



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **02/06/24** Period start date To **01/06/25**
Period end date
Charity name: **Essex Shire Hall Trust**
Charity registration number: **1204500**

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The preservation and restoration for the public benefit of the grade 2 * listed building known as 'The Shire Hall' Chelmsford.</p> <p>The education of the public in its across the historic county of Essex.</p> <p>The advancement of the carts for the public benefit through display and exhibition at 'The Shire Hall' Chelmsford.</p> <p>Provide or assist in the provision and the surrounding area, of community development in such as the welfare, recreation or other leisure time activities for individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their age, infirmity or disability, financial hardship or social circumstances, with object of improving their condition of life</p>
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	<p>We have agreed they terms of a lease from Essex County Council (ECC) free hold owners of this 1791 public building. We will, on securing planning consent from the City Council, complete the arrangements for the transfer of the building to the Trust, ECC have intimated their intention to lease the building to ESHT for a period of 125 years.</p> <p>We will implement our programme of activities in stages. This approach is necessitated by the need to resolve outstanding issues related to provision of a fire escape, inadequate disability access and security.</p> <p>We have continued our consultations locally. Meetings with Marconi Veterans, the Civic Society, Friends of Chelmsford museum, will followed with meetings for</p>

		<p>Chelmsford Cathedral, Anglia Ruskin University and the Rotary Club.</p> <p>We are using the facility for one off events, arranged with local organisations. The Shire Hall foyer is linked for such events, with the adjoining pedestrianised Tindal Square.</p> <p>The Shire Hall has become an integral part of Heritage Open Days week. This includes open public tours of the building.</p>
Statement confirming whether	Para 1.18	<p>The Trustees have considered what are the likely outcomes for those engaged in our planned activities. Our Heritage Centre will connect with the Marconi Veterans and with the City Council to learn more about their Heritage assist them, in passing it on to their children and grandchildren.</p> <p>Similarly, our exhibitions will enable us to involve more young people and a more diverse range of both residents and visitors in engaging with visual arts. Hitherto, there has been no such facility in Chelmsford, outside of school and College courses.</p>
N		

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	N/A
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	<p>We have secured paid specialist and volunteer support for the Trustees. We have a volunteer Minutes Secretary and a Project Manager, together with advisory support. We will appoint a Co-ordinator.</p> <p>As we reach the delivery stage, we will recruit volunteers for all of the strands in our programme. We will utilise the expertise of the managers of the Chelmsford Ideas Hub in training volunteers. We will start with our Heritage</p>

		Centre.
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Our achievements to relate to the setting up of the charity, consultations with interested parties and preparations for taking over Shire Hall.</p> <p>We have secured a positive pre-application action review from City Council planners.</p> <p>We have submitted expressions of interest to possible founders, including the Heritage Lottery Fund.</p> <p>We have secured agreement from ECC a loan of £100,000.</p> <p>We were required to to submit a business Plan to ECC. This was done and has been approved by ECC.</p> <p>The building has not been used on a regular basis since 2012. We have begun to use it again for a limited number of events. This has shown the public that we are serious about its future.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	N/A
Investment performance	Para 1.41	

against objectives		
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	ECC has approved the advance of £100,000 the Trust. These funds are being made available to the Trust on a drawdown basis as costs are incurred. The balance of the Trust's bank account at the year-end was £nil.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	There are no reserves.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	None
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	We are still in the process of starting up and therefore not in a position to hold reserves.
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	N/A

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	We will make application the Heritage Lottery Fund, on receipt of planning consent and a lease from ECC.
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	N/A
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	<p>The risk relate to the condition of the building, after it has been empty and unused since 2012. The Shire Hall dates from 1791 and was re-structured internally, to meet the needs of the courts service in 1936.</p> <p>A survey will be undertaken to show what needs to be done before any part of the building may be deemed accessible to the public.</p>
Other		

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		N/A
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Governing document based on the Charity Commission Foundation Model Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	CIO
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	The charity was an initiative of the first four Trustees. They decided to select another Trustee with expertise on property matters. Not yet in place.

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	Not yet in place.
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	N/A
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	None
Other		

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Essex Shire Hall Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1204500
Charity's principal address	32 Vellacotts, Broomfield, Chelmsford Essex CM1 7EB

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Honorary Alderman of Essex John Aldridge			
2	Honorary Alderman of Essex Dick Madden			
3	Malcolm Noble	Chair		
4	Pam Swaby BEM			
5	Philip Tolhurst			
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17				
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20				

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A

Other optional information

N/A

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Malcolm Murray Noble	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	5 th March 2026	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Essex Shire Hall Trust

1204500

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/06/2024

To

01/06/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
ECC Loan Drawdown	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
A3 Payments					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
Consultant fees in relation to the regeneration of the Shire Hall	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
Total payments	16,868	-	-	16,868	-
Net of receipts/(payments)	-	-	-	-	-
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	-	-	-	-	-
Cash funds this year end	-	-	-	-	-

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	-	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

[illegible]

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	ECC Loan Agreement	Unrestricted	16,868	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

Print Name

JOHN AZDRIDGE
RICHARD MADDEN

Date of approval
9.5.26
9.6.26

Essex Shire Hall Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Essex Shire Hall Trust

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 1 June 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Essex Shire Hall Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

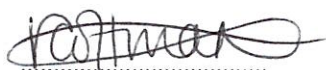
I report in respect of my examination of Essex Shire Hall Trust Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of Essex Shire Hall Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mrs V Coffman
FCCA

Viewpoint Accountants Ltd
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27 Duke Street
Chelmsford
Essex
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Date: 10/06/2026