

STAFFORD UNITED CHARITIES
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Registered Charity No. 259425

DEAN STATHAM
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
Staffordshire

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Stafford United Charities, 16 Brunswick Terrace, Stafford, ST16 1BB is registered with the Charity Commissioners (No 259425) and is governed by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 20th July 1962. The Charity is an amalgamation of 15 small charities which were all established to benefit the people of the Borough of Stafford as constituted from time to time.

Trustees and Officers

The Charity is administered by the following members:

Ex-officio Trustee	The Mayor of Stafford
Nominative Trustees	Cllr. J. Barron
	Cllr. J. Pert
	Cllr. A. Loughran

Co-optative Trustees	Mr. J. Sly
	Mr. I. Mason
	Mr. J. Cantrill

The Trust Deed provides for:-

One Ex-officio Trustee	- Mayor of the Borough of Stafford
Four Nominative Trustees	- appointed by the Borough of Stafford
Four Co-optative Trustees	- appointed by all Trustees at a Special Meeting

The Charity is served by Unity Trust Bank in Birmingham as Bankers; Hand, Morgan & Owen in Stafford as Solicitors; Staffordshire Housing Association in Stoke on Trent as Housing Managers; and Dean Statham Chartered Accountants in Newcastle-under-Lyme as Independent Examiner.

Trustee's Responsibilities

The Statement of Recommended Practice "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Constitution, require the Trustees to make available an Annual Report for each financial year, showing a true and fair view of the financial transactions of the Charity during the financial year and of the disposition, at the end of the financial year, of the assets and liabilities.

STAFFORD UNITED CHARITIES

For the year ended 31st December 2023

CONTENTS	Page
Trustee's Report	1-3
Independent Examiners Report	4
Receipts and payments account	5
Statement of assets and liabilities	6

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies.

The Charity is entitled under Charities Act 2011 to prepare a receipts and payments account and a statement of assets and liabilities at the year end.

The Trustees under Trust Law are responsible for ensuring proper accounting records are kept which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any one time, the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Charity's Objectives and Activity during the year

The objective of the Charity is to ensure that the people of the Borough of Stafford benefit from its activities. The main area of benefit is now the premises and residents of the Sir Martin Noel's Almshouses (known locally as "The College") in Mill Street Stafford.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the building and for the well being of the residents.

The Charity has a small investment income, although the main income comes from rents paid by the residents. Day to day administration matters, including allocation of accommodation and recurring financial matters are dealt with by Staffordshire Housing Association which acts under a Management Agreement with the Trustees.

Public benefit

The Trustees confirm they have referred to guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives.

Achievements during the year and plans for the future.

The net incoming receipts for the year were £16,934 compared with £17,162 in the previous year.

Trustees Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023**Restrictions on the Charity's operations**

The Charity is governed by the Scheme dated 20th July 1962. This Scheme imposes certain restrictions on the day to day operations of the Charity as stated below.

- The area of benefit is restricted to the area of the Borough of Stafford as constituted from time to time.
- Applicants must be not less than 50 years of age and of good character and born in the Borough of Stafford or have resided there for not less than 15 years preceding the time of appointment to be eligible for appointment.

Selection of investments and specific investment powers

The Scheme states that surplus cash should be invested in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities unless the Charity Commissioners direct otherwise.

Originally the Charity had numerous small investments, all Government securities. When Staffordshire Housing Association took over the day to day running of the Charity it was decided that those investments be realised and the proceeds reinvested in COIF Income Units, which change has been justified by the difference between historical cost and current value.

The Charity has no plans to change the existing investment policies, however all investments are likely to be needed to maintain and improve the existing Grade II Listed Almshouses in Mill Street, Stafford.

Reserve Policy

The Charity has a level of reserves which the Trustees believe is sufficient to cover any unforeseen liabilities.

For and on behalf of the Trustees

.....
Mr. W. Sly

Dated 14/4/24

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

Independent Examiner's report to the Trustees of Stafford United Charities

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out on pages 5 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Charities Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiners report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you, as Trustees, concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Dean Statham
Chartered Accountants

29 King Street
Newcastle-under-Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 1ER

Dated 22.04.2024

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds 2022 £
Receipts		
Other trading activities		
Rental Income	50,471	47,769
Other income	130	239
Income from investments	1,081	1,076
Total Receipts	<u>51,682</u>	<u>49,084</u>
Payments		
Premises		
Heat and light	88	1,568
Water rates	3,140	2,774
Insurance	2,131	1,813
Council tax	6,473	3,506
Maintenance repairs	7,842	7,559
Support costs allocated to activities		
Honeycomb group	9,017	9,017
Accountants charges	900	900
Residents welfare	275	275
Almshouses subs	233	222
Sundry	963	603
Financing	3,686	3,685
Total Payments	<u>34,748</u>	<u>31,922</u>
Excess of receipts over payments	16,934	17,162
Capital expenditure		-
Bank balances at 1 January	89,764	72,602
Bank balances at 31 December	<u>106,698</u>	<u>89,764</u>


STAFFORD UNITED CHARITIES

6

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2022

	2023 £	2022 £
<u>MONETARY ASSETS</u>		
<u>Cash balances</u>		
Bank balance	<u>106,698</u>	<u>89,764</u>
<u>Investments</u>		
COIF Charities Investment Fund	<u>39,362</u>	<u>36,049</u>
<u>Other Assets</u>		
Functional assets	<u>378,332</u>	<u>384,247</u>
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Loan	<u>3,675</u>	<u>7,361</u>

Approved by the Trustees on 12/12/24 and signed on their behalf by:

.......... (Signature)

Mr. J. W. Sly (Name)