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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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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 in 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.

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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.

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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 Liberatory 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 workforce.

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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.

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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.

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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 resource 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%.

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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 out 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 grantseekers' 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 respond 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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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 Fassio	(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)

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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.

**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.

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**

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.

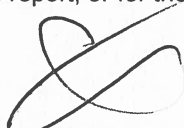
There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material 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

3/10/20

Date:

**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		<u>347,157</u>	<u>1,355,701</u>	<u>1,702,858</u>	<u>2,047,779</u>
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		<u>796,252</u>	<u>1,443,563</u>	<u>2,239,815</u>	<u>2,019,468</u>
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		<u><u>173,409</u></u>	<u><u>12,138</u></u>	<u><u>185,547</u></u>	<u><u>722,504</u></u>

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		<u>387,771</u>	<u>710,375</u>
		494,664	1,019,183
CREDITORS			
Amounts falling due within one year	15	(313,244)	(301,193)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>181,420</u>	<u>717,990</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		185,547	722,504
NET ASSETS		<u>185,547</u>	<u>722,504</u>
FUNDS	17		
Unrestricted funds		173,409	622,504
Restricted funds		<u>12,138</u>	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>185,547</u>	<u>722,504</u>

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

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

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 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	<u>(320,998)</u>	<u>(108,569)</u>

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
	<u>710,375</u>	<u>(322,604)</u>	<u>387,771</u>
Total	<u>710,375</u>	<u>(322,604)</u>	<u>387,771</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Donations	119,993	98,250
	<u>119,993</u>	<u>98,250</u>

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Grants	1,403,164	1,726,106
Service income	179,701	223,423
	<u>1,582,865</u>	<u>1,949,529</u>

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	-
	<u>1,403,164</u>	<u>1,726,106</u>

4. RAISING FUNDS

Raising donations and legacies

	31.3.24	31.3.23
	£	£
Staff costs	21,292	21,043
	<u>21,292</u>	<u>21,043</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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
	<u>1,515,157</u>	<u>1,550,143</u>

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	-
	<u>328,445</u>	<u>114,438</u>

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

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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	31.3.23
	Digital capacity development £	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	-
	<u>368,061</u>	<u>326,607</u>

Governance costs

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

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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	-
	<u>583</u>	<u>-</u>

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
	<u>797,647</u>	<u>776,250</u>

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

	31.3.24	31.3.23
Charitable	8	8
Support	3	3
	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

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
	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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	<u>493,628</u>	<u>1,554,151</u>	<u>2,047,779</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	21,043	-	21,043
Charitable activities			
Digital capacity development	529,836	1,468,589	1,998,425
Total	<u>550,879</u>	<u>1,468,589</u>	<u>2,019,468</u>
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	<u><u>622,504</u></u>	<u><u>100,000</u></u>	<u><u>722,504</u></u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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
	<u>106,893</u>	<u>308,808</u>

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
	<u>313,244</u>	<u>301,193</u>

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	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance carried forward	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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)
	<u>173,409</u>	<u>12,138</u>	<u>185,547</u>	<u>722,504</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>(87,862)</u>	<u>12,138</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>722,504</u>	<u>(536,957)</u>	<u>185,547</u>

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
	<u>1,355,701</u>	<u>(1,443,563)</u>	<u>(87,862)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,702,858</u>	<u>(2,239,815)</u>	<u>(536,957)</u>

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	-
	<u>5,500</u>	<u>85,562</u>	<u>8,938</u>	<u>100,000</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>694,193</u>	<u>28,311</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>722,504</u>

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

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

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 - Explore	-	(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)	-
	<u>1,554,151</u>	<u>(1,468,589)</u>	<u>85,562</u>
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>2,047,779</u>	<u>(2,019,468)</u>	<u>28,311</u>

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 multifomed 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.

**CENTRE FOR THE ACCELERATION OF SOCIAL
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

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.