

CROUCH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



CROUCH VALLEY
essexscouts.org.uk/crouchvalley

CROUCH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

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CROUCH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Legal name: Crouch Valley District Scout Council

Registered number: 280514

Trustees:	A Austin	District Chair
	P Stafford	District Lead Volunteer
	M Buckley	District Youth Representative
	Z Read	District Treasurer
	D Offord	District Secretary
	M Gibson	14-24 Team Leader
	M Martin	Development Team Leader
	S Blundell	District Trustee
	H Kalloo	District Trustee

Contact address: 48a Woodlands Road, Hockley, Essex, SS5 4PY

Objectives and activities

Scouting exists to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Crouch Valley District Scout Council ('the District') exists to guide and support the 14 individual Scout groups within the lower River Crouch valley. Accordingly its principal activities are to provide District wide access to various support services and to provide District wide events for the benefit of those Scouts. The District is a managerial and support function for the activities of the various Scout groups operating underneath it in the local area.

Structure, governance and management

The District is a charity registered in the United Kingdom and a sub-unit of the Scout Association. It is therefore governed by Royal Charter granted in 1912 and operates as required by the stipulations and instructions of the Scout Association.

The District is managed by the District Executive under the leadership of the District Commissioner and the Chairman. The Executive meet regularly throughout the year to discuss and decide upon the operation of the District. The Executive is also assisted by number of sub-committees who are responsible for specific affairs within the District and are appointed on an ad-hoc basis either permanently or temporarily as needs arise.

In accordance with Scouting regulations, Explorer Scout units and Scout Network organisations within the local geographical area are also under the remit of the District itself (unlike individual Scout groups which are separate entities in their own right). Led by the District Explorer and Network Scout Commissioners, Explorers and Network maintain their own management executive independent from (but reportable to) the District itself.

The annexed accounts for the District therefore include the activities of District as a body plus the District Explorer units and the District Network units included therein.

The Trustees are pleased to note Scouting remains strong in the District, with a 5% increase in overall membership against last year.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

The District continues to maintain its active and broad profile of Scouting activities within the local community. Intra-District competition remains both popular and competitive.

The District's core Scouting calendar remains generally unchanged with most intra-District events well attended by most groups. Well refined deliveries mean certain events remain hugely popular (such as the Beaver swimming gala or the Cub hike) and meanwhile the leadership teams continually review options for new ideas whether as new activities at Renewal of Promise or as standalone events. On a whole District level, the all section Renewal of Promise weekend runs each April and has been well attended over the last year.

Due to a lack of use, making it unsustainable to continue to meet operating costs, the Executive took the decision to retire its minibus during the year. As the costs of restoring it properly exceeded its likely re-sale value, the Executive elected to gift the minibus to an interested Trustee who had freely donated countless hours of maintenance work during its ownership by the District.

As the annexed notes demonstrate, the amount of young people benefiting directly from local Scouting remains as strong as ever. Unfortunately recruiting and retaining adult volunteers to facilitate this delivery continues to remain a problem across the District (and indeed wider Scouting) with many adults therefore holding multiple roles. As always, further volunteer recruitment remains a key strategic focus for the Executive.

The Executive are also pleased to note a renewed interest in the Network (18 to 24) provision; this has happened since the year end. The executive are working closely with the leadership team to ensure it has access to the necessary support to re-establish this extension to the Scouting programme in the local area.

During this year the District has seen a significant reduction in its cash reserves following a large amount of refurbishment being done to Ark Lane inclusive of installing up to date heating and air conditioning for the site.

Finally, the Executive would like to offer their thanks to all those volunteers who give so much so freely for the benefit of the Scouts within the District's remit. Like all Scouting the District is highly dependent on the fantastic work all its adult volunteers undertake, always far beyond what is expected of them and usually freely given without proper recognition. On behalf of those Scouts who benefit - thank you.

On behalf of those Scouts who benefit - thank you.

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Financial review

The District strives to keep sufficient reserves to service its current financial requirements and realistic potential liabilities without cumulating large surpluses which would be better used for Scouting purposes.

When setting the District's annual subscriptions, the Executive has due regard for the District's current level of reserves and therefore attempts to balance the next year's funding requirements with the existing funds available. A substantial proportion of those subscriptions are also paid on to Essex Scouts and headquarters – note 3 to the annexed accounts shows the small proportion the District actually retains to fund its operations.

Ordinary operative costs continue to increase on all fronts but this is particularly felt at Ark Lane where maintenance work is regular and sometimes requires external expertise to be bought in. Nevertheless, a tranche of investment during the year has improved the facilities substantially – and the Executive are keen to encourage Scouts near and far to make the most of this site.

At the 31st March 2025 the District had the following reserves:	£
District reserves	364,196
Explorer reserves	33,052
Network reserves	702
	<hr/>
	397,950
Of which restricted	(568)
Unrestricted reserves	<hr/>
	397,382

Although the above reserves show a very strong overall financial position, the Executive are mindful that it invested heavily into the development of Priory Chase / the Birches and therefore the majority of its reserves are tied up in property rather than freely available cash.

Furthermore, the combined District figures include not only the District's activities themselves but also the District's Ark Lane site, the active Explorer units (including a young leader unit) and the local Network.

Zoe Read
District Treasurer

Date:

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025			2,024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
Voluntary income	17,142	-	17,142	14,500
Activities for generating funds	2,658	-	2,658	2,519
Investment income	16	-	16	12
Incoming resources from charitable activities	67,052	-	67,052	43,498
Other incoming resources	6,800	-	6,800	3,570
Total incoming resources	93,668	-	93,668	64,099
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Cost of generating funds	(3,293)	-	(3,293)	(3,165)
Fundraising trading costs	-	-	-	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-
Charitable activities	(87,130)	-	(87,130)	(69,861)
Other resources expended	-	-	-	(7,272)
Total expenditure	(90,423)	-	(90,423)	(80,298)
Net incoming resources before transfers	3,245	-	3,245	(16,199)
Gross transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	3,245	-	3,245	(16,199)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
District	(14,805)	-	(14,805)	(20,977)
Explorers	18,050	-	18,050	4,778
Network	-	-	-	-
Total movement	3,245	-	3,245	(16,199)
FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	394,137	568	394,705	410,904
Restatement from previous periods	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	3,245	-	3,245	(16,199)
Total funds carried forward	397,382	568	397,950	394,705

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BALANCE SHEET

	31ST MARCH 2025			2024
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Tangible assets	282,408	-	282,408	289,597
Total fixed assets	282,408	-	282,408	289,597
CURRENT ASSETS				
Badge stocks	499	-	499	423
Debtors				
Income receivable	11,289	-	11,289	-
Prepayments	1,551	-	1,551	1,722
Other debtors	-	-	-	74
Total debtors	12,840	-	12,840	1,796
Cash at bank and in hand				
Scout investment service	-	-	-	-
District main account	115,884	568	116,452	115,133
Ark Lane account	6,891	-	6,891	18,602
District cash	330	-	330	529
Explorer main account	14,370	-	14,370	1,990
Explorer subs account	7,921	-	7,921	4,648
Explorer D of E account	1,551	-	1,551	760
Explorer expense account	318	-	318	185
District events account	785	-	785	-
Network main account	702	-	702	663
Network cash	-	-	-	-
Total cash at bank and in hand	148,752	568	149,320	142,510
Total current assets	162,091	568	162,659	144,729
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Accrued expenses	-	-	-	-
Deferred income	(6,223)	-	(6,223)	(5,058)
Other creditors	(40,894)	-	(40,894)	(34,563)
Total current liabilities	(47,117)	-	(47,117)	(39,621)
NET ASSETS	397,382	568	397,950	394,705
FUNDS				
District funds				
General	363,628	-	363,628	378,433
Outreach	-	568	568	568
Explorer funds				
General	33,052	-	33,052	15,002
Network funds				
General	702	-	702	702
Total funds	397,382	568	397,950	394,705

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

Z Read

District Treasurer

CROUCH VALLEY DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1 Statutory information

The District is a registered charity in England with charity number 280514. The charity's full title is Crouch Valley District Scout Council and it is operated in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules as set out by the Scout Association.

The District principally operates in the lower valley of the River Crouch, Essex, which encompasses Rochford, Hockley, Rayleigh, Hawkwell, Hullbridge and Canewdon.

2 Accounting policies

a. Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)); and the Charities Act 2011.

The District meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

b. Going Concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. This view is supported by the receipt of membership contributions from within the district and its level of reserves.

c. Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are reasonably certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with suitable reliability.

Membership subscriptions: Membership subscriptions are reported net of any amounts collected on behalf of and payable to other parts of the Scout Movement. The District's share of membership subscriptions received are recognised as income in the period to which the subscription is attributable. Subscriptions are typically collected immediately before the balance sheet date in respect of the subsequent accounting period - in this case the subscriptions are deferred to the later reporting period.

Grants and donations: Grants and donations are only recognised as income when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Donated services and facilities: These are only included within incoming resources (with an equivalent expenditure included in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received. The value of voluntary help received is not recognised.

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

2 Accounting policies (cont'd)

d. Allocation of income and expenditure

The District's activities also include those of the District based Explorer and Network sections and the separately identifiable activities of its Ark Lane campsite. All income and expenditure is attributable directly to one of the District's core activities and separate bank accounts and management figures are maintained to ensure the District's activities are kept identifiable. Consequently, no income or expenditure requires general apportionment across the District's activities.

e. Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the total amounts outstanding can be accurately identified.

f. Tangible assets

Land and buildings are carried at historical cost, less provision for depreciation over 50 years or the remainder of the lease period (whichever is the shorter). Depreciation is recognised only once assets under construction have been brought into use.

Other equipment additions are recognised as a fixed asset only where the individual cost exceeds £1,000 per item. Depreciation is charged at 15% reducing balance.

g. Stocks

Stocks of badges held for resale are recognised at the lower of cost and net sales value.

3 Analysis of incoming resources

	2025	2024
Voluntary income		
District capitation	45,846	39,735
Capitation paid on to UK / Essex County Scouts	(40,894)	(34,563)
Net District capitation retained	4,952	5,172
District Explorer subscriptions	12,190	9,328
District Network subscriptions	-	-
Total voluntary income	17,142	14,500
Activities for generating funds		
Badge sales	2,658	2,504
Minibus hire	-	15
	2,658	2,519
Investment income		
Interest received	16	12
	16	12
Incoming resources from charitable activities		
Event income	10,368	9,117
Ark Lane camping fees and usage charges	3,809	8,897
District charitable activities	14,177	18,014
Explorer camp and event income	48,254	21,531
Duke of Edinburgh income	4,621	3,953
Explorer charitable activities	52,875	25,484
Total charitable activity income	67,052	43,498
Other incoming resources		
Local council grants	-	-
Donations received	3,000	-
Gift aid reclaims	-	-
Other income receivable	3,800	3,570
Total other income receivable	6,800	3,570
Total incoming resources	93,668	64,099

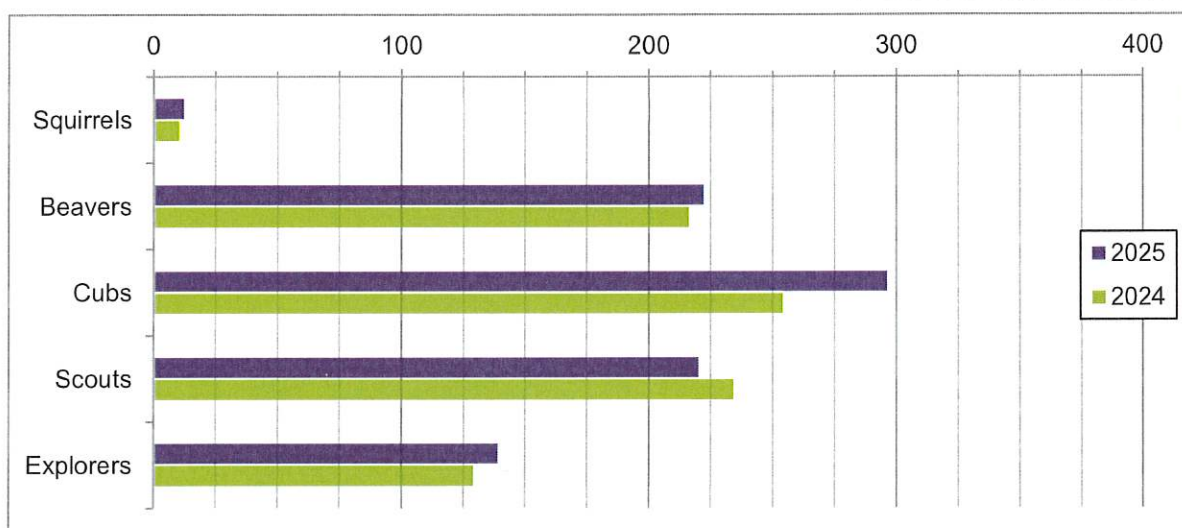
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

3 Analysis of incoming resources (cont'd)

In the February immediately preceding the balance sheet date, the District annual census reported the following total members:

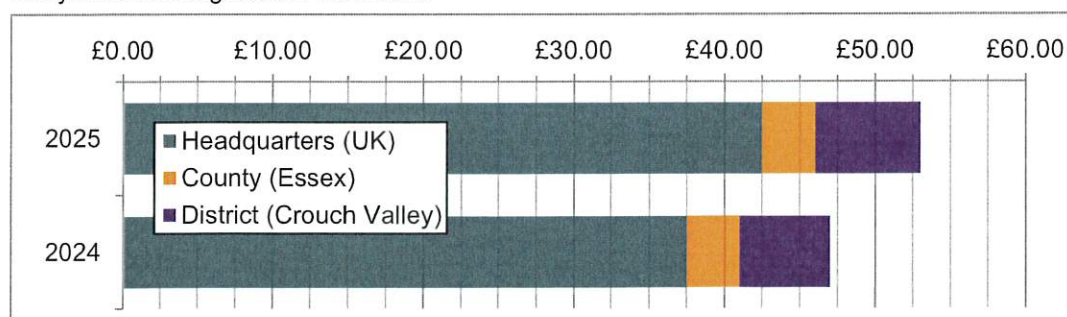
	2025	2024
Squirrels	12	10
Beavers	222	216
Cubs	296	254
Scouts	220	234
Explorers	139	129
Total	889	843



In February immediately preceding the year end, the annual subscriptions collected from each individual Scout were made up as follows:

	2025	2024
Headquarters (UK)	42.50	37.50
County (Essex)	3.50	3.50
District (Crouch Valley)	7.00	6.00
Total	£53.00	£47.00

The above amounts were collected in advance of the year ended 31st March 2025 and therefore have not yet been recognised in the SoFA.

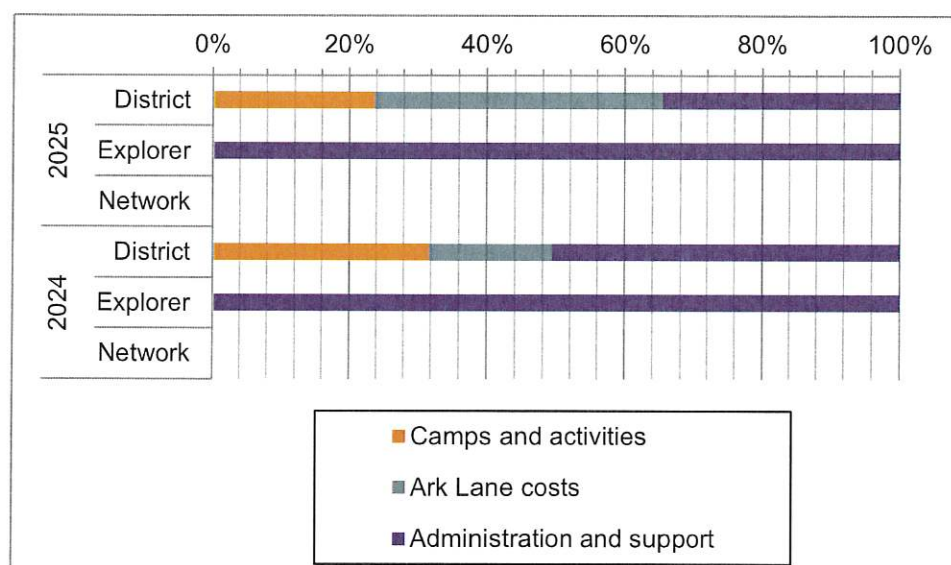


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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

4 Analysis of resources expended

	2025	2024
Charitable activities		
Event expenditure	(9,414)	(12,913)
Ark Lane depreciation	(1,612)	(1,896)
Ark Lane refurbishment	(11,460)	-
Ark Lane utilities and running costs	(3,600)	(5,334)
The Birches depreciation	(5,577)	(5,691)
Administrative expenses	(573)	(353)
Leader training and development	(1,417)	(505)
Equipment replacement	-	-
Group support costs	(1,545)	(12,557)
Minibus expenses	(4,605)	(1,617)
Sundries	(120)	-
District charitable activities	(39,923)	(40,866)
Event expenditure	(34,608)	(22,536)
Hall rent	(749)	(1,502)
Unit meetings	(5,931)	(1,588)
Administrative expenses	(759)	(784)
Duke of Edinburgh expenses and fees	(5,160)	(1,867)
Leader training and development	-	(200)
Equipment replacement	-	(518)
Explorer charitable activities	(47,207)	(28,995)
Hall rent	-	-
Unit meetings	-	-
Network charitable activities	-	-
Total charitable activity expenditure	(87,130)	(69,861)



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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

5 Remuneration and expenses

Scouting operates on a volunteer basis and as such the trustees express their gratitude to the many adults who give up their time so willingly for the benefit of the Scouts both within and external to the District. Without their incredible commitment the District simply would not exist.

During the current and preceding period, there were no employees of the District nor remuneration payments, or expenses, payable to trustees.

6 Tangible fixed assets

	Ark Lane	The Birches	Total
Land and buildings			
Cost brought forward	26,937	312,941	339,878
Additions	-	-	-
Cost carried forward	26,937	312,941	339,878
 Depreciation brought forward	(16,191)	(34,090)	(50,281)
Provision for depreciation	(1,612)	(5,577)	(7,189)
Depreciation carried forward	(17,803)	(39,667)	(57,470)
 Net book value carried forward	9,134	273,274	282,408

7 Contingent liabilities

a. Belchamps

The District is responsible for one quarter of any liabilities that may arise from the management of Belchamps Scout Centre.

Belchamps is a 29 acre freehold campsite with ancillary buildings operated for the benefit of Scouts but is also used by other youth and educational organisations. It is owned, freehold, by the four Districts of South East Essex. Belchamps Scout Centre is also a registered charity - copies of its accounts may be obtained from the Charity Commission.

b. Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show

The District is responsible for a percentage of any liabilities that might arise from the production of the Southend Scout and Guide Gang Show.

The show is presented bi-annually and draws its cast from the four Scout Districts and three Guide Divisions of South East Essex. Any liability arising would be based on a per capita membership basis at the date of the latest membership census.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

8 Operating lease commitments

The District holds at lease for the use of the land at Ark Lane from Rochford District Council at a cost of £50 per annum. This lease has expired and the District are currently in the final negotiation stages of signing a new lease. The cost for this is anticipated to be £850 per annum. The District accept this is a large increase but have noted the last lease renewal happened 30 years ago.

The District holds a lease for the property known as The Birches for a rent of £1,500 per annum and it has been agreed that an equivalent sublease to 5th Rayleigh Scout group for principal use and management of the new facility.

Therefore, the District's total value of future minimum lease payments were made up as follows:

	2025	2024
Due within 1 year	1,500	1,550
Due within 2 - 5 years	6,000	6,030
Due in more than 5 years	45,000	47,950
	<u>52,500</u>	<u>55,530</u>

9 Related party disclosures

During the year the District deemed the ongoing provision of a minibus was no longer financially viable. Having ascertained it had no real resale value, and possibly a cost to scrap, it was instead gifted to a Trustee in recognition of the immeasurable effort he had spent maintaining it previously (2024 - £nil).

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

10 Funds and reserves

		Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Movement
General (District)	Unrestricted	27,719	(42,524)	-	(14,805)
Outreach fund	Restricted	-	-	-	-
		<u>27,719</u>	<u>(42,524)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(14,805)</u>
General (Explorers)	Unrestricted	65,949	(47,899)	-	18,050
Cerberus grant	Restricted	-	-	-	-
Gryphon grant	Restricted	-	-	-	-
		<u>65,949</u>	<u>(47,899)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>18,050</u>
General (Network)	Unrestricted	-	-	-	-
Total		<u><u>93,668</u></u>	<u><u>(90,423)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>3,245</u></u>

		1st April 24	Movement	31st March 25
General (District)	Unrestricted	378,433	(14,805)	363,628
Outreach fund	Restricted	568	-	568
		<u>423,121</u>	<u>(14,805)</u>	<u>364,196</u>
General (Explorers)	Unrestricted	15,002	18,050	33,052
		<u>15,002</u>	<u>18,050</u>	<u>33,052</u>
General (Network)	Unrestricted	702	-	702
Total		<u><u>433,733</u></u>	<u><u>3,245</u></u>	<u><u>397,950</u></u>

The District's reserves at 31st March 2025 include the following funds:

Outreach fund: This fund exists to provide financial support and assistance to District Scouts where necessary. Scouting is open to all regardless of financial circumstances so the Outreach fund was originally established to ensure funds were always available to assist those who need it.

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REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

I report on the accounts of the District for the year ended 31st March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes set out on pages 4 to 12.

This report is made solely to the trustees in accordance with Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. My work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters I am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees for my examination work.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and examiner

The District's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year (under Section 144 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 Commission (under Section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act); and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's 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 District 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 examiner's 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
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. 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.

Independent examiner:

W. Horey

Date:

20 / 11 / 2025

