	1,280	1,410
Other operating leases	4,088	5,534
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	1,131	583

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.24: £nil).

Trustees' expenses

During the year nil trustee (31.3.24: one trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.24: £121).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Wages and salaries	513,873	688,578
Social security costs	55,604	73,551
Other pension costs	27,116	35,518
	596,593	797,647

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

	31.3.25	31.3.24
Charitable	8	8
Support	1	3
	9	11

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.25	31.3.24
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	2	2

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	119,993	-	119,993
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	227,164	1,355,701	1,582,865
Total	347,157	1,355,701	1,702,858
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,292	-	21,292
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	774,960	1,443,563	2,218,523
Total	796,252	1,443,563	2,239,815
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(449,095)	(87,862)	(536,957)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	622,504	100,000	722,504
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	173,409	12,138	185,547

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2024	8,718
Additions	1,300
Disposals	(1,697)
At 31 March 2025	8,321
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2024	4,591
Charge for year	1,280
Eliminated on disposal	(566)
At 31 March 2025	5,305
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	3,016
At 31 March 2024	4,127

continued...

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Trade debtors	183,868	58,000
Other debtors	46,807	48,893
	230,675	106,893

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Trade creditors	22,430	38,328
Social security and other taxes	-	36,944
VAT	52,362	9,904
Other creditors	90,709	228,068
	165,501	313,244

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	-
Amount release to incoming resources	-	-
Amount deferred in the year	27,500	-
Balance carried forward	27,500	-

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.25 Total funds	31.3.24 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,016	-	3,016	4,127
Current assets	171,416	99,112	270,528	494,664
Current liabilities	(126,377)	(39,124)	(165,501)	(313,244)
	48,055	59,988	108,043	185,547

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	173,409	(125,354)	48,055
Restricted funds			
Power to Change	12,138	(12,138)	-
AI Knowledge Hub	-	11,448	11,448
Esmee Fairbairn	-	48,540	48,540
	12,138	47,850	59,988
TOTAL FUNDS	185,547	(77,504)	108,043

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	626,384	(751,738)	(125,354)
Restricted funds			
The Disrupt Foundation	208,076	(208,076)	-
Power to Change	-	(12,138)	(12,138)
Okta	57,299	(57,299)	-
AI Knowledge Hub	45,000	(33,552)	11,448
Esmee Fairbairn	105,000	(56,460)	48,540
	415,375	(367,525)	47,850
TOTAL FUNDS	1,041,759	(1,119,263)	(77,504)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	622,504	(449,095)	173,409
Restricted funds			
City Bridge Trust	100,000	(100,000)	-
Power to Change	-	12,138	12,138
	100,000	(87,862)	12,138
TOTAL FUNDS	722,504	(536,957)	185,547

continued...

17. 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 funds	347,157	(796,252)	(449,095)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	230,800	(330,800)	(100,000)
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	593,736	(593,736)	-
Sport England	30,177	(30,177)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	255,738	(255,738)	-
Power to Change	25,250	(13,112)	12,138
	1,355,701	(1,443,563)	(87,862)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,702,858	(2,239,815)	(536,957)

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
This grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK

City Bridge Trust
This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Services
Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects.

Sport England
This grant is to design and deliver an Innovation and Digital Accelerator to support Sport National Governing Bodies to amplify their legacy ambitions associated with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The grant enabled CAST to develop support and resources for NGBs and the wider sporting sector to develop their use of digital, data and design.

Disrupt Foundation
This grant is to develop a scalable and reusable digital product (or set of digital products) that can support civic society organisations to overcome shared challenges in providing better access, support and services to migrants and those seeking asylum.

Power to Change
Our Community Explore programme supported 20 community businesses over six months to delve into Community Tech using a user-centred, test-driven design approach. This work was part of the Power to Change Discovery Fund.

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

AI Knowledge Hub
Working with Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Trust for London to create and test an 'AI archivist' that has access to internal documents (such as board papers, discussions, minutes and decisions made) to be used to bring past-information into current meetings. The aim of this work is to understand how AI might usefully support institutional memory. A further part of this project is to look for alignment between the two organisations, to identify additional opportunities for knowledge sharing across the sector.

Esmee Fairbairn
Working to sustain and further develop the key digital infrastructure of support helping charities make best use of digital, data and design. Funding from Esmee Fairbairn supports the continuation of services developed as part of Catalyst, and aims to increase the number of charities benefiting from this support.

Okta
Under their Okta for Good Fund, Okta is a long-term supporter of CAST, aiming to continue to build the sector's capacity around digital, data and AI. With Okta's support we are building spaces, resources and tools that enable charities to collectively develop their confidence and skills in AI.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £27,116 (31.3.24: £33,318). There was £5,176 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2025 (31.3.24: £5,961).

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2025 (31.3.24: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales - Charity number 1161998

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09544506 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

FOR

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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

Introduction

CAST (Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology) is a UK charity working to accelerate the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations i n the technologies that affect us all.

Since 2015, we have been supporting social impact organisations to make the fullest use of digital technology - and working with funders, partners, digital specialists, government and other stakeholders to create a networked environment of support for the sector.

Our mission is to ensure that every UK social impact organisation has the skills, confidence and opportunity to harness the full power of digital. We work directly with social impact organisations, helping them to become more responsive to their audiences' changing needs, behaviours and expectations, more test-driven, and more confident in embedding digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services.

We also work closely with funders, advisory bodies, advocacy collectives, sector leaders and digital specialists, to radically improve the quality and range of digital tools, training, funding and advice available to the sector - and to maximise the uptake of these offerings.

We continually strive to make connections between all parts of the sector: this can involve directly connecting people or organisations to each other, or sharing insights with and between audiences - e.g. sharing the social sector's emerging AI needs with funders, in order to mobilise a collective support effort. Central to this is our commitment to working in the open: we share what we are learning, and build on the work of others through reuse. This reduces the costs of change, whilst enabling pace and scale.

By building social sector organisations' digital capacity, CAST helps them to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST's vision is for an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviour and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

The way in which charities and social impact organisations create public benefit relies increasingly heavily on their access to - and use of - digital tools and approaches. Post-pandemic, the spaces where people gather, connect and access information have largely shifted from physical to digital. And so if charities do not have a strong digital presence - and the confidence and support to adopt new tech trends as they emerge - their vital services will become less visible and accessible, and their influence will be diminished.

This is where CAST comes in: we work with charities and social impact organisations to help them embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance - and with sector leaders and funders to create an environment which supports and encourages this. We support social impact organisations to develop their agency (developing skills, relationships and practices); presence (creating charity and sector owned technologies) and influence (supporting leaders to have greater voice within and beyond the sector) in the technologies that affect us all.

The way in which we deliver support can be described by three parts:

- We incubate sector and community-led interventions, building the best environments and teams to develop and scale social impact through digital.
- We design and deliver programmes to develop the capacity of social impact organisations: providing training, peer support and programmes that help develop the agency and capability of individuals and organisations to use digital, data and design to achieve their objectives.
- We host and support collections of experiments into how emerging technology, particularly AI, can bring about social value: supporting shared testing and learning so the sector makes quicker progress in the ethical use of digital, data and design for positive social impact.

Our connection with multiple touchpoints across the sector means that we are at the forefront of understanding emerging trends and needs - and flexing our approaches as needed, in order to offer the most valuable support to the sector and the communities they serve. As such, we are currently working with hundreds of social impact organisations and funders to identify the key challenges and opportunities with regard to AI, so that we can mobilise support and help the sector to harness the full potential of this technology.

CAST's work revolves around the core aim of building up social impact organisations' digital agency, presence and influence - so that they become stronger and more sustainable within themselves, and better able to deliver consistent value to the public.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievement and performance

Review of performance and achievements

Supporting Catalyst, and preparing for the transition

Catalyst was set up by CAST in 2019 with the aim of 'bringing a social purpose to the digital revolution'. Over the following five years, it grew to become a thriving network of nonprofits, digital support partners and funders, working together to collectively realise a digitally enabled and resilient social sector.

On 1st April 2024, Catalyst transitioned to become a Community Interest Company (CIC), with a renewed vision, mission and model. Full details are available in the comprehensive Q&A and blog, both of which were co-authored by the CAST and Catalyst teams.

During the reporting period, in addition to working on transition activities, Catalyst engaged with around 90 core partners to ensure the continued delivery of more than 30 activities. These activities - including initiatives, research projects and working groups - supported thousands of nonprofits, digital experts and funders. Initiative leads (including CAST) have been encouraged and supported by Catalyst to optimise their offers based on feedback and insight; improve diversity and inclusion; collaborate with each other, and embed tools to capture impact. Full details of Catalyst's impact can be found in this report.

Naturally, there continued to be a high level of alignment between CAST and Catalyst's work during this time: CAST continued to incubate Catalyst whilst also contributing specifically to a number of initiatives, including Coffee Connections, Design Hops, the Digital Leads Network, Shared Digital Guides, Open IP for Funders and Digital Foundations. The first three of these will be covered in the subsequent section, as they were primarily led by CAST; a summary of the joint activity is as below:

Shared Digital Guides (formerly Service Recipes) are step-by-step guides to using digital tools, written by charities for charities. During the reporting period, existing Guides were re-written into a new content pattern to improve quality and relevance, using input from the original providers. In addition, several new Guides were delivered, with the total currently standing at 78 Guides, contributed by 57 organisations. During the reporting period, the site attracted 7,500 unique visitors, with a combined total of more than 16,000 page views. Following Catalyst's transition in April 2024, CAST assumed responsibility for the initiative, with Catalyst set to contribute eight Liber atory Tech Guides over the next 12 months.

The Open IP for Funders initiative aims to encourage and support funders to implement open IP (intellectual property) within grant agreements, and to encourage open IP amongst the charities they support. Over the reporting period, the initiative continued to engage with funders - and an example of the Open IP work in practice, was a collaboration with Power to Change: all participants on their Discovery Fund were invited to take part in CAST's Community Explore programme. This began in October 2023 and wrapped up in April 2024; read more in the section below, and in the Community Explore wrap-up blog .

The Digital Foundations work supports social sector staff to improve their digital skills and confidence, so that they are better equipped to support the individuals and communities they serve. During the reporting period, a new round of testing was carried out on the Digital Skills Framework, with charities from Refugee Action's Explore Adapt Renew programme. Funding from Catalyst enabled testing to be carried out to better understand what works with the framework, what good engagement looks like - and what promotes use of the framework by staff. A new AI section was added, with resources crowdsourced across the CAST team and steering group, which continued to meet quarterly. The AI section currently contains 16 resources, which will increase as other organisations share more tools.

The initiative also feeds into the work of the Digital Poverty Alliance, which has shown core needs around raising public awareness about the importance of digital skills, and the range of support that is available. As part of the Digital Poverty Alliance's National Delivery Committee, CAST took part in quarterly committee meetings, and has been contributing to the mission aimed at increasing essential digital skills in the UK. As part of this work, CAST was invited to contribute to the work of FutureDotNow; during the reporting period, we contributed to - and co-signed - the new Workforce Digital Skills charter, a rallying cry for concerted and focused action to close the essential digital skills gap in the UK workfo rce.

As of April 2024, Catalyst is a separate legal entity, with a renewed mission: to support technology that liberates people. The network of people and organisations is focused on helping UK communities shape technology through building collective power.

Going forward, CAST will remain a proud part of the Catalyst network, continuing to collaborate on the Open IP for Funders work. Catalyst will continue to directly support five initiatives, and will provide contributions or temporary support to others. CAST will continue to support all initiatives for which it was the primary lead; will take responsibility for Shared Digital Guides, and is in conversation about supporting other initiatives previously convened by Catalyst. Full details of specific initiatives are available in the transition Q&A.

Providing direct support to the sector

Over the reporting period, CAST has worked directly with hundreds of social impact organisations, helping them to harness the full power of digital - and with funders, partners, digital specialists and other key stakeholders to create an environment that supports this.

We have provided in-depth support via a number of sustained, long-term programmes, namely Deloitte Digital Connect, Community Explore, Digital Campus and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator.

Deloitte Digital Connect is a programme designed and delivered in partnership with Deloitte. Following two successful cohorts delivered between January 2022 and April 2023, we kicked off the third cohort in November 2023, with 30 charities and social enterprises. Over the course of six months, participants were supported to make progress on an existing organisational digital challenge by putting their beneficiaries at the heart of the solution.

Participants received blended support from Deloitte experts, the CAST team and their own social sector peers, to get a better understanding of the challenges faced by their beneficiaries, and learn how to create simple but effective solutions to address them.

Over the course of 90 one-to-one calls (with members of the CAST team and a bank of over 40 Deloitte volunteers), 14 workshops and 14 peer support sessions, participants explored innovative techniques including user research, idea generation, prototyping and agile working. Each of the digital leads taking part had a sponsor within their organisation; the programme provided specific support for these sponsors, including two peer-to-peer sessions and two AI sessions, in collaboration with the Deloitte AI Institute.

The programme wrapped up in June 2024, and survey results were very positive: 100% of respondents stated that they felt more confident in applying user-centred practices to their research and also in undertaking user research to understand beneficiaries' needs, whilst 95% expressed increased confidence in leading digital projects. Positive feedback was also received from the Deloitte volunteers, with post-programme comments highlighting the smooth matching experience, clear goals and social sector insight opportunities - and 100% of survey respondents stating that they would like to volunteer again. See the Deloitte Digital Connect animation for a snapshot of participant testimonials.

Community Explore is CAST's six-month Funder Plus programme of support and training to help community businesses explore the development of Community Tech (community owned digital products and services), using user-centred design processes. It is a structured design course, supporting participants to use trusted tools and processes such as user research, stakeholder engagement, idea generation and prototyping to validate their solution ideas. The version delivered during the reporting period was provided as part of Power to Change and Promising Trouble's Discovery Fund, and was designed to provide specific and tailored support to the participating teams.

The programme (which ran from October 2023 to May 2024) was delivered through a mix of content and learning experiences, including a self-serve learning hub (with resources, video content, tools and templates), peer support, masterclasses, workshops, weekly emails, one-to-one coaching and playbacks at the end of each phase, where participants presented their learning. As the programme wrapped, participants were encouraged to think about pitching for further funding, and supported to create short videos setting out their solution ideas to funders.

Feedback was very positive, with 100% of Community Explore participants stating that the programme helped them increase their confidence in carrying out user research to better understand their beneficiaries' needs and behaviours.

Digital Campus is a 13-month programme of support from CAST, which is currently being rolled out for a consortium of organisations convened by Refugee Action. The programme provides participants with access to tools, support and hands-on training to build their knowledge and confidence with digital. As the programme kicked off in the summer of 2023, we published a blog outlining the recruitment process. During the reporting period, participants benefited from a blend of specific modules and individual coaching, covering a number of digital topics. When surveyed at the end of the programme, 100% of participants stated that they had learned new digital and design skills, and felt more confident using new ways of thinking about projects. Participants were also invited to join a series of three AI masterclasses designed specifically for the forced migration sector, delivered between May and July 2024.

The Innovation & Digital Accelerator - a programme developed by CAST for Sport England, with the aim of helping National Governing Bodies harness digital to improve access to sport for all - also wrapped up during the reporting period (in June 2023). This was covered in depth in the previous annual report: as a recap, 100% of end-of-programme survey recipients reported that they learned new digital and innovation tools, skills and processes - and that their project will contribute towards improved engagement with underrepresented groups. See the Innovation & Digital Accelerator animation for participant testimonials.

In line with our commitment to ongoing connection and support, all participants from these four programmes have been invited to join the CAST Digital Leads Network. And in keeping with our culture of sharing openly, many of the programme resources have been made available to the wider sector: over 100 free tools are available via the Deloitte Digital Connect Resource Hub; 17 playback presentations are accessible via the Community Explore Notion; more than 20 blogs have been shared on the Innovation & Digital Accelerator Medium, and a host of resources from the EAR AI sessions have been shared in a Digital Campus AI masterclass blog.

In addition to these longer-term support interventions, we have also continued to run our short-course Design Hops, which teach participants a step-by-step method for user centred digital design. Two Design Hops took place during the reporting period (in May 2023 and February 2024), both of which were open to the wider charity community. In April 2023, we shared Refugee Action's experience of a Design Hop in order to give potential attendees an idea of what was involved. And later that year, we ran a discovery process, interviewing past participants to understand their experiences, so that we could iterate as needed before running the March 2024 Design Hop.

Feedback from the Design Hops was positive, with 100% of survey respondents stating that they felt more confident using a design process within their organisation - and 92% stating that they had been able to apply what they'd learned in their organisations.

CAST has also been able to work behind the scenes with vital civil society organisations such as The Kings Fund and the TUC. We are also working with Lucy Faithfull Foundation to help them deliver their groundbreaking Intercept project, funded by Nominet. As part of our support, we are helping the Foundation with experimentation, innovation and scaling to accelerate the vital work they do to keep children safe online. We also began working with Prudence Trust in March 2024, supporting organisations that are using digital technology to support young people's mental health.

Identifying needs - and mobilising support - around AI

Because CAST is focused on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all, we have a particular focus on emerging tech, such as Generative AI: the opportunities and challenges presented, and how we can support organisations to respond to these to bring about positive social change.

With this in mind, late last year we set about developing a survey designed to answer some of the questions we were asking about how we at CAST could best respond to current needs - both directly, and in terms of helping to influence action across the sector. Running from December 2023 until February 2024, the survey received 164 unique responses that we synthesised (partly using Notion AI) and evaluated. In a comprehensive blog, published in March 2024, we explored the results - and laid out our plans for support interventions.

In the subsequent months, we followed up on our promised actions, convening an AI peer group for charity digital leads; delivering AI-related talks (at events including Charity Digital's Transform and Thrive, London Funders' Festival of Learning and the The Civic AI Observatory Unconference); incorporating AI into our Digital Skills Framework; delivering an AI mini-series in partnership with Deloitte; presenting three AI masterclasses in collaboration with Refugee Action; making our AI diagram and experimentation canvas open for reuse - and setting up a brand new resource hub on our website.

We also worked on building up the membership of our existing AI in grantmaking peer group: set up in December 2023, the group has grown rapidly to incorporate more than 120 people from 85 trusts and foundations, meeting regularly to explore the challenges and opportunities of AI. To date, funders have shared more than 50 innovative AI experiments with the group, which will shortly be made available to the wider sector.

We are now weaving AI into almost every strand of work that we do at CAST. On an organisational level, we are transparent about our use of AI - and we are working to support a wide range of individuals and organisations via a number of interventions. We are also continually sharing AI content on our Medium platform, and in our website resour ce hub.

But this is just a snapshot: our AI support function is evolving and growing as we learn more about what the sector needs. Over the reporting period, we've been working with hundreds of charities, Trusts and Foundations, and technologists to explore the perceptions, practices, concerns and opportunities for AI in the charity sector. As part of this work, we've worked to identify and test different support needs that help charities to engage with AI in ways that support their mission - whether that's in adopting, using or influencing AI.

Convening networks and sparking connections

We know that the role of digital lead can be an isolated and challenging one: many people with responsibility for digital within charities lack support - and yet across the charitable sector there exists a wealth of rich insight and generous leadership.

We're keen to bring together those people that have worked on digital projects and programmes, so that they can share their experiences, achievements and challenges - and learn from and support one another. CAST's Digital Leads Network (DLN) connects social sector staff working on digital projects with each other, as well as with sector experts. More than two years on from launch, the network is now home to a growing community of 80 digital leads, all of whom have completed a CAST or Catalyst digital programme. It provides participants with a range of resources and learning opportunities, including access to a network of like-minded professionals, and a variety of events and webinars.

The DLN has been the focus of much activity during the reporting period: in June 2023, we established a member-led working group to steer the development of the network, and in the same month we set up a Members Hub, connecting members to each other - and to the available resources and masterclasses. In November of last year, we started the process of undertaking a network review with a working group made up of seven members of the network. The working group helped to develop network member user personas and the network's USP.

Members have benefited from three online masterclasses, focusing on AI in service delivery, co-designing services and no code-technology, and two online meetups, centering around the themes of AI use cases and digital upskilling. We also organised the first ever DLN in-person meetup in London, playing host to more than 30 members. The day featured member spotlights on user-led service development and AI, as well as a collective session focusing on how to build the network together. Feedback was very positive, with a Net Promoter Score of 90%.

In addition, Carol Botten, CEO at VONNE organised an AI conference in November 2023 and invited DLN members to share their experience. Magid El-Amin, Director of Insights at Catch-22, shared the organisation's use of AI at the VONNE conference - and then again this year, at a panel session organised by Deloitte and CAST.

Alongside the more structured Digital Leads Network, we have continued to run the Coffee Connections service, matching peers within the social sector every two months for an informal chat about digital. Matches were made in September and November 2023, and February and April 2024. Early this year, we ran some Coffee Connections research with a group of users to find out why they joined, how useful the conversations were - and how we could improve the service. We have also been exploring the possibility of reusing Coffee Connections for other organisations that want to match staff, volunteers and service users, and are currently in the process of rolling o ut a prototype version for testing.

Developing innovative digital products

As well as supporting social organisations directly, we are keen to identify gaps in which the development of new digital products or platforms could play a role in increasing efficiencies through saving social sector organisations time, resources and money, helping these organisations understand opportunities for service improvements, and ultimately helping communities to have a better service experience.

Throughout the reporting period, we worked with Disrupt Foundation to research and develop a digital tool that connects services from multiple providers, so that refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants can be signposted - or directly referred - to the right support. The digital solution was designed, developed and tested with professionals and volunteers working on the frontline, and with refugees and people seeking asylum.

We are delighted to say that, after around a year of product development incubation by CAST, this tool is now live in beta form. Named Kompasi (after the 'universal language' Esperanto term for 'compass'), the platform features a public service directory; signposting tools, with a private log-in page accessible to referral organisations to make safe and efficient referrals. As part of this work, we're working closely with Disrupt Foundation to develop a path to scale and sustainability.

Opening up dialogue between fundraisers and grantmakers, with GrantAdvisor UK

GrantAdvisor UK rolled out as a permanent service in May 2023. The free platform encourages open dialogue between UK social impact organisations and grantmakers, by collecting authentic, real-time reviews and comments on gra ntseekers' experiences of working with funders.

In the first year since launch, we have been working hard to raise awareness about the service across the fundraising community, in order to grow the number of reviews. This was the theme of our workshop (and subsequent blog) at Charity Digital's Digital Fundraising Summit last November. We have also been focussed on promoting the service to funders and building relationships with those already registered, supporting them to build their bank of reviews, reflect on what they learn and r espond to reviews.

In the early part of this year, we carried out research with funders who were successfully gathering reviews, in order to understand what was working well and what could be finessed. We used AI tools to analyse funders' anonymous reviews on the platform, and conducted coaching calls to understand how they were using the insights - and what advice they would give to funders and fundraisers considering signing up to the platform. We published two blogs from each funder on our Medium platform, and created a series of animations to showcase highlights from the interviews on social media.

From the point of launch in mid-May last year until the end of March this year, the site has attracted 5,900 unique visitors and 22,000 page views. 16 new funders have registered, bringing the total up to 35, and the site now contains more than 500 authentic and anonymous reviews.

Showcasing CAST's identity and purpose

The Catalyst transition has given everyone at CAST the opportunity to reflect on all that we have achieved over the past nine years - and as we celebrate the fact that we have created, incubated and helped to transition something that will now follow its own important path, so we also sharpen our focus on supporting the sector to develop its capacity and capability. To this end, we have been making a conscious effort to improve visibility and awareness of CAST, so that our support can reach as many individuals and organisations as possible.

Central to this storytelling has been our Medium platform, which acts as a hub to capture learnings, reflections and advice from all those within the CAST community. During the reporting period, 42 articles were published, collectively attracting more than 5,500 views.

We're openly sharing more stories about CAST's work - directly from the small but mighty core team involved in programme delivery, as well as from those in supporting roles. During the reporting period, nine of the CAST team wrote and submitted Medium articles, with topics including AI experimentation, CAST staff's AI Tech Jam, digital co-production, pitching for Tech for Good funding, CAST's theory of change, reuse and open working, digital inclusion, productive philanthropy, the results of our AI survey - and post-programme reflections from participants on Deloitte Digital Connect and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator. We also ran a series of Q&A pieces introducing the CAST team.

We have increased our presence at sector events, presenting at - and sharing insights from the Third Sector Fundraising Summit, Charity Digital's Transform and Thrive, VONNE (Voluntary Organisations' Network North East)'s conference and AGM, a National Lottery panel event, Haysmacintyre's Quarterly Charities Update, Digital Leaders Week and Charity Digital's Future of Fundraising Summit - as well as delivering informal Lunch & Learns on AI to three Trusts and Foundations.

We launched a new website in November 2023 (developed in line with user needs), and we continue to share regular posts across our popular X and LinkedIn channels, promoting new opportunities, blogs, news and events - as well as linking to evergreen content and resources such as our Digital Toolkit and Digital Principles. Throughout the reporting period, we reached more than 40,000 people with our programmes, initiatives, peer groups, event presentations, platforms and resources.

As we move forward, we are building on the wealth of positive testimonials to further strengthen our presence and support, with a brand new newsletter reaching thousands of organisations; publication of an in-depth Q&A on our path ahead, and work beginning on a central hub to host experiments, resources, contacts and trusted tools for the sector.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Financial review

Financial position

Results for the year

Total income for the year was £1.7m. Expenditure of £2.2m included a planned deficit of £500k. Expenditure includes £130k of restricted funds for Catalyst transferred out of CAST to the newly established Catalyst CIC. The Trustees made further planned commitments of reserves during the year for charitable activities, including development around emerging digital technologies, given the strong reserve levels of the charity. Free reserves are £185k at 31 March 2024, in line with the reserves policy, and representing a robust basis for continuing development and delivery during 2024/25 and beyond.

Expenditure exceeds income due to reserves at the start of the year having exceeded CAST's target level, and funds therefore being used on further development of charitable activities. Reserves of £185k at 31 March 2024 represent a robust basis for continuing development and delivery during 2024/25 and beyond.

Income

Total income of £1.7m is just over 10% below income in 2022/23.

Income for Catalyst comprised grants from Paul Hamlyn Foundation of £220k, City Bridge Trust of £231k, and The National Lottery Community Fund of £594k.

Non-Catalyst income comprised £256k of grant funding from the Disrupt Foundation, service income of £180k, a donation of £100k from Deloitte (passed on to participants in the Deloitte Digital Connect programme as grants of £5k for each participating organisation), and a number of smaller grants.

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £2.2m during the year, including the £130k funds transfer to the new Catalyst CIC.

Of this expenditure, £328k was paid out as direct grants, and £945k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £375k on support costs and £21k on fund-raising

Reserves policy

The Charity has a risk-based reserves policy.

The new approach entails assessing the ideal reserve level through review of a number of key elements.

These elements at present (excluding restricted funds) are :-

- Any funds received as time-limited, unrestricted income, which have not yet been spent
- A basic working capital buffer, equivalent to one month's operating costs - this is not to cover loss of income, but simply a timing buffer
- Potential loss of income cover - this will reflect the income pipeline at the point of annual budget finalisation, on a risk basis - with no cover needed for 100% certain income, then 10% cover needed for income included in the budget with a 90% likelihood, etc.
- Potential unforeseen cost income - this element will be hardest to estimate, but will be assessed on a risk basis for known risk areas - for example, a risk of additional costs relating to the possible Catalyst transition, or the excess of insurance policies

These are cumulative, i.e. added to give a total reserves requirement, within a margin of +/- 20%.

Applying this policy indicates a reserves target for the year end of £218,000.

Actual reserves are below this level, but within the 20% range. This is considered reasonable, especially given the level of confirmed income for 2024/25.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Future objectives and planned activities

CAST will continue to focus on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. We have a particular focus on how emerging technologies, such as generative AI, can be used by charities to bring about positive social change.

To foster greater agency amongst civil society organisations we'll continue to create, deliver and scale interventions that develop skills, capabilities, relationships and opportunities for those working within social impact organisations. We'll continue to focus on supporting organisations to develop their digital skills, as well as their use of design and data. We'll put renewed focus on supporting charities to respond to new and emerging technologies and ensure they have the skills, understanding and experience to use them.

Developing the presence of social impact organisations in technology aims to ensure the values of civil society are embedded within digital tools. We'll continue to support social impact organisations to develop digital services and products; we'll continue to incubate technologies and initiatives that help to create the digital infrastructure for civil society, and we'll continue to focus on growing the use and reuse of open, sector and community owned technologies.

Ensuring social impact organisations have greater influence and reach will be achieved by continuing to support the growth of the Digital Leads Network; connecting civil society organisations with opportunities to inform business and government, and continuing to deliver products like GrantAdvisor to create feedback loops and share insight. We recognise that disruptive technologies, such as generative AI, place even greater importance on the voice and influence of civil society to ensure justice and fairness are central to the impact of new technologies.

As civil society organisations rebuild from the past years and address the cost of living crisis, we'll continue to work towards our charitable objectives by accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all.

Details of our path ahead can be found in this in-depth Q&A.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges. The names of the trustees who served during the period were as follows: Professor Kerensa Jennings FRSA, Emma Thomas, Mary McKenna MBE, Lord Jim Knight, Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò, Prue Quarcoo and Pema Radha.

Current trustees (as of September 2024) are as follows: Emma Thomas, Lara Burns, Kate Collins, Gaia Ines Fassò, Prue Quarcoo and Pema Radha. To aid the effective governance of the charity, we also operate a Finance and Audit committee with delegated authority as set out in an agreed Scheme of Delegation.

With huge thanks and gratitude, two of our founding Trustees, Lord Jim Knight and Mary McKenna MBE stepped down at the end of their 9 year leadership of CAST. Having served on CAST's Board for three years, including one year as Chair, Professor Kerensa Jennings also stepped down from the Board. Each of these trustees has played a huge role in supporting and extending the impact of CAST, for which we are all incredibly grateful.

In early 2024 we undertook a Governance review to respond to the Catalyst transition, changes to the Board membership and CAST's renewed strategy. The outcome of this review and a following skills audit was:

- to move to a smaller Board model (from 9 to 6 trustees by 2025)
- to recruit two new trustees that brought finance and AI experience in particular
  to create and better utilise expertise of others outside of the Board including establishing critical friends
- for key areas and involvement of the Digital Leads Network.

The trustees are committed to ensuring that the Board has the combination of skills necessary to support the effective provision of access to capital to charities and social enterprises. In particular, the Board of Trustees includes skills and expertise in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews risks faced by the Charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis, with a strong risk management process in place where delivery related risks are identified and recorded and can be escalated to the management and trustees where appropriate.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- **Longer term funding risk for CAST - particularly as established links to Catalyst funders change with transition**. We are exploring new funders for CAST, particularly looking to establish long term (ideally core) funding and have already started working with funders who are new to CAST. We are further mitigating this risk by increasing our focus on generating income from service delivery.
- **Workforce wellbeing, hyperproductivity and burnout.** We rely on a talented and dedicated team to deliver CAST's ambitious strategy, as such it is vital that we have the right skills, experience, ways of working and well being. CAST's HR and wellbeing function is in place to better assess where staff are at emotionally. Strong project management and ways of working are in place to ensure efficiency and less admin heavy work. The development of a new Wellbeing Policy contributes to supporting this, alongside regular reviews of our other health and welfare policies.
- **Balancing critical and proactive approaches to supporting a sector response to AI.** The speed and scale of developments in Generative AI place greater importance on CAST's strategy. To respond appropriately to this speed and scale, CAST must strike the right balance in our support/engagement with AI. AI offers lots of opportunities but also highlights ethical and social challenges. CAST will continue to undertake deep work, create partnerships and support sector-wide forums to build collective insight and responses.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Professor Kerensa Jennings	(Chair until resigned 9 January 2024)
Emma Thomas	(Chair from 9 January 2024)
Mary McKenna MBE	(resigned 30 June 2024)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(appointed 1 March 2021)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lord Jim Knight	(resigned 10 December 2023)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Auditors
Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers
Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology 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.

Report of the trustees, incorporating a strategic report, approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 24 September 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:



.....
Ms E Thomas - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; 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.

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.

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:

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

Based on our understanding of the charitable company and sector, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to breaches of employment law, data protection and anti-bribery and corruption legislation, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements such as the Charities acts, Companies Act 2006 and UK tax legislation. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to overstate profit and management bias in accounting estimates. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and Trustee Directors, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations;
- As required by ISA 240, incorporating an element of unpredictability into our audit testing.

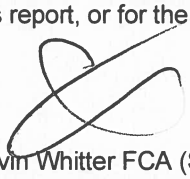
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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.



Gavin Whitter FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Date: 3/10/19

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES 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	2	119,993	-	119,993	98,250
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		227,164	1,355,701	1,582,865	1,949,529
Total		347,157	1,355,701	1,702,858	2,047,779
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	21,292	-	21,292	21,043
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		774,960	1,443,563	2,218,523	1,998,425
Total		796,252	1,443,563	2,239,815	2,019,468
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(449,095)	(87,862)	(536,957)	28,311
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		622,504	100,000	722,504	694,193
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		173,409	12,138	185,547	722,504

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	4,127	4,514
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	106,893	308,808
Cash at bank		387,771	710,375
		494,664	1,019,183
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(313,244)	(301,193)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		181,420	717,990
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		185,547	722,504
NET ASSETS		185,547	722,504
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		173,409	622,504
Restricted funds		12,138	100,000
TOTAL FUNDS		185,547	722,504

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 24 September 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Ms E Thomas - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(320,998)	(108,569)
Net cash used in operating activities		(320,998)	(108,569)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,166)	(4,232)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		560	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,606)	(4,232)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(322,604)	(112,801)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		710,375	823,176
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		387,771	710,375

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(536,957)	28,311
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,410	1,216
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	583	-
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	201,915	(249,003)
Increase in creditors	12,051	110,907
Net cash used in operations	(320,998)	(108,569)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	710,375	(322,604)	387,771
	710,375	(322,604)	387,771
Total	710,375	(322,604)	387,771

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. 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.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies, the trustee directors may be required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on the historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are currently no critical estimates or judgements requiring disclosure in addition to the accounting policies described.

Income
Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services
The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT
All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

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

Plant and machinery - 33% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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.

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2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	119,993	98,250

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	31.3.24	31.3.23
		£	£
Grants	Digital capacity development	1,403,164	1,726,106
Service income	Digital capacity development	179,701	223,423
		1,582,865	1,949,529

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Refugee Action	14,463	8,333
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	230,000
Esmee Fairbairn	15,000	220,000
City Bridge Trust	230,800	200,000
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	593,736	500,000
Fidelity	-	265,000
Sport England	30,177	260,823
Tides Foundtion	-	21,122
Yapp Charitable trust	2,500	2,500
Tudor Trust	5,000	5,000
The Disrupt Foundation	255,738	13,328
Joffle	10,500	-
Power to Change	25,250	-
	1,403,164	1,726,106

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Staff costs	21,292	21,043

continued...

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	1,515,157	328,445	374,921	2,218,523

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Staff costs	452,675	468,294
Subcontractors	945,417	1,043,030
Travel and subsistence	13,583	9,070
Other direct costs	103,482	29,749
	1,515,157	1,550,143

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Digital capacity development	328,445	114,438

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
The Developer Society	90,000	-
Kingston Voluntary Action	-	15,000
Comic Relief - Explore	-	14,438
Deloitte Digital Connect	108,060	85,000
We the Catalysts CIC	130,385	-
	328,445	114,438

Comic Relief- Explore
41 grantees applied and received grant funding for the explore programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with 5 further grants paid during 2022/23.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme is run in partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects. The support included:

- Mentoring and troubleshooting on their named project. (Delivered by over 30 Deloitte UK volunteer digital experts via 52 one-to-one calls).
- Group training sessions: 24 workshops on digital and design practices (delivered by Deloitte UK and CAST)
- Peer support sessions: 14 peer support and Lunch & Learn sessions. (Delivered by CAST)
- Self-serve support: over 100 bespoke digital resources shared with digital leads

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8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	368,061	6,860	374,921

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

Management

	31.3.24 Digital capacity development	31.3.23 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	279,756	242,517
Social security	30,133	31,804
Pensions	13,791	12,592
Rent	5,534	5,835
Telephone	380	540
Postage and stationery	371	378
Sundries	856	1,302
Equipment repairs and renewals	76	459
Software and licence expenses	-	7,200
Administration services	21,969	11,088
Bank charges	1,351	696
Training	5,111	4,186
Professional fees	3,306	2,160
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,834	2,235
Recruitment costs	600	2,399
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,410	1,216
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	583	-
	368,061	326,607

Governance costs

	31.3.24 Digital capacity development	31.3.23 Total activities
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,660	6,324
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	-	900
Trustee meeting and expenses	160	-
Legal fees	40	13
	6,860	7,237

continued...

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	6,660	6,324
Taxation compliance services	-	900
Depreciation - owned assets	1,410	1,216
Other operating leases	5,534	5,835
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	583	-

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.23: £nil).

Trustees' expenses

During the year one trustee (31.3.23: no trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £121 (31.3.23: £nil).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Wages and salaries	688,578	672,926
Social security costs	73,551	70,006
Other pension costs	35,518	33,318
	797,647	776,250

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Charitable	8	8
Support	3	3
	11	11

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.24	31.3.23
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	1
	2	2

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	13,250	85,000	98,250
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	480,378	1,469,151	1,949,529
Total	493,628	1,554,151	2,047,779
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,043	-	21,043
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	529,836	1,468,589	1,998,425
Total	550,879	1,468,589	2,019,468
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(57,251)	85,562	28,311
Transfers between funds	(8,938)	8,938	-
Net movement in funds	(66,189)	94,500	28,311
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	688,693	5,500	694,193
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	622,504	100,000	722,504

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2023	8,261
Additions	2,166
Disposals	(1,709)
At 31 March 2024	8,718
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2023	3,747
Charge for year	1,410
Eliminated on disposal	(566)
At 31 March 2024	4,591
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	4,127
At 31 March 2023	4,514

continued...

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade debtors	58,000	52,800
Other debtors	48,893	256,008
	106,893	308,808

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Trade creditors	38,328	102,383
Social security and other taxes	36,944	-
VAT	9,904	8,800
Other creditors	228,068	190,010
	313,244	301,193

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	13,243
mount release to incoming resources	-	(13,243)
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.24 Total funds	31.3.23 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,127	-	4,127	4,514
Current assets	482,526	12,138	494,664	1,019,183
Current liabilities	(313,244)	-	(313,244)	(301,193)
	173,409	12,138	185,547	722,504

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	622,504	(449,095)	173,409
Restricted funds			
City Bridge Trust	100,000	(100,000)	-
Power to change	-	12,138	12,138
	100,000	(87,862)	12,138
TOTAL FUNDS	722,504	(536,957)	185,547

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	347,157	(796,252)	(449,095)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	230,800	(330,800)	(100,000)
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	593,736	(593,736)	-
Sport England	30,177	(30,177)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	255,738	(255,738)	-
Power to change	25,250	(13,112)	12,138
	1,355,701	(1,443,563)	(87,862)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,702,858	(2,239,815)	(536,957)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.23 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	688,693	(57,251)	(8,938)	622,504
Restricted funds				
City Bridge Trust	-	100,000	-	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	5,500	(14,438)	8,938	-
	5,500	85,562	8,938	100,000
TOTAL FUNDS	694,193	28,311	-	722,504

continued...

17. 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 funds	493,628	(550,879)	(57,251)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	230,000	(230,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(100,000)	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(14,438)	(14,438)
Fidelity	265,000	(265,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	85,000	(85,000)	-
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	500,000	(500,000)	-
Sport England	260,823	(260,823)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	13,328	(13,328)	-
	1,554,151	(1,468,589)	85,562
TOTAL FUNDS	2,047,779	(2,019,468)	28,311

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
This grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK

The National Lottery Community Fund (Catalyst)
This funding from TNLCF was provided so that the Catalyst network could continue to help civil society organisations, including small and medium sized groups, embed digital tools across their practice, respond to the needs of users, and be more resilient in the face of technological change.

City Bridge Trust
This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- Services
Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Comic Relief - Explore
Early stage digital funding and tailored support to help charities explore digital service delivery challenges and prototype solutions.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects.

Sport England
This grant is to design and deliver an Innovation and Digital Accelerator to support Sport National Governing Bodies to amplify their legacy ambitions associated with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The grant enabled CAST to develop support and resources for NGBs and the wider sporting sector to develop their use of digital, data and design.

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Disrupt Foundation
This grant is to develop a scalable and reusable digital product (or set of digital products) that can support civic society organisations to overcome shared challenges in providing better access, support and services to migrants and those seeking asylum.

Power to Change
Our Community Explore programme supported 20 community businesses over six months to delve into Community Tech using a user-centred, test-driven design approach. This work was part of the Power to Change Discovery Fund.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £33,318 (31.3.23: £37,752). There was £10,224 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2024 (31.3.23: £8,499).

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2024 (31.3.23: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales - Charity number 1161998

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09544506 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

FOR

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 2023. 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

Introduction

CAST is a UK charity that supports social impact organisations to make the fullest use of digital technology, in order to be as responsive and resilient as possible. We work to remove barriers, create opportunities, spark connections and nurture the supporting conditions that enable social impact organisations to accelerate their agency, presence and influence in the technologies that affect us all.

The pandemic proved beyond doubt that there is a direct correlation between an organisation's use of digital technology, and its ability to thrive and survive. An organisation that is at the forefront of researching and adopting the latest digital, data and design methods is almost certain to be more efficient, better able to respond to users' needs, and more resilient to volatility, than one which is not. And so it is that larger, more digitally-robust organisations tend to dominate the spaces and services which bring people together - at the expense of smaller, less powerful - but no less important - organisations.

It is CAST's mission to level the playing field and ensure that every UK social impact organisation, no matter what their size or structure, has the knowledge, confidence and opportunity to harness the full power of digital - both organisationally, in terms of improving services, strategy and governance, and on an external level, in terms of better supporting the individuals and communities they serve.

This is our sole focus and mission - but we work towards it via a network of interwoven strands of activity. Naturally, we work directly with charities and social impact organisations, helping them to become more responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of the individuals and communities they serve, more test-driven in the way that they deliver value to those audiences, and more confident in embedding digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services.

But the social sector cannot exist in a vacuum: critical to its development and growth is the ongoing dialogue between itself and all parts of the supporting infrastructure. And so we work closely with key agents within that wider environment: with funders, trusts and foundations; with training and advisory bodies; government; with policy and advocacy collectives; with influential partners; with sector leaders and with digital, data and design agencies and specialists, to radically improve the quality, range and uptake of social organisations' digital tools, training, funding and advice.

We strive to play a key role in connecting these parts of the network to each other, and in improving the flow of dialogue and understanding in all directions. Central to this is our commitment to working in the open: we share what we are learning; and build on the work of others through our strong commitment to reusing content, tools and resources. This reduces the costs of change, whilst enabling pace and scale.

By building the digital capacity of social sector organisations, CAST helps them to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

As the sector continues to evolve in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the effective and appropriate use of digital remains critical to ensuring the success and sustainability of social impact organisations - and the continuation of relevant and timely support to the communities they serve.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST seeks to address our society's most pressing challenges through the effective use of digital, data and design, with a new and central focus on artificial intelligence (AI). We work with other social impact organisations to help them embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance - and with sector leaders and funders to create an environment which supports and encourages this.

Whether digital or physical, our world is better when the voice and influence of civil society is stronger and louder. For this reason, CAST works to bring about a vision of an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

The way in which charities create public benefit relies increasingly heavily on their access to, and use of, digital tools and approaches. The pandemic precipitated a rapid shift in the location of the spaces where people gather, connect and access information - from physical to digital. And so if charities do not have a strong digital presence - and the confidence and support to continually adopt new tech trends as they emerge - their services will be largely inaccessible, and their voice will be lost.

CAST's work in identifying opportunities, devising initiatives and sparking connections is all designed with the core aim of building up social organisations' digital agency, presence and influence - so that they become stronger and more sustainable within themselves, and better able to deliver consistent value to the public.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

Supporting the development and evolution of Catalyst

Catalyst is a network of nonprofits, digital support partners and funders working to collectively realise a digitally enabled and resilient social sector. Catalyst was initiated - and remains incubated - by CAST.

Catalyst has spent the 12 months in review focussing on ensuring the continued delivery, development and evaluation of 20 core Catalyst initiatives, led by partners from contributing organisations. These services, communities and infrastructures support thousands of nonprofits, digital experts and funders. Initiative leads have been encouraged and supported by Catalyst to optimise their offers based on feedback and insight; improve diversity and inclusion; collaborate with each other, and embed tools to capture impact.

Full details of Catalyst's impact can be found in this report ; highlights have included: thousands of participants attending The Curve and DigiShift's digital skills workshops; hundreds of charities being matched with a volunteer digital expert via Digital Candle; hundreds of charities and digital specialists attending Third Sector Lab's Digital Trustee events; thousands of new users accessing Dovetail's digital agency directory; hundreds of active agencies, consultancies and freelancers connecting via the Agencies for Good platform, and thousands of unique visitors to the Shared Digital Guides (formerly Service Recipes) site. In addition, more than 20 new articles and resources have been added to the Catalyst website - and there has been a successful focus on increasing the diversity of contributors.

Naturally, there continues to be a high level of alignment between CAST and Catalyst's work: CAST has continued to incubate this work whilst also contributing specifically to a number of well-established initiatives, including Coffee Connections, Design Hops, Shared Digital Guides (formerly Service Recipes) and the Digital Leads Network - as well as on emerging and evolving pieces of advocacy and sector support work, most notably the Open IP for Funders and Digital Foundations initiatives.

The Open IP for Funders initiative aims to encourage and support funders to implement open IP (intellectual property) within grant agreements, and to encourage open IP amongst the charities they support. Over the reporting period, two more funders have engaged with this approach; presentations have been given at two conferences; a new collaboration has been put in place with Power to Change's Discovery fund (acceptance onto which includes a place on CAST's new Community Explore programme) - and various positive outcomes have been observed, including an instance of two charities saving significant amounts of time and money by adopting a peer organisation's support tool.

The Digital Foundations work is focused on helping charity staff improve their digital skills and confidence, so that they are better equipped to support the individuals and communities they serve. Central to this has been testing the 'essential skills' elements of the digital skills framework originally created with Scouts. (This original framework was recently named as the runner-up in the Digital Leaders DL100 Awards, Digital Skills or Talent Initiative of the Year category.) Over the reporting period, the framework was tested by three charities, and amendments made based on their user experience feedback. It is currently in testing with eight refugee and asylum support organisations: we will make amendments based on the feedback received. It is expected that the full framework will be availabl e to the sector by the summer of 2024 .

The initiative also feeds into the Digital Poverty Alliance National Delivery Plan, which has shown core needs around raising public awareness about the importance of digital skills, and the range of support that is available. CAST took part in three board meetings and two round tables as part of the Digital Poverty Alliance Community Board - and we have now been invited to join the DPA National Delivery Committee. As part of this work, we also accepted an invitation to contribute to Essential Digital Skills round table consultation from Future Dot Now in July 2023.

The Catalyst Producers (Ellie Hale, Jo Morfee and [until March 2023] Siana Bangura) have also been testing and developing new collective governance models and consent based decision-making methods, with the aim of enabling a more equitable, collaborative and values-led approach to delivery. New forums for participatory budgeting have been set in place, and a steering group has been convened, with the purpose of co-designing a new strategy and model together with the Producers.

In 2022, the Producers embarked on a strategic review of Catalyst's existing portfolio of work - and the network's future role in the sector. This review - which is currently in its final stages has been an active test of new ways of working and organising, and has encompassed an evaluation of existing activities, research into sector needs, and liaison with individuals throughout the Catalyst network to assess the best avenues in terms of response. The Producers have met regularly with the CAST board to explore learnings from this review, and the implications for Catalyst's future modelling and governance. Based on the work to date, it is expected that Catalyst will be set up as a new independent organisation to wholly focus on its renewed purpose, with CAST continuing to contribute as part of the Catalyst ecosystem. A final decision is expected to be made by the end of the year.

Providing direct support to the sector

Over the reporting period, CAST has worked directly with hundreds of social impact organisations, helping them to harness the full power of digital - and with funders, partners, digital specialists and other key stakeholders to create an environment that supports this.

In May 2022, we wrapped up Tech for Good Build, an 11-month programme designed and delivered by CAST (funded by Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation), which supported 20 organisations to explore new digital approaches to improving people's lives.

The programme supported participants to produce a wide range of innovative solutions: see these animations (Tech for Good Build 1 and Tech for Good Build 2) for more information. We also made much of the valuable information and advice shared throughout the programme available to the sector, in the form of blogs written by workshop hosts, on topics including prototyping, user research ethics, safeguarding and managing agencies.

We have delivered in-depth and sustained support throughout 2022 and 2023 via two core partnership initiatives: Deloitte Digital Connect, in partnership with Deloitte, and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator programme, in partnership with Sport England.

Deloitte Digital Connect has so far delivered two six-month support programmes (January - June 2022, and November 2022 - April 2023) to a total of 63 charities and social enterprises. Support - delivered by 100 Deloitte volunteers alongside CAST staff members - consisted of one-to-one mentoring, troubleshooting, workshops, peer support, device donations and pro bono assistance. 100% of 2023 survey respondents found the volunteer support helpful in improving their skills, knowledge and confidence. The support enabled charities to develop digital strategies, improve website accessibility, and ensure their support aligned with beneficiary needs. See the Deloitte Digital Connect animation for a snapshot of programme testimonials.

Deloitte Digital Connect has been shortlisted as one of just three finalists in this year's Charity Times Awards (Corporate Social Responsibility Project of the Year category). Applications for the third cohort of the programme will open in the autumn of 2023.

The Innovation & Digital Accelerator (May 2022 - June 2023) was developed by CAST for Sport England's B2022 Fund, with the aim of helping National Governing Bodies tap in to the full potential of digital, to improve access to sport for all. Over the space of 12 months, 22 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) explored innovative new approaches to digital, data, design and ways of working - helping them to engage with under-represented groups, with a view to improving participation rates in their respective sports. This was achieved via a structured programme of specialist workshops, peer support sessions, bespoke resources and in-depth data and open working support - as well as a total of 130 calls with CAST 'connectors' (staff supporting NGBs on the programme).

Of the participants who responded to the end of programme survey, 100% reported that they learned new digital and innovation tools, skills and processes - and the same amount stated that their project will contribute - or has already contributed - towards improved engagement with underrepresented groups. See the Innovation & Digital Accelerator animation for a snapshot of programme testimonials.

In line with CAST's commitment to ongoing connection and support, all participants from Deloitte Digital Connect and the Innovation & Digital Accelerator have been invited to join the Digital Leads Network: 11 individuals have already accepted to join the growing network of digital leads. And in keeping with our culture of sharing openly, many of the assets, learnings and resources from both programmes have been made available to all, for the benefit of the wider sector: over 60 free tools, template and guides on a wide range of digital topics are available via the Deloitte Digital Connect Resource Hub, whilst more than 20 blogs have been shared on the dedicated Innovation & Digital Accelerator Medium, with specialist advice on topics including open working, data, user research and journey mapping.

We have also spent time developing the first version of the new CAST Digital Campus, a 13-month programme which is being rolled out from May 2023 for a consortium of organisations convened by Refugee Action. The programme provides participants with access to tools, support and hands-on training to build their knowledge, experience and confidence with digital.

In addition to these longer-term support interventions, we have also continued to run our short-course Design Hops, which teach participants a step-by-step method for user centred digital design. Seven standard Design Hops (which are open to participants from any UK charity) have taken place in 2022 / 23, as well as three organisational versions, designed specifically for the staff and affiliates of Volunteering Matters, Scouts and Refugee Action.
CAST has also been able to work behind the scenes with vital civil society organisations such as The Kings Fund - continuing to support and facilitate their Digital Practice Group, which brings together peers to explore how digital, data and design can be harnessed, whilst also being invited to join the College of Experts for the new ESRC funded Digital Good Network. We're also working in depth with the Lucy Faithfull Foundation to help them develop and adopt approaches to innovation that help them accelerate towards their charitable mission.

Convening networks and sparking connections
We know that the role of digital lead can be an isolated and challenging one: many such positions within social organisations sprang up during the pandemic as a necessary response to the rapid digitisation of services, and involved either shifting the specification of existing roles, or appointing a new person to a role that was not necessarily clearly defined. Many people with responsibility for digital within charities lack support - and yet across the charitable sector there exists a wealth of rich insight and generous leadership.

We're keen to bring together those people that have worked on digital projects and programmes, so that they can share their experiences, achievements and challenges - and learn from and support one another. Our Digital Leads Network (DLN) which launched in February 2022, connects social sector staff working on digital projects with each other, as well as with sector experts. Home to a growing community of 100+ digital leads (all of whom have completed a CAST or Catalyst digital programme), it provides participants with quarterly masterclasses, informal meetups - and a range of other exclusive opportunities.

A particular highlight over the past year was the 'AI 101' masterclass, held in January 2023. The 60-minute session, hosted by AI experts Doug Ayres and Jack O'Connell from EBM, focused on helping participants better understand the nature of AI - and the ways in which it could help their respective organisations and beneficiaries. Doug and Jack ran through the different types of AI, and shared real life case studies involving charities and other organisations. The event was very well received by participants, with an average feedback rating of 4.5 stars (out of 5).

Other highlights over the past year have included a meetup in which DLN member Magid El-Amin shared the ways in which AI was being used internally to improve productivity; member Ben Sykes (Blood Cancer UK) joining CAST's director Dan Sutch at the #BeMoreDigital conference to talk about service redesign; the Dame Kelly Holmes Trust receiving funding to apply for the Charity Times Awards (for which they were subsequently shortlisted as finalists) and member Liam Sweeney (Hubbub) joining our Director for a Digital Leaders Week talk. In addition, eight members responded to the call to join a Digital Leads Network development working group, designed to help shape the future of the network.

Research carried out with DLN members has resulted in the development of a new EDI monitoring framework and a new onboarding journey, which is currently being tested. An official membership hub has also been developed in Notion, making it easier for members to connect with each other. We are grateful to Okta for Good for the support given to help refine and develop the network this year, to offer maximum value to current and future members.

As well as the more formal DLN network, we have also relaunched the Coffee Connections service, after months of careful redevelopment. The first matches for the renewed service were sent out in April 2023 - with much positive feedback received. This was followed by another round in June 2023, which resulted in a total of 151 matches.

Developing innovative digital products

As well as supporting social organisations directly, we are keen to identify gaps in which the development of new digital products or platforms could play a role in helping communities, improving services, increasing efficiencies and / or saving social sector organisations time, resources and money.

We're excited to have been approached - and funded - by Disrupt Foundation to collaborate on just such a project. Commissioned in early 2023 and currently in the design phase, the project centres around the development of a digital product for migrant advice organisations, which will enable better signposting and referral routes so that migrants, refugees and people seeking asylum can access services as quickly and safely as possible.

Our project partner Step Change will work with us to ensure the new solution is informed by the frontline needs of the sector. The platform will be rolled out over the rest of this year, with the ambition of making it available for others to implement by the summer of 2024. Ultimately, we hope this tool will generate valuable sector-level insights into the broader challenges faced across the UK by migrants, refugees, people seeking asylum and those seeking to support them.

In addition, we are working on a new platform (working title: Space for Reuse), which provides direct support to social impact organisations and funders, helping them to reuse best-in-class ethical technology and sector-developed research, insight and assets. Organisations are invited to share their project idea, to receive free help and advice on research, design, tools, code and connections that could be reused, to save time and money.

Opening up dialogue between fundraisers and grantmakers, with GrantAdvisor UK

After a successful pilot stage and a thorough research, redevelopment and testing process from the summer of 2022 until the spring of 2023, GrantAdvisor UK rolled out as a permanent service in May 2023. The free platform encourages open dialogue between UK social impact organisations and grantmakers, by collecting authentic, real-time reviews and comments on grantseekers' experiences of working with funders.

It is commonly reported that the lack of feedback loops in grantmaking practice is a significant barrier to a more effective sector. This approach aims to tackle that, by gathering honest and public feedback on grantmakers' work, whilst also creating stronger peer sharing between social organisations. GrantAdvisor UK has been designed to act as grantseekers' direct line into funders: every review is submitted to the funder concerned, so they can understand what they're doing well - and what they may need to address and refine.

All feedback is anonymous and public by design, enabling honest, granular and timely feedback on funders and their funding processes. Funders can also reply to grantseekers' feedback, thus improving the lines of communication. The site also acts as a useful tool for grantseekers to use as part of their research when applying for funding - grantseekers can read their peers' comments and pick up valuable information - from length of submission process, to accessibility, to overall funder relationship.

In the two months since launch, the site has attracted 3,000 visitors (2,700 of which have been unique) and 10,000 page views. Three new funders have registered, and 63 new reviews have been submitted. A wealth of positive feedback has been received from funders and grantseekers alike; a sample quote is available in this article, written after the new platform was showcased at the Third Sector Fundraising Summit.

A renewed focus on CAST's identity and purpose

Throughout 2020 and 2021, much of CAST's time was directed towards support for pandemic crisis response initiatives, such as the large-scale Catalyst and The National Lottery Community Fund COVID-19 Digital Response. The priority during this time was to ensure the delivery of urgent and timely support to charities, end users and all within the sector, in the face of a rapidly shifting landscape of needs.

As the situation began to settle and the social sector entered a period of recovery and regrowth, so CAST has been able to reflect, take stock - and reshape the suite of available support, in line with a new set of post-pandemic sector needs and priorities. This has meant regenerating and breathing new life into existing initiatives (such as Coffee Connections, Design Hops and GrantAdvisor UK), as well as launching new programmes of work with partners such as Deloitte, Sport England and Disrupt.

And with this shift in focus and associated uplift in activity, has come a strengthening of CAST's identity - and an increase in our visibility and presence. Some of this has happened incidentally, through partner mentions and word of mouth - but much has been by design: there has been a renewed and conscious focus on spotlighting CAST's activities, in order that our support can reach as many individuals and organisations as possible.

Central to this storytelling has been our Medium platform: set up in June 2022, it acts as a central hub to capture stories, learnings, reflections and advice from all those within the CAST community: staff, partners, programme participants and those specialists delivering expert support. In the 12 months since launch, more than 40 articles have been published, collectively attracting in excess of 2,200 views. The stories showcase a diverse range of voices, with over 30 contributors represented - including all three of the newest CAST staff members (the Programme Leads, who joined between November 2022 and January 2023).

We're openly sharing more of the stories about CAST - directly from the small but mighty core team involved in the work. We began the year with a fireside interview piece, in which CAST's outgoing and incoming chairs, Lord Jim Knight and Professor Kerensa Jennings, met to discuss all things CAST. And Programme Lead Natalie Marshall has just shared the journey taken to develop our new Theory of Change, which will guide our monitoring and evaluation processes, as well as helping to communicate the nature and value of our work.

We have also increased our presence at sector events, presenting at Charity Digital's #BeMoreDigital conference (at which David Scurr joined the keynote panel to discuss how charities are addressing the cost of living crisis, and Dan Sutch hosted a session on digital service delivery), Digital Leaders Week and the Third Sector Fundraising Summit, amongst others.

We have a new website in development, and share regular posts across our popular Twitter and LinkedIn channels, promoting new opportunities, blogs, news and events - as well as linking to evergreen content and resources such as our Digital Toolkit and Digital Principles.

And we were delighted, in March of this year, to be handed the Founders Award at the 2023 Digital Leaders Impact Awards ceremony. Whilst our aim in increasing the visibility of CAST is simply to make more people aware of the support available, this award felt particularly special, representing as it did not just all that had been achieved by CAST and Catalyst, but also by every single partner, participant, funder and other specialist that has helped move our shared mission forward, collectively working towards a fair and equitable digital future.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Results for the year

Total income for the year was £2.0m, and expenditure £2.0m. Reserves of just over £600k at 31 March 2023 represent a very healthy basis for continuing development and delivery during 2023/24 and beyond.

Income

Total income of £2.04m is some 43% above income in 2021/22.

Income for Catalyst comprised grants from Esmée Fairbairn of £220k, Paul Hamlyn Foundation of £230k, City Bridge Trust of £200k, and The National Lottery Community Fund of £500k - the latter being new funding which had not commenced in 2012/22.

Non-Catalyst income comprised £260k of grant funding for the new Sport England project (which was completed shortly after the year end), service income of £223k, a donation of £98k from Deloitte (passed on to participants in the Deloitte Digital Connect programme as grants of £5k for each participating organisation), and a number of smaller grants.

This reflects CAST's period of transition from the National Lottery Community Fund Covid-19 Digital Response (EDA) programme to new grants and other income streams, and the ongoing development of Catalyst as a distinct aspect of the charity's operations.

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £2.00m during the year - a slight reduction from the prior year.

Of this expenditure, £114k was paid out as direct grants, and £1,043k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £326k on support costs, £7k on governance and £21k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

Following an extensive review, the Charity has now adopted a risk-based reserves policy.

The new approach entails assessing the ideal reserve level through review of a number of key elements.

These elements at present (excluding restricted funds) are :-

- Any funds received as time-limited, unrestricted income, which have not yet been spent
- A basic working capital buffer, equivalent to one month's operating costs - this is not to cover loss of income,but simply a timing buffer
- Potential loss of income cover - this will reflect the income pipeline at the point of annual budget finalisation, on a risk basis - with no cover needed for 100% certain income, then 10% cover needed for income included in the budget with a 90% likelihood, etc.
- Potential unforeseen cost income - this element will be hardest to estimate, but will be assessed on a risk basis for known risk areas - for example, a risk of additional costs relating to the possible Catalyst transition, or the excess of insurance policies

These are cumulative, i.e. added to give a total reserves requirement, within a margin of +/- 20%.

Applying this policy indicates a reserves target for the year end of £384,626.

Actual reserves exceed this level by more than 20%. This is considered reasonable as 2023/24 will be a year of transition, with the expected transfer of Catalyst to a new, separate organisation, and with some funding streams coming to an end, and new funding being negotiated. Starting the new financial year with strong reserves is therefore very prudent.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Our first priority remains to create the best environment and support for Catalyst to thrive: contributing spaces, roles and resources. We will continue to support and contribute to the aims of Catalyst, creating the conditions and support for its success. As part of this, we will conclude the review into how Catalyst can best be organised and through the coming financial year ensure it has the best operating model to increase the reach and impact of Catalyst.

Beyond Catalyst, and as a continued contribution towards its aims, CAST will continue to focus on accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all. We have a particular focus on how emerging technologies, such as Generative AI, challenge/can be used by charities to bring about positive social change.

To foster greater agency amongst civil society organisations we'll continue to create, deliver and scale interventions that develop skills, capabilities, relationships and opportunities for those working within social impact organisations. We'll continue to focus on supporting organisations to develop their digital skills, as well as their use of design and data. We'll put renewed focus on supporting charities to respond to new and emerging technologies and ensure they have the skills, understanding and experience to use them.

Developing the presence of social impact organisations in technology aims to ensure the values of civil society are embedded within digital tools. We'll continue to support social impact organisations to develop digital services and products; we'll continue to incubate technologies and initiatives that help to create the digital infrastructure for civil society, and we'll continue to focus on growing the use and reuse of open, sector and community owned technologies.

Ensuring social impact organisations have greater influence and reach will be achieved by continuing to support the growth of the Digital Leads Network; connecting civil society organisations with opportunities to inform business and government, and continuing to deliver products like Grant Advisor to create feedback loops and share insight. We recognise that disruptive technologies, such as generative AI, place even greater importance on the voice and influence of civil society to ensure justice and fairness are central to the impact of new technologies.We';

As civil society organisations rebuild from the past years and address the cost of living crisis, we'll continue to work towards our charitable objectives by accelerating the agency, presence and influence of social impact organisations in the technologies that affect us all.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details within this annual report and accounts, and brief biographical details on each of the current trustees are given below.

Professor Kerensa Jennings FRSA	Chair of the Board since December 2022. Storyteller, strategist, writer, digital impact specialist. Previously Head of Strategic Delivery at BBC and CEO of iDEA at the Royal Household, now BT Group Director of Data Platforms.
Emma Thomas	Deputy Chair of the Board, Emma has worked in the youth sector since 2010, passionate about young people having a greater voice in society and in the development of services to meet their needs, both face-to-face and through digital. This includes as Chief Executive of The Mix (formerly known as YouthNet), one of the UK leading support services for young people via online, social and mobile and as Chief Executive of YoungMinds, the UK's leading children and young people's mental health charity. She has also supported a range of youth organisations as a consultant on digital adoption and strategic development and brings wide-ranging experience across commercial, third sector and BBC, where she was involved in developing new digital services and campaigns.
Mary McKenna MBE	Mary is a technology entrepreneur and angel investor. She co-founded the online learning company Learning Pool in 2006 which she exited in 2014. She is a resident expert at Said Business School and an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Northern Ireland Science Park. Mary was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to digital technology, innovation and learning.
Lord Jim Knight	Chair of the Board until December 2022, Jim works in education, digital technology and as a legislator. Jim is a founder of xRapid, an AI diagnostic business now based in the US. He is the Chair of E-Act Multi Academy Trust, the Digital Poverty Alliance and CAST. He is a board member of Century-Tech, MACAT International and GoBubble and sits on the advisory bodies for Nord Anglia, and BETT. As a government minister and MP, Jim's portfolios included rural affairs, schools, digital and employment. He was a member of Gordon Brown's Cabinet, before joining the Lords in 2010.
Lara Burns	Lara is Chief Digital Officer of The Scouts, where she leads the digital transformation strategy across an organization of 165,000 volunteers in a network of 8,500 local groups, who deliver weekly Scouting to nearly half a million young people to help develop their Skills for Life. She has spent 25 years delivering digital innovation across diverse sectors. In the last decade Lara has driven digital transformation and strategic change in the charity sector, where she is passionate about using technologies to increase the effectiveness of the charities.
Kate Collins	Kate has worked in UK charities for nearly 20 years and in 2009 joined Teenage Cancer Trust leading Fundraising of which she became Director in 2013. Kate was then successful at achieving Chief Executive in March 2018. Teenage Cancer Trust has led the way in the creation of world-class cancer services for young people, providing life-changing care and support. Kate is leading a strategy to ensure the charity can reach all young people with cancer in the UK and is ensuring that young people and their needs remain at the heart of everything the charity does.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Gaia Ines Fasso	Advisor on digital innovation strategy, programmes and operating models. Working with multinational companies, social impact incubators and startups. CareerTech founder, curator of THRIVEatLearning community and contributor to EdSurge.
Prue Quarcoo	A finance professional, Prue is VP Finance & Accounting, EMEA for Wasserman Media Group. Prue is passionate about equity in society and social mobility. She is a mentor and also a secondary school Governor.
Pema Radha	Chief of Staff, Global Managed Services @EY. Organisational change, business operations and HR expertise. Passionate about diversity and inclusion.

The trustees are committed to ensuring that the Board has the combination of skills necessary to support the effective provision of access to capital to charities and social enterprises. In particular, the Board of Trustees includes skills and expertise in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews risks faced by the Charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis, with a strong risk management process in place where delivery related risks are identified and recorded and can be escalated to the management and trustees where appropriate.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- **Longer term funding risk for CAST** - particularly as established links to Catalyst funders change with transition. We are exploring new funders for CAST, particularly looking to establish long term (ideally core) funding and have already started working with funders who are new to CAST. We are further mitigating this risk by increasing our focus on generating income from service delivery.
- **Inability to raise required funding levels.** We have ongoing discussions with prospective new funders including corporates and an increased focus on service income which is progressing, alongside further regular board discussion about use of reserves and/or to create dates for reviewing organisation stru cture and cost base.
- **Failure to manage legal transition of Catalyst out of CAST, or find the appropriate legal vehicle to continue**. CAST works closely with Catalyst Producers, Steering Group and Board Members on a fortnightly basis to support the transition, alongside regular CAST management team meetings to manage transition and understand the resource required. We continue to closely monitor the agreed legal transition and ensure resources available for legal/structural su pport at the appropriate time.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Lord Jim Knight	(Chair until December 2022)
Professor Kerensa Jennings	(Chair from December 2022)
Emma Thomas	(appointed 15 April 2015)
Mary McKenna MBE	(appointed 7 April 2016)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Kerensa Jennings	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(appointed 1 March 2021)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)

Auditors
Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers
Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology 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.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on ~~16th October 2023~~ 13th September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Professor K Jennings - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 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.

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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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.

Gavin Whitter FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Date: 19/10/23

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.23 Total funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	13,250	85,000	98,250	200,000
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		480,378	1,469,151	1,949,529	1,232,195
Total		493,628	1,554,151	2,047,779	1,432,195
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	21,043	-	21,043	19,350
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		529,836	1,468,589	1,998,425	2,121,525
Total		550,879	1,468,589	2,019,468	2,140,875
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(57,251)	85,562	28,311	(708,680)
Transfers between funds	17	(8,938)	8,938	-	-
Net movement in funds		(66,189)	94,500	28,311	(708,680)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		688,693	5,500	694,193	1,402,873
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		622,504	100,000	722,504	694,193

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	4,514	1,498
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	308,808	59,805
Cash at bank		710,375	823,176
		1,019,183	882,981
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(301,193)	(190,286)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		717,990	692,695
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		722,504	694,193
NET ASSETS		722,504	694,193
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		622,504	688,693
Restricted funds		100,000	5,500
TOTAL FUNDS		722,504	694,193

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 and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 16th October 2023 13th September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

Professor K Jennings - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(108,569)	(2,018,649)
Net cash used in operating activities		(108,569)	(2,018,649)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,232)	(1,659)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		-	325
Net cash used in investing activities		(4,232)	(1,334)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(112,801)	(2,019,983)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		823,176	2,843,159
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		710,375	823,176

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	28,311	(708,680)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	1,216	3,053
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	81
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(249,003)	59,235
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	110,907	(1,372,338)
Net cash used in operations	(108,569)	(2,018,649)

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.22 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.23 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	823,176	(112,801)	710,375
	823,176	(112,801)	710,375
Total	823,176	(112,801)	710,375

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. 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.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty
In the application of the Charitable Company's accounting policies, the trustee directors may be required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on the historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. There are currently no critical estimates or judgements requiring disclosure in addition to the accounting policies described.

Income
Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services
The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Expenditure
- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT
All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

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

Plant and machinery - 33% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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.

continued...

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Donations	98,250	200,000

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	31.3.23	31.3.22
		£	£
Grants	Digital capacity development	1,726,106	1,005,000
Service income	Digital capacity development	223,423	227,195
		1,949,529	1,232,195

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Refugee Action	8,333	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	230,000	220,000
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	-	10,000
Esmee Fairbairn	220,000	275,000
City Bridge Trust	200,000	150,000
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	500,000	-
TNLCF - EDA grant	-	100,000
Fidelity	265,000	240,000
Somerset Community Foundation	-	10,000
Sport England	260,823	-
Tides Foundtion	21,122	-
Yapp Charitable trust	2,500	-
Tudor Trust	5,000	-
The Disrupt Foundation	13,328	-
	1,726,106	1,005,000

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Staff costs	21,043	19,350

continued...

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	1,550,143	114,438	333,844	1,998,425

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Staff costs	468,294	445,515
Subcontractors	1,043,030	739,494
Travel and subsistence	9,070	-
Other direct costs	29,749	24,954
	1,550,143	1,209,963

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Digital capacity development	114,438	556,740

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Kingston Voluntary Action	15,000	-
Comic Relief - Explore	14,438	5,000
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2A	-	(1,361)
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2B	-	3,151
TNLCF- EDA Sector Challenge	-	(1,791)
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2D	-	10,000
TNLCF- EDA Development - Continuation	-	161,833
TNLCF- EDA Development - Momentum	-	195,510
Digital Code Practice	-	9,398
Deloitte Digital Connect	85,000	175,000
	114,438	556,740

Comic Relief- Explore
41 grantees applied and received grant funding for the explore programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22 with 5 further grants paid during 2022/23..

EDA- Development Programme
Following the EDA Discovery and Definition stages, Development funding provides more in-depth support to build and apply the solutions to realise the charities' communities. Across the EDA programme were Development 2A and 2B - differentiated by when charities were ready for this funding and support.18 Grantees were supported in phase 2A, 11 grantees in phase 2B and 55 grantees in 2C. Sector Challenges Funding to support charities to work together on shared sector problems, particularly aiming to address challenges that individual charities cannot solve alone, but that need to be addressed by groups of charities working together. Sector Challenges covered four areas: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Early Years, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence and Financial Wellbeing. 31 grantees received grant funding. This work includes EDA Clusters, Continuation and Momentum.

continued...

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

Charity Digital Code of Practice
The Charity Digital Code of Practice is a set of principles to benchmark charities' progress in digital, inform key decisions and start making change. Work in 2021/22 involved co-delivering a series of webinars for leaders as part of a wider programme of support for leaders, initiated as a response to the pandemic. We also explored who might own and maintain the Code longer term. After a series of discussions with various interested parties, Charity Digital became the main grant holder and will continue to work on the main goals of sustainability and scaling the adoption of the Code across the sector. Remaining funds were therefore transferred as a grant to Charity Digital.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme is run in partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects. The support included:

- Mentoring and troubleshooting on their named project. (Delivered by over 30 Deloitte UK volunteer digital experts via 52 one-to-one calls).
- Group training sessions: 24 workshops on digital and design practices (delivered by Deloitte UK and CAST)
- Peer support sessions: 14 peer support and Lunch & Learn sessions. (Delivered by CAST)
- Self-serve support: over 100 bespoke digital resources shared with digital leads

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	326,607	7,237	333,844

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

Management

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development	31.3.22 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	242,517	262,624
Social security	31,804	42,843
Pensions	12,592	20,936
Rent	5,835	7,488
Telephone	540	462
Postage and stationery	378	687
Sundries	1,302	338
Equipment repairs and renewals	459	454
Software and licence expenses	7,200	188
Administration services	11,088	2,628
Bank charges	696	428
Training	4,186	2,086
Professional fees	2,160	40
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	2,235	1,757
Recruitment costs	2,399	2,731
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	1,216	3,053
Carried forward	326,607	348,743

continued...

8. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Management - continued

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development £	31.3.22 Total activities £
Brought forward	326,607	348,743
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	-	81
	326,607	348,824

Governance costs

	31.3.23 Digital capacity development £	31.3.22 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	6,324	5,760
Auditors' remuneration for non audit work	900	-
Trustee meeting and expenses	-	225
Legal fees	13	13
	7,237	5,998

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Auditors' remuneration	6,324	5,760
Taxation compliance services	900	-
Depreciation - owned assets	1,216	3,053
Other operating leases	5,835	7,488
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	-	81

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.22: £nil).

continued...

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS - continued

Trustees' expenses

During the year no trustee (31.3.22: no trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.22: £nil).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	672,926	687,299
Social security costs	70,006	66,217
Other pension costs	33,318	37,752
	776,250	791,268

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

	31.3.23	31.3.22
Charitable	8	10
Support	3	3
	11	13

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.23	31.3.22
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	2	2

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	-	200,000	200,000
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	502,195	730,000	1,232,195
Total	502,195	930,000	1,432,195
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	19,350	-	19,350
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	127,346	1,994,179	2,121,525
Total	146,696	1,994,179	2,140,875

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - continued

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	355,499	(1,064,179)	(708,680)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	688,693	5,500	694,193

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £
COST	
At 1 April 2022	11,114
Additions	4,232
Disposals	(7,085)
At 31 March 2023	8,261
DEPRECIATION	
At 1 April 2022	9,616
Charge for year	1,216
Eliminated on disposal	(7,085)
At 31 March 2023	3,747
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2023	4,514
At 31 March 2022	1,498

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Trade debtors	52,800	10,200
Other debtors	256,008	49,605
	308,808	59,805

continued...

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Trade creditors	102,383	54,881
Social security and other taxes	-	18,713
VAT	8,800	10,065
Other creditors	190,010	106,627
	301,193	190,286

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.23	31.3.22
	£	£
Balance brought forward	-	13,243
mount release to incoming resources	-	(13,243)
Amount deferred in the year	-	-
Balance carried forward	-	-

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.23 Total funds	31.3.22 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	4,514	-	4,514	1,498
Current assets	919,183	100,000	1,019,183	882,981
Current liabilities	(301,193)	-	(301,193)	(190,286)
	622,504	100,000	722,504	694,193

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.22	Net movement in funds	Transfers between funds	At 31.3.23
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	688,693	(57,251)	(8,938)	622,504
Restricted funds				
City Bridge Trust	-	100,000	-	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	5,500	(14,438)	8,938	-
	5,500	85,562	8,938	100,000
TOTAL FUNDS	694,193	28,311	-	722,504

continued...

17. 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 funds	493,628	(550,879)	(57,251)
Restricted funds			
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	230,000	(230,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(100,000)	100,000
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(14,438)	(14,438)
Fidelity	265,000	(265,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	85,000	(85,000)	-
TNLCF - Growing Great Ideas	500,000	(500,000)	-
Sport England	260,823	(260,823)	-
The Disrupt Foundation	13,328	(13,328)	-
	1,554,151	(1,468,589)	85,562
TOTAL FUNDS	2,047,779	(2,019,468)	28,311

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	333,194	355,499	688,693
Restricted funds			
TNLCF - Catalyst	22,100	(22,100)	-
TNLCF- EDA	367,341	(367,341)	-
TNLCF - Services	657,420	(657,420)	-
Comic Relief - Expore	10,500	(5,000)	5,500
Cisco	12,318	(12,318)	-
	1,069,679	(1,064,179)	5,500
TOTAL FUNDS	1,402,873	(708,680)	694,193

continued...

17. 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 funds	227,195	128,304	355,499
Esmee Fairbairn	275,000	(275,000)	-
	502,195	(146,696)	355,499
Restricted funds			
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	150,000	(150,000)	-
TNLCF - Catalyst	-	(22,100)	(22,100)
TNLCF- EDA	100,000	(467,341)	(367,341)
TNLCF - Services	-	(657,420)	(657,420)
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Cisco	-	(12,318)	(12,318)
Fidelity	240,000	(240,000)	-
Somerset Community Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	200,000	(200,000)	-
	930,000	(1,994,179)	(1,064,179)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,432,195	(2,140,875)	(708,680)

Esmee Fairbairn
This unrestricted grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation
This grant from Joseph Rowntree Foundation was to cover costs associated with the development of Grant Advisor UK, including collaborating with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, UK Trusts and Foundations, to further develop the Grant Advisor UK platform and its use.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
This grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK

The National Lottery Community Fund (Catalyst)
This funding from TNLCF was provided so that the Catalyst network could continue to help civil society organisations, including small and medium sized groups, embed digital tools across their practice, respond to the needs of users, and be more resilient in the face of technological change.

City Bridge Trust
This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- External Delegated Authority (EDA)
To provide grant funding to nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Covid response.

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- Services
Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Comic Relief - Explore
Early stage digital funding and tailored support to help charities explore digital service delivery challenges and prototype solutions.

Cisco
Contribution to the development of the Charity Digital Code https://charitydigitalcode.org/

Fidelity Foundation
A grant to explore the shared technical infrastructure that can enable charities to reuse existing digital tools, and to explore the development of a network of digital leaders to continue to develop their own learning and the digital practice within their own charities.

Somerset Community Foundation
A grant for CAST to provide support to a range of Somerset-based youth organisations to explore digital options to provide high-quality, youth-led activities across Somerset.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 28 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects.

Sport England
This grant is to design and deliver an Innovation and Digital Accelerator to support Sport National Governing Bodies to amplify their legacy ambitions associated with the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The grant enabled CAST to develop support and resources for NGBs and the wider sporting sector to develop their use of digital, data and design.

Disrupt Foundation
This grant is to develop a scalable and reusable digital product (or set of digital products) that can support civic society organisations to overcome shared challenges in providing better access, support and services to migrants and those seeking asylum.

Transfer of funds

The transfer between the general fund and Explore was because grants paid out via the Explore programme were partly funded by the general fund.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £33,318 (31.3.22: £37,752). There was £10,224 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2023 (31.3.22: £8,499).

continued...

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2023 (31.3.22: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.

21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The charitable company's financial instruments may be analysed as follows:

	31.3.23 £	31.3.22 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	966,383	872,781
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	190,010	106,627

Financial assets measured at amortised costs comprise cash and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised costs comprise other creditors, deferred income and accruals.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales - Charity number 1161998

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09544506 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

FOR

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

SATURDAY
ABEPKD8P
A04 15/10/2022 #90
COMPANIES HOUSE

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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 2022. 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

Introduction

CAST seeks to address the urgent need for the UK's social sector to make better use of digital technology in order to become more resilient and responsive. Operating without the support of this most powerful tool makes social organisations less efficient, relevant and sustainable. In contrast, charities that embrace digital, data and design respond more effectively to their users' needs and behaviours, and are much more resilient to volatility. The challenge is to accelerate the use of digital by charities of all sizes to transform their services, strategy and governance, and the way in which they serve and support their communities. This has been CAST's focus and purpose since our launch in 2015.

We work with charities and civil society organisations helping them to maximise the value they create - becoming more responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities; more test-driven in the way in which they balance the value created for individuals, community and environment; and embedding these digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services. CAST also supports trusts and foundations to improve how they assess, select and support charitable digital projects and programmes. By building their digital capacity, CAST helps social sector organisations to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

CAST has taken a networked approach from the outset, working closely with trusts and foundations, training and advisory bodies, and design and development agencies, to radically improve the quality, range and uptake of charity digital tools, training, funding and advice. We openly share what we are learning; and build on the work of others through our strong commitment to sharing and reusing resources which reduces the costs - while increasing the pace and scale - of change.

As the sector recovers and rebuilds from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is clear that the effective and appropriate use of digital remains critical to ensuring civil society organisations can continue to support individuals and communities to thrive.

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST seeks to address our society's most pressing challenges through the effective use of digital, data and design. We work with other civil society organisations to help them to embed digital and design across their services, strategy and governance, and working with sector leaders and funders to make this happen. Whether digital or physical, our world is better when the voice and influence of civil society is stronger and louder. For this reason, CAST work to bring about a vision of an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

The way in which charities create public benefit relies heavily on their access to, and use of digital tools and approaches. Without such access, or the support to make best use of digital, there would have been a significant reduction in the public benefit of charities during the pandemic, and this remains the case during this recovery phase.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

During the pandemic, CAST reorientated its work to focus wholly on short term, immediate support to the sector. We started this financial year with the conclusion of a £5m programme in partnership with The National Lottery Community Fund that supported thousands of charities to access support, funding, tools and resources - all to help them best use digital, data and design to respond to the needs of their communities. This work, designed and delivered with partners from across the Catalyst network (www.thecatalyst.org.uk), created a new infrastructure of support for charities: shared tools, forums, services and resources that are accessible to charities as they respond to their changing environment. More details of this programme can be found: https://tinyurl.com/CovodDigitalResponseFund

The development of the Catalyst network has been such that this year we have been able to focus on exploring and understanding what is needed to maintain and further develop Catalyst to ensure it meets its objectives. With significant support from the Founding Funders, we have been able to recruit a small team of Producers who are leading a review of how Catalyst can best thrive - doing so by testing out a variety of methods and models that enable a more collective approach - and collective ownership of Catalyst. This work has seen the continuation of incredible support offers such as Digital Candle: providing free digital advice for charities; Design Hops: introductory support to user-centred digital design approaches; service recipes: a library of practical recipes for charities to implement quick digital solutions; as well as support for vital initiatives such as the Charity Digital Skills Survey. It has also seen the development of new forums for co-creation and collective decision-making that point the way for new ways of organising the sector's infrastructure to be more inclusive, accessible and effective.

One of the most significant contributions that CAST is making to the Catalyst ambition and beyond is championing the reuse of charity digital assets to decrease the cost of digital innovation; increase the speed of charities' digital work and to increase the influence charities have through the creation of digital assets. With support from the Fidelity Foundation we have been able to test out different models of enabling reuse, including working with charities to create and share digital assets and tools. One such example is the creation of a Digital Skills Framework with the Scouts, a tool to support charity staff to develop their digital skills and confidence. This framework will soon be available for other charities to us to develop their own digital capabilities.

A second significant area of focus for CAST is supporting digital leaders within charities. Many people with responsibility for digital within charities have little internal support structures, and yet across the charitable sector there is incredible insight and generous leadership. CAST have created a Digital Leads Network as a way to provide support between digital leads, and between charities. We have supported over 100 digital leaders over this past year. As part of this development, we've been thrilled to work with the Deloitte Social Business team to support 35 charities and their digital leaders through a structured learning programme and by matching the leads with expertise, resources and connections across the Deloitte network. The partnership with Deloitte saw digital leads develop their understanding and practice; help develop the digital capabilities of their charity, and supported them to develop specific digital projects that benefited their communities. The partnership also unlocked volunteer support from across Deloitte's network to provide expert support to charities.

This year has also seen CAST work with a range of charities, trusts and foundations to develop user led and test driven practices that make best use of digital. Working with Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we were able to support twenty charities - such as Law Centres Network, Access Social Care, Stand Together Against Domestic Abuse, WellChild and YouthLink Scotland to develop digital services. CAST has also been able to work behind the scenes with vital civil society organisations like Trust for London, the TUC and The King's Fund to support them to explore how they can become more responsive and effective in their work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Results for the year

We are pleased to report that CAST successfully completed the delivery of the emergency programme funded by The National Lottery Community Fund for providing grants and digital support services to non-profits during 2021/22. Overall funding reduced from the unusually high 2020/21 level as this programme came to an end, but with new sources of funding secured to safeguard CAST's transition to its post-Covid development, including the ongoing development of the Catalyst programme.

Total income for the year was £1.4m, and expenditure £2.1m, including TNLCF expenditure against money received during 2020/21. Reserves of just under £700k at 31 March 2022 represent a very healthy basis for continuing development and delivery during 2022/23 and beyond.

Income

Total income of £1.43m is some 8% above non-TNLCF income for 2020/21, and 15% below 2019/20 income. As the latter was inflated by funding received in advance, overall this represents a strong position especially at a transitional point following completion of a major project.

As well as the final tranche of emergency grant funding of £100k received from The National Lottery Community Fund, we received other grants from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation (£275k), Fidelity (£240k), Paul Hamlyn (£220k), City Bridge Trust (£150k), and smaller grants totalling £20k, as well as a donation of £200k from Deloitte. We also earned £227k unrestricted service delivery fee income (up 3% on the year before).

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £2.12m as well as £19k of raising funds during the year - whilst a reduction from the prior year, still above previous levels of expenditure, due to the emergency funding provided by TNLCF for accelerating this support during the pandemic.

Of this expenditure, £557k was paid out as direct grants, and £739k was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners. In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £349k on support costs, £6k on governance and £19k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

To ensure adequate resources during this period of development and transition, we manage our free reserves so that they represent from six to twelve months' operating expenditure. With continuing strong unrestricted fee income during the year our free unrestricted reserves increased from £330k to £688k (this figure comprising unrestricted reserves of £689k less the £1k fixed asset net book value).

With our current operating costs running at £72k per month, this represents free reserves cover for just under 9 months' operating costs, which is within our target range.

Our restricted reserves contain funding provided towards the delivery of specific programmes of work, and will be spent over the coming year.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

This development of Catalyst and the exploration of sharing ownership with other significant contributors has meant that CAST has been able to review its strategic priorities heading into the new financial year.

Our first priority remains to create the best environment and support for Catalyst to thrive: contributing spaces, roles and resources. We will continue to support and contribute to the aims of Catalyst, creating the conditions and support for its success. As part of this, we are working to review how Catalyst can best be organised and through the coming financial year, will identify the best operating model to increase the reach and impact of Catalyst.

Our second priority is to focus further on building the digital capabilities of the sector - aligned with and in addition to the work of Catalyst. Our mission is to ensure every civil society organisation is supported to develop their digital capability and where every person trying to support their charity to develop digital practices has support. We'll continue to develop the Digital Leads Network; continue to work with partners such as Deloitte Social Business Team and continue to test and develop ways of support at sector scale.

Our third priority is to continue with a collection of experiments into the shared technical infrastructure that can work across the sector: working towards stable, sector-owned products, services and processes that support civil society organisations to access and use ethical digital tools. We'll continue to champion reuse and open IP; continue to develop evidenced approaches to enabling reuse and work with partners to grow charity-owned technologies that can create significant social impact.

Our final priority in the new financial year is to initiate and incubate initiatives and activities that can support the most effective uses of digital to address social challenges - working to support other parts of civil society to develop their digital capabilities and providing a supportive environment for innovations to thrive. We'll work with significant social organisations - established and new - to generate approaches that build from the evidence and learning of our work to date to bring about greater social impact.

As civil society organisations rebuild from the past years, we'll continue to work towards vision of an empowered, vocal and influential civil society, resilient and responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities, confidently using digital tools to achieve individual and collective impact.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges. At the end of 2020 we recruited six new trustees to further strengthen our Board, and in March 2021, one of our founding Trustees, Nat Hunter, stepped down after providing five years of leadership and support for the charity. We are incredibly grateful for Nat's huge contribution and also to the new Trustees for their commitment to our mission and objectives. The new Trustees were recruited through an open process supported by the B-Corp Society (https://www.society-search.com/) and appointments made following interviews that has ensured the right fit for the organisation and the prospective trustee.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details within this annual report and accounts, and brief biographical details on each of the current trustees are given below.

Lord Jim Knight	Chair of the Board, Jim works in education, digital technology and as a legislator. Jim is a founder of xRapid, an AI diagnostic business now based in the US. He is the Chair of E-Act Multi Academy Trust, the Digital Poverty Alliance and CAST. He is a board member of Century-Tech, MACAT International and GoBubble and sits on the advisory bodies for Nord Anglia, and BETT. As a government minister and MP, Jim's portfolios included rural affairs, schools, digital and employment. He was a member of Gordon Brown's Cabinet, before joining the Lords in 2010.
Mary McKenna MBE	Mary is a technology entrepreneur and angel investor. She co-founded the online learning company Learning Pool in 2006 which she exited in 2014. She is a resident expert at Said Business School and an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Northern Ireland Science Park. Mary was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to digital technology, innovation and learning.
Emma Thomas	Deputy Chair of the Board, Emma has worked in the youth sector since 2010, passionate about young people having a greater voice in society and in the development of services to meet their needs, both face-to-face and through digital. This includes as Chief Executive of The Mix (formerly known as YouthNet), one of the UK leading support services for young people via online, social and mobile and as Chief Executive of YoungMinds, the UK's leading children and young people's mental health charity, since 2018. She has also supported a range of youth organisations as a consultant on digital adoption and strategic development and brings wide-ranging experience across commercial, third sector and BBC, where she was involved in developing new digital services and campaigns.
Lara Burns	Lara is Chief Digital Officer of The Scouts, where she leads the digital transformation strategy across an organization of 165,000 volunteers in a network of 8,500 local groups, who deliver weekly Scouting to nearly half a million young people to help develop their Skills for Life. She has spent 25 years delivering digital innovation across diverse sectors. In the last decade Lara has driven digital transformation and strategic change in the charity sector, where she is passionate about using technologies to increase the effectiveness of the charities.
Kate Collins	Kate has worked in UK charities for nearly 20 years and in 2009 joined Teenage Cancer Trust leading Fundraising of which she became Director in 2013. Kate was then successful at achieving Chief Executive in March 2018. Teenage Cancer Trust has led the way in the creation of world-class cancer services for young people, providing life-changing care and support. Kate is leading a strategy to ensure the charity can reach all young people with cancer in the UK and is ensuring that young people and their needs remain at the heart of everything the charity does.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Gaia Ines Fasso	Advisor on digital innovation strategy, programmes and operating models. Working with multinational companies, social impact incubators and startups. CareerTech founder, curator of THRIVEatLearning community and contributor to EdSurge.
Professor Kerensa Jennings FRSA	Storyteller, strategist, writer, digital impact specialist. Previously Head of Strategic Delivery at BBC and CEO of iDEA at the Royal Household, now BT Group Director of Digital Impact.
Prue Quarcoo	A finance professional, Prue is the Group Head of Reporting (UK) and sits on the Management Board at GroupM UK, the world's leading investment group. Prue is passionate about equity in society and social mobility. She is a mentor and also a secondary school Governor.
Pema Radha	Chief of Staff, Global Managed Services @EY. Organisational change, business operations and HR expertise. Passionate about diversity and inclusion..

The trustees are committed to ensuring that the Board has the combination of skills necessary to support the effective provision of access to capital to charities and social enterprises. In particular, the Board of Trustees includes skills and expertise in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews risks faced by the Charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- External conditions (pandemic, cost of living crisis etc) has an impact on team ability to work/deliver. This is being mitigated as staff are set up to work from home and operate flexibly around childcare. CAST was able to operate effectively through the previous lockdown and since then have invested in home-working infrastructure to support staff.
- Insufficient staff capacity to deliver programmes of work effectively. Health and caring responsibilities reduce team capacity. This is mitigated through weekly HR/Finance/Ops meetings to review status of work. Duties allocated across team members appropriate to their capacity. Recruitment of projects manager to support this work.
- Failure to deliver the intended outcomes and enable lasting change in the charity sector. This has been mitigated by thorough research and engagement with a large number of charities and sector organisations, who have participated in the development of the tools and resources that support and enable VCSOs to embrace digital development within their activities.
- Failure to secure long-term funding to deliver CAST's mission of sector change. This is being mitigated by the maintenance of a rigorous system of financial control which is enabling the charity to grow its unrestricted reserves and achieve value for money across its activities alongside the exploration of new types of partnerships and funding for CAST.
- Wellbeing, hyperproductivity and burnout - work patterns and working from home contribute to burnout/lower wellbeing of team. This is mitigated by a HR and wellbeing function in place to better assess where staff are at emotionally. Strong project management and ways of working in place to ensure efficiency and less admin heavy work.
- Failure to retain key staff. This is being mitigated by the recruitment of a strong and experienced team who share CAST's aims and values, communicate effectively with each other and the wider network, and are supported by a wide range of specialist partners.
- Reputational damage caused by any of the above. This is mitigated by close oversight by an experienced board of trustees that ensures the charity continues to develop; work effectively with its partners and funders; and maintains strong financial and organisational controls.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

Trustees

Lord Jim Knight	
Emma Thomas	
Mary McKenna	
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Kerensa Jennings	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(appointed 1 March 2021)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)

Auditors
Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers
Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology 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.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES - continued

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.

AUDITORS

The Trustee Directors have made the decision to go out to tender for the 2022 audit.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 14TH SEPTEMBER '22 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Lord J Knight - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 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.

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 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:

We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

Procedures performed by the audit team included:
- Discussions with management regarding known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Assessing journals entries as part of our planned audit approach. Evaluation of management incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements including management override, and considering that the principal risk were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries to improve the result for the year.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. As in all of our audits we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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.

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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.



Gavin Whitter FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Date: 11/10/22

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.22 Total funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	-	200,000	200,000	-
Charitable activities					
Digital capacity development		502,195	730,000	1,232,195	6,268,164
Total		502,195	930,000	1,432,195	6,268,164
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	19,350	-	19,350	29,019
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		127,346	1,994,179	2,121,525	5,765,891
Total		146,696	1,994,179	2,140,875	5,794,910
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		355,499	(1,064,179)	(708,680)	473,254
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873	929,619
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		688,693	5,500	694,193	1,402,873

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	1,498	3,298
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	59,805	119,040
Cash at bank		823,176	2,843,159
		882,981	2,962,199
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(190,286)	(1,562,624)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		692,695	1,399,575
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		694,193	1,402,873
NET ASSETS		694,193	1,402,873
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		688,693	333,194
Restricted funds		5,500	1,069,679
TOTAL FUNDS		694,193	1,402,873

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 and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on ...14|9|22..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Lord J Knight - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	(2,018,649)	1,618,301
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		(2,018,649)	1,618,301
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,659)	(2,799)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		325	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(1,334)	(2,799)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(2,019,983)	1,615,502
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,843,159	1,227,657
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		823,176	2,843,159

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(708,680)	473,254
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	3,053	5,843
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	81	-
Decrease in debtors	59,235	237,569
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(1,372,338)	901,635
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	(2,018,649)	1,618,301

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.22 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	2,843,159	(2,019,983)	823,176
	2,843,159	(2,019,983)	823,176
Total	2,843,159	(2,019,983)	823,176

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. 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.

Income
Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services
The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT
All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

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

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 20% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Donations	200,000	-

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Activity	31.3.22	31.3.21
		£	£
Grants	Digital capacity development	1,005,000	6,047,742
Service income	Digital capacity development	227,195	220,422
		1,232,195	6,268,164

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Comic Relief- Tech for Good/HIV Think Digital	-	29,260
The National Lottery Community Fund - Fuse	-	162,381
The National Lottery Community Fund- Beehive	-	17,877
Comic Relief- Spark	-	73,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	75,000
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	10,000	-
Esmee Fairbairn	275,000	-
City Bridge Trust	150,000	200,000
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	-	250,000
TNLCF - EDA grant	100,000	1,863,000
TNLCF - Services grant	-	3,085,000
Comic Relief - Explore	-	250,000
Carried forward	755,000	6,005,518

continued...

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Brought forward	755,000	6,005,518
Clothworkers Foundation	-	5,224
IVAR	-	7,000
Cisco	-	20,000
Lloyds Foundation	-	10,000
Fidelity	240,000	-
Somerset Community Foundation	10,000	-
	1,005,000	6,047,742

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Staff costs	19,350	29,019

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	1,209,963	556,740	354,822	2,121,525

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Staff costs	445,515	611,394
Subcontractors	739,494	2,846,329
Marketing and advertising	-	4,287
Other direct costs	24,954	19,606
	1,209,963	3,481,616

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Digital capacity development	556,740	1,757,296

continued...

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.22 £	31.3.21 £
SCVO	-	50,000
Shift Foundation	-	48,700
NCVO	-	3,037
Promo-Cymru	-	3,400
Comic Relief - Explore	5,000	219,500
TNLCF- EDA Discovery Phase1	-	500,000
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2A	(1,361)	193,820
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2B	3,151	231,586
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2C	-	268,955
TNLCF- EDA Sector Challenge	(1,791)	238,298
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2D	10,000	-
TNLCF- EDA Development - Continuation	161,833	-
TNLCF- EDA Development - Momentum	195,510	-
Digital Code Practice	9,398	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	175,000	-
	556,740	1,757,296

Comic Relief- Explore
41 grantees applied and received grant funding for the explore programme in 2020/21 and 2021/22.

EDA- Development Programme
Following the EDA Discovery and Definition stages, Development funding provides more in-depth support to build and apply the solutions to realise the charities' communities. Across the EDA programme were Development 2A and 2B - differentiated by when charities were ready for this funding and support.18 Grantees were supported in phase 2A, 11 grantees in phase 2B and 55 grantees in 2C. Sector Challenges Funding to support charities to work together on shared sector problems, particularly aiming to address challenges that individual charities cannot solve alone, but that need to be addressed by groups of charities working together. Sector Challenges covered four areas: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Early Years, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence and Financial Wellbeing. 31 grantees received grant funding. This work includes EDA Clusters, Continuation and Momentum.

Charity Digital Code of Practice
The Charity Digital Code of Practice is a set of principles to benchmark charities' progress in digital, inform key decisions and start making change. Work in 2021/22 involved co-delivering a series of webinars for leaders as part of a wider programme of support for leaders, initiated as a response to the pandemic. We also explored who might own and maintain the Code longer term. After a series of discussions with various interested parties, Charity Digital became the main grant holder and will continue to work on the main goals of sustainability and scaling the adoption of the Code across the sector. Remaining funds were therefore transferred as a grant to Charity Digital.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 35 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects:

- Mentoring and troubleshooting on their named project. Delivered by 35 Deloitte UK volunteer digital experts.
- Group training sessions: 19 workshops on digital and design practices delivered by Deloitte UK and CAST's own experts and partners. This included a 6-week digital strategy course provided by Dot Project. Sessions averaged 13 participants
- Support calls to every participant: 2-3 each from CAST facilitators.

continued...

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

- Peer support sessions: 3 rounds to cohorts of 6-9 participants. Delivered by CAST facilitators.
- Self-serve support: over 350 bespoke digital resources shared with digital leads

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	348,824	5,998	354,822

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

Management

	31.3.22 Digital capacity development	31.3.21 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	262,624	312,271
Social security	42,843	25,855
Pensions	20,936	59,926
Rent	7,488	47,962
Telephone	462	673
Postage and stationery	687	51
Sundries	338	3,203
Equipment repairs and renewals	454	784
Software and licence expenses	188	20,632
Administration services	2,628	2,498
Bank charges	428	452
Training	2,086	659
Professional fees	40	-
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	1,757	14,497
Recruitment costs	2,731	-
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	3,053	5,843
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	81	-
	348,824	495,306

Governance costs

	31.3.22 Digital capacity development	31.3.21 Total activities
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	5,760	6,180
Trustee meeting and expenses	225	-
Legal fees	13	79
Recruitment costs	-	25,414
	5,998	31,673

continued...

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Auditors' remuneration	5,760	6,180
Depreciation - owned assets	3,053	5,843
Other operating leases	7,488	47,962
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	81	-

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.21: £nil).

Trustees' expenses

During the year no trustee (31.3.21: one trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.21: £215).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Wages and salaries	642,299	832,494
Social security costs	66,217	80,882
Other pension costs	82,752	125,089
	791,268	1,038,465

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

	31.3.22	31.3.21
Charitable	10	13
Support	3	4
	13	17

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.22	31.3.21
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
	2	2

continued...

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	220,422	6,047,742	6,268,164
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	29,019	-	29,019
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	545,159	5,220,732	5,765,891
Total	574,178	5,220,732	5,794,910
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(353,756)	827,010	473,254
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	686,950	242,669	929,619
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2021	10,672	3,739	14,411
Additions	1,659	-	1,659
Disposals	(1,217)	(3,739)	(4,956)
At 31 March 2022	11,114	-	11,114
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2021	7,374	3,739	11,113
Charge for year	3,053	-	3,053
Eliminated on disposal	(811)	(3,739)	(4,550)
At 31 March 2022	9,616	-	9,616
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2022	1,498	-	1,498
At 31 March 2021	3,298	-	3,298

continued...

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade debtors	10,200	54,993
Other debtors	49,605	64,047
	59,805	119,040

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Trade creditors	54,881	427,944
Social security and other taxes	18,713	29,590
VAT	10,065	2,532
Other creditors	106,627	1,089,315
Deferred grants	-	13,243
	190,286	1,562,624

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.22	31.3.21
	£	£
Balance brought forward	13,243	284,518
mount release to incoming resources	(13,243)	(284,518)
Amount deferred in the year	-	13,243
Balance carried forward	-	13,243

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	31.3.22 Total funds	31.3.21 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	1,498	-	1,498	3,298
Current assets	824,599	58,382	882,981	2,962,199
Current liabilities	(137,404)	(52,882)	(190,286)	(1,562,624)
	688,693	5,500	694,193	1,402,873

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.21 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.22 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	333,194	355,499	688,693
Restricted funds			
TNLCF - Catalyst	22,100	(22,100)	-
TNLCF- EDA	367,341	(367,341)	-
TNLCF - Services	657,420	(657,420)	-
Comic Relief - Expore	10,500	(5,000)	5,500
Cisco	12,318	(12,318)	-
	1,069,679	(1,064,179)	5,500
TOTAL FUNDS	1,402,873	(708,680)	694,193

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	227,195	128,304	355,499
Esmee Fairbairn	275,000	(275,000)	-
	502,195	(146,696)	355,499
Restricted funds			
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	220,000	(220,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	150,000	(150,000)	-
TNLCF - Catalyst	-	(22,100)	(22,100)
TNLCF- EDA	100,000	(467,341)	(367,341)
TNLCF - Services	-	(657,420)	(657,420)
Comic Relief - Expore	-	(5,000)	(5,000)
Cisco	-	(12,318)	(12,318)
Fidelity	240,000	(240,000)	-
Somerset Community Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
Deloitte Digital Connect	200,000	(200,000)	-
	930,000	(1,994,179)	(1,064,179)
TOTAL FUNDS	1,432,195	(2,140,875)	(708,680)

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	286,950	46,244	-	333,194
Esmee Fairbairn	400,000	(400,000)	-	-
	686,950	(353,756)	-	333,194
Restricted funds				
TNLCF- Fuse	-	95,337	(95,337)	-
Indigo Trust	17,032	(17,032)	-	-
Comic Relief- Spark	122,436	(122,436)	-	-
TNLCF - Catalyst	88,876	(162,113)	95,337	22,100
Co-op Foundation	14,325	(14,325)	-	-
TNLCF- EDA	-	367,341	-	367,341
TNLCF - Services	-	657,420	-	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	-	10,500	-	10,500
Cisco	-	12,318	-	12,318
	242,669	827,010	-	1,069,679
TOTAL FUNDS	929,619	473,254	-	1,402,873

continued...

17. 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 funds	220,422	(174,178)	46,244
Esmee Fairbairn	-	(400,000)	(400,000)
	220,422	(574,178)	(353,756)
Restricted funds			
TNLCF- Fuse	162,381	(67,044)	95,337
TNLCF - Beehive	17,877	(17,877)	-
Comic Relief- Tech for Good	29,260	(29,260)	-
Indigo Trust	-	(17,032)	(17,032)
Comic Relief- Spark	73,000	(195,436)	(122,436)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,000	(75,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(200,000)	-
TNLCF - Catalyst	250,000	(412,113)	(162,113)
Co-op Foundation	-	(14,325)	(14,325)
TNLCF- EDA	1,863,000	(1,495,659)	367,341
TNLCF - Services	3,085,000	(2,427,580)	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	250,000	(239,500)	10,500
Clothworkers Foundation	5,224	(5,224)	-
IVAR	7,000	(7,000)	-
Cisco	20,000	(7,682)	12,318
Lloyds Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
	6,047,742	(5,220,732)	827,010
TOTAL FUNDS	6,268,164	(5,794,910)	473,254

Esmee Fairbairn
This unrestricted grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK.

The National Lottery Community Fund- Fuse
This grant was to support charities across the UK in their digital service development, particularly smaller charities, helping organisations with significant resource constraints to embrace digital for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The National Lottery Community Fund- Beehive/ 360 giving
Funding was received from TNLCF via 360 Giving to develop the Beehive Giving platform that uses open data from 360 Giving to provide a free grant funding suitability tool that uses funders' guidelines, priorities and 360 Giving to produce reports that help charities decide where to apply for support.

Comic Relief Tech for Good
Grant to support a cohort of charities to undertake discovery into the best use of digital to achieve their charitable objectives, working as part of Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation's Tech for Good programme.

Indigo Trust

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

£20,000 to support the development of Grant Advisor UK, a tool to promote and share open feedback between grant seekers and grant makers. This builds on GrantAdvisor, a tool created in the US by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, aiming to increase collect honest, public feedback that is visible and benchmarked so that the 'foundation bubble' is burst - improving funder behaviours and practices, and creating more equitable relationships between grant makers and seekers.

Comic Relief - Spark
Funded with £350,000 over two years from Comic Relief, Spark is a partnership that brings together a group of organisations to test out new approaches that can help Catalyst achieve impact at scale. Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation have brought together CAST, Think Social Tech, Dot Everyone, Working with Joe and Engine Room to increase the digital capability of the sector by testing out new approaches that can be scaled through the Catalyst network.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation
This grant from Joseph Rowntree Foundation was to cover costs associated with the development of Grant Advisor UK, including collaborating with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, UK Trusts and Foundations, to further develop the Grant Advisor UK platform and its use.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
This grant is to use the Fuse approach (digital accelerator for established non-profits) in partnership between CAST and the Cardinal Hume Centre to develop a digital service that provides scalable and transparent immigration advice. Building on CAST's expertise in developing test-driven user-led digital services, and Cardinal Hume Centre's expertise and networks in delivering support for migrants and refugees, this partnership will develop a digital service that supports multiple advice-giving organisations to become more aligned with the capacity they have, providing more accessible/timely support to advice-seekers.

Co-op Foundation
This grant was received to contribute to the cost of developing the Charity Digital Code of Practice. Charity IT Leaders also provided a grant towards this project.

The National Lottery Community Fund (Catalyst)
This funding from TNLCF was provided so that the Catalyst network could continue to help civil society organisations, including small and medium sized groups, embed digital tools across their practice, respond to the needs of users, and be more resilient in the face of technological change.

City Bridge Trust
This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- External Delegated Authority (EDA)
To provide grant funding to nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Covid response.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- Services
Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Comic Relief - Explore
Early stage digital funding and tailored support over 12 weeks to help charities explore digital service delivery challenges and prototype solutions.

Clothworkers Foundation
A grant to work with the charity AVA to develop to produce an accessible digital safeguarding resource for The Clothworkers' undation's grantees and the wider sector.

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

IVAR, Cisco and Lloyds Foundation
Contribution to the development of the Charity Digital Code https://charitydigitalcode.org/

Fidelity Foundation
A grant to explore the shared technical infrastructure that can enable charities to reuse existing digital tools, and to explore the development of a network of digital leaders to continue to develop their own learning and the digital practice within their own charities.

Somerset Community Foundation
A grant for CAST to provide support to a range of Somerset-based youth organisations to explore digital options to provide high-quality, youth-led activities across Somerset.

Deloitte Digital Connect
This programme was a new partnership with Deloitte UK. Together we supported 35 charity digital leads to learn and grow through a multiformed support offer. This offer helped them learn and apply new skills and practices to their own digital projects.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £82,752 (31.3.21: £125,089). There was £8,499 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2022 (31.3.21: £12,627).

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2022 (31.3.21: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

England & Wales - Charity number 1161998

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 09544506 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1161998

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FOR

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

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CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

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 2021. 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

Introduction

CAST seeks to address the urgent need for the UK's social sector to make better use of digital technology in order to become more resilient and responsive. Operating without the support of this most powerful tool makes social organisations less efficient, relevant and sustainable. In contrast, charities that embrace digital, data and design respond more effectively to their users' needs and behaviours, and are much more resilient to volatility. The challenge is to accelerate the use of digital by charities of all sizes to transform their services and the way in which the serve and support their communities. This has been CAST's focus and purpose since our launch in 2015.

We work with charities and social enterprises helping them to maximise the value they create - becoming more responsive to the changing needs, behaviours and expectations of their communities; more test-driven in the way in which they balance the value created for individuals, community and environment; and embedding these digital principles into their organisational strategy, culture and services. CAST also supports trusts and foundations to improve how they assess, select and support charitable digital projects and programmes. By building their digital capacity, CAST helps social sector organisations to become better equipped to thrive in the face of rapid social, economic and technological change.

CAST has taken a networked approach from the outset, working closely with trusts and foundations, training and advisory bodies, and design and development agencies, to radically improve the quality, range and uptake of charity digital tools, training, funding and advice. We openly share what we are learning; and build on the work of others through our strong commitment to sharing and reusing resources which reduces the costs - while increasing the pace and scale - of change.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a great urgency for civil society organisations (and businesses more widely) to adopt digital technologies to continue to provide value: ensuring continuity in running their organisations effectively; experimenting with how they can deliver services and support at a distance, and exploring how digital, data and design can help them achieve their broader charitable objectives. In response to this, along with a wide range of partners as part of Catalyst, we have supported thousands of charities and civil society organisations to respond to the pandemic and ensure their vital work has continued at this critical time. The pandemic created the need for charities to engage rapidly with digital tools and approaches; CAST and the Catalyst network responded providing hundreds of thousands of points of support: direct training and support; access to funding and resources, and connecting charities with the best placed digital experts.

How CAST contributes to the public benefit

CAST seeks to address our society's most pressing challenges through the effective use of digital, data and design. This year, more than ever, the way in which charities could create public benefit relied on their access to, and use of digital tools and approaches. Without such access, or the support to make best use of digital, there would have been a significant reduction in the public benefit of charities, at a time where individuals and communities needed charities the most.

In accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 and the associated Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the trustees confirm that they have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit as published by the Charity Commission, in exercising their powers and duties in the year under review.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Review of performance and achievements

It's been quite the year. With it, the beginnings of a transformation of the sector. In part, this transformation has started as individual organisations have scrabbled to use digital tools to ensure business continuity and to deliver their support to those that they cannot physically meet. This has resulted in thousands of charities starting out with digital tools and taking their first steps in delivering digital services, but is quickly leading to many charities being more deliberate about the design of their digital services and the shape of their team delivering it; being more aware of some roles for digital in their work, and less adverse to developing more modern practices.

Of course much of this transformation has come because of the huge increase in demand for many charities' support and the dramatic falls in income leading to many having to rethink how they might organise to address those two opposing trends. The transformation too, of course, is driven by global and UK based social movements - Black Lives Matter and environmental groups.

The work of CAST, and in particular our contribution to Catalyst sits at the heart of this: a desire to support charities to evolve their deliberate digital practice, and an ambition to find new ways to organise that catalyses more resilient communities and activities that build the ambition, capacity and practices of a sector. The Catalyst network has provided an incredible response to the crisis of COVID-19. In part, this is because of the ground-work already laid by the Founding Funders, CAST team and strategic partners who have built relationships, ways of working and practices that could quickly be reorientated to provide emergency support to the sector.

The change of context also meant, of course, that CAST, as a contribution to Catalyst, was positioned in a way to support The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver c£5m work of support and funding to the sector.
The CAST team, plus significant contributions from critical partners such as DOT Project, Shift, SCVO, Deepr, Third Sector Labs, Dev Society and many more, were turned to focus on providing this immediate support, whilst aiming to do so in a way that added to the longer term aims of Catalyst.

To support civil society this past year we've seen the services and resources from Catalyst accessed over 600,000 times; supported thousands of charities to develop better deliberate digital practices; run the biggest ever Discovery programme - for over 100 charities - supported by digital partners; created the conditions that has generated over 750 open assets (using open source and creative commons licenses), and seen the beginnings of shared infrastructure that can support the sector to be more responsive and resilient in the future.

By building on the foundations of Catalyst and focusing on those worst affected by the pandemic, CAST's work has grown in importance, urgency and achievement in this past year.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Results for the year

We are pleased to report that despite the many problems caused by the pandemic (and in part because of them), 2020/21 was a momentous year for CAST, with turnover of £6.26m being generated, which was almost treble the amount earned the year before.

The main reason for this was the £4.95m grant funding received from The National Lottery Community Fund for providing grants and digital support services to non-profits as part of TLNCF and Catalyst Digital Covid Response Fund. Of this emergency funding that we were proud to deliver on behalf of TNLCF, we spent £3.92m of it during the financial year, with the balance of £1.03m being carried over in our restricted reserves for paying out by the end of September 2021.

Income

In addition to the emergency funding referred to above, we generated £1.32m income, and this included other grants from The National Lottery Community Fund (£430k), Comic Relief (£352k), City Bridge Trust (£200k), Paul Hamlyn (£75k), plus £43k of smaller grants. We also earned £220k unrestricted service delivery fee income (up 23% on the year before).

Expenditure

The charity's primary expenditure continues to be incurred on supporting charities and social enterprises to improve their services with digital technology, and with the emergency funding provided by TNLCF we were able to substantially increase the amount of support provided during the year. Expenditure on digital capacity development was £5.24m during the year, almost treble the previous year's level and of course this is directly attributable to the emergency funding provided by TNLCF for accelerating this support during the pandemic. Of this expenditure, £1.76m was paid out as direct grants, and £2.85m was spent on sub-contracted digital support provided by external partners.In addition to the digital capacity development costs we incurred £495k on support costs, £32k on governance and £29k on fund-raising.

Reserves policy

We continue to develop and manage our free reserves so that they represent from three to six months' operating expenditure. With the increase in unrestricted fee income during the year our free unrestricted reserves increased from £281k to £330k (this figure comprising unrestricted reserves of £333k less the £3k fixed asset net book value).

With our current operating costs running at £62k per month, this represents free reserves cover for 5.3 months' operating costs, which is within our target range.

Our restricted reserves contain funding provided towards the delivery of specific programmes of work, and it will be spent over the coming year. At 31.3.21 the balance of our restricted reserves was £1.07m, all of which will be spent this year, and the main element of this was the balance of £1.03m emergency funding from TNLCF which will be spent by the end of September 2021.

FUTURE OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

This past year has highlighted just how important civil society is, and indeed how important digital, data and design are to how charities in particular can be even more responsive and resilience to change. Based on this, CAST's future objectives will be to strengthen the work so far and to ensure we reach further and deeper into supporting civil society's capacity and capability in digital, data and design.

In particular, this means a renewed commitment to supporting Catalyst and to ensure we build on the collective work to date. As part of this, we will review the best structures and governance that support this network-based approach to thrive to maximise its impact. Similarly, we will continue to review the best role that CAST plays in contributing to this shared mission.

We will continue to champion and advocate for open working and the use of open licences across civil society. In the past year we have evidenced the benefit of grant funding using open source and creative commons approaches, and will now look to build on this foundation, working with grant-making partners; creating the structures than enable reuse and collecting the evidence that demonstrates the value of this approach. This will be at the heart of our continued focus on building the technical infrastructure that supports greater reuse, and that decreases the cost of high-quality digital work across civil society.

In addition to the technical infrastructure that can support civil society, CAST will also focus on the vital relational infrastructure that supports those with responsibility for digital within charities. We will continue to innovate models that support digital leads and ultimately the development of digital capacity within and between organisations across civil society.

As the sector rebounds from COVID-19, it is vital that we act now to rebuild using the most flexible and powerful tools and approaches available to us. In doing so we aim to ensure charities across the UK:

- integrate digital in their organisational strategy and culture so that they remain responsive and resilient in the face of ongoing social and economic change
- can exploit new opportunities afforded by digital for the development of shared solutions and greater efficiencies
- remain abreast of technological advances so they can continue to champion and safeguard the most disadvantaged in society, especially as government automates and tech companies make greater use of personal data;
- can actively contribute to the development and use of new technologies and platforms to ensure they are open, responsible and inclusive.

As we rebound from COVID, CAST's mission remains urgent and important. We'll structure our team and work to ensure we provide maximum value to charities, civil society organisations, and ultimately to individuals and communities across the UK.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The charity's trustees are also directors and members of the company.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

CAST has appointed trustees that bring a strong understanding of the potential of technology to address social challenges. At the end of 2020 we recruited six new trustees to further strengthen our Board, and in March 2021, one of our founding Trustees, Nat Hunter, stepped down after providing five years of leadership and support for the charity. We are incredibly grateful for Nat's huge contribution and also to the new Trustees for their commitment to our mission and objectives. The new Trustees were recruited through an open process supported by the B-Corp Society (https://www.society-search.com/) and appointments made following interviews that has ensured the right fit for the organisation and the prospective trustee.

The names of the trustees who served during the period are set out as part of the reference and administrative details within this annual report and accounts, and brief biographical details on each of the current trustees are given below.

Nat Hunter	Founder of Airside, Director of Design at the RSA and Strategic Director at Machines Room, Nat is one of the UK's most influential digital designers committed to using digital technology to drive social change.
Lord Jim Knight	Chair of the Board, Jim is the Chief Education Adviser at TES Global, a visiting professor at the UCL Knowledge Lab and a member of the House of Lords. Jim served as an MP from 2001-2009, during which time he was a minister for rural affairs, schools and then employment, spending his final year as a Cabinet minister. Jim is a founder of XRapid Ltd, the first company to sell disease diagnosis commercially via an iPhone app.
Mary McKenna MBE	MBE Mary is a technology entrepreneur and angel investor. She co-founded the online learning company Learning Pool in 2006 which she exited in 2014. She is a resident expert at Said Business School and an Entrepreneur in Residence at the Northern Ireland Science Park. Mary was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to digital technology, innovation and learning.
Emma Thomas	Emma joined YoungMinds, the UK's leading children and young people's mental health charity, as CEO in July 2018, with overall responsibility for the organisation and its impact for young people. Prior to this, she worked as a consultant supporting digital adoption and strategic development for a range of charities such as Barnardo's, YMCA and London Youth. She was CEO of YouthNet (now The Mix) and has worked at the BBC developing new services and leading campaigns to drive adoption of new platforms.
Lara Burns	Lara is Chief Digital Officer of The Scouts, where she leads the digital transformation strategy across an organization of 165,000 volunteers in a network of 8,500 local groups, who deliver weekly Scouting to nearly half a million young people to help develop their Skills for Life. She has spent 25 years delivering digital innovation across diverse sectors. In the last decade Lara has driven digital transformation and strategic change in the charity sector, where she is passionate about using technologies to increase the effectiveness of the charities.
Kate Collins	Kate has worked in UK charities for nearly 20 years and joined Teenage Cancer Trust in 2009 initially to lead fundraising, becoming a Director in 2013 and, in March 2018 Chief Executive. Teenage Cancer Trust has led the way in the creation of world-class cancer services for young people, providing life-changing care and support. Kate is leading a strategy to ensure the charity can reach all young people with cancer in the UK and is ensuring that young people and their needs remain at the heart of everything the charity does.
Gaia Ines Fasso	Advisor on digital innovation strategy, programmes and operating models. Working with multinational companies, social impact incubators and startups. CareerTech founder, curator of THRIVEatLearning community and contributor to EdSurge.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Professor Kerensa Jennings FRSA	Storyteller, strategist, writer, digital impact specialist. Previously Head of Strategic Delivery at BBC and CEO of iDEA at the Royal Household, now BT Group Director of Digital Impact.
Prue Quarcoo	A finance professional, Prue is the Group Head of Reporting (UK) and sits on the Management Board at GroupM UK, the world's leading investment group. Prue is passionate about equity in society and social mobility. She is a mentor and also a secondary school Governor.
Pema Radha	Chief of Staff, Global Managed Services @EY. Organisational change, business operations and HR expertise. Passionate about diversity and inclusion.

The trustees are committed to ensuring that the Board has the combination of skills necessary to support the effective provision of access to capital to charities and social enterprises. In particular, the Board of Trustees includes skills and expertise in the following areas: digital and social innovation, charity and social enterprise, grant-making and social investment, financial and risk management. The Board has adopted the Charity Governance Code and ensures compliance through regular review.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

The Board of Trustees systematically reviews risks faced by the Charity, reviewing the detailed risk register on a quarterly basis.

The key risks to the Charity are:

- Post-EDA funding and potential succession planning for Catalyst is delayed due to the intensity of EDA delivery. This is being mitigated by ongoing and advanced conversations with the Founding Funders as well as with prospective new funders.
- The need to respond to another lockdown. This is mitigated as staff are set up to work from home and operate flexibly around childcare. CAST was able to operate effectively through the previous lockdown and since then have invested in home-working infrastructure to support staff. The impact on support partners and grantees is similar to that of CAST.
- Failure to deliver the intended outcomes of the funded programmes and enable lasting change in the charity sector. This has been mitigated by thorough research and engagement with a large number of charities and sector organisations, who have participated in the development of the tools and resources that support and enable VCSOs to embrace digital development within their activities.
- Failure to secure long-term funding to deliver CAST's mission of sector change. This is being mitigated by the maintenance of a rigorous system of financial control which is enabling the charity to grow its unrestricted reserves and achieve value for money across its activities. Discussions with the charity's major funders has also led to a number of funded programmes being extended and others being secured for at least two years.
- Failure to spend grant income within agreed timeframes. This has been mitigated by developing robust financial controls and expanding the CAST team and partner network to deliver our increasing number of programmes.
- Failure to retain key staff. This is being mitigated by the recruitment of a strong and experienced team who share CAST's aims and values, communicate effectively with each other and the wider network, and are supported by a wide range of specialist partners.
- Reputational damage caused by any of the above. This is mitigated by close oversight by an experienced board of trustees that ensures the charity continues to develop; work effectively with its partners and funders; and maintains strong financial and organisational controls.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT COVID-19

The pandemic continued to have a significant impact on CAST. Our income almost trebled so that we could coordinate, and provide, urgent support to the sector to harness digital, data and design to respond to the crisis. With that, our team grew modestly to ensure we could manage the scale of the work, whilst the strength and number of partnership grew considerable. The Catalyst network grew from 50 partners to 500; the resources and services available we accessed over 500,000 times. The scale and urgency of demand highlighted the importance of CAST's mission, and the team and partners responded incredibly to successfully provide support at scale. CAST continued to operate as a distance-based team with all staff operating wholly remotely and all Board meetings conducted in the same way. The confidence and competence of the team in operating using digital tools and remote practices ensured we delivered to an exceptional standard, and we continue to support other charities to develop their digital behaviours and ways of working.

The 2021 Charity Digital Skills report has further evidenced the importance of CAST's mission as the sector now consolidates and builds on the huge changes driven by the pandemic: 83% of charities changed their services in response to demand and close to 8 out of 10 (78%) used digital to reach new audiences. The majority of charities are now committed to digital service delivery, with 73% planning to continue delivering in this way and 71% embedding digital as part of a hybrid model. This explosion in new digital experiments means a greater-than-ever need - and opportunity - for coordination and collaboration, to ensure good practice, prevent needless duplication and make best use of sector resources. Catalyst resources and services have reinforced and accelerated a sector-wide shift in digital culture and mindset - 77% of Catalyst charities are collaborating or sharing learnings externally, compared to the sector figure from the Charity Digital Skills report of 41%. However, there is need for still more support: while over two thirds (67%) continue to deliver all work remotely, just under a third (31%) say their staff are burned out from the demands of intense remote working. We'll look to understand how we can address this, both within CAST and across the sector. Big sector challenges like tackling digital inclusion and safeguarding will benefit from a joined-up response; over 1 in 5 organisations cancelled services because either their users don't have the skills or tech to use them, or because their staff lack the skills or tech needed to deliver them. A Catalyst-convened panel event of key players in the space attracted over 150 attendees and led to the creation of an open list of national programmes and resources, while the DigiSafe resource created with CAST and Catalyst support has been accessed and integrated by hundreds of charities.

Finally, with many more organisations now contributing to the conversation and practice around digital, there is all the more need for common language, standards and shared conceptual models to communicate/operate effectively and inclusively. These challenges and opportunities, amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic reinforce the importance of CAST's mission and work.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number
09544506 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number
1161998

Registered office
Broul Cottage Bath Road
Nailsworth
Stroud
Gloucestershire
GL6 0QL

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees

Lord Jim Knight	
Emma Thomas	
Mary McKenna	
Nat Hunter	(resigned 1 March 2021)
Kathryn Collins	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Gaia-Ines Fasso	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Kerensa Jennings	(appoInted 25 November 2020)
Prue Quarcoo	(appointed 1 March 2021)
Pema Radha	(appointed 25 November 2020)
Lara Burns	(appointed 25 November 2020)

Auditors

Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
London
WC1B 3LN

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees (who are also the directors of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology 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.

AUDITORS

The Trustee Directors have made the decision to go out to tender for the 2022 audit.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 8 September 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Lord J Knight - Trustee

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 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.

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 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.

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

We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

Procedures performed by the audit team included:

- Discussions with management regarding known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- Assessing journals entries as part of our planned audit approach. Evaluation of management incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements including management override, and considering that the principal risk were related to the posting of inappropriate journal entries to improve the result for the year.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. As in all of our audits we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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.

GAVIN WHITTER FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Gibson Whitter Limited
Statutory Auditors
Larch House
Parklands Business Park
Denmead
Hampshire
PO7 6XP

24 September 2021

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	-	-	-	200,000
Charitable activities	3				
Digital capacity development		220,422	6,047,742	6,268,164	1,942,181
Total		220,422	6,047,742	6,268,164	2,142,181
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	4	29,019	-	29,019	22,585
Charitable activities	5				
Digital capacity development		545,159	5,220,732	5,765,891	1,775,904
Total		574,178	5,220,732	5,794,910	1,798,489
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(353,756)	827,010	473,254	343,692
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		686,950	242,669	929,619	585,927
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873	929,619

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

BALANCE SHEET
31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	3,298	6,342
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	14	119,040	356,609
Cash at bank		2,843,159	1,227,657
		2,962,199	1,584,266
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(1,562,624)	(660,989)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,399,575	923,277
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,402,873	929,619
NET ASSETS		1,402,873	929,619
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		333,194	686,950
Restricted funds		1,069,679	242,669
TOTAL FUNDS		1,402,873	929,619

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 and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 8 September 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

Lord J Knight - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	1,618,301	437,876
Net cash provided by operating activities		1,618,301	437,876
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,799)	(8,038)
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,799)	(8,038)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		1,615,502	429,838
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,227,657	797,819
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		2,843,159	1,227,657

The notes form part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. RECONCILIATION OF NET INCOME TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Net income for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	473,254	343,692
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	5,843	2,667
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	237,569	(229,966)
Increase in creditors	901,635	321,483
Net cash provided by operations	1,618,301	437,876

2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS

	At 1.4.20 £	Cash flow £	At 31.3.21 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank	1,227,657	1,615,502	2,843,159
	1,227,657	1,615,502	2,843,159
Total	1,227,657	1,615,502	2,843,159

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. 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.

Income
Voluntary income including donations, gifts and legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature are recognised where there is entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to specific performance conditions. Such income is only deferred when:

- the donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- the donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Income from activities to generate funds, such as services provided, and investment income are recognised on a receivable basis.

Volunteers and donated services
The value of services provided by volunteers is not incorporated into these financial statements.

Where goods or services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contribution to the charity.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements are recognised as goods or services are supplied.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs incurred in attracting voluntary income.
- Charitable activities include expenditure to support the wider and more effective use of technology to drive social change. Charitable activities include both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Support costs include central functions and governance costs and have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT
All resources expended are classified under activity headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

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

Plant and machinery	-	33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% on cost

Individual assets costing £500 or more are capitalised.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

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

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.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Grants	-	200,000

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Esmee Fairbairn	-	200,000

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

		31.3.21	31.3.20
	Activity	£	£
Grants	Digital capacity development	6,047,742	1,762,936
Service income	Digital capacity development	220,422	179,245
		6,268,164	1,942,181

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Comic Relief- Tech for Good/HIV Think Digital	29,260	3,276
The National Lottery Community Fund - Fuse	162,381	16,549
The National Lottery Community Fund- Beehive	17,877	5,296
Comic Relief- Spark	73,000	175,000
Co-op Foundation	-	50,000
Carried forward	282,518	250,121

continued...

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES - continued

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Brought forward	282,518	250,121
Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport	-	977,815
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,000	75,000
City Bridge Trust	200,000	200,000
The National Lottery Community Fund- Catalyst	250,000	250,000
Charity IT Leaders	-	10,000
TNLCF - EDA grant	1,863,000	-
TNLCF - Services grant	3,085,000	-
Comic Relief - Explore	250,000	-
Clothworkers Foundation	5,224	-
IVAR	7,000	-
Cisco	20,000	-
Lloyds Foundation	10,000	-
	6,047,742	1,762,936

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Staff costs	29,019	11,785
Subcontractors	-	10,800
	29,019	22,585

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Direct Costs (see note 6)	Grant funding of activities (see note 7)	Support costs (see note 8)	Totals
	£	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	3,481,616	1,757,296	526,979	5,765,891

continued...

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Staff costs	611,394	520,716
Subcontractors	2,846,329	775,042
Marketing and advertising	4,287	2,616
Travel and subsistence	-	15,350
Event attendance	-	427
Venue hire and catering	-	26,090
Other direct costs	19,606	6,507
	3,481,616	1,346,748

7. GRANTS PAYABLE

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
Digital capacity development	1,757,296	232,158

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
	£	£
The Engine Room Inc	-	20,000
SCVO	50,000	57,598
Lancashire Women's Centre	-	2,200
Shift Foundation	48,700	91,850
Datakind UK	-	2,332
NCVO	3,037	15,888
Kingston Voluntary Action	-	7,800
Citizens Online	-	5,600
Vonne	-	2,200
Breast Cancer Care	-	2,500
Clore	-	8,690
Parkinson's UK	-	2,500
Your Sanctuary	-	5,000
Action for Children	-	2,500
Disability Rights UK	-	2,500
Hope Support Services	-	3,000
Promo-Cymru	3,400	-
Comic Relief - Explore	219,500	-
TNLCF- EDA Discovery Phase1	500,000	-
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2A	193,820	-
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2B	231,586	-
TNLCF- EDA Development Phase 2C	268,955	-
TNLCF- EDA Sector Challenge	238,298	-
	1,757,296	232,158

Comic Relief- Explore
41 grantees applied and received grant funding for the explore programme.

EDA- Discovery Learning Programme
Supporting cohorts of charities through a 'Discovery' process - early stage research and design to understand the needs, behaviours and expectations of the communities they serve to identify how digital may best be used to support them. Over 100 charities supported by 11 digital agencies - the largest ever collective discovery programme.
https://www.thecatalyst.org.uk/resource-articles/100-charities. 100 grantees received grants.

continued...

7. GRANTS PAYABLE - continued

Definition Programme
A responsive programme that supported charities through a 'Definition' process - the design approach to testing different ways to address the problems identified within the Discovery processes. 55 charities supported by seven digital partners over a 10 week period.

Development Programme
Once Discovery and Definition stages have been completed (either with EDA funding or outside) Development funding provides more in-depth support to build and apply the solutions to realise the charities' communities. Across the EDA programme were Development 2A and 2B - differentiated by when charities were ready for this funding and support.18 Grantees were support in phase 2A, 11 grantees in phase 2B and 55 grantees in 2C.

Sector Challenges
Funding to support charities to work together on shared sector problems, particularly aiming to address challenges that individual charities cannot solve alone, but that need to be addressed by groups of charities working together. Sector Challenges covered four areas: Mental Health and Wellbeing, Early Years, Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence and Financial Wellbeing. 31 grantees received grant funding.
https://www.thecatalyst.org.uk/sector-challenge-grants/sector-challenge-grants.

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	Management	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Digital capacity development	495,306	31,673	526,979

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

Management

	31.3.21 Digital capacity development	31.3.20 Total activities
	£	£
Wages	312,271	41,506
Social security	25,855	445
Pensions	59,926	2,270
Rent	47,962	62,214
Telephone	673	1,089
Postage and stationery	51	309
Sundries	3,203	13,962
Equipment repairs and renewals	784	1,365
Software and licence expenses	20,632	4,469
Administration services	2,498	3,039
Bank charges	452	308
Subcontractors	-	2,383
Training	659	1,890
Bookkeeping and payroll fees	14,497	53,527
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	5,843	2,667
	495,306	191,443

continued...

8. SUPPORT COSTS - continued

Governance costs

	31.3.21 Digital capacity development £	31.3.20 Total activities £
Auditors' remuneration	6,180	5,340
Trustee meeting and expenses	-	215
Legal fees	79	-
Recruitment costs	25,414	-
	31,673	5,555

9. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Auditors' remuneration	6,180	5,340
Depreciation - owned assets	5,843	2,667
Other operating leases	47,962	62,214

10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

During the year no trustees received remuneration from the charitable company (31.3.20: £8,600).

Trustees' expenses

During the year no trustee (31.3.20: one trustee) was reimbursed expenses by the charity for travel totalling £nil (31.3.20: £215).

11. STAFF COSTS

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Wages and salaries	832,494	475,198
Social security costs	80,882	49,476
Other pension costs	125,089	52,048
	1,038,465	576,722

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

	31.3.21	31.3.20
Charitable	13	8
Support	4	2
	17	10

continued...

11. STAFF COSTS - continued

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	31.3.21	31.3.20
£60,001 - £70,000	1	-
£80,001 - £90,000	-	1
£90,001 - £100,000	1	-
	2	1

12. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	200,000	-	200,000
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	179,245	1,762,936	1,942,181
Total	379,245	1,762,936	2,142,181
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	22,585	-	22,585
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	153,743	1,622,161	1,775,904
Total	176,328	1,622,161	1,798,489
NET INCOME	202,917	140,775	343,692
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	484,033	101,894	585,927
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	686,950	242,669	929,619

continued...

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2020	7,873	3,739	11,612
Additions	2,799	-	2,799
At 31 March 2021	10,672	3,739	14,411
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2020	4,522	748	5,270
Charge for year	2,852	2,991	5,843
At 31 March 2021	7,374	3,739	11,113
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2021	3,298	-	3,298
At 31 March 2020	3,351	2,991	6,342

14. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade debtors	54,993	50,495
Other debtors	64,047	306,114
	119,040	356,609

15. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Trade creditors	427,944	287,975
Social security and other taxes	29,590	5,037
VAT	2,532	10,790
Other creditors	1,089,315	72,669
Deferred grants	13,243	284,518
	1,562,624	660,989

Deferred income

Deferred income comprises grant received for future financial periods.

	31.3.21 £	31.3.20 £
Balance brought forward	284,518	234,639
mount release to incoming resources	(284,518)	(25,121)
Amount deferred in the year	13,243	75,000
Balance carried forward	13,243	284,518

continued...

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.3.21 Total funds £	31.3.20 Total funds £
Fixed assets	3,298	-	3,298	6,342
Current assets	432,672	2,529,527	2,962,199	1,584,266
Current liabilities	(102,776)	(1,459,848)	(1,562,624)	(660,989)
	333,194	1,069,679	1,402,873	929,619

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.20 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	286,950	46,244	-	333,194
Esmee Fairbairn	400,000	(400,000)	-	-
	686,950	(353,756)	-	333,194
Restricted funds				
TNLCF- Fuse	-	95,337	(95,337)	-
Indigo Trust	17,032	(17,032)	-	-
Comic Relief- Spark	122,436	(122,436)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	88,876	(162,113)	95,337	22,100
Co-op Foundation	14,325	(14,325)	-	-
TNLCF- EDA	-	367,341	-	367,341
TNLCF - Services	-	657,420	-	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	-	10,500	-	10,500
Cisco	-	12,318	-	12,318
	242,669	827,010	-	1,069,679
TOTAL FUNDS	929,619	473,254	-	1,402,873

continued...

17. 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 funds	220,422	(174,178)	46,244
Esmee Fairbairn	-	(400,000)	(400,000)
	220,422	(574,178)	(353,756)
Restricted funds			
TNLCF- Fuse	162,381	(67,044)	95,337
TNLCF - Beehive	17,877	(17,877)	-
Comic Relief- Tech for Good	29,260	(29,260)	-
Indigo Trust	-	(17,032)	(17,032)
Comic Relief- Spark	73,000	(195,436)	(122,436)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,000	(75,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(200,000)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	250,000	(412,113)	(162,113)
Co-op Foundation	-	(14,325)	(14,325)
TNLCF- EDA	1,863,000	(1,495,659)	367,341
TNLCF - Services	3,085,000	(2,427,580)	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	250,000	(239,500)	10,500
Clothworkers Foundation	5,224	(5,224)	-
IVAR	7,000	(7,000)	-
Cisco	20,000	(7,682)	12,318
Lloyds Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
	6,047,742	(5,220,732)	827,010
TOTAL FUNDS	6,268,164	(5,794,910)	473,254

continued...

17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.20 £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	284,033	2,917	286,950
Esmee Fairbairn	200,000	200,000	400,000
	484,033	202,917	686,950
Restricted funds			
Indigo Trust	20,000	(2,968)	17,032
Comic Relief- Spark	77,138	45,298	122,436
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	4,756	(4,756)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	-	88,876	88,876
Co-op Foundation	-	14,325	14,325
	101,894	140,775	242,669
TOTAL FUNDS	585,927	343,692	929,619

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	179,245	(176,328)	2,917
Esmee Fairbairn	200,000	-	200,000
	379,245	(176,328)	202,917
Restricted funds			
TNLCF- Fuse	16,549	(16,549)	-
TNLCF - Beehive	5,296	(5,296)	-
Comic Relief- Tech for Good	3,276	(3,276)	-
DCMS	977,815	(977,815)	-
Indigo Trust	-	(2,968)	(2,968)
Comic Relief- Spark	175,000	(129,702)	45,298
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	-	(4,756)	(4,756)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	75,000	(75,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	200,000	(200,000)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	250,000	(161,124)	88,876
Charity I T Leaders	10,000	(10,000)	-
Co-op Foundation	50,000	(35,675)	14,325
	1,762,936	(1,622,161)	140,775
TOTAL FUNDS	2,142,181	(1,798,489)	343,692

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17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.19 £	Net movement in funds £	Transfers between funds £	At 31.3.21 £
Unrestricted funds				
General funds	284,033	49,161	-	333,194
Esmee Fairbairn	200,000	(200,000)	-	-
	484,033	(150,839)	-	333,194
Restricted funds				
TNLCF- Fuse	-	95,337	(95,337)	-
Indigo Trust	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Comic Relief- Spark	77,138	(77,138)	-	-
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	4,756	(4,756)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	-	(73,237)	95,337	22,100
TNLCF- EDA	-	367,341	-	367,341
TNLCF - Services	-	657,420	-	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	-	10,500	-	10,500
Cisco	-	12,318	-	12,318
	101,894	967,785	-	1,069,679
TOTAL FUNDS	585,927	816,946	-	1,402,873

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17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	399,667	(350,506)	49,161
Esmee Fairbairn	200,000	(400,000)	(200,000)
	599,667	(750,506)	(150,839)
Restricted funds			
TNLCF- Fuse	178,930	(83,593)	95,337
TNLCF - Beehive	23,173	(23,173)	-
Comic Relief- Tech for Good	32,536	(32,536)	-
DCMS	977,815	(977,815)	-
Indigo Trust	-	(20,000)	(20,000)
Comic Relief- Spark	248,000	(325,138)	(77,138)
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	-	(4,756)	(4,756)
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	150,000	(150,000)	-
City Bridge Trust	400,000	(400,000)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF) - Catalyst	500,000	(573,237)	(73,237)
Charity I T Leaders	10,000	(10,000)	-
Co-op Foundation	50,000	(50,000)	-
TNLCF- EDA	1,863,000	(1,495,659)	367,341
TNLCF - Services	3,085,000	(2,427,580)	657,420
Comic Relief - Expore	250,000	(239,500)	10,500
Clothworkers Foundation	5,224	(5,224)	-
IVAR	7,000	(7,000)	-
Cisco	20,000	(7,682)	12,318
Lloyds Foundation	10,000	(10,000)	-
	7,810,678	(6,842,893)	967,785
TOTAL FUNDS	8,410,345	(7,593,399)	816,946

Esmee Fairbairn
This unrestricted grant is to support the continued development of the Catalyst. Specifically, it will enable the Catalyst to galvanise a cross-sector network in providing digital support to voluntary and charitable organisations across the UK.

The National Lottery Community Fund- Fuse
This grant was to support charities across the UK in their digital service development, particularly smaller charities, helping organisations with significant resource constraints to embrace digital for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The National Lottery Community Fund- Beehive/ 360 giving
Funding was received from TNLCF via 360 Giving to develop the Beehive Giving platform that uses open data from 360 Giving to provide a free grant funding suitability tool that uses funders' guidelines, priorities and 360 Giving to produce reports that help charities decide where to apply for support.

Comic Relief - HIV Think Digital
This funding supported charities funded from Comic Relief's HIV in the UK: Think Digital programme. This grant was to build the capacity, confidence and capability of the participating charities so that they could create effective digital services that help them achieve their charitable objectives.

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17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

DCMS Catalyst
DCMS provided this grant to support the development of the Catalyst, a collaborative network supporting the social sector to become more resilient and responsive through the use of digital. The grant was specifically to support voluntary and charitable organisations in England to embed digital into their strategy and services.

Indigo Trust
£20,000 to support the development of Grant Advisor UK, a tool to promote and share open feedback between grant seekers and grant makers. This builds on GrantAdvisor, a tool created in the US by Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, aiming to increase collect honest, public feedback that is visible and benchmarked so that the 'foundation bubble' is burst - improving funder behaviours and practices, and creating more equitable relationships between grant makers and seekers.

Comic Relief - Spark
Funded with £350,000 over two years from Comic Relief, Spark is a partnership that brings together a group of organisations to test out new approaches that can help Catalyst achieve impact at scale. Comic Relief and Paul Hamlyn Foundation have brought together CAST, Think Social Tech, Dot Everyone, Working with Joe and Engine Room to increase the digital capability of the sector by testing out new approaches that can be scaled through the Catalyst network.

Joseph Rowntree Foundation
This grant from Joseph Rowntree Foundation was to cover costs associated with the pre-pilot phase of the Grant Advisor UK work, including collaborating with the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, UK Trusts and Foundations. This grant directly led to the grant provided by Indigo Trust to continue this work through a pilot.

Paul Hamlyn Foundation
This grant is to use the Fuse approach (digital accelerator for established non-profits) in partnership between CAST and the Cardinal Hume Centre to develop a digital service that provides scalable and transparent immigration advice. Building on CAST's expertise in developing test-driven user-led digital services, and Cardinal Hume Centre's expertise and networks in delivering support for migrants and refugees, this partnership will develop a digital service that supports multiple advice-giving organisations to become more aligned with the capacity they have, providing more accessible/timely support to advice-seekers.

Co-op Foundation
This grant was received to contribute to the cost of developing the Charity Digital Code of Practice. Charity I T Leaders also provided a grant towards this project.

The National Lottery Community Fund (Catalyst)
This funding from TNLCF was provided so that the Catalyst network could continue to help civil society organisations, including small and medium sized groups, embed digital tools across their practice, respond to the needs of users, and be more resilient in the face of technological change.

City Bridge Trust
This grant was provided towards the London elements of the continuing development of the Catalyst network, which will make civil society more resilient by embedding digital in their strategy, services and governance.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- External Delegated Authority (EDA)
To provide grant funding to nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Covid response.

The National Lottery Community Fund (TNLCF)- Services

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17. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Funding to complement the aforementioned EDA to provide digital, data and design services to support nonprofits as part of The National Lottery Community Fund and Catalyst Digital Covid response fund.

Comic Relief - Explore
Early stage digital funding and tailored support over 12 weeks to help charities explore digital service delivery challenges and prototype solutions.

IVAR, Cisco and Lloyds Foundation
Contribution to the development of the Charity Digital Code https://charitydigitalcode.org/

Transfer of funds

The transfer of funds between TNLCF-Fuse and TNLCF- Catalyst was granted to enable us to support charities to develop digital services. We used this funding to support charities to develop digital services in response to the pandemic by matching them with Digital Teams - this enabled the charities to develop digital services, whilst also piloting the process used within the EDA approach.

18. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension costs charge represents contributions payable by the charitable company to this scheme and amounted to £83,753 (31.3.20: £52,049). There was £12,627 of outstanding contributions at 31 March 2021 (31.3.20: £6,254).

19. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2021 (31.3.20: none).

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

The charitable company is under the control of its members. No one member has control of the charitable company.