ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales · Charity number 302097

Details

Other names	ESSEX SCOUTS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1966-08-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	132 Cedar Road Canvey Island Essex SS8 9HS
Phone	07759471639
Email	treasurer@essexscouts.org.uk
Website	essexscouts.org.uk

Activities

Objects: ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

Activities: Development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities, Amateur Sport, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ESSEX
- Essex
- Southend-on-sea
- Thurrock

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,135,303	£2,489,769	£3,745,439	10
2024-03-31	£1,704,941	£1,511,883	£2,773,258	9
2023-03-31	£1,073,473	£806,703	£2,580,200	8
2022-03-31	£469,501	£293,488	-	-
2021-03-31	£319,051	£311,572	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Paul Justin Stennett	Chair	1996-07-12
Chris Green		2024-09-10
Clair Alexandra Willis		2023-07-18
Graham Charles Monk		2019-07-17
James Robert Bryan Freake		2017-07-19
Jessica Jane McDonald		2024-09-10
Matthew David Edson		2023-07-18
Mx Alfie Treacher		2025-09-09
PAUL FRANCIS WALKER		2008-02-01
ROBERT ANDREW BYE		2012-09-19
SARAH VICTORIA GRIFFITHS		2005-07-19
Tahir Abbas Sayani		2025-07-20

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ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302097

Accounts

Scouts
Essex



Essex County Scouts
Annual Report and Accounts
2024-2025

Charity Number: 302097

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 8pm
Skreens Park Scout Activity Centre
Skreens Park Road, Chelmsford Essex CM1 4NL

Scouts
Essex

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The Essex County Scout Council is a Trust established under the rules of The Scout Association. Trustees are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

President

The Lord Petre, KCVO, DL

Vice Presidents

J C Bailey
G Courtauld OBE, DL
B J Cousins
L A Jordan, DL

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
2 High Street
Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 1BG

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

United Trust Bank Ltd
1 Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9AW

Caxton Payments Ltd
2 Leman Street
London, E1 8FA

Auditor

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Insurance Broker

Clear Insurance Management Ltd
4, St Benets Road,
Southend-on-Sea,
Essex SS2 6LF

Contact Address

County Secretary
132 Cedar Road, Canvey Island
Essex SS8 9HS

secretary@essexscouts.org.uk

The County Trustee Board

Ex-officio Trustees

R A Bye, County Lead Volunteer
Miss J McDonald, County Youth Lead

Appointed Trustees

P J Stennett, County Chairman
Mrs L Sloan, County Treasurer (Until 10/09/24)
G Monk
Mrs S Griffiths
C Willis
M Edson
P Walker
J Freake
C Green (Appointed 10/09/24)
K Daykin-Woodberry (Until 10/09/24)
M Brace (Until 10/09/24)
T Humphries (Until 10/09/2)
J Long (Until 10/09/24)

Co-opted Trustees

Mrs M Hoblin, County Treasurer (wef 19/9/24, to 01/05/2025)

Dan Skipton (wef 10/05/2025)

Tahir Sayani – County Treasurer, (Appointed 20/07/2025)

Charity Registration No: 302097

Scout Association No: 117

Online

- www.essexscouts.org.uk
- facebook.com/essexscouts
- twitter.com/essexscouts
- instagram.com/essexscouts

Scouting is a movement powered by the kindness and commitment of our volunteers, who make a difference and help to develop the young lives in our communities.

Our Vision

By 2028 Essex Scouts will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering inspirational programmes.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our Mission

Scouts gives young people skills for life. Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

Our Values

We act with care, respect, integrity, co-operation, exploring our own and others beliefs.

Our Three Pillars of Work

To support the movement achieve its goals, our three pillars of work are a plan of action which supports our members and extends our reach, impacting the lives of more young people:

- **Programme** – is fun, enjoyable, high quality, delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools, to help young people gain skills for life.
- **People** – are well trained, with adult volunteers from all backgrounds better supported and more motivated, to support more young people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Perception** – to ensure that scouting is better understood, more visible, trusted and respected, with Scouts seen to be playing a key role in society.

Our Goal

Our aim is to build on the success of the previous plan: to continue to grow, become more inclusive, to be shaped by young people and to make a bigger impact in our communities.

The Essex Scout County comprises of 19 Districts, one of which is devoted purely to Sailing (Adventures Offshore). Within the remaining 18 Districts there are 246 Scout Groups with a total of c4,600 Adult volunteers delivering quality Scouting based programmes and in support roles. The Trustees acknowledge that a simple “thank you” to the Leaders and administrators across the County does not reflect the level of appreciation required for their support and generosity in giving their spare time to volunteer to the Sections, Groups, Districts and Units within the County.

The County Trustee Board team are empowered to provide governance and resources to support the Groups/District’s Adult volunteers and Administrators.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the Advancement of Education and the Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development

headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit by:

- Supporting young people to develop their full potential, through the Scouting programme.
- Undertaking all Scouting activities with full consideration for the health and safety of all participants.
- Our members making the Scout Promise to be able to benefit from full scouting membership.
- The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting being in the 4 - 25 years age range.
- Being an inclusive organisation, with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable by all members, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay. Arrangements are in place to assist those who are unable to pay their annual membership and other costs, both locally and through the County Support Fund.

Structure, Governance and Management

Essex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the County, and operates in accordance with a written Constitution. It is the body to which the County Trustee Board (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the County Trustees are shown on page 3. Historically, Trustees have been appointed annually at the Annual General meeting of the County Scout Council, either by election or by nomination, and may also be co-opted by the County Trustee Board during the year. From 1 April 2024, changes were made as to how Trustees are appointed, term limits for Trustees, who can be a Trustee and how many Trustees there are, with these changes taking effect from the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, and are able to benefit from training provided by the County Learning Team or e-learning packages from The Scout Association website. The County Trustee Board promotes Trustees responsibilities to both District and Groups and compliance is monitored. We ensure that young people are involved in decision making, with two 18 – 25 year olds being members of the County Trustee Board and 18 - 25 year olds also represented on any County Trustee Board sub-committees. Young people are also given opportunities across the County to become Leaders of the Future, leading to better retention of young people through adult volunteering.

During the year the County Trustee Board met 6 times, by a mixture of face to face and Zoom meetings. The County Trustee Board is supported by a number of Sub-Committees/Teams, consisting of Finance (including the County Grants Board), Skreens Park Activity Centre, and Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre. Substantial support is provided to the County Scout Council from a large number of volunteer helpers. There are c100 members of the County Team and other advisors directly supporting the County Scout Council. None of these volunteers receive any payments for services rendered. The principal sources of the Scout Council's income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, together with grants and donations from public bodies, trusts and individuals.

Processes are in place to monitor compliance with mandatory Learning for all Adults throughout the County, with the County Trustee Board remaining focused and fully committed to Safety and Safeguarding. We have a Health & Safety (H&S) Professional in the Team who has compiled a comprehensive H&S document, as well as providing practical help and guidance to the Groups and Districts around the County.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

Our Trustees are valued, with them taking on several important roles. The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and overseeing our Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Trustees are responsible for making sure our financial statements give a true and fair view of the status of the charity. They also monitor incoming resources and the application of the County's resources for the year. Law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 charity and of the incoming

resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether they've followed applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They must also help our Trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Annual Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks (as set out in the Risk Assessment Policy on pages 16 and 17).

Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year

During the year, progress has been made in implementing the various actions set out in the County Development Plan which was developed by Team Essex (consisting of the members of the County Trustee Board, together with the Essex Senior Leadership Team and District Lead Volunteers) in 2024, to identify what we need to do to move Scouting in Essex forward:

- *The Vision Statement set by Team Essex for Essex Scouts:*
  "By 2028 Essex Scouts will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported by amazing leaders delivering inspirational programmes."
- *Providing support to Groups and Districts with Adult recruitment*
  - Recruitment Tool Kits – The four toolkits purchased by the County (each consisting of a Gazebo, free-standing roller banners, feather flags and leaflets) continue to be well used by local Districts and Groups around the County.
  - Growth and Development Project - With the previous funding coming to an end in 2024, the Trustees have agreed to continue funding a full-time paid Growth and Development Officer (GDO) beyond June 2024, using funds received from the Norman Garon Trust. The GDO continues to play a key role in the recruitment and support of local adult volunteers and Young Leaders (14-18), to help grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing groups in identified communities/areas of need across Essex. With the funding going forward being provided solely by Essex Scouts, we are now able to broaden coverage of the GDO's activities across the whole of the County.
- *Improving Communications and making it more targeted i.e. "Right message to the right people !"*
  - County Website – With the County Website moving to a new home last year, the opportunity has also been taken to move the Skreens Park Activity Centre website to a new home, making it more secure and easier to maintain.
  - Mailing Lists – The Compass clean-up undertaken ahead of the new adult membership system being launched, helped ensure that all Adults have a valid email address. As a result, mailings are now sent direct to our volunteer leaders, which has already shown an improvement in response rates with information being received direct by those it was intended for, in a timely manner. Work continues to improve how mailing lists are maintained and kept up to date, to ensure that maximum coverage is maintained.
  - Compass – As part of the Transformation project, a significant amount of work was undertaken to clean-up the contact information for every Adult Volunteer recorded on The Scout Association's Adult Membership database. This helped to ensure that the data was fit and ready to migrate to the new digital system when it was launched at the end of 2024 and our thanks go to the Luke Bye and Hannah Welch of the Compliance Team for their hard work and dedication in this respect, with Essex leading the way, in terms of overall data quality and compliance.
  - County Lead Volunteer's Update – the County Lead Volunteer continues to issue regular updates to the members of Team Essex, providing key information and updates, particularly where action is required, so as to focus attention where something needs doing.
- *Providing support for District Youth Leads*
  - The network of District Youth Leads continues to be developed by the County Youth Lead, with support being provided to District Lead Volunteers to help them make a Youth Lead appointment, if they do not already have one.
- *Providing ways to give Essex Scout volunteers the recognition they deserve*
  - Awards Data – The number of awards being presented across the County continues to increase, as a result of the ongoing analysis of the County's data by the Awards Team, to identify areas where action is required and the information shared with District Lead Volunteers.
  - Awards Committees – District's have been encouraged to establish their own Awards Committee to help identify candidates and submit nominations.

Major Events and International

The following **Major Events** took place during the year:

- **ESSEX WEEKEND –** held in May 2024. Over 420 attendees came to this unique event, which is aimed at thanking leaders and their families for the time they give to Essex scouts, and enables them to take part in the many activities offered over the weekend ..The Saturday night quiz is always a highlight of this event and thanks go to Wendy Bye and her team for ensuring the event is a success.

- **County Marathon -** An incident hike, to incorporate top awards for c120 14+ young people and adults. To get young people out navigating and map reading, whilst carrying equipment in unfamiliar terrain. A 2 day walking event, based in Ashdown Forest, teams of 4-6, navigating between 24 manned bases, completing route cards from base to base, assisted by support and other teams. Thanks to the 14-24 and Event teams for putting on this event.

- **Beavers in Tents -** held in June 2024, had over 400 attendees for a weekend of fun and adventure for those young people between 6-8 years old at Skreens park Activity Centre, supported by over 100 adult volunteers. Thanks to the 4-13 and Event teams for organising this event

- **County Backpack –** 400 Young people took part in this 2 day walking event, based at Skreens Park, with teams of 4-6, navigating between 24 manned bases, completing route cards from base to base, supported by various teams. Teams are self sufficient, carrying a day sack with basic day hiking equipment. For some, this may be the first time they have undertaken an expedition. This is a great training opportunity in a controlled manner to develop skills for life. Thanks to the 4-13 and Event teams for organising this event.

In terms of **international trips** undertaken during 2024:

- Australia Jamboree
- On Boxing Day (26th December) 2024, 70 Scouts, Explorer Scouts and Leaders embarked on a three week Expedition to Australia for the Australian Jamboree 2025 in Maryborough, Queensland. They spent three days in Kuala Lumpur, travelling around the city, visiting Chinatown, the Petronas Tower and KL Tower plus a day at Genting World, a major theme park, as well as spending time in the Infinity Pool on the 21st floor of their hotel.
- The contingent arrived in Sydney on the morning of 31st December, travelling onwards to Cairns for New Year's Eve with the traditional fireworks.
- During four days in Cairns, they travelled to the Great Barrier Reef and went snorkeling, before travelling the rainforest, boarding the Skyway cable car system to travel to Kuranda, learning about the ecosystem from park rangers on the journey. After some time in Kuranda, the group travelled back to Cairns aboard the mine train stopping at Barron Falls to admire the scenery and take photographs. They undertook a third trip Hartley's Crocodile Adventures where many had pictures taken with a koala or snake and had the chance to feed the crocodiles (not with a Scout !).
- On leaving Cairns, they travelled by train on a 21 hour journey to Maryborough, the site of the Jamboree where they spent 10 days with our Australian friends experiencing all the best that a Jamboree can offer. Those under 16 joined with an Australian Troop while the older Explorer Scouts joined with their Venturer Colleagues assisting with the programme bases. Most people visited the Australia Zoo (made famous by Steve Irwin), a day into Maryborough and a water activities day, together with many adventurous activities onsite and big evening activities in the main arena and elsewhere. The contingent performed on International Evening, providing their own rendition of "Big Fish, Little Fish" aided by a video of Bob the Builder, which was well received.
- After leaving the Jamboree, the group travelled overnight by coach to Sydney where they spent three days visiting the Blue Mountains, with a whole day in Sydney sightseeing, finishing with a speedboat tour around the harbour.
- After three weeks and three days, they all returned home very tired but with memories that will last a lifetime.

Essex International Jamboree

The Essex International Scout and Guide Jamboree (EIJ) 2024 was a truly remarkable and memorable event and International Celebration of Scouting and Girlguiding, which took place from Saturday July 27th 2024, for a week of unparalleled fun, discovery and adventure.

The Jamboree embodied the vibrant spirit of both Girlguiding and Scouting, and aimed to provide every participant with a "week to remember" where they celebrated with friends, old and new, embraced new challenges, and enjoyed every opportunity.

It was considered the largest joint Scouting and Girlguiding event in Europe in 2024. The budget for the event was £2.5M and was under great pressure, but ultimately the event achieved a modest surplus due to careful budgeting and financial management.

EIJ is a large-scale international event, and it successfully welcomed over 4,500 Scouts and Guides from over 40 different countries from around the globe to camp together. With more than 8,000 people on the site, including participants, leaders, and staff, the sheer scale underscored the logistical and organisational commitment required. This truly international and multi-faith environment fostered cultural awareness and respect, reminding everyone to be tolerant and considerate.

Led by Karen Packer and Paul Walker, the EIJ team demonstrated an exceptional commitment to meticulous planning and safety, with organisers having dedicated three years of planning to ensure a fantastic experience.

The participant programme was designed to thrill, excite, challenge, and entertain. It was divided into:

- Daytime Zones:
  Subcamps rotated through zones like Tech Lab (coding, robotics, VR), Enterprise (sweet making business challenge), Motion (bikes, KMX karts), Balancing Act (circus skills, high ropes, Parkour), Up and Under (climbing, caving), On Target (shooting, archery), It's a Knockout (team challenges), Survival (bush craft, fire lighting), and Wet & Wild (zorbing, kayaking).
- Evening Zones:
  Offered free choice activities such as House of Music (DJs, live performances), Big Screen (two-screen cinema with age-appropriate films), Circus Extravaganza (live circus acts), the 14-17 Retreat (VIP lounge with mocktails for older participants), and a traditional Campfire.
- Anytime Zones:
  Provided continuous engagement, including The Snug (quiet activities, badge swapping), Craft Barn (creative challenges), Daisy's Gaming Shed (computer games), Soft Rock Café (legendary milkshakes), The Beach (sandcastles, relaxation), All About Me, All About Us (inclusion, wellbeing, global issues), and the Sports Field & Café. The EIJ Presents talent show provided an opportunity for participants to showcase their talents on stage.



Ceremonies were a brilliant way to begin and end the Jamboree experience. Flag break was respected each

morning and evening in the main arena. The Celebration Day held on Friday included a picnic and a celebratory party complete with fireworks.



The "EIJ in a Day" program offered opportunities for other Scouting and Girlguiding members to visit and participate in the event.

EIJ participants were encouraged to adhere to the "Five Golden Rules of Programme":

- look after themselves (stay hydrated, protected from weather)
- listen to instructions
- queue politely
- choose their adventures, and most importantly
- try new things

to maximise their experience and gain a sense of achievement.

While no single zone qualified for an individual badge, the activities throughout the week contributed significantly to participants' Scouting and Girlguiding awards.

The success of EIJ hinges on the dedicated efforts of its volunteer staff and leaders. The event acknowledged the crucial role of adult leaders and staff, offering an Adult/Staff Learning and Development Programme throughout the week. This programme provided opportunities for networking, sharing, and skill development, covering topics such as First Response first aid, diversity and inclusion, international opportunities, and programme planning.

This investment in volunteer development further underscored the comprehensive and forward-thinking approach the EIJ team give to organising such a large-scale international event. Something that was even more in focus after cancellation of the 2020 event due to the Covid Pandemic.
EIJ 2024 was not just “a week in a field”; it was a meticulously planned adventure designed to create lasting memories, foster new skills, and promote global understanding for everyone involved. Externally the event created significant positive press coverage and huge social media interest, further enhancing the positive aspects of Girlguiding and Scouting in Essex and beyond.

Feedback from the event has been highly positive with comments and improvements being rolled forward into future plans.

Looking ahead, Karen and Paul, the Jamboree Chiefs, have agreed to lead the 2028 event, for which planning has already started.

The County Trustees thank Paul, Karen and their wider team for putting on a first class event which is being looked at as an example of how such large-scale events should be run, with the team willing to share their knowledge and experience with others.

THRIFTWOOD
County Training HQ

C.H.A.P.S. Team

The C.H.A.P.S. Team is a small group of volunteers who look after the maintenance of the County HQ and Training Centre at Thriftwood Campsite, Brentwood. Currently there are thirteen permanent members led by Bill Marshall.

Several small jobs, particularly urgent ones, were undertaken throughout the year, with the main work completed during April and December when the Team took over the whole complex for two weeks each time.

In total, the team undertook 1,173 hours of service and completed over 178 pieces of work, which is a fantastic achievement. A lot of the work is general maintenance such as repairing broken items, descaling the water boilers and dishwasher, painting and clearing up mess left by inconsiderate people, but some stand out. The biggest project this year was to dig out a trench along the concrete path at the back of the main hall and lay a French Drain (see picture). This has helped a great deal in easing the amount of slurry ending up on the pathway.



The Trustees would like to thank the C.H.A.P.S team for their dedication and work undertaken in supporting the County Complex.

Heritage Centre Team

The small Heritage Team of 8 members, led by Bill Marshall, is still slowly moving ahead in its reviewing and cataloguing of items held. New items are regularly being offered to the Team, with most accepted.

Agreement has been made with the National Headquarters Heritage Team that we will accept any items offered to them that they do not want that has an Essex provenance, which includes any item prior to 1967 that come from the old Essex Scout Districts now in Greater London North East Scout County.

Grants Board

The role of the County Grants Team is to distribute small grants to Individuals, Groups and Districts seeking

financial support. Grants are used for a variety of purposes, with the most common being for new section start-ups, support for building work (which includes major repairs and new builds), as well as replacement of kit used for adventurous activities. There is also a small amount of money to support Additional Needs.

The County also has a Support Fund to enable the County to provide financial assistance to those Districts/Groups/Units/ Individuals where support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures. The County Inclusivity Fund provides financial assistance to participants attending County level overseas events.

All grants have one key objective, which is to enhance the benefits that Scouting brings to young people in Essex.

Monies available to the Grants Team for distribution are held in The Norman Garon Trust (NGT), the County Building Fund (CBF), the Additional Needs Fund (ANF), the County Support Fund (CSF) and Inclusivity Fund (IF).

The CBF is funded from County Membership fees and the ANF from donations received. The CSF is funded entirely from County resources and IF is funded from surpluses arising from county led international trips, together with match-funding obtained from the Essex Community Foundation.

Over the past year there have been 4 start-up grants totaling £800 paid out, two for new Squirrel Scout Dreys, one for a Scout Troop and one for an Explorer Scout Unit.

Building and Equipment grants totaling £22k have been paid out for, a new Scout Headquarters, remedial building work, security and refurbishments to five Scout Headquarters, as well as helping one of the campsites, plus four grants been made to Groups for equipment purchases.

£200 has been granted from the Additional Needs Fund.

£2,220 has been paid out from the County Support Fund. The Trustees are keen to ensure that all members of Essex Scouts are aware of the existence of this fund and the availability of money to help scouting flourish within the County, with money not seen as a barrier to participation.

Altogether, the Grants Team has paid out of £35,825 worth of grants to Essex Scouts this year, with further commitments to pay nearly £13,780.

No grant requests have been received for the Inclusivity Fund.



Skreens Park Activity Centre

The site continues to return an operating surplus and remains very popular with Scouts, Guides, Duke of Edinburgh groups, schools and corporate customers.

The staff team, overseen by Pat Bailey (Operations Manager), has been maintained at 10, with them working tirelessly to fulfil bookings. The team consistently pull out all the stops to deliver a massive range of activities, especially during busy periods, as well as spending time working hard across the site to keep on top of essential maintenance, repairs and helping to improve the site.

The site has run Archery and NRSA instructor courses, First Aid training and Tomahawk courses during the year, with all being very well supported. These are an additional source of revenue to help fund further development without placing a strain on County financial resources.

The site has seen a number of projects undertaken during the year by the Skreens Park Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART) whose support is greatly appreciated. The projects undertaken include:





- removal of trees from the car park to make more space (see picture - our thanks to Tree Fella for the loan of equipment and personnel to assist with this project), as well as clearing the site ready for construction of the new Workshop and Storage Barn.

- Work has commenced to relocate the campfire circle to an area within the Millenium Wood.

- Over 1,200 trees have been planted at Skreens over the last 4 years (though some are replacements of earlier failures).

- The pedal car track, located adjacent to the Ropes Courses has been completed (see picture).



- The sites CCTV system has been completely overhauled, with new equipment installed across the site. This project was funded by a grant of £10,500.00 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund.



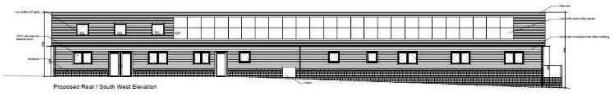
- A Volunteer team from Hatfield Forest District have upgraded the Sensory Garden (see picture) and Chapel, with an annual maintenance budget agreed, going forward.
- The Skreens Park Website hosting has been updated, to make it more secure and easier to maintain.

An upgrade to 3-phase was required to the sites electricity supply, to support the new building projects, with this completed by UK Power Networks during the year. This change will also support the installation of solar panels on the site, which is being undertaken simultaneously with the building projects.

The Skreens Park Management Committee, working with the County Trustees and Staff, have continued to progress work on replacement of The Warren building (which is no longer fit for use) and the provision of a new purpose-built storage and maintenance building.

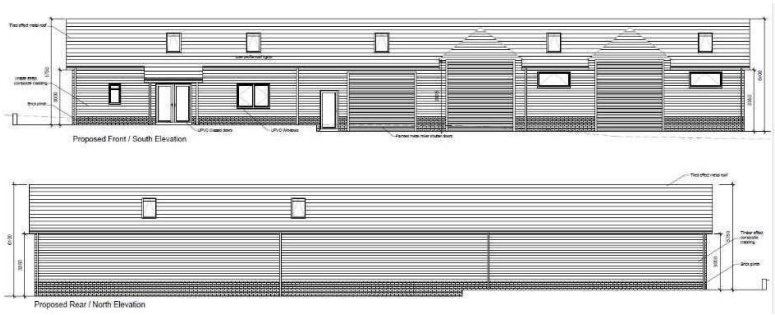
The Warren replacement is similar in design to The Leaman building (see proposed elevations). The Trustee Board approved a budget for the project, following completion of a comprehensive tender process, with construction work commencing in November 2024. Funding for the project has come from a very generous legacy received from the estate of the late Malcom Treacher MBE, a longstanding member of Essex Scouts. As a result, it is intended to name the new building 'Treacher'.





During the year, planning approval was also obtained for a new Storage and Maintenance Barn (see

proposed elevations), which will be used to store the sites machinery and equipment. Upon completion, this will also enable improvements to be made to the wet weather/activity barn and for it to revert to its intended use, rather than it being used to store plant and machinery. The new facility will also contain a volunteer/meeting room, for use by those who support the site, as well as the staff for meetings. Construction of this building commenced in May 2025, with completion due in early 2026. After the year end a contract of £620,133.34 was signed with LBM Construction Services Limited for the construction of the Barn.



We continue to develop the sites eco credentials, with wilding strips established again for the 2025 season, resulting in us continuing to see exciting wildlife on site, including Salamanders, toads, frogs and slow worms as well as there being a huge increase in the number and variety of flying insects now spotted around the site, such as butterflies' moths etc. In addition, further trees are to be planted as part of the proposed building work, with the Warren replacement building also having an Air-Source Heat Pump installed, together with Solar Panels to heat the water. We will also be harvesting the rainwater, which will be used to flush the toilets.

Skreens Park is managed by the Skreens Park Management Committee, chaired by Paul Walker, supported by Neil Bleakley and the volunteer Skreens Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART). The Trustees say a huge thank you to them all, together with our paid staff team, for their continued dedication and support in helping to make Skreens Park Activity Centre the success it is.

THANK YOU

During the year, we implemented the final changes required as part of the Scout Association's Transformation Programme, with the County continuing to provide support to Districts as they completed their Transformation journeys.

Across the County we continue to see a shortage of adult volunteers to work with our young people and are using the Growth and Development Officer to help Districts and Groups recruit new volunteers to grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing Groups in identified communities/areas of need across Essex. There are people out there who, if asked, would be willing to help, so why not make use of one of the County volunteer recruitment tool kits and pop the question to anyone who shows interest ?

Essex continues to be one of the largest Scout Counties in the country, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We have seen excellent and innovative examples of what our volunteers do to continue providing Scouting to our young people at a time when they most needed it. You continue to be our greatest asset.

The Trustees thank all of the brilliant supportive volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure so many of the young people of all ages can continue to experience the amazing Scouting adventure both here in the UK and overseas.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !

Paul J Stennett
County Chairman
August 2025

It gives me great pleasure to present the accounts of the Essex County Scout Council for 2024/25. During the year there was a surplus on normal activities on the General Fund of c£17k. The County's annual subscription for 2025/2026 was maintained at £3.50 for a second year, with it continuing to be heavily subsidised by the County's reserves, with a deficit budget of c£42k set for the year. The budget for the year reflects the new County Teams structure which was created as part of the Transformation process. The deficit budget reflects the Trustees desire to keep scouting within Essex an affordable option for all families. This commitment is reflected in the ongoing support given to both the County Support Fund and the Inclusivity Fund (see Note 18).

The census for January 2025 showed an decrease of 0.4% of young people over the previous year, decreasing from 14,699 to 14,634. The 2025 County Census is included with the main accounts for information.
The balance on the General Fund stands at c£176k, which is more than sufficient to cover one year's expenditure and any contingencies arising during a year. The County Trustee Board continues to monitor the reserves on an on-going basis, as outlined in the Reserves Policy below.

Skreens Park Activity Centre continues to grow and has made a surplus of c£5.5k, which is a great achievement in a tough economic environment and a reflection of the efforts made by Pat Bailey, Operations Manager, Paul Walker and Neil Bleakley, Chairman of the Skreens Park Management Committee together with the rest of the team, both the permanent staff and volunteers.

During the year the Thriftwood County HQ & Training Centre continued to be well supported, with it making a surplus of c£23k which is the result of the hard work and dedication of all of the team.

The other Designated Funds are used to make funding available for the benefit of Essex Scouting generally. During the year, grants paid totaled c£49.6k. Details of all these grants can be found on page 45.

The County Support Fund saw grants totaling £2,220 approved during the year, with consideration being given as to how to better advertise the existence of the fund across the County. The Inclusivity Fund continues to grow and will be used to support young people and leaders with their fundraising efforts to participate in future overseas trips.

The loan to 1st Corringham Scout Group remains within the debtors on the balance sheet. In 2022, the County Trustee Board agreed to lend £50,000 to 1st Corringham Scout Group to enable them to complete the rebuilding of their Group Headquarters. The loan is repayable over 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. and a minimum repayment of at least £5,000 per year.

The County continued to take advantage of the higher interest rates seen during the year, with funds re-invested in a fixed rate bank account. Interest earned during the year totaled c£44k. The interest earned helps to pay for the County's audit fees and insurances, enabling the County to keep its annual subscription low.

Details of the accounts, notes and Auditor's Report are set out elsewhere in this document.

Post year-end, it was necessary for Megan Hoblin to step down as County Treasurer, for personal reasons and we would like to thank Megan for the support she provided during here tenure. We thank Dan Skipton for stepping in as interim County Treasurer, specifically to support us through this year's audit, whilst the search for a permanent replacement was underway. At 20th July 2025, we appointed Tahir Sayani to the role as County Treasurer.

On behalf of the County Trustee Board, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the County in the past year. In particular, we would like to thank everyone involved in Essex Scouting for the dedication that they give and the Trustee Board for supporting the County Finance Team. Special thanks must go to Wendy Bye, County Financial Administrator and Karen Batman, Assistant County Treasurer, for all their help, dedication

and patience; without their support the County Treasurer's job would not have been possible.

Reserves Policy

Reserves represent that part of the Charity's Unrestricted Funds that are freely available to spend and enable the County Trustee Board to fulfil its overall responsibilities. Whilst these responsibilities are mainly 'what ifs', the reserves should be sufficient to cover most eventualities and enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis and cover any contingencies should they arise.

During the year the Trustees reviewed this policy and agreed to maintain the level of General Reserves at an absolute minimum figure of £100k being deemed sufficient to enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis.

In addition, the Trustees reviewed what would be required to continue supporting Skreens Park and enable an orderly wind-down of the operations, in the event it is decided to cease trading. In this situation, the Trustees are of the view that we would probably look to honour bookings for a period of, say, three months, to prevent the need for the County to have to refund forward bookings for which money has already been received. To enable this to happen, we would require sufficient funds to be able to pay staff and utility bills etc. for the period, with an amount of £100,000 required to achieve this. Funds held in the Designated Reserve for Skreens Park will also be taken into account when calculating this figure, with a minimum amount of £50k to be set aside in our General Reserves.

The level of Reserves may be varied by the County Trustee Board if it identifies a longer-term project in which it might wish to invest, that seeks to further the objectives of Essex Scouting.

The Capital Development Fund will be used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre, with redevelopment of the Warren building started during the year. Other projects across the County can be considered for funding, when identified. Other earmarked reserves are maintained at a level to enable the specific objectives to be carried out.

Reserves will always be held as liquid assets in accounts regulated by appropriate banking institutions and governed as part of the investment policy.
The Trustees monitor the level of reserves on a regular basis.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Trustees and County Lead Volunteer are committed to conducting its undertaking in a manner that protects the health and safety of its employees, members, contractors and the public. In addition to complying strictly with the health and safety measures required by legislation, it is the Council's policy to promote and take all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its employees, members and others who may be affected by its actions.

To meet the requirements of this policy the Trustees and County Lead Volunteer will work with all employees, volunteer leaders and other relevant parties to strive for continuous improvement in Health and Safety Executive performance. They will operate an integrated, structured and documented system of management control over all its operations. This system of control commits the County Trustee Board to:

- Undertaking appropriate reviews and assessments of its operations and undertakings to measure progress, manage risk, and ensure compliance with this policy and that of the Scout Association.
- Setting up and maintaining safe and healthy systems of work to protect all county employees, members and others, including the public.
- Making all reasonable endeavours to ensuring that its county employees and volunteer leaders are fully competent to perform the tasks allocated to them by careful recruitment, ongoing training and development, and by provision of the necessary resources.
- Maintaining the health and safety awareness of all county employees and volunteer leaders by the

- establishment of sound health and safety practices and operations through competent management and good communications, leading to continuous improvement in health and safety performance.
- Ensuring that the contractors we directly engage are competent to perform the work contracted and encouraging good safety practice within such companies in compliance with this policy.
- Effective response to investigation of accidents and incidents and, to establish where appropriate root causes and take reasonable actions to prevent their reoccurrence.

To achieve this, the County Trustee Board will work within the policies and procedures as laid down by the Scout Association and encourage and support all Districts in so doing. The County Lead Volunteer will provide information to, and ensure appropriate consultation with, county employees and volunteer leaders on matters relevant to this policy.

Prime responsibility for these matters lies with the Trustees and the County Lead Volunteer and his Team; all other employees and volunteer leaders equally have responsibility for matters within their control. They have a duty to ensure that health and safety issues are always given the fullest consideration, and for providing a safe and healthy working environment for their employees and members.

In addition, all employees and volunteer leaders have a responsibility to themselves and others for the safety and prevention of ill health at work. We must all work together in the spirit of participation and co-operation to ensure the success of this Policy.

County Treasurer
August 2025

Essex County Scout Council

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Essex County Scout Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex County Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Cash Flow Statement, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were 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 auditor's report 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Essex County Scout Council (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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 (set out on page 5 and 6), the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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 an auditor's report 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;
• The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
• We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector.
• We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the charity.
• We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by;
• Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud.
• Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we;
• Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships
• Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions
• Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Essex County Scout Council (continued)

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees 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 charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr

.....

Edmund Carr LLP

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Date: 23/09/2025

Edmund Carr LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointment as auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Essex County Scout Council

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	951,803	10,500	962,303	301,451
Charitable activities	3	2,092,105	-	2,092,105	1,343,219
Other trading activities	4	36,938	-	36,938	32,314
Investment income	5	43,957	-	43,957	27,957
Other income	6	2,185	-	2,185	-
Total income		3,126,988	10,500	3,137,488	1,704,941
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	(2,487,549)	(2,220)	(2,489,769)	(1,511,883)
Total expenditure		(2,487,549)	(2,220)	(2,489,769)	(1,511,883)
Net income		639,439	8,280	647,719	193,058
Gross transfers between funds		10,500	(10,500)	-	-
Net movement in funds		649,939	(2,220)	647,719	193,058
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		3,049,558	48,162	3,097,720	2,580,200
Total funds carried forward	18	3,699,497	45,942	3,745,439	2,773,258

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 18.

Essex County Scout Council

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	1,898,825	1,574,363
Current assets			
Stocks	13	14,286	11,822
Accrued Income	14	809,329	14,636
Prepayments	14	15,219	283,269
Loan receivable	14	35,000	40,000
Youth programme debtor	14	29,222	-
Pension Contributions	14	18	18
Cash at bank and in hand	15	1,273,945	2,683,046
		2,177,019	3,032,791
Sundry creditors	16	(13,779)	(40,516)
Provisions	16	(10,848)	(10,848)
Accruals	16	(88,120)	(56,475)
Deferred income	16	(217,658)	(1,726,057)
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(330,405)	(1,833,896)
Net current assets		1,846,614	1,198,895
Net assets		3,745,439	2,773,258
Funds of the charity:			
Financed by			
General funds		175,547	158,736
Designated funds		1,625,125	991,997
Restricted Funds		45,942	48,162
Total usable reserves		1,846,614	1,198,895
Capital financing reserve		1,898,825	1,574,363
Total funds	18	3,745,439	2,773,258

The financial statements on pages 22 to 39 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 11 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Paul Stennett
.....
P J Stennett
Trustee

Bob Bye
.....
R A Bye
Trustee

Essex County Scout Council

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds for the reporting year		647,719	193,058
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	5	(43,957)	(27,957)
		603,762	165,101
Working capital adjustments			
Increase in stocks	13	(2,464)	(1,834)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14	(550,865)	141,395
Increase in creditors	16	4,908	40,522
(Decrease)/increase in deferred income		(1,508,399)	951,997
Net cash flows from operating activities		(1,453,058)	1,297,181
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	43,957	27,957
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(1,409,101)	1,325,138
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		2,683,046	1,357,908
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		1,273,945	2,683,046

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

1 Accounting policies

(i) Statement of compliance
These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention and, other than disclosed below, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 issued on 1st January 2019.

(ii) Basis of preparation
The accounts relate to the activities of the Essex County Scout Council and do not include the accounts of any of its individual Scout Groups or Districts within the County, each of which are set up as stand alone charities. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(iii) Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(iv) Income and endowments
All incoming resources including government grants, are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Annual subscriptions received in respect of the following year and income for events in a future period is treated as deferred income (receipts in advance).

(v) *Donations and legacies*

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

(vi) *Deferred income*

Deferred income represents amounts received for events in future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

(vii) Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

(viii) *Charitable activities*

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(ix) Support costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(x) Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

(xi) Taxation
Essex County Scout Council is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on its charitable activities.

(xii) Tangible fixed assets
Tangible assets are divided into two categories:

- Freehold and leasehold land and buildings
- Equipment

The costs of equipment are written off and expensed in the year of acquisition and not held as assets in the balance sheet. All other fixed asset additions, whilst treated as an expense in the year of acquisition, are carried in the balance sheet at historic cost and the benefit recorded in the Capital Financing Reserve. On this basis no depreciation is provided.

The Trustees consider this conservative treatment to be appropriate for the charity as it is in line with the treatment of assets in the public sector. The Trustees have conducted an impairment review and consider that the current value of the buildings is in excess of cost.

(xiii) Stock
Stocks held at Skreens Park are valued at cost.

(xiv) Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

(xv) Cash and cash equivalents
Cash comprises cash held in bank current and deposit accounts.

(xvi) Trade creditors
Creditors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(xvii) Fund structure
The General County Fund is an unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Details of the nature and purpose of the Designated Funds are set out in note 18.

Restricted Funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. Details of the nature and purpose of the Restricted Funds are set out in note 18.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total
	Designated	General	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;				
Legacies	800,000	-	-	800,000
Donations	135	1,518	10,500	12,153
Norman Garon Trust	84,139	65,861	-	150,000
Special Needs	150	-	-	150
Total for 2025	884,424	67,379	10,500	962,303
Total for 2024	243,609	57,842	-	301,451

The County Trustees have been advised that the County is the main beneficiary of the estate of the late Malcolm Treacher MBE, with an amount of £800,000 to be received in the next financial year, which has been shown as accrued income in the accounts (see note 14).

We gratefully acknowledge receipt of the above donations and thank the donors for their support of Essex Scouting.

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds		Total	Total
	Designated	General	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
HQ Subscriptions	5,829	591,793	597,622	552,591
Less HQ Subscriptions paid	-	(546,525)	(546,525)	(509,532)
County subscriptions	5,829	45,268	51,097	43,059
Major Events and International	-	371,353	371,353	832,678
County activities	456,181	51,782	507,963	462,760
Essex International Jamboree	1,161,272	-	1,161,272	-
Other income	-	420	420	4,722
	1,617,453	423,555	2,041,008	1,300,160
Total Charitable Activities	1,623,282	468,823	2,092,105	1,343,219

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Trading income;			
Shop sales	36,938	-	36,938
Total for 2025	36,938	-	36,938
Total for 2024	32,314	-	32,314

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
	Designated £	General £	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Other Interest receivable on bank deposits	8,477	35,480	-	43,957
Total for 2025	8,477	35,480	-	43,957
Total for 2024	2,373	25,584	-	27,957

6 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Skreens- Insurance claim	2,185	2,185

The insurance claim relates to theft of a box trailer whilst it was parked at Skreens Park Activity Centre.

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds
		Designated £	General £	£	£
County activities		598,282	26,825	2,220	627,327
Essex International Jamboree		1,130,613	-	-	1,130,613
Major Events and International		-	460,198	-	460,198
Staff costs		215,538	-	-	215,538
Support Costs		-	12,616	-	12,616
Governance costs		-	43,477	-	43,477
Total for 2025		1,944,433	543,116	2,220	2,489,769
Total for 2024		523,946	986,299	1,638	1,511,883

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
County activities		307,876	12,563	1,638	322,077
Property Maintenance		16,967	-	-	16,967
Major Events and International		-	901,977	-	901,977
Staff costs		196,455	-	-	196,455
Support costs		2	25,778	-	25,780
Governance costs		2,646	45,981	-	48,627
		523,946	986,299	1,638	1,511,883

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Audit fees			
Audit of the financial statements	-	15,056	15,056
Other governance costs	-	28,421	28,421
Total for 2025	-	43,477	43,477
Total for 2024	2,646	45,981	48,627

The governance costs have been allocated based on gross expenditure of the activities. The total fees payable to the auditor amount to £15,000 in respect of audit services (2023/24- £7,500). £1,000 of these fees were recharged to the Essex International Jamboree, with the balance relating to the cost of auditing the County accounts only.

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

Five of the Essex County Scout Council Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £1,710 (two trustees received £1,296 in 2023/2024).

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	193,084	184,313
Social security costs	8,194	8,947
Pension costs	14,260	3,195
	215,538	196,455

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Average	10	10

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

St Lukes Camp Site, Skreens Park, Roxwell is a freehold property (52 acres and 3 acre lake) acquired in 1971. The historic value of the site and buildings is £1,879,655. Thriftwood County headquarters and Training Complex is a leasehold property (peppercorn rent) of 6 acres built in 1966 at a cost of £19,170 (99- year lease). The buildings at the two sites are currently insured for £4,176,205. The current value of equipment, vehicles and stocks for insurance purposes is £635,542. An analysis of the fixed assets, shown at cost, is set out below.

A survey of the properties was carried out by David Dedman FRICS on 15th November 2021 and confirmed that the insured values of the properties is in line with current re-build costs.

Skreens Park Activity Centre	**2025**	**2024**
Skreens Park - Site	11,615	11,615
Skreens Park - Leaman House	286,081	286,081
Skreens Park -Tinley House	249,353	249,353
Skreens Park - Camp Shop	27,085	27,085
Skreens Park - New Toilet & Shower Block	306,065	306,065
Skreens Park - Wet Weather Block	16,896	16,896
Skreens Park - Climbing Wall	46,765	46,765

Skreens Park Activity Centre	2025	2024
Skreens Park - Crew Quarters	184,186	184,186
Skreens Park - Bungalow	5,236	5,236
Skreens Park - High Ropes Course	301,911	301,911
Skreens Park - Land for access road	120,000	120,000
Skreens Park- Warren Project	304,568	-
Skreens Park- Storage Barn	19,894	-
	1,879,655	**1,555,193**
Thriftwood		
Thriftwood - Training Centre	19,170	19,170
	19,170	**19,170**
Total	**1,898,825**	**1,574,363**

13 Stock

	2025 £	2024 £
Stocks- Skreens Park Shop	14,286	11,822

14 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Youth programme debtor	29,222	-
Prepayments	15,219	283,269
Accrued income	809,329	14,636
Pension debtor	18	18
Loans receivable	35,000	40,000
	888,788	337,923

The Loans Receivable figure on the balance sheet is the current outstanding balance of £35,000 of a loan made to 1st Corringham Scout Group in 2022 to enable them to complete the re-build of their Headquarters. The loan, originally of £50,000 is repayable within 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. There is a minimum repayment of £5,000 per year.

The County Trustees have been advised that the County is the main beneficiary of the estate of the late Malcolm Treacher MBE, with an amount of £800,000 to be received in the next financial year, which has been shown as accrued income in the accounts.

15 Cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Operational accounts		
Barclays- Current Account	32,944	27,447
Barclays- Deposit Account	18,774	17,435
CAFCash- Current Account	78,732	33,414
CAFCash- Gold Deposit Account	445,368	496,654
CAFCash- Skreens Current Account	16,912	54,641
CAFCash- Skreens Gold Deposit Account	148,373	109,871
United Trust- Charity 3 Month Bond	428,910	406,382
	1,170,013	1,145,844
Essex International Jamboree		
CAFCash- EIJ Current Account	6,437	73,452
CAFCash EIJ Gold Deposit Account	61,626	1,424,555
	68,063	1,498,007
Barclays - No 2 - Internationals Account	35,869	39,195
	-	-
Total cash	1,273,945	2,683,046

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Sundry creditors	13,779	40,516
Provisions	10,848	10,848
Accruals	88,120	56,475
Deferred income	217,658	1,726,057
	330,405	1,833,896

Deferred income	2025	2024
	£	£
Skreens deposits	51,793	50,451
HQ Subscriptions	55,524	-
Youth Programme	78,823	26,173
Girlguiding Essex	31,518	82,696
Essex International Jamboree	-	1,566,737
	217,658	1,726,057

The Skreens deposits amount relates to monies received in advance for future bookings at Skreens Park Activity Centre.

The HQ subscriptions deferred income relates to subscriptions received in the 2024/25 year that relate to 2025/26.

The Youth Programme amount relates to monies received in advance for future International Expeditions.

Girlguiding Essex is an accumulation of profits and losses from the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ), the balance is treated as income in advance used to finance the next EIJ.

The Essex International Jamboree took place in August 2024 and therefore there was no income in advance for 2025.

17 Commitments

Capital commitments

The total amount contracted for but not provided in the financial statements relating to the Warren redevelopment was £423,327 (2024 - £Nil).

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Capital Financing/ Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General funds	158,736	573,870	(543,120)	(13,939)	175,547
Designated					
Building Fund	14,953	5,829	(10,469)	-	10,313
County Development Fund	626,903	864,138	(324,462)	-	1,166,579
Norman Garon Fund	32,552	20,000	-	-	52,552
Special needs	8,511	150	(200)	-	8,461
Memorial funds	176,144	-	(2,565)	-	173,579
Essex International Jamboree	(20,803)	1,170,037	(1,131,655)	13,939	31,518
Skreens Park	85,598	450,030	(454,971)	10,500	91,157
Thriftwood	63,271	42,934	(20,107)	-	86,098
Inclusivity Fund	4,868	-	-	-	4,868
	991,997	2,553,118	(1,944,429)	24,439	1,625,125
Total unrestricted funds	1,150,733	3,126,988	(2,487,549)	10,500	1,800,672
Restricted funds					
County Support Fund	48,162	10,500	(2,220)	(10,500)	45,942
Other funds					
Capital financing reserve	1,574,363	-	-	324,462	1,898,825
Total funds	2,773,258	3,137,488	(2,489,769)	324,462	3,745,439

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General funds	182,990	924,935	(949,479)	290	158,736
Designated					
Building Fund	31,554	5,741	(22,342)	-	14,953
County Development Fund	456,348	222,899	(52,344)	-	626,903
Norman Garon Fund	43,081	20,000	(30,529)	-	32,552
Special needs	8,361	150	-	-	8,511
Memorial funds	178,790	-	(2,646)	-	176,144
Activity teams	9,608	494	(9,812)	(290)	-
Essex International Jamboree	(5,446)	1,610	(16,967)	-	(20,803)
Skreens Park	17,645	466,504	(398,551)	-	85,598
Thriftwood	32,371	58,475	(27,575)	-	63,271
Inclusivity Fund	735	4,133	-	-	4,868
	773,047	780,006	(560,766)	(290)	991,997
Total unrestricted funds	956,037	1,704,941	(1,510,245)	-	1,150,733
Restricted					
County Support Fund	49,800	-	(1,638)	-	48,162
Other funds					
Capital financing reserve	1,574,363	-	-	-	1,574,363
Total funds	2,580,200	1,704,941	(1,511,883)	-	2,773,258

Designated Funds

(1) Building Fund- is financed by a 40p per head levy on the membership fee. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards building projects.

(2) Capital Development Fund- used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre. During 2024/2025, the Trustees progressed plans for redevelopment of The Warren building at Skreens Park, with planning permission having previously been obtained from Chelmsford City Council and an Architect and Structural Engineer instructed to develop detailed plans. Following completion of a Tender process, a Contractor was appointed, with construction commencing in November 2024. In addition, revised plans were produced for development of a new Maintenance and Storage Barn at Skreens Park, to enable the sites machinery and equipment to be stored in one place, as well as providing a rest facility for our volunteer team. Planning approval was received June 2024, following which detailed plans have been drawn up, ahead of a Tender process being undertaken, with the Contractor undertaking the Warren Redevelopment appointed. Costs relating to the Warren project have been funded from a generous legacy received from the estate of the late Malcolm Treacher MBE, with the new Maintenance and Storage Barn being funded from the Capital Development Fund.

(3) Norman Garon Grants Fund- The County Grants Board administers funds made available annually by the Norman Garon Trust. The County Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards new buildings, repairs, equipment and a new group or section start ups.

(4) Special Needs Fund- financed by bequests and donations. The County Grants Board consider applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with special needs.

(5) The Memorial Fund- financed by bequests received, with the monies used to support Scouting activities within the County, as approved by the Trustee Board.

(6) The Essex International Jamboree Fund- - this is used to finance the Jamboree held jointly with the three Guide Counties of Essex, every four years. The fund represents the Essex County Scout Council share of the balance carried forward following the 2024 Jamboree.

(7) Skreens Park- a sub**-**Committee of the County Trustee Board manages Skreens Park Activity Centre. A separate Designated Fund is maintained for its financial activities, other than major capital expenditure, which is financed from the Capital Development Fund. Upgrades to the site and activities have continued to be carried out by the permanent staff and volunteers,

(8) Thriftwood- A separate Designated Fund is maintained for the financial activities of the County Headquarters and Training Complex at Thriftwood.

(9) Inclusivity Fund- originally established to provide financial assistance to young people and leaders attending Overseas Jamborees, using funds from within existing provisions and donations. The Trustees have subsequently agreed to expand support to anyone attending a County organised International Expedition.

Restricted Funds:

County Support Fund- The County Trustee Board believes that Finances should not be a barrier for a young person or adult volunteer to take part in Scouting. As a result, the Restricted Fund was established, using available funds, to support Members of Essex Scouting through the provision of financial assistance to those Districts/Groups/Units/Individuals where financial support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures and enable them to continue their Scouting journey.

Other Funds:

Capital Financing Reserve- see note 12 to the financial statements for further explanation of this fund.

The transfer of £10,500 between restricted funds and designated funds was for the 80% element of the expenditure of the CCTV in which Rural Essex had granted the money for in the year.

The transfer from unrestricted to designated funds was to reflect an increase in the Essex International Jamboree fund.

The movement within capital financial of £324,462 completed to increase the Capital Finance Reserve to reflect the increase in fixed assets as per note 12.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Other funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General £	Designated £	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,898,825	1,898,825
Current assets	337,032	1,794,045	45,942	-	2,177,019
Current liabilities	(161,485)	(168,920)	-	-	(330,405)
Total net assets	175,547	1,625,125	45,942	1,898,825	3,745,439

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Other funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General £	Designated £	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,574,363	1,574,363
Current assets	240,719	2,743,911	48,162	-	3,032,792
Current liabilities	(81,983)	(1,751,914)	-	-	(1,833,897)
Total net assets	158,736	991,997	48,162	1,574,363	2,773,258

20 Related party transactions

The Trustees have donated £1,070 (2023/24 £1,238) to the Charity without conditions.

Two of the Trustees are also Trustees of the Norman Garon Trust (registered charity 1120656) which donated £150,000 to Essex County Scout Council during the year (2023/24 £300,000)

Wendy Bye is the County Bookkeeper which is a paid, self employed part-time role. During the year her company was paid £11,282 (2023/24 £10,260). Wendy is the wife of Bob Bye, the County Lead Volunteer.

21 Events after the reporting date

Events after the reporting period are detailed in the Trustee Annual report on Pages 13 and 14.

Essex County Scout Council

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	951,803	301,451
Charitable activities	2,092,105	1,343,219
Other trading activities	36,938	32,314
Investment income	43,957	27,957
Other income	2,185	-
Total income	3,126,988	1,704,941
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(2,487,549)	(1,510,245)
Total expenditure	(2,487,549)	(1,510,245)
Net income	639,439	194,696
Gross transfers between funds	10,500	-
Net movement in funds	649,939	194,696
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	3,049,558	2,530,400
Total funds carried forward	3,699,497	2,725,096

Essex County Scout Council

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

	Total Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Restricted Funds 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	10,500	-
Total income	10,500	-
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(2,220)	(1,638)
Total expenditure	(2,220)	(1,638)
Net income/(expenditure)	8,280	(1,638)
Gross transfers between funds	(10,500)	-
Net movement in funds	(2,220)	(1,638)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	48,162	49,800
Total funds carried forward	45,942	48,162

Essex County Scout Council

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	962,303	301,451
Charitable activities (analysed below)	2,092,105	1,343,219
Other trading activities (analysed below)	36,938	32,314
Investment income (analysed below)	43,957	27,957
Other income (analysed below)	2,185	-
Total income	3,137,488	1,704,941
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	(2,489,769)	(1,511,883)
Total expenditure	(2,489,769)	(1,511,883)
Net income	647,719	193,058
Net movement in funds	647,719	193,058
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	3,097,720	2,580,200
Total funds carried forward	3,745,439	2,773,258

Essex County Scout Council

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (continued)

	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies		
Donations and legacies	962,303	301,451
	962,303	301,451
Charitable activities		
HQ Subscriptions	51,097	43,059
Major Events and International	371,353	832,678
County Activities	507,963	462,760
Jamboree	1,161,272	-
Other Income	420	4,722
	2,092,105	1,343,219
Other trading activities		
Skreens - Shop sales	36,938	32,314
	36,938	32,314
Investment income		
Investment income	35,480	25,584
Skreens - Bank interest	856	800
EIJ bank interest	7,621	1,573
	43,957	27,957
Other income		
Insurance claim	2,185	-
	2,185	-
Charitable activities		
Activities undertaken directly	(2,218,138)	(1,241,021)
Allocated support costs	(12,616)	(25,780)
Staff costs	(215,538)	(196,455)
Auditors' remuneration	(15,056)	(12,692)
Other governance costs	(28,421)	(35,935)
	(2,489,769)	(1,511,883)

		2024 Census numbers					2025 Census numbers				
		Young		Numbers			Young		Numbers		
		People	Network	Adults	Total	Subscriptions Received- Young People @£41	People	Network	Adults	Total	Subscriptions Received- Young People @£46.00
Districts						£					£
	Basildon	414	8	204	626	15,525	436	16	175	627	20,056
	Billericay & Wickford	663	7	211	881	24,863	634		189	823	29,164
	Braintree	754	17	236	1,007	28,275	811	16	246	1,073	37,306
	Brentwood	717	0	302	1,019	26,888	704		240	944	32,384
	Castle Point	749	3	239	991	28,088	710	4	242	956	32,660
	Chelmsford and District	1,982	9	571	2,562	74,325	1,971	3	569	2,543	90,666
	Colchester Estuary	746	0	255	1,001	27,975	739		265	1,004	33,994
	Colchester North	1,102	22	314	1,438	41,325	1,089	6	309	1,404	50,094
	Crouch Valley	850	7	241	1,098	31,875	888	1	251	1,140	40,848
	Halstead & Colne Valley	0	0	0	0	-		0	0	0	0
	Harlow	432	0	121	553	16,200	460	2	137	599	21,160
	Hatfield Forest	490	0	154	644	18,375	501		154	655	23,046
	Maldon & East Essex	884	0	248	1,132	33,150	888		279	1,167	40,848
	Royal Forest	832	0	282	1,114	31,200	817		258	1,075	37,582
	Saffron Walden	788	12	215	1,015	29,550	737	9	205	951	33,902
	Southend Estuary	664	10	196	870	24,900	662	16	200	878	30,452
	Southend West	878	13	387	1,278	32,925	853	13	339	1,205	39,238
	Tendring	628	5	231	864	23,550	601	9	216	826	27,646
	Thurrock/Stanford Le Hope	1,120	6	383	1,509	42,000	1,133	6	366	1,505	52,118
										0	
	Districts Total	14,693	119	4,790	19,602	550,988	14,634	101	4,640	19,375	673,164
County	Activity Teams, Network etc	3	3	138	144	0					0
	Adventures Offshore	0	0	44	44	0			41		0
	Essex County	0	0	0	0	0			128		0
	County Total	3	3	182	188	0	0	0	169	0	0
	Grand Total	14,699	122	5,154	19,978	550,988	14,634	101	4,809	19,375	673,164

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

Grants Analysis

Cases Paid		£
1st Wickford	Structural work	£3,000
7th Grays	New electrics	£3,000
Harlow District	Hammocks	£100
1st Braintree	New fencing	£4,980
1st Chesterford	New build	£10,000
4th/6th Leigh-on-Sea	Kayaks	£1,000
Riffhams campsite	Toilet upgrade	£1,500
Saffron Walden District	Water activities equipment	£1,000
Tendring District	New roof	£3,000
1st Shenfield	Hike tents	£400
1st Broomfield	Car park	£500
2nd Chelmsford	Safety improvements	£2,000
1st Stanford-le-Hope	Games equipment	£239
Mountain Team	Helmets	£431
1st Stanford-le-Hope	New electrics	£1,280
17th Colchester	Minibus training	£250
		£32,680
Start-up grants paid		
1st Black Notley Squirrel Drey		£200
1st Boreham Squirrel Scout Drey		£200
Basildon Nova ESU		£200
1st Chesterford Scout Troop		£200
Braintree Seax Explorer Scout Unit		£200
		£1,000
Support Fund grants paid		
1st Yeldham		£1,250
5th Clacton		£245
4th Canvey Island		£200
1st Grays		£250
		£1,945
Additional Needs grants paid		
5th Clacton		£200
Cases agreed awaiting payment		
Southend Estuary ES	Minibus	£2,000
County Stores Team	New trailer	£3,000
The Walthams	Purchase of Freehold (part paid)	£2,589
1st Woodham Ferrers	New kitchen	£1,000
1st Braintree	New fencing (part paid)	£20
1st Clacton	Rebuild extension	£5,000
Other		£170
	Totals	£13,779
		£49,604

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.



Front Cover – Essex International Jamboree 2024 site - Daytime
Back Cover – Essex International Jamboree 2024 site - Nighttime

Photography by Essex Scouts Media Team

ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302097

Accounts

Scouts
Essex



Essex County Scouts Annual Report and Accounts 2023-2024

Charity Number: 302097

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 10th September 2024 at 7.30pm
Skreens Park Scout Activity Centre
Skreens Park Road, Chelmsford Essex CM1 4NL

Scouts
Essex

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The Essex County Scout Council is a Trust established under the rules of The Scout Association. Trustees are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Essex County Scout Council

President

The Lord Petre, KCVO, DL

Vice Presidents

J C Bailey
G Courtauld OBE, DL
B J Cousins
L A Jordan, DL
M C Treacher, MBE Dec'd (Until 22/5/23)

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
2 High Street
Chelmsford,
Essex CM1 1BG

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Caxton Payments Ltd
2 Leman Street
London, E1 8FA

Auditor

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0AW

Insurance Broker

Clear Insurance Management Ltd
34 Ness Road, Shoeburyness,
Essex SS2 9DF

Contact Address

County Secretary
132 Cedar Road, Canvey Island
Essex SS8 9HS

secretary@essexscouts.org.uk

The County Trustee Board

Ex-officio Trustees

P J Stennett, County Chairman
R A Bye County Lead Volunteer
Mrs K Daykin-Woodberry, County Secretary
Mrs L Sloan, County Treasurer
Miss J McDonald, County Youth Lead (wef 23/11/23)

Nominated Trustees

Mrs S Griffiths
P Walker
M Brace
J Long
Miss L Nolan (Until 18/03/2024)

Elected Trustees

J Freake
T Humphries
G Monk
C Willis
M Edson

Co-opted Trustees

None

Charity Registration No: 302097

Scout Association No: 117

Online

- www.essexscouts.org.uk
- facebook.com/essexscouts
- twitter.com/essexscouts
- instagram.com/essexscouts

Report from the County Trustee Board

Scouting is a movement powered by the kindness and commitment of our volunteers, who make a difference and help to develop the young lives in our communities.

Our Vision

By 2025 we'll have prepared more young people with Skills for Life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our Mission

Scouts gives young people skills for life. Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

Our Values

We act with care, respect, integrity, co-operation, exploring our own and others beliefs.

Our Three Pillars of Work

To support the movement achieve its goals, our three pillars of work are a plan of action which supports our members and extends our reach, impacting the lives of more young people:

- **Programme** – is fun, enjoyable, high quality, delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools, to help young people gain skills for life.
- **People** – are well trained, with adult volunteers from all backgrounds better supported and more motivated, to support more young people from diverse backgrounds.
- **Perception** – to ensure that scouting is better understood, more visible, trusted and respected, with Scouts seen to be playing a key role in society.

Our Goal

Our aim is to build on the success of the previous plan: to continue to grow, become more inclusive, to be shaped by young people and to make a bigger impact in our communities.

The Essex Scout County comprises of 19 Districts, one of which is devoted purely to Sailing (Adventures Offshore). Within the remaining 18 Districts there are 248 Scout Groups with a total of c5,000 Adult volunteers delivering quality Scouting based programmes and in support roles. The Trustees acknowledge that a simple "thank you" to the Leaders and administrators across the County does not reflect the level of appreciation required for their support and generosity in giving their spare time to volunteer to the Sections, Groups, Districts and Units within the County.

The County Trustee Board team are empowered to provide governance and resources to support the Groups/District's Adult volunteers and Administrators.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the Advancement of Education and the Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit by:

- Supporting young people to develop their full potential, through the Scouting programme.
- Undertaking all Scouting activities with full consideration for the health and safety of all participants.
- Our members making the Scout Promise to be able to benefit from full scouting membership.
- The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting being in the 4 - 25 years age range.
- Being an inclusive organisation, with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable by all members, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay. Arrangements are in place to assist those who are unable to pay their annual membership and other costs, both locally and through the County Support Fund.

Structure, Governance and Management

Essex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the County, and operates in accordance with a

written Constitution. It is the body to which the County Trustee Board (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the County Trustees are shown on page 3. Historically, Trustees have been appointed annually at the Annual General meeting of the County Scout Council, either by election or by nomination, and may also be co-opted by the County Trustee Board during the year. From 1 April 2024, Trustee Boards are making changes to their membership. These include how Trustees are appointed, term limits, who can be a Trustee and how many Trustees they have, with the changes taking effect from the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, and are able to benefit from training provided by the County Training Team or e-learning packages from The Scout Association website. The County Trustee Board promotes Trustees responsibilities to both District and Groups and compliance is monitored. We ensure that young people are involved in decision making, with two 18 – 25 year olds being members of the County Trustee Board and 18 - 25 year olds also represented on any County Trustee Board sub-committees. Young people are also given opportunities across the County to become Leaders of the Future, leading to better retention of young people through adult volunteering.

The County Trustee Board met 5 times during the year, by a mixture of face to face and Zoom meetings. During the year, the County Trustee Board is supported by a number of sub-committees and boards, consisting of Finance (including the County Grants Board), Appointments Advisory, Skreens Park Activity Centre, and Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre. The County Scout Council receives substantial support from a large number of volunteer helpers. There are c55 members of the County Team and other advisors directly supporting the County Scout Council. None of these volunteers receive any payments for services rendered. The principal sources of the Scout Council's income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, together with grants and donations from public bodies, trusts and individuals.

Processes are in place to monitor compliance with mandatory training for all Adults throughout the County, with the County Trustee Board remaining focused and fully committed to Safety and Safeguarding. We have a Health & Safety (H&S) Professional in the Team who has compiled a comprehensive H&S document, as well as providing practical help and guidance to the Groups and Districts around the County.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

Our Trustees are valued, with them taking on several important roles. The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and overseeing our Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Trustees are responsible for making sure our financial statements give a true and fair view of the status of the charity. They also monitor incoming resources and the application of the County's resources for the year. Law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether they've followed applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the 'going concern' basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity. They must also help our Trustees to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Annual Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks (as set out in the Risk Assessment Policy on pages 23 and 24).

Achievements and Performance

Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

As a County, we were approached by headquarters and asked to forward details of Queen's Scout Award Holders who attained their award in the last 3 years and are under 25, to potentially help at the king's Coronation on 6th May 2023. Essex Scouts eventually sent three representatives to act as stewards on the day.

The Scouts were the only uniformed organisation asked to undertake such duties, so it was a great honour for the Association.

Review of the Year

During the year, progress has been made in implementing the various actions set out in the County Development Plan which was developed by Team Essex (consisting of the members of the County Trustee Board, together with the Essex Senior Leadership Team and District Lead Volunteers) in 2022, to identify what we need to do to move Scouting in Essex forward:

- *The Vision Statement set by Team Essex for Essex Scouts:*
  "Essex Scouts will be the best in providing safe, fun and quality scouting for all young people across the County."
- *Providing support to Groups and Districts with Adult recruitment*
  - Recruitment Tool Kits – The four toolkits purchased by the County (each consisting of a Gazebo, free-standing roller banners, feather flags and leaflets) continue to be well used by local Districts and Groups around the County.
  - Growth and Development Project - With the current funding coming to an end in 2024, the Trustees have agreed to continue funding a full-time paid Growth and Development Officer (GDO) beyond June 2024. The GDO continues to play a key role in the recruitment and support of local adult volunteers and Young Leaders (14-18), to help grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing groups in identified communities/areas of need across Essex. With the funding going forward being provided solely by Essex Scouts, we are now able to broaden coverage of the GDO's activities across the whole of the County.
- *Improving Communications and making it more targeted i.e. "Right message to the right people !"*
  - County Website – During the year, the County Website was moved to a new home, which should make it more secure and easier to maintain.

- Mailing Lists – As part of the ongoing Compass clean-up, work continues to ensure that all Adults have a valid email address with work undertaken to ensure that all adults are included. As a result, mailings are now sent direct to our volunteer leaders, which has already shown an improvement in response rates with information being received direct by those it was intended for, in a timely manner.
- Compass – As part of the Transformation project, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to clean-up the contact information for every Adult Volunteer recorded on The Scout Association's Adult Membership database. This will help to ensure that the data is fit and ready to migrate to the new digital system being introduced to replace Compass.
- County Lead Volunteer's Update – the County Lead Volunteer continues to issue regular updates to the members of Team Essex, providing key information and updates, particularly where action is required, so as to focus attention where something needs doing. This has proved to be invaluable, in light of activity undertaken by HQ following completion of the Great Orme inquest.

- *Providing support for District Youth Leads*
  - The County Youth Lead is working hard to develop the network of District Youth Leads, with support being provided to District Lead Volunteers to help them make a Youth Lead appointment, if they do not already have one.
- *Providing ways to give Essex Scout volunteers the recognition they deserve*
  - Awards Data – An increase has been seen in the number of awards being presented across the County, as a result of ongoing analysis of the County's data by the Awards Team to identify areas where action is required and the information shared with District Lead Volunteers.
  - Awards Committees – District's have been encouraged to establish their own Awards Committee to help identify candidates and submit nominations.

Major Events and International

The following **Major Events** took place during the year:

- **ESSEX WEEKEND** – held in May 2023. – Year on year, the numbers attending continue to increase at this unique event, with 450 attendees in 2023. The weekend is aimed at leaders, families and friends and brings together volunteers from across Essex Scouts at Skreens Park to camp and sample the many different activities on offer. Fun times for all are guaranteed and our thanks go to Wendy Bye and her team for the work done in ensuring the event is a success !

- **County Marathon** - is the annual, physically demanding, 2-day incident hiking

event that is open to Explorer Scouts, Network and adult teams. The 2023 Marathon took place in the New Forest at the end of September, with over 40 teams participating. The photos on the Essex Scouts website show a flavour of why people love this event and come back year after year.

- **County Backpack** - is also a 2-day incident hike for the Scout section, with them working in patrols to visit as many of the bases as they can. Each base provides activities and challenges for the teams to complete. This is another very successful event and continues to go from strength to strength.

In terms of **international trips** undertaken during the summer of 2023, over 230 Explorer Scouts and 40 adult leaders took part in the Essex Scouts Expedition 2023 Programme (EsEx23):

- **Jersey** - The unit (made up of 32 young people and 8 leaders) spent 9 days camping in Jersey, with a day trip to Saint Malo in France being sabotaged as a result of a force-8 gale. During the trip, the unit experienced a wide variety of outdoor activities, including blokarting, surfing, high ropes and coasteering.
-
- **25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea** - There were 2 full units (consisting of 36 young people and 4 adults) from Essex, together with a half unit (made up of 18 young people and 2 leaders that joined with a half unit from the Greater London North County) that left the UK in July 2023 for the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea, to join with 30,000 Scouts from around the world for 12 days of camping and activities, followed by 5 days in Seoul.
  As reported in the national press at that time, there were many issues with the jamboree site, as a result of which the UK contingent leaders quickly took the decision to leave the site and for the UK contingent to spend the rest of their time in Seoul. Despite not being on the jamboree site, the unit members were able to undertake various activities in Seoul and encounter a very different set of experiences.
  The County Trustees made additional funds available to the unit leaders, for use in the event that sufficient alternative activities were not forthcoming, so as to ensure that the young people still had an experience to remember. As it happens, the additional funds were not required.

- **North America Adventure** - . In North America, 100 Explorer Scouts and their 24 leaders visited New York, Toronto and Niagara as well as undertaking a 5-day hiking or kayaking expedition.

We feel confident that the memories and stories from the fund raising, training camps and the actual camps for all 3 trips will last those attending a lifetime.

We would also like to thank the Essex Community Foundation for their generosity

in matching the funds held in the County's Inclusivity Fund and Essex Freemasons for their donation, that helped to support young people and leaders in the Essex Scouts Expeditions in 2023 at a time when they were experiencing financial difficulties. A total of £19,014 was distributed by way of grant funding to 27 individuals, to enable them, to attend one of the above events.

Essex International Jamboree

The 2024 Essex International Scout and Guide Jamboree (EIJ) is gearing up to be one of the biggest and most exciting gatherings of Scouts and Guides in the UK (probably within Europe) !

Paul Walker and Karen Packer, our Joint Jamboree Chiefs, along with their amazing team, have been working tirelessly to create an unforgettable experience for Scouts, Guides, Rangers, and Explorers. The Jamboree is set on a 125-acre greenfield site near Chelmsford, Essex. It's like a mini city with everything you could need: water, showers, toilets, electricity, communications, food distribution, health and welfare services, and even a beach !

With a budget of £2.1m, this event is the biggest financial commitment for Essex Scouts who partner with the three Essex Girlguiding counties to deliver a 'week in a field' for 5,000 young people, supported by 1,500 adult leaders and 1,350 volunteer staff. The event aims to be financially self-sustaining through participant and leader fees. However, due to high inflation and increased living costs, the budget has faced significant pressures. To manage cash flow, Essex Scouts and the three Girlguiding counties have extended loans, which are planned to be reimbursed after the event concludes. Throughout the planning stages, the Trustees have received regular updates from the EIJ team, to enable them to monitor issues and ensure continued progress. The Jamboree team prides itself in being 100% professional, 100% volunteer (with 0% pay).

The Jamboree will be packed with a huge variety of activities; think adventurous, creative, and cultural fun that follows the Scout and Guide programs. Plus, participants will get to meet new friends from all over the world with over 40 countries represented, making EIJ a truly international experience ! And, when the sun goes down, the camp comes alive with loads of entertainment and activities.

The 2024 Essex International Jamboree promises to be an unforgettable adventure, packed with fun, new friendships, and memories that will last a lifetime.

The Trustees would like to express their huge thanks to Paul, Karen, and the EIJ team for all their hard work and dedication in bringing this event to life, particularly following the disappointment of us having to cancel the 2020 event. We can't wait to see you there !

The event runs from 27th July to 3rd August 2024, and you can find more information at http://www.eij.org.uk.

Transformation

Having been on the front foot with Transformation as reported at last year's AGM, ably lead by James Hopkins our Transformation Lead (regrettably, James stepped away from the role last November and Bob Bye our County Lead Volunteer stepped into the role), it was widely expected that we would move onto the new digital system by January 2024 but, sadly, this was not to be. A key part of testing for the new digital system is looking at how the existing data from the old Compass membership system will migrate to the new system, with various data errors identified nationally, which has prevented the system going live as originally planned.

A large amount of work has been carried out by Luke Bye and Hannah Welch with our volunteers in regard to “Compass cleanse“, to ensure that any data errors were corrected on the existing system in readiness for migration to the new digital system and the Trustees thank them for their dedication and commitment, which has put the County in a good place. This work has been supplemented by HQ, with them sending out a list of “incorrect roles“ to all Districts, which has to be completed by 1st September 2024. HQ has also carried out more in-depth testing on a continuous basis during the period, to ensure that we have the best system possible before it goes live.

Although no firm date has yet been advised as to the actual “changeover date” we are assured that this will happen in the Autumn of 2024. To this end, “go live” volunteers have been appointed by both the County and Districts, who received training over the summer period on the new digital system and who will, in effect, be our “help desk“ for queries. More formalised training will be offered to all adult volunteers by The Scout Association this autumn in advance of the system going live.

As mentioned in last year's report Essex adopted its new County Structure, based on a Team based approach, together with using the new titles for each roll. Districts have taken a similar approach.

Final changes to the Trustee Boards (in terms of the number of trustees, appointments process and the length of trustee appointments) were introduced as from 1st April 2024 and will be implemented at our 2024 AGM, with the focus being on Governance, in line with Charity Commission best practice.

Our Transformation Lead continues to attend a monthly “transformation leads“ call

with HQ, with updates being cascaded to the Districts, as required.

Our thanks go to the Transformation Team for their hard work and dedication in managing this process across the County and ensuring that we are well-placed for implementing the changes.

The Centre continues to be very busy attracting heavy usage in conjunction with the Campsite who manage the bookings on our behalf. A substantial surplus shows at the end of March 2024 and this will be put to good use with quotes currently being obtained to refit the kitchen in the main building.

After nearly four years, we finally managed to reach agreement for the electricity meter to be replaced, as the existing one was faulty. Work is now ongoing to obtain from the electricity supplier the surplus monies accruing from this account.

There has been an agreement in place with the Campsite Trustees for several years whereby responsibilities are clearly split, in terms of management of the County Complex. This agreement has been rolled over into 2024 while the Campsite appoints a new Chair of Trustees, after which, we will seek a meeting to move things forward.

Our thanks go to the C.H.A.P.S. team for their continued hard work and dedication in maintaining the Thriftwood County Complex. Thanks also go to Graham Monk, as Chair of the Thriftwood Management Committee.

C.H.A.P.S. Team Report

The C.H.A.P.S. Team is a small group of volunteers who look after the maintenance of the County Headquarters and Training Centre at Thriftwood Campsite. Currently there are thirteen permanent members of the team, led by Bill Marshall.

Several small jobs, particularly urgent ones have been undertaken throughout the year. The main work was done during April and December, when the team took over the whole complex for two weeks each time. In total, the team gave 1,487 hours of service and completed over separate 171 pieces of work.

A lot of the work is general maintenance, such as repairing broken items, painting and clearing up mess left by users. However, there are some key pieces of work that stand out; replacing the rotting wooden double doors on the Camping Store with an electrically operated metal roller door; fitting two more nest boxes up and seeing blue tits at least investigating them; installing a defibrillator and box to the wall on the veranda of the main hall and replacing all the floor tiles in the Barcwood hall.





Heritage Centre Team Report

The small Heritage Team of 8 members, led by Bill Marshall, continues slowly moving ahead with their scheduling and sorting of the various items in the heritage collection.



The Heritage Centre was officially opened on the 13th May 2023 by Caroline Pantling, Head of Heritage Services at Scout Headquarters, with a plaque unveiled naming the display room in honour of Malcolm Treacher MBE. Unfortunately, Malcolm died shortly after the opening but he will forever live in our memories.



One of the biggest projects involving the Team was to assist with the clearance of Malcolm Treacher's flat following his death. This was a difficult task, requiring hours of love and dedication, with his paperwork and effects (including his MBE) now sorted into boxes awaiting time for the team to catalogue them.

The Trustees are grateful to the County Archive team for the hours they put in ahead of the facility opening and also for their continued support in managing the Heritage Centre.

Grants Board

The role of the County Grants Board Team, which reports to the County Trustees, is to distribute grants to Groups and Districts seeking financial support. Grants are used for a variety of purposes, the most common being start-up grants, support for building work (which includes both major repairs and new builds), as well as replacement of kit used for adventurous activities. There is also a fund available to provide additional needs support either to Groups or individuals. The County also has a Support Fund, providing a range of assistance to those needing support to ensure they are able to participate in scouting and the County Inclusivity Fund, to assist participants attending County level overseas events.

All grants have one key objective, which is to enhance the benefits that Scouting brings to young people in Essex.

Monies available to the Grants Board Team for distribution are held in The Norman Garon Trust, the County Building Fund, the Additional Needs Fund, the Covid Fund, the Inclusivity Fund and the County Support Fund.

Essex County Scouts receive funds from The Norman Garon Trust and administer distribution to Scout Districts and Groups on its behalf, The County Building Fund is funded from County Membership fees, whilst the Additional Needs Fund is maintained by donations received as well as funds transferred from the Memorial Fund. The Covid Fund is the residue from donations and is a shrinking fund. The Inclusivity Fund is funded by way of donations received from attendees of previous County organised international events, with matched funding received from the Essex Community Foundation. The County Support Fund is funded entirely from County resources, to ensure that scouting is available to as many young people as possible, with money not being a barrier to participation.

Over the past year there have been 4 start-up grants paid out, totaling £800. Three were for new Squirrel Scout Dreys and one for a Cub Scout Pack.

Building and Equipment grants have been paid out for a range of purposes, including the installation of new roller doors, upgraded lighting, remedial work, security and refurbishments to three Scout Headquarters, as well as providing funding to help replace fencing around one of the campsites. In total, £11,000 has been distributed during the year, with commitments to pay a further £36K.

Requests were received for funding from the County Support Fund, with a total of £1,160 paid out. The Trustees would encourage all leaders actively to identify individuals or groups who would benefit from receiving funding and help to break down any barriers there may be to them being able to participate fully.

During the year, the County received a generous donation of £6,840 from the Lloyds of London Pension Services Council, which was match funded from the balance of the Covid Fund and topped-up from the Norman Garon Fund, enabling us to buy and install Defibrillators at eight campsites across the County, as well as funding mental health first aid training.

No grant requests were received during the year for support from either of the Additional Needs or Inclusivity Funds.

Skreens Park Activity Centre

The last year has seen a robust and consistent growth at Skreens Park, following the previous regenerative year. The site continues to return an operating surplus, which has been used to replace and improve equipment and resources.

The site continues to be very popular with Scouts, Guides, Duke of Edinburgh groups, schools and corporate customers. We have also seen an increase in the public use of activities as well as an increase in use of the site by schools with additional needs students.

Overseen by Pat Bailey (Operations Manager), the staff team has been maintained at 10 including 2 apprentices on a new training scheme. The staff worked tirelessly to fulfil the bookings, especially during busy periods when they have pulled out all the stops to deliver a massive range of activities, as well as spending time working hard across the site to keep on top of essential maintenance, repairs and helping to enhance the site.

Feedback from our site users regarding the staff is excellent, and clearly shows

"…The staff were not aware that my child has ADHD and ASD, they didn't seem to need her to have a label, they can see children that just needed reassurance and encouragement…"

"…The staff went above and beyond in encouraging my very frightened girls…on the gladiator challenge, and how the ropes and harness work if they fall off… the children felt they had reached the moon"

how dedicated they all are, including

We have also had the pleasure of hosting the Safety Team from Scouting HQ who reviewed the site and processes resulting in more positive feedback – '….*found it a really helpful insight into how site management can work well for a site of your size. Please thank your lovely team for welcoming us…and all the good work they are doing to make Skreens Park safe…'*.

The site has seen a number of projects completed during the year by the Skreens Park Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART) who have collectively provided around 600 volunteer hours.



The projects undertaken include completion of a hammock village (see picture), refurbishment of the shooting range, construction of a bridge to access the backwoods area, clearing a path to allow Openreach access to a telegraph pole, clearing the trees and bushes around The Warren in preparation for the planned redevelopment and filling in the car park potholes. A fire risk assessment of the site was also undertaken during the year, to ensure that everything is up-to-date and compliant.

A further recent development has been inclusion of the Roxwell village circular walk footpath, which goes through Skreens Park and has resulted in better links being created with the neighbouring community.

The site has an ongoing program of renewal and replacement for the activity equipment used, with new buoyancy aids, canoes, air rifles, and archery equipment purchased during the year. We also took the opportunity to replace the site's 30-year-old tractor which is used to cut the grass, providing improved reliability and operator comfort. A massive thanks goes to the volunteer grass cutting team who work endlessly to keep the grass cut throughout the season; something that the spring wet weather made all the more challenging !



The site has also run Archery and NRSA instructor courses, First Aid training and Tomahawk courses, with all being very well supported. These are an additional source of revenue to help fund further development without placing a strain on County financial resources.

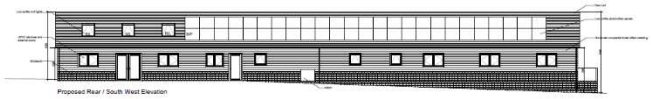
Two activity days were run in the spring, as an opportunity to show off the site and

give Scout sections the chance to visit and take part in activities either as a section or as an individual. This was also the chance for the site's staff to put all their pre-season training into practice. These events were very well attended and the feedback very positive.

The Skreens Park Management Committee, working with the County Trustees and Staff, have continued to progress work on plans for replacement of The Warren building (which is no longer fit for use) and the provision of a new purpose-built storage and maintenance building.

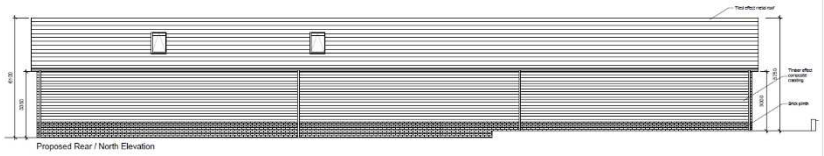
During the year, Planning Permission was obtained for a new accommodation block to replace The Warren (similar in design to The Leaman building – see proposed elevations), with detailed plans having subsequently been developed, ahead of them being submitted for building regulations approval. It is anticipated that construction will commence towards the end of 2024.





Planning approval was also obtained for a new Storage and Maintenance Barn (see proposed elevations), which will be used to store the sites machinery and equipment, enabling improvements to be made to the wet weather/activity barn and for it to revert to its intended use. The new facility will also contain a volunteer/ meeting room, for use by those who support the site, as well as the staff for meetings. Structural Engineers have been instructed to develop the detailed plans and move to the next stage.





During the year, Openreach delivered fibre broadband to the boundary of the Skreens Park Activity Centre site, as part of the Government's intention to roll out fibre broadband to rural areas. As a result, we have been able to connect the site to the national fibre network and cease our historic reliance on an old wireless system that was fed from a tower block in Chelmsford. The opportunity was also taken to upgrade the sites Wi-Fi and phone system, with our thanks to Ryan Ward for managing this change. As a result, Pat and the team now have a more reliable broadband and telephone system, which are used daily to support management of the bookings.

We continue to develop the sites eco credentials, with wilding strips established again for 2024, resulting in us seeing more exciting wildlife on site, including Salamanders, toads, frogs and slow worms as well as there being a huge increase in the number and variety of flying insects now spotted around the site, such as butterflies' moths etc. As part of the volunteer work weekends, work has been undertaken to plant more trees to help screen and shelter the boundary, as well as fencing being erected around the mighty Oak tree at the entrance, with this recently being subject to a Tree Preservation Order by Chelmsford City Council. In addition, further trees are to be planted as part of the proposed building work, with the Warren replacement building also having an Air-Source Heat Pump installed, together with Solar Panels to heat the water. We will also be harvesting the rainwater, which will be used to flush the toilets.

Skreens Park is managed by the Skreens Park Management Committee, chaired by Paul Walker, supported by Neil Bleakley and the volunteer Skreens Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART ASU). The Trustees say a huge thank you to them all, together with our paid staff team, for their continued dedication and support in helping to make Skreens Park Activity Centre the success it is.

THANK YOU

The next year will see the County implementing the final changes required as part of the Scout Association's Transformation Programme, with the County's Transformation team working with and providing support to Districts and Groups as they move forward.

We continue to have a shortage of adult volunteers across the County to work with our young people and will use the Growth and Development Officer to help Districts and Groups to recruit new volunteers to grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing Groups in identified communities/areas of need across Essex. There are people out there who, if asked, would be willing to help, so why not make use of one of the new County volunteer recruitment tool kits and pop the question to anyone who shows interest ?

Essex continues to be one of the largest Scout Counties in the country, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. We have seen excellent and innovative examples of what our volunteers do to continue providing Scouting to our young people at a time when they most needed it. You continue to be our greatest asset.

The Trustees thank all of the brilliant supportive volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure so many of the young people of all ages can continue to experience the amazing Scouting adventure both here in the UK and overseas.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL – KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK !

Paul J Stennett
County Chairman
July 2024

Report of the County Treasurer

It gives me great pleasure to present the accounts of the Essex County Scout Council for 2023/24. During the year there was a deficit on normal activities on the General Fund of £24,254.

The County's annual subscription for 2024/2025 has been increased to £3.50, an increase of 50p, which continues to be heavily subsidised by the County's reserves with a deficit budget of £62k set for the year. The budget for the year reflects the Transformation changes to Scouting in the UK which have started to take place. New teams have been created and therefore new budgets allocated. The deficit budget reflects the trustees desire to encourage the transition and keep scouting within Essex an affordable option for all families. This commitment is reflected in the creation last year of the County Support Fund and the Inclusivity Fund (see note 17).

The census for January 2024 showed an increase of just over 2% of young people over the previous year, increasing from 14,353 to 14,693. This continued growth is most encouraging. The 2024 County Census is included with the main accounts for information.

The balance on the General Fund stands at £158,736. This is more than sufficient to cover one year's expenditure and any contingencies arising during a year. The County Trustee Board continues to monitor the reserves on an on-going basis as outlined in the Reserves Policy below.

Skreens Park Activity Centre continues to grow and has made a surplus of c£68k, which is a great achievement and a reflection of the efforts made by Pat Bailey, Operations Manager, Paul Walker and Neil Bleakley, Chairman of the Skreens Park Management Committee together with the rest of the team, both the permanent staff and volunteers.

The County Headquarters and Training Centre at Thriftwood continues to be well supported. During the year this made a surplus of c£31k which is the result of the hard work and dedication of all of the team.

The other Designated Funds are used to make funding available for the benefit of Essex Scouting generally. During the year, the Grants Board approved grants of £49k.

Two new Funds were established last year, the County Support Fund and the Inclusivity Fund. Grants totally £1,638 were approved from the County Support Fund. The County Grants Board distributed most of the Inclusivity Fund in the previous year for attendees at the 2023 International Jamborees in North Korea and North America. The Inclusivity Fund has increased this year and will be used

to support young people and leaders with their fundraising efforts to attend future overseas Jamborees.

The loan to 1st Corringham Scout Group remains within the debtors on the balance sheet. In 2022, the County Trustee Board agreed to lend £50,000 to 1st Corringham Scout Group to enable them to complete the rebuilding of their Group Headquarters. The loan is repayable over 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. and a minimum repayment of at least £5,000 per year.

During the year interest rates rose and we took full advantage of this by opening a new fixed rate bank account. Interest earned during the year totalled c£28k. Using this money to pay for audit fees and insurances enables the County to keep its annual subscription low.

Details of the Audited Accounts, Notes and Auditor's Report are set out elsewhere in this document.

On behalf of the County Trustee Board, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the County in the past year. I would like to thank everyone involved in Essex scouting for the dedication that they give and the trustee board for welcoming me and supporting me. Special thanks must go to Wendy Bye, County Bookkeeper for all her help, dedication and patience and Paul Stennett, Chairman for listening and advising and always being there to help. Without their support, this job would not have been possible.

Reserves Policy

Reserves represent that part of the Charity's Unrestricted Funds that are freely available to spend and enable the County Trustee Board to fulfil its overall responsibilities. Whilst these responsibilities are mainly 'what ifs', the reserves should be sufficient to cover most eventualities and enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis and cover any contingencies should they arise.

During the year, the Trustees undertook a review of the level of reserves required by County, taking into account the County's experience over the last three years, as a result of Covid and the financial crisis. The review identified that the County Reserves Policy needs to take into account both general expenses for running the County (assessed at c£100k pa) and also the level of reserves required to support Skreens Park Activity Centre. The Trustees agreed that the level of reserves should be sufficient to enable the County to continue supporting Skreens Park and enable an orderly wind-down of the operations, in the event it is decided to cease trading. To achieve this, we would probably look to honour bookings for a period of, say, three months, to prevent the need for us to have to refund forward bookings for which money has already been received. To enable this to happen,

we would require sufficient funds to be able to pay staff and utility bills etc. for the period, with an amount of £100,000 required to achieve this. Funds held in the Designated Reserve for Skreens Park should be taken into account when calculating this figure.

Taking the above into account, it was agreed that the level of reserves held should be an absolute minimum figure of £200k, being deemed sufficient to enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis. The level of Reserves may be varied by the Trustee Board, if it identifies a longer-term project in which it might wish to invest, that seeks to further the objectives of Essex Scouting.

The Capital Development Fund is used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre, although other projects across the County can be considered, when identified. The balance on the Capital Development Fund is not funded from the membership fee, but from external grant monies received, particularly from the Norman Garon Trust. As a result, the balance has slowly increased over recent years and is now at a level where the Trustees are considering the next project to progress. Other earmarked reserves are maintained at a level to enable the specific objectives of those funds to be carried out.

Reserves will always be held as liquid assets in accounts regulated by appropriate banking institutions and governed as part of the investment policy.

The Trustees monitor the level of reserves on a regular basis.

Risk Assessment Policy

The County Trustees and Lead Volunteer are committed to conducting its undertaking in a manner that protects the health and safety of its employees, members, contractors and the public. In addition to complying strictly with the health and safety measures required by legislation, it is the Council's policy to promote and take all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its employees, members and others who may be affected by its actions.

To meet the requirements of this policy the Trustees and Lead Volunteer will work with all employees, volunteer leaders and other relevant parties to strive for continuous improvement in Health and Safety Executive performance. They will operate an integrated, structured and documented system of management control over all its operations. This system of control commits the County Trustee Board to:

- Undertaking appropriate reviews and assessments of its operations and undertakings to measure progress, manage risk, and ensure compliance with

this policy and that of The Scout Association.

- Setting up and maintaining safe and healthy systems of work to protect all county employees, members and others, including the public.

- Making all reasonable endeavours to ensuring that its county employees and volunteer leaders are fully competent to perform the tasks allocated to them by careful recruitment, ongoing training and development, and by provision of the necessary resources.

- Maintaining the health and safety awareness of all county employees and volunteer leaders by the establishment of sound health and safety practices and operations through competent management and good communications, leading to continuous improvement in health and safety performance.

- Ensuring that the contractors we directly engage are competent to perform the work contracted and encouraging good safety practice within such companies in compliance with this policy.

- Effective response to investigation of accidents and incidents and, to establish where appropriate root causes and take reasonable actions to prevent their reoccurrence.

To achieve this, the County Trustee Board will work within the policies and procedures as laid down by The Scout Association and encourage and support all Districts in so doing. The County Lead Volunteer will provide information to, and ensure appropriate consultation with, county employees and volunteer leaders on matters relevant to this policy.

Prime responsibility for these matters lies with the Trustees and the County Lead Volunteer and his Team; all other employees and volunteer leaders equally have responsibility for matters within their control. They have a duty to ensure that health and safety issues are always given the fullest consideration, and for providing a safe and healthy working environment for their employees and members.

In addition, all employees and volunteer leaders have a responsibility to themselves and others for the safety and prevention of ill health at work. We must all work together in the spirit of participation and co-operation to ensure the success of this Policy.

Lisa Sloan ACCA
County Treasurer

Independent Auditor's Report to Members of Essex County Scout Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex County Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity'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 Charities Act 2011.

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 auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the original financial statements were

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 auditor's report 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Report) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; 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 (set out on page 4), the trustees 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor 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 an auditor’s report 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:

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with Trustees and other management, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector.
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the charity, data protection, employment and health and safety legislation.
- We assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management.

We assessed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur by;

- Making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud.
- Considering the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we;

- Performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships
- Tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions
- Investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the charity to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the charity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control thatwe identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters we are required to state to trustees 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 charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr LLP

146 New
London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

Date: 29 August 2024

Edmund Carr LLP is eligible for appointment as auditor of the charity by virtue of its eligibility for appointmentas auditor of a company under section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from::					
Donations and legacies	2	301,451	-	301,451	279,006
Charitable activities	3	1,343,219	-	1,343,219	655,986
Other trading activities	4	32,314	-	32,314	33,075
Investment income	5	27,957	-	27,957	5,236
Other income		-	-	-	100,170
Total income		1,704,941	-	1,704,941	1,073,473
Expenditure on: Charitable activities	7	(1,510,245)	(1,638)	(1,511,883)	(806,703)
Total expenditure		(1,510,245)	(1,638)	(1,511,883)	(806,703)
Net income/(expenditure)		194,696	(1,638)	193,058	266,770
Net movement in funds		194,696	(1,638)	193,058	266,770
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		2,530,400	49,800	2,580,200	2,313,430
Total funds carried forward	17	2,725,096	48,162	2,773,25	2,580,20

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods. The funds breakdown for 2023 is shown in note 17.

The notes on pages 34 to 46 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	**1,574,363**	1,574,363
Current assets			
Stocks	13	**11,822**	9,988
Accrued Income	14	**14,636**	37,124
Prepayments	14	**283,269**	397,194
Loan receivable	14	**40,000**	45,000
Pension Contributions	14	**18**	-
Cash at bank and in hand	15	**2,683,046**	1,357,908
		3,032,791	1,847,214
Sundry creditors	16	**(40,516)**	(34,020)
Provisions	16	**(10,848)**	(13,679)
Accruals	16	**(56,475)**	(19,618)
Deferred income	16	**(1,726,057)**	(774,060)
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	**(1,833,896)**	(841,377)
Net current assets		**1,198,895**	1,005,837
Net assets		**2,773,258**	2,580,200
Funds of the charity:			
Financed by			
General funds		**158,736**	182,990
Designated funds		**991,997**	773,047
Restricted Funds		**48,162**	49,800
Total usable reserves		**1,198,895**	1,005,837
Capital financing reserve		**1,574,363**	1,574,363
Total funds	17	**2,773,258**	2,580,200

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 29 August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Paul Stennett
County Chairman

Lisa Sloan ACCA
County Treasurer

The notes on pages 34 to 46 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds for the reporting year		193,058	266,770
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	5	(27,957)	(5,236)
		165,101	261,534
Working capital adjustments			
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	13	(1,834)	1,668
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	14	141,395	(311,025)
Increase in creditors	16	40,522	10,102
Increase in deferred income		951,997	524,340
Net cash flows from operating activities		1,297,181	486,619
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	5	27,957	5,236
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		1,325,138	491,855
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		1,357,908	866,053
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		2,683,046	1,357,908

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The notes on pages 34 to 46 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

(i) Statement of compliance
These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention and, other than disclosed below, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 issued on 1st January 2019.

(ii) Basis of preparation
The accounts relate to the activities of the Essex County Scout Council and do not include the accounts of any of its individual Scout Groups or Districts within the County, each of which are set up as stand alone charities. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(iii) Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

(iv) Income and endowments
All incoming resources including government grants, are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Annual subscriptions received in respect of the following year and income for events in a future period is treated as deferred income (receipts in advance).

(v) Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

(vi) Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for events in future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which it has been received.

(vii) Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category.

(viii) Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

(ix) Support costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

(x) Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

(xi) Taxation
Essex County Scout Council is a registered charity and is not subject to corporation tax on itscharitable activities.

(xii) Tangible fixed assets
Tangible assets are divided into two categories:

- Freehold and leasehold land and buildings
- Equipment

The costs of equipment are written off and expensed in the year of acquisition and not held as assets in the balance sheet. All other fixed asset additions, whilst treated as an expense in the year of acquisition, are carried in the balance sheet at historic cost and the benefit recorded in the Capital Financing Reserve. On this basis no depreciation is provided.

The Trustees consider this conservative treatment to be appropriate for the charity as it is in line with the treatment of assets in the public sector. The Trustees have conducted an impairment review and consider that thecurrent value of the buildings is in excess of cost.

(xiii) Stock
Stocks held at Skreens Park are valued at cost.

(xiv) Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts dueaccording to the original terms of the receivables.

(xv) Cash and cash equivalents
Cash comprises cash held in bank current and deposit accounts.

(xvi) Trade creditors
Creditors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(xvii) Fund structure
The General County Fund is an unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees inthe furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Details of the nature and purpose of the Designated Funds are set out in note 18.

Restricted Funds are subject to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. Details of the nature andpurpose of the Restricted Funds are set out in note 18.

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations & legacies	560	741	-	1,301
Norman Garon Trust	242,899	57,101	-	300,000
Special Needs	150	-	-	150
Total for 2024	243,609	57,842	-	301,451
Total for 2023	238,659	1,347	39,000	279,006

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
HQ Subscriptions	5,741	546,850	552,591	495,450
Less HQ Subscriptions paid	-	(509,532)	(509,532)	(455,814)
County subscriptions	5,741	37,318	43,059	39,636
Major Events and International	4,170	828,508	832,678	248,921
County activities	454,979	7,781	462,760	350,046
Other income	-	4,722	4,722	17,383
	459,149	841,011	1,300,160	616,350
Total Charitable Activities	464,890	878,329	1,343,219	655,986

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Trading income;			
Shop sales	32,314	-	32,314
Total for 2024	32,314	-	32,314
Total for 2023	33,075	-	33,075

5 Investment income	Unrestricted Designated £	Funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Other Interest receivable on bankdeposits	2,373	25,584	-	27,957
Total for 2024	2,373	25,584	-	27,957
Total for 2023	4,045	1,191	-	5,236

6 Other income

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Skreens Park Insurance claim		100,170

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
County activities		307,876	12,563	1,638	322,077
Major Events and International		16,967	901,977	-	918,944
Staff costs		196,455	-	-	196,455
Support Costs		2	25,778	-	25,780
Governance costs		2,646	45,981	-	48,627
Total for 2024		523,946	986,299	1,638	1,511,883
Total for 2023		496,693	300,810	9,200	806,703

	Note	Unrestricted funds Designated £	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
County activities		321,618	10,341	9,200	341,159
Major Events and International		34,956	227,467	-	262,423
Staff costs		140,117	-	-	140,117
Support costs		2	27,466	-	27,468
Governance costs		-	35,536	-	35,536
		496,693	300,810	9,200	806,703

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds
	Designated	General	
	£	£	£
Audit fees			
Audit of the financial statements	-	7,493	7,493
Other fees paid to auditors	-	5,199	5,199
Other governance costs	2,646	33,289	35,935
Total for 2024	2,646	45,981	48,627
Total for 2023		35,536	35,536

The governance costs have been allocated based on gross expenditure of the activities. The total fees payable to the auditor amount to £7,500 in respect of audit services (2022/23- £7,140). £1,000 of these fees were recharged to the Essex International Jamboree, with the balance relating to the cost of auditing the County accounts only.

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

Two of the Essex County Scout Council Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £1,296 (two trustees received £855 in 2022/2023).

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	184,313	131,967
Social security costs	8,947	6,055
Pension costs	3,195	2,095
	196,455	140,117

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management/leadership team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No	No
Average	10	8

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

12 Tangible fixed assets

St Lukes Camp Site, Skreens Park, Roxwell is a freehold property (52 acres and 3 acre lake) acquired in 1971. The historic value of the site and buildings is £1,555,193.

Thriftwood County Headquarters and Training Complex is a leasehold property (peppercorn rent) of 6 acres built in 1966 at a cost of £19,170 (99- year lease).

The buildings at the two sites are currently insured for £4,149,082.

The current value of equipment, vehicles andstocks for insurance purposes is £635,542.

An analysis of the fixed assets, shown at cost, is set out below.

A survey of the properties was carried out by David Dedman FRICS on 15th November 2021 and confirmedthat the insured values of the properties is in line with current re-build costs.

Skreens Park Activity Centre	**2024**	**2023**
Skreens Park - Site	11,615	11,615
Skreens Park - Leaman House	286,081	286,081
Skreens Park -Tinley House	249,353	249,353
Skreens Park - Camp Shop	27,085	27,085
Skreens Park - New Toilet & Shower Block	306,065	306,065
Skreens Park - Wet Weather Block	16,896	16,896
Skreens Park - Climbing Wall	46,765	46,765
Skreens Park - Crew Quarters	184,186	184,186
Skreens Park - Bungalow	5,236	5,236
Skreens Park - High Ropes Course	301,911	301,911
Skreens Park - Land for access road	120,000	120,000
	1,555,193	**1,555,193**
Thriftwood		
Thriftwood - Training Centre	19,170	19,170
	19,170	**19,170**
Total	**1,574,363**	**1,574,363**

13 Stock

	2024	**2023**
	£	**£**
Stocks- Skreens Park Shop	11,822	9,988

14 Debtors

	2024	**2023**
	£	**£**
Prepayments	283,269	397,194
Accrued income	14,636	37,124
Pension debtor	18	-
Loans receivable	40,000	45,000
	337,923	479,318

The Loans Receivable figure on the balance sheet is the current outstanding balance of £40,000 of a loan made to 1st Corringham Scout Group in 2022 to enable them to complete the re-build of their Headquarters. The loan, originally of £50,000 is repayable within 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. There is a minimum repayment of £5,000 per year.

15 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Operational accounts		
Barclays Current No 1 Account	27,447	43,853
Barclays Deposit Account	17,435	417,435
CAFCash Main (Current) Account	33,414	46,958
CAFCash Gold (Deposit) Account	496,654	501,615
CAFCash Skreens (Current) Account	54,641	8,333
CAFCash Skreens Gold (Deposit) Account	109,871	47,358
United Trust Charity 6 Month Bond	406,382	-
	1,145,844	1,065,552
Essex International Jamboree		
CAFCash EIJ Main (Current) Account	73,452	51,879
CAFCash EIJ Gold (Deposit) Account	1,424,555	48
	1,498,007	51,927
Barclays Current - No 2 - Internationals Account	39,195	228,887
Cash held by activity		
Archery - Activity Team Bank Account Current	-	1,090
Caving - Activity Team Bank Account Current	-	3,423
Mountains - Activity Team Bank Account Current	-	5,327
Site Services - Activity Team Bank Account Current	-	1,523
Bushcraft - Activity Team Bank Account	-	179
	-	11,542
Total cash	2,683,046	1,357,908

As part of the Transformation changes the County Activity Teams separate accounts have been closed and fundstransferred to the County General Fund.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sundry creditors	40,516	34,020
Provisions	10,848	13,679
Accruals	56,475	19,618
Deferred income	1,726,057	774,060
	1,833,896	841,377

Deferred income	2024	2023
	£	£
Skreens deposits	50,451	69,992
Youth Programme	26,173	629,623
Girlguiding Essex	82,696	31,387
Annual Subscriptions	-	43,059
Essex International Jamboree	1,566,737	-
	1,726,057	744,060

The Youth Programme amounts relate to monies received in advance for future Overseas Jamborees.

Girlguiding Essex is their proportion of the current balance on the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) accounts, together with loans of £45K made to the EIJ in advance of the 2024 Jamboree.

Annual subscriptions in 2023 relate to the 2023/24 year. £509,532 was paid to Headquarters during March 2023. In 2024 these amounts were not received and paid over to Headquarters until April 2024 and, therefore, there was no income in advance for 2024.

Essex International Jamboree relates to booking income received in advance of the event taking place in August 2024.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General funds	182,990	924,935	(949,479)	290	158,736
Designated					
Building Fund	31,554	5,741	(22,342)	-	14,953
County Development Fund	456,348	222,899	(52,344)	-	626,903
Norman Garon Fund	43,081	20,000	(30,529)	-	32,552
Special needs	8,361	150	-	-	8,511
Memorial funds	178,790	-	(2,646)	-	176,144
Activity teams	9,608	494	(9,812)	(290)	-
Essex International Jamboree	(5,446)	1,610	(16,967)	-	(20,803)
Skreens Park	17,645	466,504	(398,551)	-	85,598
Thriftwood	32,371	58,475	(27,575)	-	63,271
Inclusivity Fund	735	4,133	-	-	4,868
	773,047	780,006	(560,766)	(290)	991,997
Total unrestricted funds	956,037	1,704,941	(1,510,245)	-	1,150,733
Restricted funds					
County Support Fund	49,800	-	(1,638)	-	48,162
Other funds					
Capital financing reserve	1,574,363	-	-	-	1,574,363
Total funds	2,580,200	1,704,941	(1,511,883)	-	2,773,258

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General funds	223,192	288,608	(300,810)	(28,000)	182,990
Designated					
Building Fund	26,345	14,242	(9,033)	-	31,554
County Development Fund	254,426	201,922	-	-	456,348
Norman Garon Fund	45,360	20,375	(22,654)	-	43,081
Special needs	8,166	195	-	-	8,361
Memorial funds	176,864	1,926	-	-	178,790
Activity teams	11,293	13,589	(15,274)	-	9,608
Essex International Jamboree	(9,140)	5	(4,311)	8,000	(5,446)
Skreens Park	(12,466)	444,177	(414,066)	-	17,645
Thriftwood	15,027	38,910	(21,566)	-	32,371
Inclusivity Fund	-	10,524	(9,789)	-	735
	515,875	745,865	(496,693)	8,000	773,047
Total unrestricted funds	739,067	1,034,473	(797,503)	(20,000)	956,037
Restricted					
County Support Fund	-	39,000	(9,200)	20,000	49,800
Other funds					
Capital financing reserve	1,574,363	-	-	-	1,574,363
Total funds	2,313,430	1,073,473	(806,703)	-	2,580,200

Designated Funds

(1) Building Fund- is financed by a 40p per head levy on the membership fee. The County Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards building projects.

(2) Capital Development Fund- used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre. During 2023/2024, the Trustees progressed plans for redevelopment of The Warren building at Skreens Park, with planning permission obtained from Chelmsford City Council and the Architect and Structural Engineer instructed to develop detailed plans. It is anticipated that development will commence during the 2024/25 financial year. In addition, an architect was instructed to produce revised plans for development of a new Maintenance and Storage Barn at Skreens Park, which would enable the sites machinery and equipment to be stored in one place, as well as providing a rest facility for our volunteer team. A planning application was submitted in March 2024, with planning approval received June 2024. Costs relating to these two projects have been funded from the capital Development Fund.

(3) Norman Garon Grants Fund- The County Grants Board administers funds made available annually by the Norman Garon Trust. The County Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards new buildings, repairs, equipment and a new group or section start ups.

(4) Special Needs Fund- financed by bequests and donations. The County Grants Board consider applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with special needs.

(5) The Memorial Fund- established in 2010/11, following the receipt of 2 substantial legacies.

(6) Activity Teams- income and expenditure during 2023/2024 of the Activity Teams, including joint ventures. The individual County teams include Archery, Caving, Mountaineering, Service Team and Bushcraft.

(7) The Essex International Jamboree Fund- this is used to finance the Jamboree held jointly with the three Guide Counties of Essex, every four years. The fund represents the Essex County Scout Council share of the deficit carried forward as a result of the cancellation of the 2020 Jamboree offset by loans from the General Fund.

(8) Skreens Park- a sub-Committee of the County Trustee Board manages Skreens Park Activity Centre. A separate Designated Fund is maintained for its financial activities, other than major capital expenditure, which is financed from the Capital Development Fund. Upgrades to the site and activities have continued to be carried out by the permanent staff and volunteers,

(9) Thriftwood- A separate designated fund is maintained for its financial activities.

(10) Inclusivity Fund-established to provide financial assistance to young people attending Overseas Jamborees, using funds from within existing provisions and donations.

Restricted Funds

County Support Fund- The County Executive believes that Finances should not be a barrier for a young person or our adult volunteers to take part in Scouting. As a result, a Restricted Fund has been established, using available funds, to support Members of Essex Scouting through the provision of financial assistance to those Districts/Groups/Units/Individuals where financial support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures and enable them to continue their Scouting journey.

Other Funds:

Capital Financing Reserve- see note 12 to the financial statements for further explanation of this fund.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Other funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General £	Designated £	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,574,363	1,574,363
Current assets	240,719	2,743,911	48,162	-	3,032,792
Current liabilities	(81,983)	(1,751,914)	-	-	(1,833,897)
Total net assets	158,736	991,997	48,162	1,574,363	2,773,258

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Other funds	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General £	Designated £	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	1,574,363	1,574,363
Current assets	882,123	915,292	49,800	-	1,847,215
Current liabilities	(699,133)	(142,245)	-	-	(841,378)
Total net assets	182,990	773,047	49,800	1,574,363	2,580,200

19 Related party transactions

The Trustees have donated £1,238 (2022/23 - £759) to the Charity without conditions.

Two of the Trustees are also Trustees of the Norman Garon Trust (registered charity 1120656) which donated £300,000 to Essex County Scout Council during the year (2022/23 £250,000)

During the previous year the charity paid Masons Audit Ltd £888 for payroll services. Bob Bye was a Trustee ofthe charity and a director of Masons Audit Ltd. There were no transactions for Masons during this year as the payroll is now completed by another firm who purchased the clients of Masons Audit Ltd.

Wendy Bye is the County Bookkeeper which is a paid, self employed part-time role. During the year her company was paid £10,260 (2022/23 £7,708). Wendy is the wife of Bob Bye, the County Lead Volunteer.

Statement of Financial Activities by fund for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	301,451	240,006
Charitable activities	1,343,219	655,986
Other trading activities	32,314	33,075
Investment income	27,957	5,236
Other income	-	100,170
Total income	1,704,941	1,034,473
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(1,510,245)	(817,503)
Total expenditure	(1,510,245)	(817,503)
Net income	194,696	216,970
Net movement in funds	194,696	216,970
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	2,530,400	2,313,430
Total funds carried forward	2,725,096	2,530,400

	Total Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Restricted Funds 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies	-	39,000
Total income	-	39,000
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities	(1,638)	10,800
Total expenditure	(1,638)	10,800
Net (expenditure)/income	(1,638)	49,800
Net movement in funds	(1,638)	49,800
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	49,800	-
Total funds carried forward	48,162	49,800

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:		
Donations and legacies (analysed below)	301,451	279,006
Charitable activities (analysed below)	1,343,219	655,986
Other trading activities (analysed below)	32,314	33,075
Investment income (analysed below)	27,957	5,236
Other income (analysed below)	-	100,170
Total income	1,704,941	1,073,473
Expenditure on:		
Charitable activities (analysed below)	(1,511,883)	(806,703)
Total expenditure	(1,511,883)	(806,703)
Net income	193,058	266,770
Net movement in funds	193,058	266,770
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	2,580,200	2,313,430
Total funds carried forward	2,773,258	2,580,200

	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies		
Donations and legacies	301,451	279,006
	301,451	279,006
Charitable activities		
HQ Subscriptions	43,059	39,636
Major Events and International	832,678	248,921
County Activities	462,760	350,046
Other Income	4,722	17,383
	1,343,219	655,986
Other trading activities		
Skreens - Shop sales	32,314	33,075
	32,314	33,075
Investment income		
Investment income	25,584	1,191
Skreens - Bank interest	800	4,045
EIJ bank interest	1,573	-
	27,957	5,236
Other income		
Skreens - Other Income	-	100,170
	-	100,170
Charitable activities		
Activities undertaken directly	(1,241,021)	(603,582)
Allocated support costs	(25,780)	(27,468)
Staff costs	(196,455)	(140,117)
Auditors' remuneration	(12,692)	(6,140)
Other governance costs	(35,935)	(29,396)
	(1,511,883)	(806,703)

Annual Census and Subscriptions - March 2024

		2023 Census numbers				2024 Census numbers				2024 Subscriptions Received - Young People			Increase/(Decrease)			
		Young People	Network	Adults	Total	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	HQ Fee	County Levy	Total	Young People	Network	Adults	Total
Districts										**£37.50**	**£3.50**	**£41.00**				
	Basildon	384	28	207	619	414	8	204	626	£23,475	£2,191	£25,666	30	(20)	(3)	7
	Billericay & Wickford	678	11	203	892	663	7	211	881	£33,038	£3,084	£36,121	(15)	(4)	8	(11)
	Braintree	645	2	183	830	754	17	236	1,007	£37,763	£3,525	£41,287	109	15	53	177
	Brentwood	672	4	293	969	717	0	302	1,019	£38,213	£3,567	£41,779	45	(4)	9	50
	Castle Point	746	3	226	975	749	3	239	991	£37,163	£3,469	£40,631	3	0	13	16
	Chelmsford and District	1,868	20	516	2,404	1,982	9	571	2,562	£96,075	£8,967	£105,042	114	(11)	55	158
	Colchester Estuary	791	0	267	1,058	746	0	255	1,001	£37,538	£3,504	£41,041	(45)	0	(12)	(57)
	Colchester North	876	16	285	1,177	1,102	22	314	1,438	£53,925	£5,033	£58,958	226	6	29	261
	Crouch Valley	864	100	213	1,177	850	7	241	1,098	£41,175	£3,843	£45,018	(14)	(93)	28	(79)
	Halstead & Colne Valley	340	0	110	450	0	0	0	0	£0	£0	£0	(340)	0	(110)	(450)
	Harlow	436	0	122	558	432	0	121	553	£20,738	£1,936	£22,673	(4)	0	(1)	(5)
	Hatfield Forest	541	0	169	710	490	0	154	644	£24,150	£2,254	£26,404	(51)	0	(15)	(66)
	Maldon & East Essex	832	0	216	1,048	884	0	248	1,132	£42,450	£3,962	£46,412	52	0	32	84
	Royal Forest	923	2	248	1,173	832	0	282	1,114	£41,775	£3,899	£45,674	(91)	(2)	34	(59)
	Saffron Walden	622	15	193	830	788	12	215	1,015	£38,063	£3,553	£41,615	166	(3)	22	185
	Southend Estuary	637	11	179	827	664	10	196	870	£32,625	£3,045	£35,670	27	(1)	17	43
	Southend West	811	18	316	1,145	878	13	387	1,278	£47,925	£4,473	£52,398	67	(5)	71	133
	Tendring	579	12	232	823	628	5	231	864	£32,400	£3,024	£35,424	49	(7)	(1)	41
	Thurrock/Stanford Le Hope	1,108	8	432	1,548	1,120	6	383	1,509	£56,588	£5,282	£61,869	12	(2)	(49)	(39)
	Districts Total	14,353	250	4,610	19,213	14,693	119	4,790	19,602	£735,075	£68,607	£803,682	340	(131)	180	389
County	Activity Teams, Network etc	0	0	82	82	3	3	138	144			£0	3	3	56	62
	Adventures Offshore	0	0	48	48	0	0	44	44			£0	0	0	(4)	(4)
	Essex County	0		0	0	0	0	0	0			£0	0	0	0	0
	County Total	0	0	130	130	3	3	182	188			£0	3	3	52	58
	Grand Total	14,353	250	4,740	19,343	14,696	122	4,972	19,790	£735,075	£68,607	£803,682	343	(128)	232	447



Front Cover – County Marathon
Back Cover – Fireworks at closing ceremony of the 2024 Essex International Jamboree
Photography by Essex Scouts Media Team

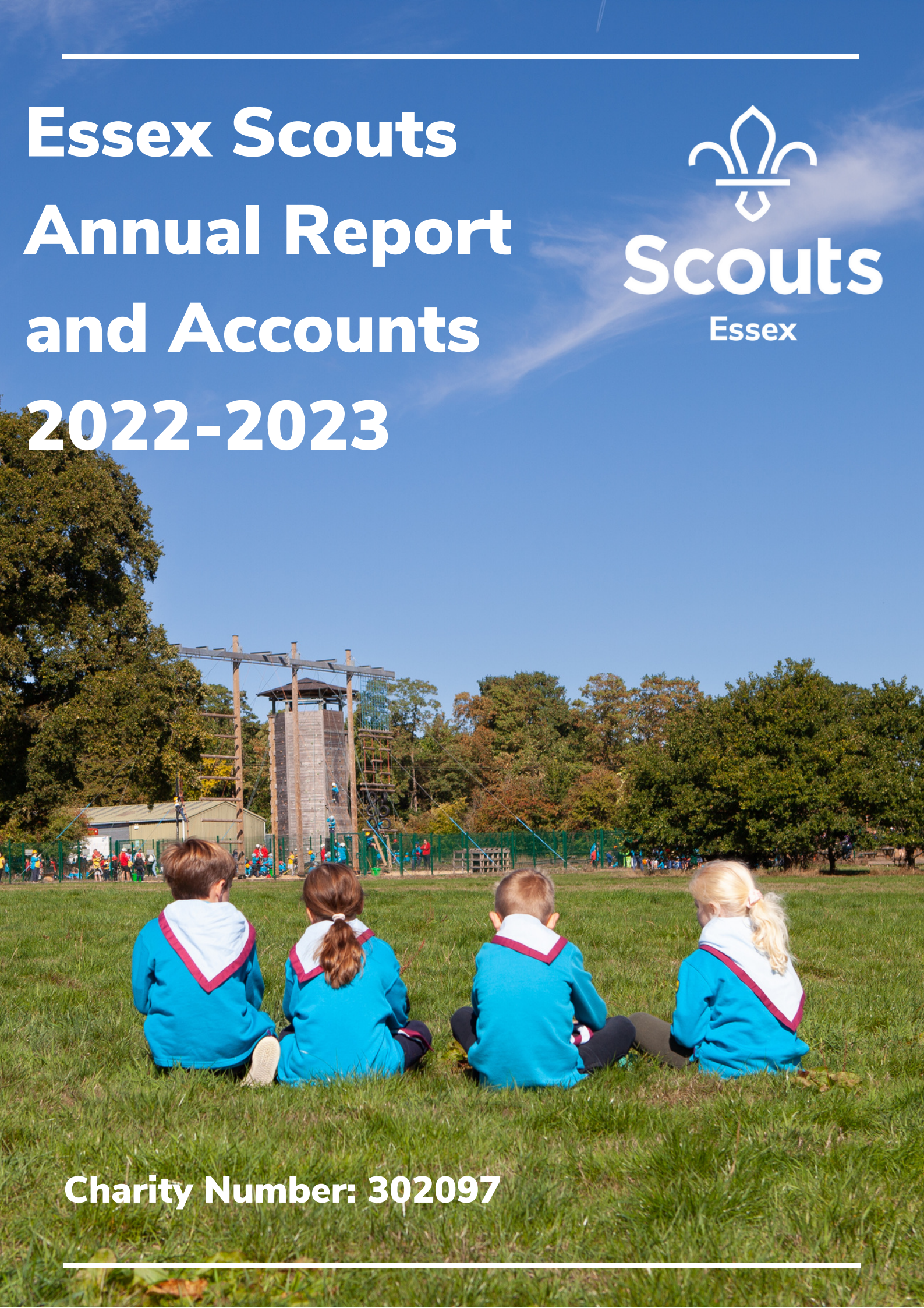
ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302097

Accounts

Essex Scouts Annual Report and Accounts 2022-2023

Scouts
Essex



Charity Number: 302097

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 18th, July 2023 7.30pm
Skreens Park Scout Activity Centre
Skreens Park Road, Chelmsford Essex CM1 4NL

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Scouts
Essex

The Essex County Scout Council is a Trust established under the rules of The Scout Association. Trustees are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Essex County Scout Council

President
The Lord Petre, KCVO, DL

Vice Presidents
J C Bailey
G Courtauld OBE, DL
B J Cousins
L A Jordan, DL
M C Treacher, MBE

Bankers
Barclays Bank
2 High St
Chelmsford CM1 1BG

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Caxton Payments Ltd
2 Leman Street
London, E1 8FA

Auditor
Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford CM2 0AW

Insurance Brokers
Merenda & Co Ltd
34 Ness Road
Shoeburyness
Essex SS2 9DF

Contact Address
County Secretary
132 Cedar Road
Canvey Island
EssexSS8 9HS
secretary@essexscouts.org.uk

The County Executive

Ex-officio Trustees
P J Stennett, County Chairman
R A Bye County Commissioner (Interim from 17/1/22 – Permanent from 1/6/22)
A Maclachlan, County Secretary
P W Murray, County Treasurer
Miss A Sturgeon, County Youth Commissioner (Until 26/2/23)

Nominated Trustees
B Bye (Until 1/6/22)
Miss L Crane
Miss C Dell
Mrs S Griffiths
P Walker
M Brace (from 13/9/22)

Elected Trustees
C Dear (Until 13/9/22)
M Falder
J Freake
T Humphries (From 13/9/22
R Lyon (Until 13/9/22)
G Monk
S Petherbridge (From 13/9/22)

Co-opted Trustees
T Humphries (Until 13/9/22)
L Sloan (co-opted as County Treasurer 20/11/22)
K Daykin-Woodberry (co-opted as County Secretary 20/11/22)

Charity Registration No: 302097

Scout Association No: 117

Online
www.essexscouts.org.uk
facebook.com/essexscouts
twitter.com/essexscouts
instagram.com/essexscouts

Trustee's Report from the County Executive Committee

Scouting is a movement powered by the kindness and commitment of our volunteers, who make a difference to the young lives in our communities.

Our Vision

By 2025 we'll have prepared more young people with Skills for Life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring program.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our Mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, by sharing in spiritual reflection and by taking responsibility. They make choices, undertake new and challenging activities, and they live their Scout Promise.

Our Values

We act with care, respect, integrity, co-operation, exploring our own and others beliefs.

Our Three Pillars of Work

To support the movement to achieve its goals, we ensure that our:

- Programme – is fun, enjoyable, high quality delivered and supported by simple (digital) tools.
- People – are well trained, better supported and more motivated, include more young persons from diverse backgrounds.
- Perception – that scouting is understood, more visible, trusted, and respected playing a key role in society today.

Our Goal

Our aim is to build on the success of the previous plan: to continue to grow, become more inclusive, to be shaped by young people and to make a bigger impact in our communities.

The Essex Scout County comprises of 20 Districts, one of which is devoted purely to Sailing. Within the remaining 19 Districts there are 246 Scouts Groups with a total of c4,600 Adult volunteers delivering quality Scouting based programmes. The Trustees also acknowledge that a "simple thank you" to the Leaders and administrators across the County, does not wholly cover the required level of appreciation needed for their support and generosity in giving their spare time to volunteer to the Sections, Groups, Districts and Units within the County.

The County Executive team are empowered to provide governance and resources to support the Groups/District's Adult volunteers and Administrators.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the Advancement of Education and the Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit by:

- Supporting young people to develop their full potential, through the Scouting programme.
- Undertaking all Scouting activities with full consideration for the health and safety of all participants.
- Our members making the Scout Promise to be able to benefit from full scouting membership.
- The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting being in the 4 - 25 years age range.
- Being an inclusive organisation, with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable by all members, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay. Arrangements are in place to assist those who are unable to pay their annual membership and other costs.

Structure, Governance and Management

Essex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the County, and operates in accordance with a written Constitution. It is the body to which the County Executive Committee (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the County Trustees are shown on page 2. The Trustees are appointed annually at the Annual General meeting of the County Scout Council, either by election or by nomination, and may also be co-opted by the County Executive Committee during the year.

Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, and are able to benefit from training provided by the County Training Team or e-learning packages from The Scout Association website. The County Executive Committee promotes Trustees responsibilities to both District and Groups and compliance is monitored. We ensure that young people are involved in decision making, with two 18 – 25 year olds being members of the County Executive Committee and 18 - 25 year olds also represented on the various County Executive sub-committees. Young people are also given opportunities across the County to become Leaders of the Future, leading to better retention of young people through adult volunteering.

The County Executive Committee met 5 times during the year, by a mixture of face to face and Zoom meetings. The County Executive Committee is supported by a number of sub-committees and boards, consisting of Finance (including the County Grants Board), Appointments Advisory, Skreens Park Activity Centre, and Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre. The County Scout Council receives substantial support from a large number of volunteer helpers. There are c150 members of the County Team and other advisors directly supporting the County Scout Council. None of these volunteers receive any payments for services rendered. The principal sources of the Scout Council's income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, together with grants and donations from public bodies, trusts and individuals.

The County Executive Committee remains focused and fully committed to Safety and Safeguarding with processes in place to monitor compliance with mandatory training for all Adults throughout the County. We have a Health & Safety (H&S) Professional in the Team who has compiled a comprehensive H&S document, as well as providing practical help and guidance to the Groups and Districts around the County.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102). Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Annual Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks (as set out in the Risk Assessment Policy on page 19).

Reserves Policy

Reserves represent that part of the Charity's Unrestricted Funds that are freely available to spend and enable the County Executive to fulfil its overall responsibilities. Whilst these responsibilities are mainly 'what ifs', the reserves should be sufficient to cover most eventualities and enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis and cover any contingencies should they arise.

The Trustees agreed that we are not looking to increase the level of reserves above their current level, with an absolute minimum figure of £100k being deemed sufficient to enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis. The level of Reserves may be varied by the Executive Committee if it identifies a longer-term project in which it might wish to invest, that seeks to further the objectives of Essex Scouting.

The Capital Development Fund will be used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre, although other projects across the County can be considered, when identified. Other earmarked reserves are maintained at a level to enable the specific objectives to be carried out.

Reserves will always be held as liquid assets in accounts regulated by appropriate banking institutions and governed as part of the investment policy.

The Trustees monitor the level of reserves on a regular basis.

Achievements and Performance

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Immediately prior to our 2022 AGM, the Nation and our Movement were shocked and saddened by the death of our dearly loved Monarch and our Patron. May she rest in the Peace of the God in whom she put her trust and from whom she drew such strength. She was an outstanding example to us all, encapsulating all the qualities of duty and service to God, the nation and other people, as summarised in our Promise and Law. At our AGM, as a mark of respect on Her Majesty's passing, we held a minutes silence and also pledged our allegiance to our new King, Charles III by singing the National Anthem.

As a County, we were honoured to be asked to send a number of Scout representatives in support of the c200+ contingent of Scouts from across the UK, to act as stewards as part of the Lying-on-State for the late Queen Elizabeth II. The Scouts were the only uniformed organisation asked to undertake such duties, so it was a great honour for the Association.

Originally, Essex Scouts were asked to send five representatives and subsequently received a request for an additional three, which we were able to support. They spent a week based at Scout Headquarters at Gilwell Park where they undertook some training ahead of being deployed at Westminster, with them transferred into London each day for their 8 hour shifts, providing 24 hour cover for the duration of the Lying-on-State. As a County, we covered all of their out of pocket expenses, with some of them also given leave of absence by their employers to enable them to be part of the team.

As an organisation, we were extremely proud and honoured to be able to represent the County at such a major event and have presented each of the young people with a "Commissioners Commendation" in recognition of their service to Scouting and the Nation.



Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

The County was approached by headquarters and asked to forward details of Queen's Scout Award Holders who attained their award in the last 3 years and are under 25, to potentially help at the king's Coronation on 6th May 2023. Essex Scouts eventually sent three representatives to act as stewards on the day.

Malcolm Treacher MBE

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Malcolm Treacher MBE, a stalwart of Essex Scouts, on May 22 2023, at the age of 93, following a short stay in hospital.

Malcolm joined Scouting in 1942 at the age of 11 at the 1st Stansted Group. He was appointed as the Essex County Organising Commissioner in 1967, this being one of the first full-time posts in the country, with him serving in this capacity until his retirement in 1994. Throughout his Scouting career, Malcolm took a special interest in Scouting with the disabled, working with two special groups for over 20 years and serving on County and National Teams devoted to this area of working with young people.

Malcolm's other roles include Chelmsford District President, as the Essex County Secretary for 6 years and as a member of the County Grants Board for over 50 years. In 2000, he added the role of County Archivist.



Malcolm was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1991 for his services to The Scout Association – an award that was very well deserved and reflective of his support for Scouting in Essex. He was awarded Scouting's highest honour, The Silver Wolf, in 1982 and also received his 70 year's service to Scouting award.

We are so grateful for everything that Malcolm did for Scouting within Essex and further afield. The time and dedication he has given to us over the years cannot be overstated - his actions will have benefitted so many of our young people. Malcolm will be greatly missed by all who knew him and remembered fondly. He has 'Gone Home' – may he rest in peace.

Review of the Year

In 2022, a County Development Day was held with Team Essex (consisting of the members of the County Executive Committee, together the Essex Senior Management Team and District Commissioners), to identify what we need to do to move Scouting in Essex forward and produce a County Development Plan.

During the year, progress has been made in implementing the various actions that came out of the day:

Creation of a Vision Statement for Essex Scouts

"Essex Scouts will be the best in providing safe, fun and quality scouting for all young people across the County."

Providing support to Groups and Districts with Adult recruitment

- Recruitment Tool Kits – Four toolkits were purchased by the County, each consisting of a Gazebo, free-standing roller banners, feather flags and leaflets, with these being strategically located around the County for use by local Districts and Groups.
- Growth and Development Project - The Trustees agreed an extension to the project currently underway within the County, by funding a full-time paid Growth and Development Officer (GDO) beyond June 2023. The GDO plays a key role in the recruitment and support of local adults, Young Leaders (14-18) and Scouts volunteers to grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing groups in identified communities/areas of need across Essex, with several successes, to date.

Improving Communications and making it more targeted i.e. "Right message to the right people!"

- Mailing List – Full analysis of the County mailing list has been undertaken, to ensure that all Adults have a valid email address and identify where further work is required, to ensure that all adults are included.
- Essex Plus – Regular Essex Plus emails are being sent with details of news items and updates as well as upcoming events.
- Compass – An exercise is underway to clean-up the contact information for every Adult Volunteer recorded on The Scout Association's Adult Membership database. This work is also supporting the planned migration to the new Volunteer Membership System in early 2024.
- County Directory -The County Directory of contacts was updated and made available via a secure website.
- County Commissioner's Update – A monthly update is issued by the County Commissioner to the members of Team Essex, providing key information and updates, particularly where action is required, so as to focus attention where something needs doing.

Providing support for District Youth Commissioners

- A Team Essex Day was held in March 2023, with a focus on the need for Youth Commissioners being appointed and District Commissioners asked to make a Youth Commissioner appointment, if they do not already have one.

Providing ways to give Essex Scout volunteers the recognition they deserve

- Awards Data – Analysis has been undertaken of the County's data relating to awards presented, to identify areas where action is required and the information shared with District Commissioners.
- Awards Committees – District's have been encouraged to establish their own Awards Committee to help identify candidates and submit nominations, with 10 set up, to date.

- Nominations – The District Commissioners were set a Commendation Challenge, whereby they should collectively nominate 100 people for a Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service by the end of 2022, by targeting those with 5-15 years service who have not previously received a Good Service Award, with an uplift seen in the number of nominations submitted.

Big Events came back!

As reported last year, after a break of 2 years, in 2022 we were able to run the large County Events planned for each Section, with them all being well attended.

The events completed were:

- ESSEX WEEKEND - An event open to families, friends and teams, which aims to bring all volunteers from across Essex Scouts together to experience new activities and socialise. There were 400 attendees over the weekend.
- MEGA CAMP – a multi-activity weekend for Cubs, with a Pirates theme attended by c2,200+ Cubs and Leaders.
- EPIC – An activity and adventure weekend for Scouts to try new things, with c600 participating.
- BEAVERS IN TENTS - An 'Under the Sea Adventure' themed weekend with activities and a chance for Beavers to meet new people, sleep in a tent and collect badges.
- COUNTY MARATHON - A Hiking event for all Explorer Scouts, Network and Leaders in the Derbyshire hills, with c200 joining-in.





International Events

The Essex Scouts Expedition 2023 (ESEx23) programme was developed and launched in the Autumn of 2021, with the aim of providing 3 high quality international experiences for as many of the young people who expressed an interest to go abroad with Essex Scouts in 2023. As a result, this summer will see over 230 Explorer Scouts aged between 14-18 plus 40 adult leaders leave Essex for one of the three adventures:

- 25th World Scout Jamboree - 90 young people from Essex together with their 10 leaders will be attending the 25th World Scout Jamboree in South Korea to join with 30,000 Scouts from around the world for 12 days of camping and activities, followed by 5 days in Seoul.
- North America - 100 young people and 24 leaders will be going on an epic adventure in North America visiting New York, Toronto, Niagara and participating in a 5 day kayaking or hiking adventure.

- Jersey - Closer to our UK shores, there will be 32 young people and 8 leaders going camping in Jersey for 9 days with a day trip to Saint Malo in France.

The participants and leaders for all 3 trips have been actively involved in 4 training camps to ensure that everyone is fully prepared for the challenges and adventures that await them. Not long to go now !
On behalf of all those going on these trips, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, Groups and Districts for supporting them in their many fundraising activities. Also, Essex Scout Council set up an Inclusivity Fund, with match funding obtained from the Essex Community Foundation, to support further those who were experiencing problems with raising the funds.

We wish all of the young people and leaders well for their adventures and know that the ESEx2023 programme will have a positive impact on them.

Essex International Jamboree

What is the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ)? Put simply, it's an enormous camp for Scouts and Guides from around the world; which lasts 1 week, but takes years to plan. It's a famous event in the Scout and Girlguiding world, and is renowned for being one of the best Jamborees.

In 2016, we saw 10,000 Scouts and Guides (including over 2,000 adult volunteers) come together, making international friendships and challenging ourselves with over 100 activities from abseiling to zorbing. Unfortunately, due to COVID, we were not able to run the 2020 event and so are aiming for 2024 to be even more successful than before and look forward to welcoming all those planning to attend.

Detailed budgets and cash flows were presented to the Scout and Guide Trustees towards the end of 2022, when it was agreed to continue with planning for the 2024 event, subject to various checks being in place to monitor progress. Throughout the year, the Trustees continued to receive regular progress updates from the EIJ team as planning for the event continued.

The event is held in a huge field every four years at Boyton Cross near Chelmsford, Essex, which is only 40 miles from London and it's major transport hubs. This 120-acre green field is transformed by 1,500 volunteers into a fully operational tented village. By this we mean it has all the facilities you'd expect - water, showers, toilets, electrics, communications, food distribution, health and welfare services and even a beach!

On Saturday 27th July 2024, our Jamboree will open again to 10,000 Scouts and Guides from all over the world to camp together for a week of fun, discovery and adventure, embracing the spirit of Girlguiding and Scouting.

We have a varied and exciting selection of activities including a range of adventurous, creative and cultural activities following the Scout and Guide programme, as well as opportunities to meet new friends from around the world. In the evening, the Jamboree becomes even more vibrant with lots of different entertainment venues and activities.

The 2024 Essex International Jamboree promises to be an unforgettable experience, providing skills for life, building new friendships, and memories to last a lifetime.

The EIJ organizing team is led by Paul Walker and Karen Packer, who have continued in their roles as Joint Jamboree Chiefs to arrange the 2024 event.

The arrangements have been made and the booking system opened at the end of May 2023, with the main event happening 27th July to the 3rd August 2024, to provide another unforgettable seven days and nights, bringing Scouts and Guides together from across the UK and around the world.

Our thanks go to Paul, Karen and the EIJ team for their hard work and dedication as they finalise their plans for the 2024 event.

Transformation

Since the Scout Association's Skills for Life Strategy was launched, steps taken by Counties, Districts and Groups have helped to equip many more young people with skills for life through our amazing programme, supported by our incredible volunteers. During the pandemic, however, we couldn't carry on as normal. We rallied and responded to the challenge, adapting Scouting to meet new realities, including moving meetings online. Doing all of that was tough. It also meant pausing full implementation of the Skills for Life Strategy.

We're now on the front foot and, as we look to the future, with a renewed appreciation that Scouting has never been more needed, it's time for us to recommit to implementing our Skills for Life Strategy.

In driving forward our Skills for Life Strategy (through to 2025), the Scouts are embarking on a positive and engaging period of change. We want to continue offering high quality, safe and engaging programmes to our 14,500+ young people in Essex, whilst making it easier for people to volunteer and creating a warmer welcome for our new volunteers.

To support implementation of the planned changes, James Hopkins has been appointed as the County Transformation Lead, with him building a small team to turn information from Scout Headquarters into a local change plan for Essex, with the implementation to occur from April 2023 through to March 2025. James and a team from Essex attended the National Basecamp 22 event in May 2022, to learn about the proposed strategy.

In October 2022, we held a Team Essex day at Skreens Park Activity Centre, to inform the District Commissioners and Trustees of the planned changes, with a heavy focus on Transformation. An Essex Basecamp event was held at Essex University in December 2022, bringing together adult volunteers from across the whole County with c500 attendees, with a series of seminars and workshops laid on informing attendees about the proposed changes and boarding them onto the transformation journey within Essex.

A series of periodic communications have been sent over the last year, announcing the new team members, providing a broad headline summary of the forthcoming changes to all Members; by way of introduction to the transformation journey and detailing how to contact the Transformation Team.

The communications are co-ordinated with those issued from Headquarters; as far as is possible.

A further Team Essex Day was held in in March 2023, providing a Roadmap for Change which gave more detail about what to expect for the remainder of 2023 and 2024.There was also a focus on the need for Youth Commissioners being appointed, with District Commissioners asked to make a Youth Commissioner appointment, if they do not already have one.

The team have delivered a regular monthly series of Webinars, which are open to all adult volunteers in Essex and providing the latest information on various topics and outlining actions for all to take. Progress has been made on developing the new County Structure, with it planned to be launched in July 2023.

A series of District Cohort Workshops have been set-up, with them being an intensive and focused day to enable each District to leave with a re-designed District (based on the new structures and team-based approach); and clear actions on how they will implement it, where the key issues and risks are for them and the recruitment they made need to do.

The change for Executive Committees to becoming Trustee Boards has been split into two parts, with the name changing to Trustee Boards in April 2023 and further changes to the Board make-up due in 2024.

Focus is now also turning to getting ready for the new digital adult membership system, which is planned to go-live from February 2024, with training and videos to be available in late 2023, as we gear up for the system switchover.Work has already started on cleaning-up the existing data, ahead of it being migrated to the new system, to ensure that the transition is as smooth as possible.

Essex is making great progress on its transformation journey, which has been recognised by Headquarters. The feedback being provided by our Transformation Team, combined with Essex being ahead of the curve are directly shaping the national rollout of the changes and has seen us be asked to co-ordinate and support the Eastern Region Transformation Leads.

Our thanks go to James and the Transformation Team for their hard work and dedication in managing this process across the County and setting us well-placed for implementing the changes.



C.H.A.P.S. Team Report

The C.H.A.P.S. Team is a small group of volunteers who look after the maintenance of the County Headquarter and Training Centre at Thriftwood Campsite, Brentwood. Currently there are thirteen permanent members led by Bill Marshall.

Several small jobs, particularly urgent ones have been done throughout the year but the main work was done during April and December when the Team took over the whole complex for two weeks each time. In total the team gave 1,135 hours of service and completed over 149 pieces of work. A lot of the work is general maintenance such as repairing broken items, painting and clearing up mess left by inconsiderate people, but some stand out; welding 15 broken skid chairs, rebuilding the two trolleys in the camp store, fitting the (last) two windows into the kitchen of the main building and replacing all the carpet tiles in the corridors of MacFarland and Barcwood (see picture).



Our thanks goes to the C.H.A.P.S. team for their hard work and dedication in maintaining the Thriftwood County Complex. Thanks also go to Graham Monk, who has taken over as Chair of the Thriftwood Management Committee.

Heritage Centre Team Report

During the year, a small Heritage Team of 8 members has spent a significant amount of time sorting out what we have in the County Archives, bringing it together in a set of displays. The Heritage Centre was formally opened on 13th May 2023 by Caroline Pantling, Head of Heritage Services at Scout Headquarters, with it planned that the team will publish some dates and times that the Heritage Centre will be opened for visits. This resource will be used to educate our young People on Scouting's past in Essex and how we have changed as a progressive modern movement. It will also act as a resource for Scout Groups and Districts to research their early years.

The team continues to sort out of what we have and hope to properly start cataloguing each item when the time can be found, remembering that all the team are volunteers and also have other scouting roles as well as families and jobs.

The Trustees are grateful to the County Archive team for the hours they have put in ahead of the facility opening. The generous support provided by Malcolm Treacher is also acknowledged, with the County Archives being something that Malcolm started several years ago.

Grants Board

The role of the County Grants Board, which is a part of the Finance Sub-Committee, is to consider applications and distribute grants to Groups, Districts and Individuals seeking financial support, with the grants used for a variety of purposes. The most common are start-up grants, support for building work (which includes major repairs and new build), as well as replacement of kit used for adventurous activities. There is also a small amount of money to support those with additional needs. Two new funds were set-up during the year, namely the County Support Fund to ensure those most affected by cost-of-living rises can continue to participate in Scouts and the County Inclusivity Fund to assist participants attending County level overseas events.

All grants have one key objective, which is to enhance the benefits that Scouting brings to young people in Essex.

Funds available to the Grants Board are made up of The Norman Garon Trust, the County Building Fund (CBF), the Additional Needs Fund (ANF) the Covid Fund (CF), the County Support Fund (CSF) and County Inclusivity Fund (CIF).

The CBF is funded from County Membership fees, the ANF from donations. The CF is the residue from donations and is a shrinking fund. The CSF is funded entirely from County resources and CIF is funded from the donations and match funding received from the Essex Community Foundation.

Over the past year there have been seventeen start-up grants paid out, three for Squirrel Scout Dreys, six for Beaver Scout Colonies, four for Cub Scout Packs, three for Scout Troops and one for a new Explorer Scout Unit, totalling £3,200.

Building and Equipment grants have been paid out, amongst other things, for a new roof to a Scout Headquarters, a new kitchen extract system, a trailer, new lighting and a vehicle tow bar, totalling over £10,654, with further commitments to pay made of over £28K.

Inclusivity grants totalling £18,789 have been allocated, with £200 paid from the County Support Fund.

Altogether, the Grants Board has allocated over £32,000 worth of grants to Essex Scouts this year, with further commitments to pay over £28,000.

No grant requests have been received for Additional Needs support or for Covid related needs.

Skreens Park Activity Centre

2022/2023 has been a regenerative year, being our first full year clear of Covid restrictions, with the site returning a modest surplus, which can be ploughed back into further enhancements on the site.

An incident occurred in August 2022, when a contractors vehicle struck the Tinley building causing considerable disruption with the main hall closed for 5 months whilst repairs were undertaken. The team took this opportunity to paint the building throughout, replace the main hall floor and install a new pathway outside. The main damage claim was settled in full by the contractor's insurance, which also included a sum for business interruption.

The site saw unprecedented popularity with Scouts, Guides, Duke of Edinburgh groups, schools and corporate customers. Notably, we have also seen an increase in the public use of activities as well as an increase in the use of the site by schools with additional needs students.

Overseen by Pat Bailey the staff team has been bolstered to 10 including, 2 apprentices on a new training scheme. The staff worked tirelessly to fulfil the bookings, especially during the busy periods when they pulled out all the stops to deliver a massive range of activities, as well as spending time working across the site to keep on top of essential maintenance and repairs.

The site saw a number of notable projects being completed, including construction of a new jetty at the lake, to increase water sports usage. New fire bases have been put in to accommodate an increase in the number of Scouts, Guides and Youth Groups returning to camp. The SMART ASU volunteer team continue to assist completing many jobs across the site, including a newly refreshed rifles range. A massive thanks goes, as always, to the volunteer grass cutting team who work endlessly to keep the grass cut throughout the season, something that this springs wet weather has made all the more challenging !

The site has also seen considerable input from other volunteer groups including World Jamboree attendees who helped maintain the Chapel and volunteers from Ford who painted all the windows on Tinley.

The site has also offered Archery and NRSA instructor courses, with First Aid and Tomahawk courses booked for the future. This has bought lots of new faces from different areas to the site, with plans to continuing offering training courses going forward.

The Management Committee, working with the Trustees and Staff, continue to work on plans for redevelopment of the Warren and the provision of a new purpose built storage building, as well as introducing new activities such as a pedal car track. Next on the agenda for 2023, is the creation of a hammock village.

Plans to develop Skreens eco credentials are being delivered with last years wilding strips seeing more exciting wildlife being found on site including Salamanders, toads, frogs and slow worms as well as a huge increase in the number and variety of flying insects now spotted around the site, such as butterflies moths etc. Beavers and Explorers also worked together to plant around 400 trees to help screen and shelter the boundary.

Skreens Park is managed by the Skreens Park Management Committee, chaired by Paul Walker, supported by Neil Bleakley and the Skreens Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART ASU) and a huge thank you goes to them all, together with our paid staff team, for their continued support and commitment.

THANK YOU

The next year will see the County starting to implement the changes required as part of the Scout Association’s Transformation Programme, with the County’s Transformation team working with and providing support to Districts and Groups as they move forward.

We continue to have a shortage of adult volunteers across the County to work with our young people and will use the Growth and Development Officer to help Districts and Groups to recruit new volunteers to grow and develop new provision, and strengthen existing Groups in identified communities/areas

of need across Essex. There are people out there who, if asked, would be willing to help, so why not make use of one of the new County volunteer recruitment tool kits and pop the question to anyone who shows interest?

Essex continues to be one of the largest Scout Counties in the country, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. we have seen excellent and innovative examples of what our volunteers do to continue providing Scouting to our young people at a time when they most needed it. You continue to be our greatest asset.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL!

Paul Stennett

Paul J Stennett
County Chairman
June 2023









Report of the County Treasurer

It gives me great pleasure to present the accounts of the Essex County Scout Council for 2022/2023.

During the year, there was a deficit on normal activities on the General Fund of £12k. The budget for the year was deliberately set as a deficit of £54k, to reduce the surplus on the General Account which had built up over previous years. The deficit during the year, arose mainly from the setting up of a Transformation Team (£9k) to oversee the changes to Scouting in the UK which will be taking place over the next few years. With the ending of restrictions due to Covid, there was a full programme of activities during the year (see note 19).

The 2023 Annual County Census showed an increase of over 1,000 young people over the previous year, which is most encouraging. A summary of the 2023 Census is included at the end of this report, for information.

The Trustees also agreed to loan the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) £8k to help with the preparations for the 2024 event. As a result of these transfers, the balance on the General Fund stands at £183k. This is more than sufficient to cover one year's expenditure and any contingencies arising during a year. The County Executive continues to monitor the reserves on an on-going basis as outlined in the Reserves Policy. The County's annual subscription for 2023/2024 has been held at £3, with a deficit budget of £52k set for the year, to enable some of the General Reserves to be returned to Scouting in Essex.

Skreens Park Activity Centre, which was fully open for the year, made a surplus of £30k, which is a great achievement and a reflection of the efforts made by Pat Bailey, Operations Manager, Paul Walker, Chairman of the Skreens Park Management Committee together with the rest of the team, both the permanent staff and volunteers. A budget was set for the year at a deficit of £8k, because of the uncertainty over whether the site would be able to open fully or function at all. In the event, the Government restrictions were removed, and a full programme of activities was possible. However, there was an unfortunate incident in August 2022, where a lorry accidentally rolled into the Tinley Building, which put the hall out of action for several months. Fortunately, no-one was injured. The resulting effect on activities was minimalised by the actions of the staff and erection of a marquee, as a replacement for the damaged hall. The contractors were fully insured, with the building repairs completed in February 2023 and the building reopened. Financial loss was mitigated, with a successful claim being made for Business Interruption. During the year, the opportunity was taken to undertake various refurbishment and renovation work. The site shop made a surplus of £14k.

Thriftwood is now a Designated Fund and continues to be well supported. The CHAPS team have done sterling work in undertaking various maintenance and improvements. The new Heritage Centre was opened in May 2023.

The other Designated Funds are used to make funding available for the benefit of Essex Scouting generally. During the year, the Grants Board approved grants of over £50k, notwithstanding the reduced number of applications. Details of all these grants can be found in notes 9 to 13.

Two new Funds were established during the year, namely the County Support Fund and the Inclusivity Fund.

- The County Support Fund is available to Districts, Groups or individuals where financial support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures. This was set up by the County Executive following a generous donation from The Norman Garon Trust and supplemented by using available reserves from the General Fund. This is a Restricted Fund. (see notes 13 and 23).

- The Inclusivity Fund is used to help young people and leaders with their fundraising efforts to attend overseas Jamborees. This Fund has two elements, a Designated Fund and a Restricted Fund . The Designated Fund was set up using accrued funds from previous overseas trips, supplemented by generous donations from Bill Marshall and Masons accountants. This was matched by a grant from the Essex Community Foundation which was deemed by the County Executive to be a Restricted Fund. Both Funds are administered by the Grants Board. The County Grants Board distributed most of the Fund for the 2023 International Jamborees in North Korea and North America. (see notes 13, 22 and 23).

The various donations received during the past year, are shown in note 4, and are very gratefully acknowledged.

During the previous year, the County Executive agreed to lend £50,000 to 1st Corringham Scout Group, to enable them to complete the rebuilding of their Group Headquarters. The Group had encountered some unforeseen problems during the re-build that had cost them in excess of £100k over their original budget. The loan is repayable over 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. and a minimum repayment of at least £5,000 per year. This amount is shown within debtors on the balance sheet.

Details of the accounts, notes and Auditor's Report are set out elsewhere in this document.

A full review of finances was undertaken during the year, to assess the effect of the pandemic on the County's financial position and our ability to fulfil our obligations going forward. It concluded that there were sufficient funds available for the County to meet its ongoing financial commitments and be able to continue supporting scouting within Essex for the foreseeable future. As mentioned above, a deficit budget for 2023/2024 has been agreed to help reduce the current surplus in the General County Fund.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the County in the past year. Personally, as all probably know, I have decided to retire as County Treasurer after some 10 years. I would like to wish my successor, Lisa Sloan, best wishes and good luck for the future. I would also like to thank our Chairman Paul Stennett and my assistant Wendy Bye for all their support; without them my job would have been impossible.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Trustees and Commissioners are committed to conducting its undertaking in a manner that protects the health and safety of its employees, members, contractors and the public. In addition to complying strictly with the health and safety measures required by legislation, it is the Council's policy to promote and take all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its employees, members and others who may be affected by its actions.

To meet the requirements of this policy the Trustees and Commissioners will work with all employees, volunteer leaders and other relevant parties to strive for continuous improvement in health and safety performance. They will operate an integrated, structured and documented system of management control over all its operations. This system of control commits the Executive Committee to:

- The undertaking of appropriate reviews and assessments of its operations and undertakings to measure progress, manage risk, and ensure compliance with this policy and that of the Scout Association.
- Setting up and maintaining safe and healthy systems of work to protect all county employees, members and others, including the public.
- Making all reasonable endeavours to ensuring that its county employees and volunteer leaders are fully competent to perform the tasks allocated to them by careful recruitment, ongoing training and development, and by provision of the necessary resources.
- Maintaining the health and safety awareness of all county employees and volunteer leaders by the establishment of sound health and safety practices and operations through competent management and good communications, leading to continuous improvement in health and safety performance.
- Ensuring that the contractors we directly engage are competent to perform the work contracted and encouraging good safety practice within such companies in compliance with this policy.
- Effective response to investigation of accidents and incidents and, to establish where appropriate root causes and take reasonable actions to prevent their reoccurrence.

To achieve this, the Executive Committee will work within the policies and procedures as laid down by the Scout Association and encourage and support all Districts in so doing. The Commissioners will provide information to, and ensure appropriate consultation with, county employees and volunteer leaders on matters relevant to this policy.

Prime responsibility for these matters lies with the Trustees and the County Commissioner and his Team; all other employees and volunteer leaders equally have responsibility for matters within their control. They have a duty to ensure that health and safety issues are given the fullest consideration at all times, and for providing a safe and healthy working environment for their employees and members.

In addition, all employees and volunteer leaders have a responsibility to themselves and others for the safety and prevention of ill health at work. We must all work together in the spirit of participation and co-operation to ensure the success of this Policy.

Peter Murray

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY 2022/23

	Notes	General	Designated	Restricted	Total	2021/22
		Note 21	Note 22	Note 23		
		£	£	£	£	£
Income from						
Donations, Legacies and Grants	4	1,347	238,659	39,000	**279,006**	*209,564*
Charitable activities	21/22	286,070	369,916	-	**655,986**	*252,384*
Other trading activities	15	-	33,075	-	**33,075**	*7,392*
Investments - Bank interest		1,191	4,045	-	**5,236**	*161*
Other Income		-	100,170	-	**100,170**	-
Total income		**288,608**	**745,865**	**39,000**	**1,073,473**	*469,501*
Expenditure on						
Charitable activities	2	300,810	477,829	9,200	**787,839**	*289,357*
Other trading activities	15	-	18,864	-	**18,864**	*4,131*
Total expenditure	2	**300,810**	**496,693**	**9,200**	**806,703**	*293,488*
Net income/(expenditure) resources before transfers		**(12,202)**	**249,172**	**29,800**	**266,770**	*176,013*
Transfers between Funds		**(28,000)**	**8,000**	**20,000**	**-**	-
Reconciliation of Funds:						
Total Funds brought forward		223,192	515,875	-	**739,067**	*563,054*
Total Funds carried forward		**182,990**	**773,047**	**49,800**	**1,005,837**	*739,067*

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5		**1,574,363**		*1,574,363*
Current Assets					
Stocks		**9,988**		*11,656*	
Accrued Income		**37,124**		*795*	
Prepayments		**397,194**		*73,895*	
Sundry Debtors	6	**45,000**		*93,603*	
Cash	7	**1,357,908**		*866,053*	
		1,847,214		*1,046,002*	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					
Sundry Creditors		**34,020**		*20,475*	
Provisions		**13,679**		*19,699*	
Accruals		**19,618**		*17,041*	
Receipts in Advance	8	**774,060**		*249,720*	
		841,377		*306,935*	
Net Current Assets			**1,005,837**		*739,067*
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			**2,580,200**		*2,313,430*
Net assets			**2,580,200**		*2,313,430*
Financed by					
General County Fund	20	**182,990**		*223,192*	
Designated Funds	21	**773,047**		*515,875*	
Restricted Funds	22	**49,800**			
Total Usable Reserves		**1,005,837**		*739,067*	
Capital Financing Reserve	5	**1,574,363**		*1,574,363*	
Total Funds			**2,580,200**		*2,313,430*
Charity's Funds			**2,580,200**		*2,313,430*

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 11th July 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:

Paul Stennett

Paul Stennett
County Chairman

Peter Murray

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer

Statement of Cash Flows

	Total Funds	Prior Year	Note
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(488,519)	(167,647)	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	0	0	5
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	0	0	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	491,855	167,647	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	866,053	698,406	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	1,357,908	866,053	7

Reconciliation in net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of reporting activities)	266,770	176,013	SOFA
Adjustments for:			
Purchase of plant and equipment	0	0	
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(1,668)	(1,954)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(311,025)	(135,061)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	534,442	128,649	
Net cash provided by operating activities	488,519	167,647	

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand	1,357,908	866,053	7
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,357,908	866,053	



NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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1. Accounting policies

(i) Basis of preparation
These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention and, other than disclosed in (iv) below, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 issued on 1st January 2019.

The accounts relate to the activities of the Essex County Scout Council and do not include the accounts of any of its individual Scout Groups or Districts within the County, each of which are set up as stand-alone charities. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Income
All incoming resources, including government grants, are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Annual subscriptions received in respect of the following year and income for events in a future period is treated as deferred income (receipts in advance).

(iii) Expenditure
All expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is included as arising and on an accruals basis. All costs, other than governance costs, are directly attributable to specific activities.

(iv) Fixed assets

Tangible assets are divided into two categories:
- Freehold and leasehold land and buildings
- Equipment

The costs of equipment are written off and expensed in the year of acquisition and not held as assets in the balance sheet. All other fixed asset additions, whilst treated as an expense in the year of acquisition, are carried in the balance sheet at historic cost and the benefit recorded in the Capital Financing Reserve. On this basis no depreciation is provided.

The Trustees consider this conservative treatment to be appropriate for the charity as it is in line with the treatment of assets in the public sector. The Trustees have conducted an impairment review and consider that the current value of the buildings is in excess of cost. Latest insured values are shown in note 5.

(v) Stocks
Stocks held at Skreens Park are valued at cost.

(vi) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(vii) Cash
Cash comprises cash held in bank current and deposit accounts

(viii) Creditors
Creditors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(ix) Fund accounting
The General County Fund is an unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Details of the nature and purpose of the Designated Funds are set out in note 22.

Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. Details of the nature and purpose of the Restricted Funds are set out in note 23.

(x) Pensions
The charity operates a defined contribution scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions. Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due.

2. Analysis of Expenditure

	Youth Programme £	Adult Support £	Development £	2023 Total £	*2022 Total £*
Costs of generated funds					
Cost of goods sold	18,864	-	-	18,864	*4,131*
Charitable activities	717,134	32,451	2,718	752,303	*269,009*
Governance costs	33,874	1,533	128	35,536	*20,348*
	751,008	33,984	2,846	787,839	*289,357*
	769,872	**33,984**	**2,846**	**806,703**	*293,488*
Total 2022	*265,892*	*22,460*	*5,136*	*293,488*	

The expenditure in 2022/23 in the Youth Programme Budget reflects the expenses incurred in connection with activities which have resumed after the pandemic and the upgrade/maintenance programme at Skreens Park. There was a full programme of County events as can be seen in Note 19.

3. Analysis of Governance Costs

The governance costs have been allocated based on gross expenditure of the activities. The total fees payable to the auditor amount to £7,140 in respect of audit services (2021/22 - £7,080). £1,000 of these fees were recharged to the Essex International Jamboree, with the balance relating to the cost of auditing the County accounts only.

	Youth Programme	Adult Support	Development	2023 Total	*2022 Total*
	£	£	£	£	£
Governance costs					
Administration expenses	28,021	1,268	107	29,396	*14,268*
Audit fee	5,853	265	22	6,140	*6,080*
	33,874	**1,533**	**128**	**35,536**	*20,348*
Total 2022	*18,408*	*1,579*	*361*	*20,348*	









4. Donations and Grants

The following donations were received during the year.

	£
County Fund	
M. Treacher MBE*	100
J.C.Bailey*	200
P.J.Stennett*	759
G. Courtauld*	100
Various Small donations	188
	1,347
Capital Development Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**200,000**
County Building Fund	
Pension Services Council	**6,840**
Norman Garon Trust Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**20,000**
Special Needs Fund	
Mrs P.A.Turtle*	**150**
Memorial Fund	
Tax refund	**964**
County Support Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**30,000**
Inclusivity Fund	
Essex Community Foundation	9,000
Essex County Scout Council	7,000
W. Marshall*	2,000
Masons	1,500
	19,500
Skreens Park Activity Centre	
Anonymous donations	**205**
Total Donations & Grants 2022/23	**279,006**
2021/22	*209,564*

** Indicates a donation made under gift aid*

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the above donations and thank the donors for their support of Essex Scouting.

5. Fixed Assets

St Luke's Camp Site, Skreens Park, Roxwell is a freehold property (52 acres and 3-acre lake) acquired in 1971. The historic value of the site and buildings is £1,555,193. Thriftwood County Headquarters and Training Complex is a leasehold property (peppercorn rent) of 6 acres built in 1966 at a cost of £19,170 (99-year lease). The buildings at the two sites are currently insured for £3,790,518. The current value of equipment, vehicles and stocks for insurance purposes is £635,542. An analysis of the fixed assets, shown at cost, is set out below.

	Mar 2023 £	*Mar 2022 £*
Skreens Park Activity Centre		
Original acquisition	11,615	*11,615*
Leaman House	286,081	*286,081*
Tinley House	249,353	*249,353*
Camp shop	27,085	*27,085*
Toilet and shower block	306,065	*306,065*
Wet Weather block	16,896	*16,896*
Climbing wall	46,765	*46,765*
Skreens House	184,186	*184,186*
Site Manager's Bungalow	5,236	*5,236*
High Ropes Course	301,911	*301,911*
Land purchase - access road	120,000	*120,000*
Thriftwood		
Original acquisition	19,170	*19,170*
	1,574,363	*1,574,363*

A survey of the properties was carried out by David Dedman FRICS on 15th November 2021 and confirmed that the insured values of the properties is in line with current re-build costs.

6. Debtors

The debtors figure on the balance sheet is the current outstanding balance of £45,000 of a loan made to 1st Corringham Scout Group in 2022 to enable them to complete the re-build of their Headquarters. The loan, originally of £50,000, is repayable within 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. There is a minimum repayment of £5,000 per year.

7. Cash

	2023	2022
	£	£
Operational accounts		
Barclays Current - No 1	43,853	33,208
Barclays Active Saver	417,435	416,805
CAF Bank Cash Main (current)	46,958	66,426
CAF Bank Gold (deposit)	501,615	261,861
CAF Bank Skreens (current)	8,333	3,132
CAF Bank Skreens Gold (deposit)	47,358	5,623
	1,065,552	787,055
Essex International Jamboree		
CAF Bank EIJ Main (current)	51,879	4,517
CAF Bank EIJ Registrations (current)	-	-
CAF Bank EIJ Gold (deposit)	48	48
	51,927	4,565
Barclays Current - No 2 - Jamboree Account	228,887	63,141
Cash held by activity teams		
Archery	1,090	1,249
Caving	3,423	3,892
Mountaineering	5,327	4,264
Site Services Team	1,523	1,708
Bushcraft Team	179	179
	1,357,908	**866,053**

The 2023/24 Annual Subscription, £509,531, was collected and paid to Headquarters in March 2023. The balance on the Barclays no 2 account represents the net cash for Overseas Jamborees received from participants, after paying some of the expenses.

8. Receipts in Advance

Receipts in advance are as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Annual Subscriptions	43,059	39,636
Skreens deposits	69,992	39,004
Youth Programme	629,623	171,080
Girlguiding Essex	31,387	-
	774,060	249,720

Annual subscriptions relate to the 2023/24 year, £509,532 was paid to Headquarters during March 2023 (note 18). The Youth Programme amounts relate to monies received in advance for the three Overseas Jamborees taking place in 2023. Girlguiding Essex is their proportion of the current balance on the Essex International Jamboree (EIJ) accounts together with loans of £45k made to the EIJ in advance of the next Jamboree proposed for the summer of 2024.

9. Capital Development Fund

The Capital Development Fund is a Designated Fund, used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre. During 2022/2023, no capital projects were undertaken. However, the Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £200,000 for which we are most grateful.











10. Norman Garon Grants Fund

The Essex County Scout Council Grants Board administers funds made available annually by the Norman Garon Trust. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards new buildings, repairs, equipment and new group or section start-ups. The Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £20,000. The following grants were approved during 2022/23:

	£	
Start-up grants		
1st Broomfield CS Pack, Chelmsford	200	*
5th Saffron Walden SS Drey, Saffron Walden	200	*
1st Henham and Elsenham BS Colony, Hatfield Fc	200	*
1st Henham and Elsenham CS Pack, Hatfield Fore	200	*
1st Henham and Elsenham S Troop, Hatfield Fore	200	*
East Tilbury, BS Colony, Thurrock	200	*
1st Thaxted-Carver, SS Drey, Saffron Walden	200	*
1st thaxted-Carver, S Troop, Saffron Walden	200	*
Chesterford ES Unit	200	*
14th Westcliff BS Colony, Southend West	200	*
14th Westcliff CS Pack, Southend West	200	*
14th Westcliff S Troop, Southend West	200	*
1st Danbury CS Pack, Chelmsford	200	*
Orsett and Bulphan SS Drey, Thurrock	200	*
3rd Ongar BS Colony, Royal Forest	200	*
	3,000	
Other Grants		
1st Warley - 20ft container	3,000	
Southend Estuary Explorer Scouts - Minibus	2,000	
1st Chesterford - New build	7,000	
1st Weald Brook - Remedial & Security	1,000	
Risden Park - fence	1,000	
Tendring District - new roof	2,000	
County Stores - trailer	3,000	
Scout Pride	654	*
	19,654	
note 22	22,654	

* Paid during the year

Grants approved but not yet spent, are within creditors on the balance sheet.

11. Building Grants Fund

The Building Fund is financed by a 40p per head levy on the membership fee. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards building projects. The following grants were approved during 2022/23:

	£
Grants -approved	
1st Ingatstone & Fryerning - door & lights	1,000
1st Warley - 20ft container	1,033
1st Chesterford - New build	3,000
1st Weald Brook - Remedial & Security	2,000
Risden Park - fence	1,000
Tendring District - new roof	1,000
note 22	9,033

Grants approved but not yet spent, are within creditors on the balance sheet, together with previously approved grants yet to be spent (£1,000).



12. Special Needs Fund

The Special Needs Fund is financed by bequests and donations. The Grants Board considers applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with Special Needs.

No grants were made during 2022/23 (2021/2022 £nil).

13. Inclusivity and County Support Fund

These are two new Funds, both administered by the County Grants Board.

Inclusivity Fund - A Designated Fund was set up to provide financial assistance to young people attending Overseas Jamborees, using funds from within existing provisions and donations. This was matched by the Essex Community Foundation to set up a Restricted Fund for the same purpose. The total of the two Funds amounted to £19,500. Grants totalling £18,789 were approved and paid during March 2023 to 26 individuals.

County Support Fund – The County Executive believes that Finances should not be a barrier for a young person or our adult volunteers to take part in Scouting. As a result, a Restricted Fund has been established, using available funds, to support Members of Essex Scouting through the provision of financial assistance to those Districts/Groups/Units/Individuals where financial support is required, as a result of the increasing cost of living pressures and enable them to continue their Scouting journey. The Fund was donated £30,000 from the Norman Garon Trust which was augmented by £20,000 transfer from the General Fund. One grant has been distributed to date.

14. Activity Teams

An analysis of the income and expenditure during 2022/23 of the Activity Teams, including joint ventures, is shown below. Each of these activities has a separate Designated Fund. The County Activity Teams are separately managed and examined.

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Joint venture with the Guide Association					
Essex International Jamboree	(9,140)	5	4,311	(4,307)	**(13,447)**
Individual County teams					
Archery	1,247	339	1,769	(1,430)	**(183)**
Caving	3,892	-	469	(469)	**3,423**
Mountaineering	4,265	12,650	12,251	399	**4,664**
Service Team	1,710	600	785	(185)	**1,525**
Bushcraft Team	179	-	-	-	**179**
	11,293	13,589	15,274	(1,685)	**9,608**
	2,153	**13,594**	**19,585**	**(5,992)**	**(3,839)**
Total 2021/22	*11,084*	*10,332*	*19,263*	*(8,931)*	*2,153*

The joint venture funds shown above are Essex County Scout's share of the overall available funds. The current proposal is to hold the next jamboree in the summer of 2024.

15. Skreens Park Activity Centre

A sub-Committee of the County Executive manages the Skreens Park Activity Centre. A separate Designated Fund is maintained for its financial activities, other than major capital expenditure, which is financed from the Capital Development Fund (See Note 22). The closing balance on the Activity Centre Fund was a surplus of £17,645 (a deficit of £12,466 in 2021/22).

The site was fully reopened following Covid in 2022/23, and a full programme of activities has been on offer. Upgrades to the site and activities have continued carried out by the permanent staff and volunteers.

The shop was restocked after the previous year and made a surplus of £14,211 (2021/22 - £3,261)

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Opening stock	10,024	9,702
Purchases	18,092	4,453
	28,116	14,155
Closing stock	9,252	10,024
Value of goods sold	18,864	4,131
Sales	33,075	7,392
Surplus/(deficit)	14,211	3,261

16. Employees' remuneration

At 31st March 2023 there were 8 full-time staff.

No Trustee received any remuneration. No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year.

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Salaries	131,967	78,743
Social security costs	6,055	1,065
Pension costs	2,095	1,207
	140,117	81,015

17. Trustees' Expenses

Two of the Essex County Scout Council Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £855 (four Trustees received £889 in 2021/22).

18. Headquarters Subscriptions

During the financial year Essex County Scout Council received the 2023/2024 annual subscriptions in advance from Districts for onward transmission to Scout Headquarters, (see Note 8). These transactions are not reflected in the SOFA. Details are shown below.

	2022/23	*2021/22*
	£	*£*
Gross Receipts	**552,591**	*495,450*
Paid to HQ	**(509,532)**	*(455,814)*
Retained by County	43,059	*39,636*

19. County Activities

An analysis of the income and expenditure of activities, financed through the General County Fund, is shown below:

		Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)
		£	£	£
Beavers:	Beaver Fun Day	11,441	10,726	**715**
Cubs:	MegaCamp 2022	66,966	63,949	**3,017**
		-		-
Scouts:	Backpack 2022	19,775	23,140	**(3,365)**
	Epic 22	33,632	28,148	**5,484**
Explorers:	Birthday Camp	10,356	9,603	**753**
	Voice	660	382	**278**
	First aid Training	70	-	**70**
Network:		86	84	**2**
Essex Weekend 2022		6,706	5,551	**1,155**
Duke of Edinburgh award scheme		5,773	3,934	**1,839**
Finnish Jamboree (KAJO 22)		74,297	75,117	**(820)**
County Marathon		6,540	6,833	**(293)**
		236,302	**227,467**	**8,835**
Total 2021/22		*24,246*	*20,867*	*3,379*

As the County Backpack takes place at the end of March, some of the expenses from the previous year are shown above.

Due to the Covid restrictions no Awards Days have taken place.

There are 3 Overseas Jamborees currently being planned for the summer of 2023: World Scout Jamboree, South Korea, North America, and Jersey. Some 300 young people and leaders are involved.

20. Summary Revenue Account

SUMMARY REVENUE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)	*2021/22*
	£	£	£	£
General County Fund				
Membership Subscriptions	32,385	-	**32,385**	*27,207*
Administration	3,758	49,399	**(45,641)**	*(23,924)*
Local Development	281	2,718	**(2,437)**	*(4,571)*
Adult Training	826	10,885	**(10,059)**	*(7,562)*
Thriftwood County Headquarters			**-**	*15,027*
County Stores	15,056	10,341	**4,715**	*(3,889)*
County Activities	236,302	227,467	**8,835**	*3,379*
	288,608	300,810	**(12,202)**	*5,667*
Designated Funds				
Special Needs	195	-	**195**	*152*
Memorial Fund	1,926	-	**1,926**	*37*
Capital Development	201,922	-	**201,922**	*155,054*
Building Grants	14,242	9,033	**5,209**	*1,926*
Norman Garon Grants	20,375	22,654	**(2,279)**	*10,571*
Thriftwood	38,910	21,566	**17,344**	-
Activity Teams	13,589	15,274	**(1,685)**	*1,846*
Essex International Jamboree	5	4,311	**(4,307)**	*(3,567)*
Skreens Park Activity Centre	444,177	414,066	**30,111**	*4,327*
Inclusivity Fund	10,524	9,789	**735**	-
	745,865	496,693	**249,172**	170,346
Restricted Funds				
Inclusivity Fund	9,000	9,000	**-**	-
County Support Fund	30000	200	**29,800**	-
Total Funds	1,073,473	806,703	266,770	176,013

Adult training is funded through the annual subscription, which enables it to be free at the point of delivery.

21. General County Fund

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2022/23

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't	Adult Training	County Store	Activities (Note 19)	Total	2021/22
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Income from								
Incoming resources from								
Donations legacies & grants	4	1,347					1,347	14,166
Investment income		1,191					1,191	45
Charitable activities								
Subscriptions		32,385					32,385	27,207
Training fees				826			826	1,752
Activity fees						236,302	236,302	24,346
Camp fees and lettings					15,056		15,056	21,297
Other income		1,220	281				1,501	686
		33,605	281	826	15,056	236,302	288,070	75,097
Total income		**38,143**	**281**	**826**	**15,056**	**236,302**	**288,608**	*89,310*
Expenditure on								
Charitable activities								
PR & Recruitment		-	-				-	5,554
Activity costs						227,467	227,467	20,667
Property maintenance					3,669		3,669	15,652
Rates							-	320
Energy and water							-	(7,679)
Catering				53			53	674
Hire of premises				1,637	6,672		8,309	6,666
Travelling expenses				1,154			1,154	1,310
Scout school & Skills training				7,676			7,676	5,519
Essex Pride			2,405				2,405	271
Administration expenses		13,863	313	365			14,541	10,650
Insurances							-	2,762
		13,863	2,718	10,885	10,341	227,467	265,274	63,396
Governance costs								
Committee & meeting expenses		3,518					3,518	2,200
Travelling expenses		175					175	696
Office expenses		404					404	239
Communications team		2,217					2,217	267
Insurances		2,874					2,874	2,736
Accounting costs		7,708					7,708	6,611
Audit fee	3	6,140					6,140	6,050
Conference expenses		678					678	-
Annual report and AGM		1,250					1,250	66
Transformation Team		8,891					8,891	-
Compliance		190					190	-
Other expenses		1,491					1,491	2,566
	3	35,536	-	-	-	-	35,536	20,345
Total expenditure		**49,399**	**2,718**	**10,885**	**10,341**	**227,467**	**300,810**	*83,643*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**(13,256)**	**(2,437)**	**(10,059)**	**4,715**	**8,835**	**(12,202)**	*5,667*
Reconciliation of Funds:								
Balance at 1 April							223,192	226,342
Transfer from General Fund to Designated Funds - Essex International Jamboree							(8,000)	-
Transfer from General Fund to Restricted Funds - County Support Fund							(20,000)	-
Thriftwood balance transferred to Designated Funds								(16,027)
Transfer defunct Activity teams to County General Fund								7,210
							182,990	223,192

Prior Year Comparative: General County Fund 2021/22.

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2021/22

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't Officer	Adult Training	Thriftwood	County Store	Activities (Note 18)	Total	2020/21
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from									
Donations	4	796			13,369			**14,165**	*43,571*
Investment income		48						**48**	*258*
Charitable activities									
Subscriptions		27,207						**27,207**	*54,229*
Training fees				1,782				**1,782**	-
Activity fees							24,246	**24,246**	*19,186*
Camp fees and lettings					13,195	8,102		**21,297**	*5,320*
Other income		361	204					**565**	*356*
		27,568	204	1,782	13,195	8,102	24,246	**75,097**	*79,091*
Total income		**28,412**	**204**	**1,782**	**26,564**	**8,102**	**24,246**	**89,310**	*122,920*
Expenditure on									
Charitable activities									
PR & Recruitment		1,500	4,364					**5,864**	-
Activity costs							20,867	**20,867**	*18,462*
Property maintenance					9,812	5,840		**15,652**	*6,156*
Rates					320			**320**	*203*
Energy and water					(7,579)			**(7,579)**	*8,682*
Catering				674				**674**	*57*
Hire of premises				514		6,151		**6,665**	*6,307*
Travelling expenses				717	593			**1,310**	*678*
Scout school & Skills training				5,819				**5,819**	*8,779*
Essex Pride			271					**271**	-
Administration expenses		3,281	140	1,620	5,609			**10,650**	*3,796*
Insurances					2,782			**2,782**	*2,406*
		4,781	4,775	9,344	11,537	11,991	20,867	**63,295**	*55,526*
Governance costs									
Committee & meeting expenses		2,200						**2,200**	-
Travelling expenses		595						**595**	*180*
Office expenses		239						**239**	*2,818*
Communications team		257						**257**	*588*
Insurances		2,735						**2,735**	*3,239*
Accounting costs		5,611						**5,611**	*4,352*
Audit fee	3	6,080						**6,080**	*6,600*
Conference expenses		-						**-**	-
Annual report and AGM		65						**65**	*9*
Asset software		-						**-**	*2,088*
Other expenses		2,566						**2,566**	*408*
	3	20,348	-	-	-	-	-	**20,348**	*20,282*
Total expenditure		**25,129**	**4,775**	**9,344**	**11,537**	**11,991**	**20,867**	**83,643**	*75,808*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**3,283**	**(4,571)**	**(7,562)**	**15,027**	**(3,889)**	**3,379**	**5,667**	*47,112*
Reconciliation of Funds:									
Balance at 1 April								**225,342**	*178,230*
Thriftwood balance transferred to Designated Funds								**(15,027)**	-
Transfer defunct Activity teams to County General Fund								**7,210**	-
Balance at 31 March - General County Fund								**223,192**	*225,342*

22. Designated Funds

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2022/23

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 9)	N Garon Fund (note 10)	Building Fund (note 11)	Special Needs (note 12)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 14)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Thriftwood	Inclusivity (note 13)	Total	2021/22
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations legacies & grants	4	200,000	20,000	6,840	150	964			205		10,500	238,659	195,399
Other trading activities	15								33,075			33,075	7,392
Investment income		1,922	375	151	45	962			566		24	4,045	113
Other Income									100,170			100,170	-
Charitable activities													
Subscriptions				7,251								7,251	6,420
Activity fees							13,589	5	310,161	38,910		362,665	170,867
		-	-	7,251	-	-	13,589	5	310,161	38,910	-	369,916	177,287
Total income		201,922	20,375	14,242	195	1,926	13,589	5	444,177	38,910	10,524	745,865	380,191
Expenditure on													
Other trading activities									18,864			18,864	4,131
Charitable activities													
Pay, NIC and pension costs	16								140,117			140,117	81,015
Catering for campers									25,234			25,234	7,248
Property maintenance									124,943	14,325		139,268	37,071
Energy and water									39,225	2,940		42,165	20,442
Equipment									41,449			41,449	13,961
Catering for staff & volunteers									340			340	568
Travelling expenses									454	495		949	538
Conference and Training expenses									5,171			5,171	1,576
Office expenses									5,519	850		6,369	5,711
Insurances									7,431	2,956		10,387	7,446
Consultants									1,416			1,416	385
Staff Uniforms									-			-	1,425
Administration expenses									3,903			3,903	2,335
Activity costs							15,274	4,311				19,585	12,053
Grants	9/10/11/12/13		22,654	9,033							9,789	41,476	13,940
		-	22,654	9,033	-	-	15,274	4,311	395,202	21,566	9,789	477,829	205,714
Total expenditure		-	22,654	9,033	-	-	15,274	4,311	414,066	21,566	9,789	496,693	209,845
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		201,922	(2,279)	5,209	195	1,926	(1,685)	(4,307)	30,111	17,344	735	249,172	170,346
Reconciliation of Funds:													
Balances at 1 April		254,426	45,360	26,345	8,166	176,864	11,293	(9,140)	(12,466)	15,027	-	515,875	337,712
Loan from General Fund to Essex Int'l Jamboree								8,000				8,000	-
Thriftwood balance transferred from General Fund												-	15,027
Transfer defunct Activity teams to General Fund												-	(7,210)
Balances at 31 March		456,348	43,081	31,554	8,361	178,790	9,608	(5,447)	17,645	32,371	735	773,047	515,875

Notes 9 to 13 provide details of the significant Designated Funds.

The Memorial Fund was established in 2010/11, following the receipt of 2 substantial legacies. In 2016/17, £190,000 was received as a legacy from the late Laurie Pears' estate. In 2022/23 a tax rebate was received.

The Essex International Jamboree Fund is used to finance the Jamboree held jointly with the three Guide Counties of Essex, every four years. The above represents the Essex County Scout Council share of the deficit carried forward as a result of the cancellation of the 2020 Jamboree offset by loans from the General Fund (also see note 8).

The Inclusivity Fund is a new Fund established to provide financial assistance to young people attending Overseas Jamborees. The fund was set up using surplus funds carried forward from previous International Jamborees, supplemented by a generous donation from Bill Marshall (see notes 4 and 13).

Prior Year Comparative: Designated Funds 2021/22

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2021/22

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 9)	N Garon Fund (note 10)	Building Fund (note 11)	Special Needs (note 12)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 13)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Thriftwood	Total	2020/21
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	4	155,000	20,000		150				20,249		**195,399**	*192,726*
Other trading activities	14								7,392		**7,392**	*515*
Investment income		54	11	6	2	37			3		**113**	*532*
Charitable activities												
Subscriptions				6,420							**6,420**	*8,573*
Activity fees							7,496	2,836	160,535		**170,867**	*(6,215)*
		-	-	6,420	-	-	7,496	2,836	160,535		**177,287**	*2,358*
Total income		**155,054**	**20,011**	**6,426**	**152**	**37**	**7,496**	**2,836**	**188,179**		**380,191**	*196,131*
Expenditure on												
Other trading activities									4,131		**4,131**	*1,071*
Charitable activities												
Pay, NIC and pension costs	15								81,015		**81,015**	*79,552*
Catering for campers									7,248		**7,248**	*13*
Property maintenance									37,071		**37,071**	*39,109*
Energy and water									20,442		**20,442**	*17,995*
Equipment									13,961		**13,961**	*10,781*
Catering for staff & volunteers									568		**568**	*92*
Travelling expenses									538		**538**	*3*
Conference and Training expenses									1,576		**1,576**	*110*
Office expenses									5,711		**5,711**	*2,686*
Insurances									7,446		**7,446**	*5,652*
Consultants									385		**385**	*2,659*
Staff Uniforms									1,425		**1,425**	-
Administration expenses									2,335		**2,335**	*870*
Activity Costs							5,650	6,403			**12,053**	*65,067*
Grants	9/10/11/12		9,440	4,500							**13,940**	*10,104*
		-	9,440	4,500	-	-	5,650	6,403	179,721		**205,714**	*234,693*
Total expenditure		-	**9,440**	**4,500**	-	-	**5,650**	**6,403**	**183,852**		**209,845**	*235,764*
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		**155,054**	**10,571**	**1,926**	**152**	**37**	**1,846**	**(3,567)**	**4,327**		**170,346**	*(39,633)*
Reconciliation of Funds:												
Balances at 1 April		99,372	34,789	24,419	8,014	176,827	16,657	(5,573)	(16,793)		**337,712**	*377,345*
Thriftwood balance transferred from General Fund										15,027	**15,027**	-
Transfer defunct Activity teams to General Fund							(7,210)				**(7,210)**	-
Balances at 31 March		**254,426**	**45,360**	**26,345**	**8,166**	**176,864**	**18,503**	**(9,140)**	**(12,466)**	**15,027**	**515,875**	*337,712*

23. Restricted Funds

RESTRICTED FUNDS 2022/23

	Notes	Inclusivity (note 13)	County Support (note 13)	Total	2021/22
Income from		£	£	£	£
Donations legacies & grants	4	9,000	30,000	**39,000**	-
Total income		**9,000**	**30,000**	**39,000**	-
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities					
Grants	13	9,000	200	**9,200**	-
		9,000	200	**9,200**	-
Total expenditure		**9,000**	**200**	**9,200**	-
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		-	**29,800**	**29,800**	-
Transfer from General Fund			**20,000**	**20,000**	
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Balances at 1 April		-	-	-	-
Balances at 31 March		-	**49,800**	**49,800**	-

Inclusivity Fund - During the year the Essex Community Foundation matched a fund that Essex Scouts had set up from existing funds (£9,000). This had specific provisions that it was to be used solely to assist young people with their personal fundraising to enable them to attend overseas Scout Jamborees. This was deemed by the Trustees to be a Restricted Fund within the County Accounts. The two funds together were called the Inclusivity Fund. The County Grants Board considered applications from individuals and the whole of the Restricted Fund was dispersed to individuals in March 2023.

A further donation of £1,500 was received from Masons Accountants and was added to the Designated fund. A small residual remains on the Designated Fund (£735)

County Support Fund – Set up as a Restricted Fund during the year with a donation of £30,000 from the Norman Garon Trust. The County Trustees agreed to supplement this by transferring £20,000 from the General Fund. This Fund is to support Districts, Groups and individuals experiencing financial difficulty in the current economic climate. To date one grant of £200 has been given.

24. Analysis of Net Assets

The table below sets out the analysis of net assets split between Designated Funds and other Unrestricted Funds.

2022/23 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total £
Restricted		49,800		49,800
Designated	-	773,047	-	773,047
General County	-	182,990	-	182,990
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total	**1,574,363**	**1,005,837**	**-**	**2,580,200**

Prior Year Comparative: Net Assets 2021/22

2021/22 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total £
Designated	-	515,875	-	515,875
General County	-	223,192	-	223,192
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total Unrestricted	**1,574,363**	**739,067**	-	**2,313,430**

25. Pension Costs

Government legislation requires all employees to be eligible for workplace pensions from 2017, with the County's in-house pensions scheme established from 1st April 2017. The County contributes 3% and the employees 5%. The County Scheme is administered by Smart Pensions.

26. Related Parties

The Trustees have donated £759 (2021/22 £336) to the Charity without conditions, see note 4.

Two of the Trustees are also Trustees of the Norman Garon Trust (registered charity 1120656) which donated £250,000 to the Essex County Scout Council during the year. (2021/22 £175,000).

During the year the charity paid Masons Audit Ltd £888 (2021/22 £1,014) for payroll services. Bob Bye is a Trustee of the charity and a director of Masons Audit Ltd.

During the year £1,416 (2020/21 £1,072) was paid to Fortinbras HR Solutions Ltd, for HR services. Chris Dear (Trustee for part of the year) is a 50% shareholder of this company.

During the year, Mrs Wendy Bye was recruited as County Bookkeeper. This is a paid, self-employed part-time role. During the year her company was paid £7,708. (2021/22 £2,197). Wendy is the wife of Bob Bye, the County Commissioner.







Report of the Independent Auditor

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Essex County Scout Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex County Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' report. 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.

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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 5, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;

- The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector.
- ·We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the charity, including the Charities Act 2011, tax legislation and employment legislation.

To assess the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, we:

- made enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual or suspected fraud and
- considered the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non compliance with laws and regulations.

To assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations we designed procedures which included but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation,
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation claims.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships,
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr LLP

Edmund Carr LLP
Statutory Auditor

146 New London Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

11th, July 2023
Edmund Carr LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Annual Census and Subscriptions - March 23

	2022 Census numbers					2023 Census numbers					Increase/(Decrease) Numbers			
	Numbers				Subscriptions Received -	Numbers				Subscriptions Received -				
	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	Young People @ 37.50	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	Young People @ 38.50	Young People	Network	Adults	Total
Districts					£					£				
Basildon	374	19	180	573	14,025	384	28	207	619	14,784	10	9	27	46
Billericay & Wickford	650	20	244	914	24,375	678	11	203	892	26,103	28	(9)	(41)	(22)
Braintree	590	5	194	789	22,125	645	2	183	830	24,833	55	(3)	(11)	41
Brentwood	636	6	271	913	23,850	672	4	293	969	25,872	36	(2)	22	56
Castle Point	702	0	230	932	26,325	746	3	226	975	28,721	44	3	(4)	43
Chelmsford and District	1762	5	539	2,306	66,075	1868	20	516	2,404	71,918	106	15	(23)	98
Colchester Estuary	765	0	304	1,069	28,688	791	0	267	1,058	30,454	26	0	(37)	(11)
Colchester North	776	19	243	1,038	29,100	876	16	285	1,177	33,726	100	(3)	42	139
Crouch Valley	835	113	207	1,155	31,313	864	100	213	1,177	33,264	29	(13)	6	22
Halstead & Colne Valley	297	0	104	401	11,138	340	0	110	450	13,090	43	0	6	49
Harlow	326	0	114	440	12,225	436	0	122	558	16,786	110	0	8	118
Hatfield Forest	445	0	155	600	16,688	541	0	169	710	20,829	96	0	14	110
Maldon & East Essex	746	0	238	984	27,975	832	0	216	1,048	32,032	86	0	(22)	64
Royal Forest	919	0	249	1,168	34,463	923	2	248	1,173	35,536	4	2	(1)	5
Saffron Walden	558	18	156	732	20,925	622	15	193	830	23,947	64	(3)	37	98
Southend Estuary	593	9	187	789	22,238	637	11	179	827	24,525	44	2	(8)	38
Southend West	755	0	282	1,037	28,313	811	18	316	1,145	31,224	56	18	34	108
Tendring	508	22	216	746	19,050	579	12	232	823	22,292	71	(10)	16	77
Thurrock	975	0	409	1,384	36,563	1108	8	432	1,548	42,658	133	8	23	164
Districts Total	13,212	236	4,522	17,970	495,450	14,353	250	4,610	19,213	552,591	1,141	14	88	1,243
County														
Activity Teams, Network etc	0	0		43	0	0	0	48	48	0	0	0	48	5
Adventures Offshore	0	0		114	0	0	0	82	82	0	0	0	82	(32)
County Total	0	0	0	157	0	0	0	130	130	0	0	0	130	(27)
Grand Total	13,212	236	4,522	18,127	495,450	14,353	250	4,740	19,343	552,591	1,141	14	218	1,216






KING CHARLES III
CORONATION • 6TH MAY 2023
THE BIG HELP OUT
Lend a hand. Make a change.









Front Cover - County Back Pack
Inside Back Cover - HM King Charles III Coronation and The Big Help Out
Back Cover - Scouts on the Pier holding a vigil for HM Queen Elizabeth II
Photography by Essex Scouts Media and Communications Team (except page 13)

Scouts
Essex

ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302097

Accounts

Essex Scouts Annual Report and Accounts 2021-2022

Scouts
Essex



Charity Number: 302097

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 13th, September 2022 7.15pm
Chelmsford High School for Girls, Broomfield Road, Chelmsford CM1 1RW

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Scouts
Essex

The Essex County Scout Council is a Trust established under the rules of The Scout Association. Trustees are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Essex County Scout Council

President
The Lord Petre, KCVO, DL

Vice Presidents
M C Treacher, MBE
B J Cousins
G Courtauld OBE, DL
L A Jordan, DL
J C Bailey

Bankers
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Chelmsford CM1 1BG

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
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Auditor
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Chelmsford CM2 0AW

Insurance Brokers
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Contact Address
County Secretary
11 Markland Drive
Maldon
Essex CM9 6UD
secretary@essexscouts.org.uk

The County Executive

Ex-officio Trustees
P J Stennett, County Chairman
R W T Pattison, County Commissioner (until 11/1/22)
R A Bye County Commissioner (w.e.f. 11/6/22)
P W Murray, County Treasurer
A Maclachlan, County Secretary
Miss A Sturgeon, County Youth Commissioner

Nominated Trustees
Mrs S Griffiths
P Walker
R A Bye
Miss C Dell
Miss L Crane

Elected Trustees
G Monk
C Dear
J Freake
R Lyon
M Falder

Co-opted Trustees
T Humphries

Charity Registration No
302097

Scout Association No.
117

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instagram.com/essexscouts

Trustee's Report from the County Executive Committee

Covid-19 impacted our Movement in many ways, including implementation of The Scout Association's Skills for Life strategy. As a result, roll-out of the strategy has been extended through to 2025, although the building blocks for the transformation are in place and our Vision remains the same.
Our Vision
By 2025 we'll have prepared more young people with Skills for Life, supported by amazing leaders delivering an inspiring programme.

We'll be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Our Mission

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Our Values

- Integrity – We act with integrity; we are honest; trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care – We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief – We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation – We make a positive difference: we co-operate with others and make friends.

Our Goal

Our aim is to build on the success of the previous plan: to continue to grow, become more inclusive, to be shaped by young people and to make a bigger impact in our communities.

With introduction of the new Squirrels section, Essex Scouting is open to all young people between the ages of 4 and 25 years of age regardless of background, ethnic origin, nationality, race, gender, marital status or sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, political or religious belief.

The Scout County comprises of 20 Districts, one of which is devoted purely to Sailing. Within the remaining 19 Districts there are 247 Scouts Groups with a total of c4,500 Adult volunteers delivering quality Scouting. The Trustees are acutely aware of the sterling work the Leaders and Administrators across the County perform and their generosity in giving their spare time to which a sincere 'thank you' seems hardly enough praise to our most valuable asset.

The County Executive remains committed to continuing growth of the membership where recruitment and retention of Adult volunteers in Groups and Districts is of paramount importance. To this end, the County Executive provides resources to support the Groups/District's Adult volunteers and Administrators. We have seen a number of occasions where the Adult volunteers have been recognised within the community for their work with young people.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the Advancement of Education and the Advancement of Citizenship or Community Development headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit in the following ways:

- Developing young people towards their full potential, through the Scouting programme.
- There is a clear link between the purpose of Scouting and the benefits to young people.
- The various and numerous Scouting activities are undertaken with the health and safety of young people taken very seriously, and the benefit of these activities far outweighing any associated risks.
- The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting are in the 4 - 25 years age range.
- Young people who are prepared to make the Scout Promise are able to benefit from full scouting membership.
- We are an inclusive organisation, with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable by all members, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay. Arrangements are in place locally to assist those who are unable to pay their annual membership and other costs, as well as funds being available nationally to assist with the purchase of uniforms and pay for activities, so as to ensure that young people are not excluded as a result of their inability to pay.

Structure, Governance and Management

Essex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the County, and operates in accordance with a written Constitution. It is the body to which the County Executive Committee (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the County Trustees are shown on page 3. The Trustees are appointed annually at the Annual General meeting of the County Scout Council, either by election or by nomination, and may also be co-opted by the County Executive Committee during the year. Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, and are able to benefit from training provided by the County Training Team or e-learning packages from The Scout Association website. The County Executive Committee promotes Trustees responsibilities to both District and Groups and compliance is monitored. We ensure that young people are involved in decision making, with two 18 – 25 year olds being members of the County Executive Committee and 18-25 year olds also represented on the various County Executive sub-committees. Young people are also given opportunities across the County to become Leaders of the future, leading to better retention of young people through adult volunteering.

As in previous years, the County Executive Committee met 5 times by a mixture of face to face and Zoom meetings. The County Executive Committee is supported by a number of sub-committees and boards, consisting of Finance (including the County Grants Board), Appointments Advisory, Skreens Park Activity Centre, and Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre. The County Scout Council receives substantial support from a large number of volunteer helpers. There are c150 members of the County Team and other advisors directly supporting the County Scout Council. None of these volunteers receive any payments for services rendered. The principal sources of the Scout Council's income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, together with grants and donations from public bodies, trusts and individuals.

The County Executive Committee remains focused and fully committed to Safety and Safeguarding with processes in place to monitor compliance with mandatory training for all Adults throughout the County. We have a Health & Safety Professional in the Team who has compiled a comprehensive H&S document as well as providing practical help and guidance to the Groups and Districts around the County.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Annual Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust Deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks (as set out in the Risk Assessment Policy on pages 16 and 17).

Reserves Policy

Reserves represent that part of the Charity's Unrestricted Funds that are freely available to spend and enable the County Executive to fulfil its overall responsibilities. Whilst these responsibilities are mainly 'what ifs', the reserves should be sufficient to cover most eventualities and enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis and cover any contingencies should they arise. The trustees agreed that we are not looking to increase the level of reserves above their current level, with an absolute minimum figure of £100K being deemed sufficient to enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis. The level of Reserves may be varied by the Executive Committee if it identifies a longer term project in which it might wish to invest, that seeks to further the objectives of Essex Scouting.

The Capital Development Fund will be used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre, although other projects across the County can be considered, when identified. Other earmarked reserves are maintained at a level to enable the specific objectives to be carried out.

Reserves will always be held as liquid assets in accounts regulated by appropriate banking institutions and governed as part of the Investment Policy. The Trustees monitor the reserves on a regular basis.

Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year

July 2021 saw the start of a phased relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions and with it the gradual return to face to face meetings held by Groups. The pandemic had a huge impact on day to day Scouting across the County, with the majority of Group Sections managing to meet online, although there were some Sections where this was not possible for various reasons, with the result that those young people affected were not able to meet with their friends.The January 2021 Census showed a reduction of 4,491 Young People across Essex Scouts from January 2020. Naturally this was of great concern and, with the recommencement of face to face meetings, the January 2022 Census was eagerly awaited so we could gauge the rate of recovery. In keeping with national statistics, Essex fared well and the data showed an increase of around 12%. Adult Leader numbers remain a challenge and to address this, a new recruitment drive has been instigated and supported by a new recruitment package or "tool kit" designed for presentations at public events. Each of the four tool kits, which are available to Groups/Districts around the County, comprises of a large 'Bring your Skills to Scouts' Gazebo, Feather Flags, Roller Banners and a 'Bring your Skills to Scouts' table cloth.

During the year there was concerted effort, ahead of face to face meetings recommencing, to ensure that all leaders were compliant in terms of completing their mandatory training, in particular Safety and Safeguarding and the Trustees thank all involved in ensuring compliance. Particular thanks go to the County Safe Scouting team for producing regular reports for the whole County, which were used to focus effort. Our spreadsheet templates have been shared with other Counties within the East of England Region, to assist them with managing and monitoring their compliance.

As we drive forward our Skills for Life Strategy through to 2025, the Scouts are embarking on a positive and engaging period of change. We want to continue offering high quality, safe and engaging programmes to our c13,500 young people. In doing that, we must continue to be a vibrant, forward-thinking movement, adapting to the needs of our ever changing society. We want to reach more young people, be more diverse and make it easier than ever to volunteer for Scouts in Essex.

In February 2022, we held a County Development Day, involving the County Executive Committee, together the Essex Senior Management Team and District Commissioners (known as 'Team Essex'), to identify what we need to do to move Scouting in Essex forward. There was input not only from those attending on the day but also subsequently from those unable to attend, with this feedback used to inform the outcomes for inclusion in a full County Development Plan, including specific actions.

The following is summary of the issues it was agreed should be tackled in the short-term:

- Create and share a Vision Statement for Essex Scouts. Following the feedback from the day this has been agreed as:

"Essex Scouts will be the best in providing safe, fun and quality scouting for all young people across the County."

- Support Groups and Districts with Adult recruitment
- Improve Communications and make them more targeted i.e. "Right message to the right people!"
- Provide support for District Youth Commissioners
- Provide ways to give Essex Scout volunteers the recognition they deserve





As part of The Scout Association's Skills for Life strategy, one of the key aims is to improve the volunteer experience at Scouts, so that we can attract and retain more volunteers. Plans are afoot nationally to improve the Volunteer experience, in terms of how we welcome and train new volunteers, how we get things done and also looking at our roles and structures. This is a 2023 delivery project but we need to use 2022 to prepare for change. To enable Essex to support the roll-out of these changes over the next three years, James Hopkins has been appointed as the County's Transformation Lead.

In January 2022, Richard Pattinson stepped down as County Commissioner, having completed nearly three years in the role. The Trustees would like to express their thanks to Richard for his management and support to the County during his tenure, which included the challenges brought by the Covid pandemic.

Following completion of a comprehensive search process, Bob Bye was appointed as the new County Commissioner, with effect from the 1 June 2022, and we congratulate him on his appointment. Bob had already stood in as acting County Commissioner from 17th January 2022.

Big Events are back!

After 2 years without being able to run any large County Events, it's pleasing to be able to report that plans are in place for an event to be run for each Section in 2022.

March 2022 saw the return of large County Events with the County Backpack, the Scout Section Incident hike, held at Thorrington Scout Camp Site. The event involved Scouts walking with maps and writing route cards between 24 manned bases and completing a simple task to score points. Teams of 4-6 scouts entered in 2 categories 'Experienced' & 'Novice', with a third category of 'Assisted' (for the less experienced) which saw scouts walking with a Leader/Young Leader. 3 of the 24 bases were set up

in local Scout HQs and were cooking bases; to gain the Chief Scout Gold Award, a Scout needs to complete their Expedition Award, with one of the tasks being to cook a simple meal on a lightweight stove. In all, 500 Scouts, Leaders & Young Leaders took part in the event. Over the weekend 568 base visits were completed. 44 troops took part with 79 teams from all around the county. A great start, as we try to return to normal.





Other big events planned for 2022 are:

- ESSEX WEEKEND - An event open to families, friends and teams, which aims to bring all volunteers from across Essex Scouts together to experience new activities and socialise
- MEGA CAMP – a multi-activity weekend for Cubs, with a Pirates theme
- EPIC – an activity and adventure weekend for Scouts to try new things
- **Explorers' 20th Birthday Camp** - A County Camp to celebrate 20 years of Explorers
- BEAVERS IN TENTS - An 'Under The Sea Adventure' themed weekend with activities and a chance for Beavers to meet new people, sleep in a tent and collect badges.
- COUNTY MARATHON - A Hiking event for all Explorer Scouts, Network and Leaders in the Derbyshire hills.

Essex International Jamboree

After cancellation of the 2020 event the Jamboree Team was largely stood down, after it was decided not to try and run a scaled down event in 2022. However, Paul Walker and Karen Packer were asked to continue in their roles as Joint Jamboree Chiefs to consider the possible timing of a rearranged event, by preparing budgets and cash flow forecasts.

Initial proposals were presented to the Trustees of Essex County Scouts and the three Guide Counties during 2020, from which it was agreed that the event should ideally run in 2024, in the same location and of a similar size and scale to the event run in 2016 and that proposed in 2020.

A small feasibility team was formed and initial draft budgets were presented to the respective Trustees in early 2022. Agreement to continue planning was given, but without agreement to make longer term financial commitments beyond covering modest underlying costs of maintaining the website, stores etc in the interim.

The feasibility team was further tasked with reporting back to the County's Trustees in September 2022, so that more detailed budgets and cash flow requirements can be reviewed and agreed before any substantial commitment to expenditure can be made.

Early indications are that there will be a substantial increase to the budget as a result of economic pressures which, unfortunately, will lead to an increase in the Jamboree fee. Given that the event now holds no cash reserves as a result of our decision to refund in full all participants fees for the cancelled 2020 event, ongoing financial support will be required from the Scout and Guide Trustees to ensure adequate funds are available to fund any future event in advance of income being received from Jamboree participants.

The team aims to report to the County's as soon as possible so that the Trustees can consider the financial viability of running the 2024 event, affordability for participants and cash flow requirements. There remains a strong desire to see the event progress but the underlying benefit to Scouting and Guiding gained from this flagship event must be balanced against the underlying risks to the financial stability of the Scout and Guide Counties.

Thriftwood County HQ and Training Centre

Due to COVID 19 the Thriftwood County Headquarters and Training Centre Buildings complex was closed from March 2020 and gradually reopened during the latter part of 2021. It is pleasing to see that it is again being used for the youth of our County and not just for Scouts, with regular use also by non-Scouting organisations and Schools.

Our team of volunteers known as CHAPS were able to carry out essential maintenance work on the Buildings during the year, to ensure they are well maintained. In December 2021, the Team took over the whole complex for two weeks and undertook a total of 1,653 hours work, completing over 172 individual jobs. The work undertaken ranged from the removal of a substantial amount of Blue Tac from the walls of the main hall and sticking identity labels on and photographing assets for recording in the County Asset Register, with the largest piece of work being replacement of the windows on the veranda side of the main building with uPVC and double glazing (see before and after photographs below).





In addition the team completed creation of the County Heritage Centre, with The Snug converted into a museum and research centre and the back end of the Training Store racked out into a proper archive. The County Heritage Team has continued to sort and catalogue our Heritage collections and County Archives, although a huge amount of cataloguing has yet to be done. This resource will be used to educate our young People on Scouting's past in Essex and how we have changed as a progressive modern movement. It will also act as a resource for Scout Groups and Districts to research their early years.

The number of hours that both Teams have completed in the last year is truly amazing with several thousand Volunteer hours completed and the Trustees cannot thank enough, Bill Marshall and the CHAPS/Heritage Teams for all they do on a Voluntary basis at Thriftwood. Thanks also go to Bob Bye as Chair of the Thriftwood (County Buildings) Management committee.

Grants Board

The role of the County Grants Board, which is a part of the Finance sub-Committee, is to distribute small grants to Groups and Districts seeking financial support. Grants are used for a variety of purposes, with the most common being start-up grants, support for building work (which includes major repairs and new build), and replacement of kit used for adventurous activities. There is also a separate amount of money available to support applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with Special Needs.

All grants have one key objective, which is to enhance the benefits that Scouting brings to young people in Essex.

Over the past year there have been four start-up grants paid out, one for a Squirrel Drey, one for a new Beaver Scout Colony, one for a new Cub Scout Pack and one for a new Explorer Scout Unit.

Grants have also been paid out to Groups and Campsites across the County for repairs to a High Ropes Course, building a new storage building, upgrading a car park and for the hire of a digger, totalling over £6,867, with commitments to pay totalling in excess of £15K. No grant requests were received during the year for Special Needs support.

Last year, the County successfully applied for c£19K funding donated by local councils via the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services to assist Groups with the purchase of Covid 19 related equipment to enable them to return to face to face meetings. The Grants Board enabled the distribution of these monies to 83 Scout Groups across the County which had not received any other form of funding during the pandemic.



Monies available to the Grants Board are received from The Norman Garon Trust, the County Building Fund and the Special Needs Fund. The Norman Garon Trust makes available funds annually which are administered by the County Grants Board, the County Building Fund is funded from County Membership fees and the Special Needs Fund from donations received.

Essex County Equipment Store and Events Team

Based at Chignal St James, the team store, catalogue and maintain all of the County's Equipment. Items are available for hire, in the event that you have a need for specific equipment to support your local activity. The team makes equipment available by way of hire to commercial organisations, Schools and Scouting, including Scout Groups and Scout Jamborees run by other Counties.

Over the last year as we came out of Covid the team have been supporting groups and events with equipment in the County, as well as continuing to provide equipment to local organisations to assist with roll-out of the Covid Vaccines. The stores team have also been cataloguing items for recording/updating on the County Asset Register, an exercise which should be completed by the end of 2022. The team are looking forward to another busy season, with equipment already booked out for various music events, section camps and jamborees.

The County Executive Committee recognises the value of the work Will Burrage and his Team perform in managing the County Store and want to record a huge “Thank you” to them all.

Skreens Park Activity Centre

We entered the 2021 financial year with continued uncertainty over the ongoing impact of the pandemic. At the beginning of the year the staff remained furloughed and income was non-existent, yet the site continued to incur costs despite efforts to mothball as much as possible. There was eventually light at the end of the tunnel and we saw a gradual return of Scouts, Schools and the public over several months as restrictions were slowly relaxed.

The Trustees took a decision to commit funds towards refurbishment of the kitchens and toilets, work which would have seen a loss of income had it been undertaken whilst the site was operational.

As the Government lockdown eased, Scouting use was still restricted and we introduced public pay and play packages that saw many new faces find the site. Many have returned to enjoy the wide range of activities but who have also spread the word of our excellent facilities and friendly staff.

The volunteer team continues to provide tireless support through grass cutting, maintenance and development of new projects. Several “work weekends” were undertaken during the year, which saw the Skreens Maintenance and Activity Team Active Support Unit (SMART ASU) bringing their skills to Skreens Park and committing time and energy into projects that help maintain and enhance the facilities. This has included refurbishment of the rifle range with thanks to John Dell and the MASH ASU. The team continues to grow and we are indebted to the team that commit hundreds of hours to help keep the park looking its best.

2022 has seen the introduction of the “adopt an area”, a chance for Groups or Sections to take maintenance of their special area of the park.

As we entered into 2022 two new seasonal staff, two activity instructors and a front of house administer were employed to meet the incredible demand experienced as Scouts, Guides, Schools and groups pressed to get back outdoors. As well as providing a comprehensive range of activities the staff have also been busy refurbishing the tomahawks range, maintaining and painting the facilities.



In the year ahead we will look to consolidate our processes and continue to rebuild a sustainable financial position despite the challenges of the last few years.

Skreens Park is managed by the Skreens Park Management Committee, chaired by Paul Walker and supported by the Skreens Maintenance and Activity Team (SMART ASU) and a huge thank you goes to them all for their continued support and commitment.

The team are always keen to find new supporters and if you would like to know more about the park or wish to offer any form of support please contact volunteers@skreenspark.org.uk



THANK YOU

Scouting across Essex County has stepped up during the last two years in the face of unprecedented conditions, with the thousands of adult volunteers and administrators selflessly spending numerous hours and resources to continue providing exciting programmes and activities week after week for the benefit of our young people, albeit having to adapt to doing this virtually. In addition, a large number of our Adult volunteers, as well as Young People, undertook numerous activities to support their neighbours and local communities and ensure that everyone was kept safe and well. It is the ongoing and committed support of our volunteers that ensures Essex Scouting continues to be the success it is, and the County Executive Committee members would like to place on record their thanks and admiration for everything they do.

The next year will see the County working with and providing support to Districts and Groups as they move forward and recover from the impact of the pandemic. There will be a focus on providing support to recruit more volunteers to work with our young people – there are people out there who, if asked, would be willing to help, so why not make use of one of the new County volunteer recruitment tool kits and pop the question to anyone who shows interest!

Essex continues to be one of the largest Scout Counties in the country, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. Over the last two years, in particular, we have seen excellent and innovative examples of our volunteers do whatever they can to continue providing scouting to our young people at a time when they most needed it. You continue to be our greatest asset.

WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL!

Paul J Stennett
County Chairman
June 2022





Report of the County Treasurer

It gives me great pleasure to present the accounts of the Essex County Scout Council for 2021/2022. During the year there was a surplus on normal activities on the General Fund of £6k. However, as a result of the Thriftwood balance being transferred to Designated Funds together with bringing in funds from the 3 defunct Activity Teams to the General Fund, we saw a £2k decrease in the General Fund to £223k. This is more than sufficient to cover one year's expenditure and any contingencies arising during a year. The County Executive continues to monitor the reserves on an on-going basis as outlined in the Reserves Policy below. The County's annual subscription for 2022/2023 has been held at £3, with a deficit budget of £54k set for 2022/23 to enable this.

The budget for 2021/2022 was set to achieve a deficit of £44k for the year on the General Fund. This was to reduce the brought forward reserves on the General Fund in line with the Reserves Policy. However, with the ongoing effect of Covid and the impact of the prolonged lockdowns on Essex Scouting, the actual outcome came in at a surplus of £6k. The main reason was the slowdown of Scouting in general following Scout Association guidelines for Covid, resulting in activities not being run and expenses being less than budgeted.

Skreens Park, which was closed for part of the year, made a surplus of £4k, which is a great achievement, in the circumstances. There was no budget set for the year because of the uncertainty over whether the site would be able to open or function at all. During the year staff were recruited as it became clear that activities could start again in early 2022. Income amounted to £181k which included £16k of Covid grants from Chelmsford City Council and Furlough receipts of £3k. Expenses amounted to £180k. The shop made a surplus of £3k.

During the year, the opportunity was taken to undertake refurbishment and renovation work, when the Covid guidelines allowed.

The other Designated Funds continue to make funds available for the benefit of Essex Scouting generally. During the year, the Grants Board approved grants of nearly £14k, notwithstanding the reduced number of applications. Details of all these grants can be found in notes 9 to 12 and note 21.

The various donations received during the past year, are shown in note 4, and are very gratefully acknowledged.

With the partial resumption of Scouting allowed during the year, activities have been slow to restart. This is because of the time needed to plan events and the uncertainty of whether they would ever take place. The County Backpack took place in March 2022 and was a great success. 2022/23 will see the resumption of many more large scale County events. Overseas trips will also feature in future programmes. Unfortunately, Eurojam 2021 was cancelled, but a substitute trip to the Finnish Jamboree will take place in July 2022. Preparations are already underway for the next World Scout Jamboree to be held in South Korea and trips are planned to the USA and Jersey, all for summer 2023.

During the year, the County Executive agreed to lend £50,000 to 1st Corringham Scout Group to enable them to complete the rebuilding of their Group Headquarters. The Group had encountered some

unforeseen problems during the re-build that had cost them in excess of £100k over their original budget. The loan is repayable over 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a. with a minimum repayment of at least £5,000 per year. This amount is within debtors on the balance sheet.

Details of the accounts, notes and Auditor's Report are set out elsewhere in this document.

A full review of the County's finances was undertaken during the year, to assess the effect of the pandemic on our financial position and our ability to fulfil our obligations going forward. It concluded that there were sufficient funds available for the County to meet its ongoing commitments and be able to continue supporting scouting within Essex for the foreseeable future. As mentioned above a deficit budget for 2022/2023 has been agreed to help reduce the current surplus in the General County Fund.

The 2022 County Census is also included with the main accounts for information.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the County in the past year. Personally, I would like to especially thank my former assistant Jean Cunningham, who has had to stand down due to ill-health. I would also like to thank our Chairman Paul Stennett and my new assistant Wendy Bye for all their support, without them my job would have been impossible.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Trustees and Commissioners are committed to conducting its undertaking in a manner that protects the health and safety of its employees, members, contractors and the public. In addition to complying strictly with the health and safety measures required by legislation, it is the Council's policy to promote and take all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its employees, members and others who may be affected by its actions.

To meet the requirements of this policy the Trustees and Commissioners will work with all employees, volunteer leaders and other relevant parties to strive for continuous improvement in health and safety performance. They will operate an integrated, structured and documented system of management control over all its operations. This system of control commits the Executive Committee to:

- The undertaking of appropriate reviews and assessments of its operations and undertakings to measure progress, manage risk, and ensure compliance with this policy and that of The Scout Association.
- Setting up and maintaining safe and healthy systems of work to protect all county employees, members and others, including the public.
- Making all reasonable endeavours to ensuring that its county employees and volunteer leaders are fully competent to perform the tasks allocated to them by careful recruitment, ongoing training and development, and by provision of the necessary resources.
- Maintaining the health and safety awareness of all county employees and volunteer leaders by the establishment of sound health and safety practices and operations through competent management and good communications, leading to continuous improvement in health and safety performance.
- Ensuring that the contractors we directly engage are competent to perform the work contracted and encouraging good safety practice within such companies in compliance with this policy.
- Effective response to investigation of accidents and incidents and, to establish where appropriate root causes and take reasonable actions to prevent their reoccurrence.

To achieve this, the Executive Committee will work within the policies and procedures as laid down by The Scout Association and encourage and support all Districts in so doing. The Commissioners will provide information to, and ensure appropriate consultation with, county employees and volunteer leaders on matters relevant to this policy.

Prime responsibility for these matters lies with the Trustees and the County Commissioner and his Team; all other employees and volunteer leaders equally have responsibility for matters within their control. They have a duty to ensure that health and safety issues are given the fullest consideration at all times, and for providing a safe and healthy working environment for their employees and members.

In addition, all employees and volunteer leaders have a responsibility to themselves and others for the safety and prevention of ill health at work. We must all work together in the spirit of participation and co-operation to ensure the success of this Policy.

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer











STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY 2021/22

	Notes	General	Designated	Total	2020/21
		~~Note 20~~	Note 21		
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations, Legacies and Grants	4	14,165	195,399	**209,564**	*236,297*
Charitable activities	20/21	75,097	177,287	**252,384**	*81,449*
Other trading activities	14	-	7,392	**7,392**	*515*
Investments - Bank interest		48	113	**161**	*790*
Total income		**89,310**	**380,191**	**469,501**	*319,051*
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities	2	83,643	205,714	**289,357**	*310,501*
Other trading activities	14	-	4,131	**4,131**	*1,071*
Total expenditure	2	**83,643**	**209,845**	**293,488**	*311,572*
Net income/(expenditure) resources before transfers		**5,667**	**170,346**	**176,013**	*7,479*
Transfers between Funds		**(7,817)**	**7,817**	-	-
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		225,342	337,712	**563,054**	*555,575*
Total Funds carried forward		**223,192**	**515,875**	**739,067**	*563,054*

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 £	£	2021 £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5		**1,574,363**		*1,574,363*
Current Assets					
Stocks		**11,656**		*9,702*	
Accrued Income		**795**		*-*	
Prepayments		**73,895**		*21,235*	
Sundry Debtors	6	**93,603**		*11,997*	
Cash	7	**866,053**		*698,406*	
		1,046,002		*741,340*	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					
Sundry Creditors		**20,475**		*42,867*	
Provisions		**19,699**		*15,461*	
Accruals		**17,041**		*41,422*	
Receipts in Advance	8	**249,720**		*78,536*	
		306,935		*178,286*	
Net Current Assets			**739,067**		*563,054*
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			**2,313,430**		*2,137,417*
Net assets			**2,313,430**		*2,137,417*
Financed by					
General County Fund	20	**223,192**		*225,342*	
Designated Funds	21	**515,875**		*337,712*	
Total Usable Reserves		**739,067**		*563,054*	
Capital Financing Reserve	5	**1,574,363**		*1,574,363*	
Total Unrestricted Funds			**2,313,430**		*2,137,417*
Charity's Funds			**2,313,430**		*2,137,417*

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 4th, July 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:

Paul Stennett
County Chairman

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer

Statement of Cash Flows

	Total Funds	Prior Year	Note
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(167,647)	624,886	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	0	0	5
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	0	0	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	167,647	(624,886)	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	698,406	1,323,292	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	866,053	698,406	7

Reconciliation in net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of reporting activities)	176,013	7,479	SOFA
Adjustments for:			
Purchase of plant and equipment	0	0	
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(1,954)	1,071	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(135,061)	161,779	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	128,649	(795,215)	
Net cash provided by operating activities	167,647	(624,886)	

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand	866,053	698,406	7
Total cash and cash equivalents	866,053	698,406	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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1. Accounting policies

(i) Basis of preparation
These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention and, other than disclosed in (iv) below, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 issued on 1st January 2019.

The accounts relate to the activities of the Essex County Scout Council and do not include the accounts of any of its individual Scout Groups or Districts within the County, each of which are set up as stand-alone charities. The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.

(ii) Income
All incoming resources, including government grants, are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Annual subscriptions received in respect of the following year and income for events in a future period is treated as deferred income (receipts in advance).

(iii) Expenditure
All expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is included as arising and on an accruals basis. All costs, other than governance costs, are directly attributable to specific activities.

(iv) Fixed assets

Tangible assets are divided into two categories:
- Freehold and leasehold land and buildings
- Equipment

The costs of equipment are written off and expensed in the year of acquisition and not held as assets in the balance sheet. All other fixed asset additions, whilst treated as an expense in the year of acquisition, are carried in the balance sheet at historic cost and the benefit recorded in the Capital Financing Reserve. On this basis no depreciation is provided.

The Trustees consider this conservative treatment to be appropriate for the charity as it is in line with the treatment of assets in the public sector. The Trustees have conducted an impairment review and consider that the current value of the buildings is in excess of cost. Latest insured values are shown in note 5.

(v) Stocks
Stocks held at Skreens Park are valued at cost.

(vi) Debtors
Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(vii) Cash
Cash comprises cash held in bank current and deposit accounts

(viii) Creditors
Creditors are recognised at the settlement amount due.

(ix) Fund accounting
The General County Fund is an unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Details of the nature and purpose of the designated funds are set out in note 21.
Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. The Trustees do not consider any such funds were held during the year.

(x) Pensions
The charity operates a defined contribution scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions. Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due.

2. Analysis of Expenditure

	Youth Programme	Adult Support	Development	2022 Total	*2021 Total*
	£	£	£	£	£
Costs of generated funds					
Cost of goods sold	4,131	-	-	4,131	*1,071*
Charitable activities	243,353	20,881	4,775	269,009	*290,219*
Governance costs	18,408	1,579	361	20,348	*20,282*
	261,761	22,460	5,136	289,357	*310,501*
	265,892	**22,460**	**5,136**	**293,488**	*311,572*
Total 2021	*281,853*	*29,719*	-	*311,572*	

The expenditure in 2021/22 in the Youth Programme Budget reflects the expenses incurred in connection with Skreens Park Activity Centre, where a programme of refurbishment has been undertaken. Even though the site was closed for part of the year, there were running costs amounting to some £100k.

3. Analysis of Governance Costs

The governance costs have been allocated based on gross expenditure of the activities. The total fees payable to the auditor amount to £7,080 in respect of audit services (2020/21 - £7,600). £1,000 of these fees were recharged to the Essex International Jamboree, with the balance relating to the cost of auditing the County accounts only.

	Youth Programme	Adult Support	Development	2022 Total	*2021 Total*
	£	£	£	£	£
Governance costs					
Administration expenses	12,907	1,108	253	14,268	*13,682*
Audit fee	5,501	471	108	6,080	*6,600*
	18,408	**1,579**	**361**	**20,348**	*20,282*
Total 2021	*18,341*	*1,941*	-	*20,282*	

4. Donations and Grants

The following donations were received during the year.

	£
County Fund	
M. Treacher MBE*	30
J.C.Bailey*	200
P.J.Stennett*	86
P. Walker *	250
Scout Association	230
	796
Capital Development Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**155,000**
Norman Garon Trust Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**20,000**
Special Needs Fund	
Mrs P.A.Turtle*	**150**
Thriftwood Training Centre	
Brentwood Council - Covid grants	**13,325**
W. Marshall*	**44**
	13,369
Skreens Park Activity Centre	
Chelmsford Council - Covid grants	**16,000**
Government Furlough receipts	**3,461**
Anonymous **donations**	**788**
	20,249
Total Donations & Grants 2021/22	**209,564**
2020/21	*236,297*

** Indicates a donation made under gift* ***aid***

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the above donations and thank the donors for their support of Essex Scouting. The above includes those grants given by Central and Local Governments in line with the Covid regulations.

5. Fixed Assets

St Luke's Camp Site, Skreens Park, Roxwell is a freehold property (52 acres and 3-acre lake) acquired in 1971. The historic value of the site and buildings is £945,849. Thriftwood County Headquarters and Training Complex is a leasehold property (peppercorn rent) of 6 acres built in 1966 at a cost of £19,170 (99-year lease). The buildings at the two sites are currently insured for £4,010,518. The current value of equipment, vehicles and stocks for insurance purposes is £415,542. An analysis of the fixed assets, shown at cost, is set out below.

	Mar 2022 £	*Mar 2021 £*
Skreens Park Activity Centre		
Original acquisition	11,615	*11,615*
Leaman House	286,081	*286,081*
Tinley House	249,353	*249,353*
Camp shop	27,085	*27,085*
Toilet and shower block	306,065	*306,065*
Wet Weather block	16,896	*16,896*
Climbing wall	46,765	*46,765*
Skreens House	184,186	*184,186*
Site Manager's Bungalow	5,236	*5,236*
High Ropes Course	301,911	*301,911*
Land purchase - access road	120,000	*120,000*
Thriftwood		
Original acquisition	19,170	*19,170*
	1,574,363	*1,574,363*

A survey of the properties was carried out by David Dedman FRICS on 15th November 2021 and confirmed that the insured values of the properties is in line with current re-build costs.

6. Debtors

Within the debtors figure on the balance sheet is a £50,000 loan made to 1st Corringham Scout Group to enable them to complete the re-build of their Headquarters. The loan is repayable within 10 years with interest set at 1% p.a.. There is a minimum repayment of £5,000 per year.

7. Cash

	2022	2021
	£	£
Operational accounts		
Barclays Current - No 1	33,208	88,434
Barclays Active Saver	416,805	446,762
CAF Bank Cash Main (current)	66,426	4,220
CAF Bank Gold (deposit)	261,861	84,303
CAF Bank Skreens (current)	3,132	4,668
CAF Bank Skreens Gold (deposit)	5,623	50,045
	787,055	678,432
Essex International Jamboree		
CAF Bank EIJ Main (current)	4,517	8,791
CAF Bank EIJ Registrations (current)	-	-
CAF Bank EIJ Gold (deposit)	48	48
	4,565	8,839
Barclays Current - No 2 - Jamboree Account	63,141	531
Cash held by activity teams		
Archery	1,249	1,542
Caving	3,892	3,892
First Aid and Ambulance	-	1,159
Mountaineering	4,264	1,946
Site Services Team	1,708	1,833
Bushcraft Team	179	232
	866,053	698,486

The 2022/23 Annual Subscription, £455,814, was paid to Headquarters in March 2022. The balance on the Barclays no 2 account represents the net cash for Overseas Jamborees received from participants, after paying some of the expenses.

8. Receipts in Advance

Receipts in advance are as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Annual Subscriptions	39,636	33,627
Skreens deposits	39,004	44,909
Youth Programme	171,080	-
	249,720	78,536

Annual subscriptions relate to the 2022/23 year, £455,814 was paid to Headquarters during March 2022 (note 17). The Youth Programme amounts relate to monies received in advance for particular events and Overseas Jamborees.

9. Capital Development Fund

The Capital Development Fund is a Designated Fund, used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre. During 2021/2022, no capital projects were undertaken. However, the Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £155,000 for which we are most grateful.

10. Norman Garon Grants Fund

The Essex County Scout Council Grants Board administers funds made available annually by the Norman Garon Trust. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards new buildings, repairs, equipment and new group or section start-ups. The Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £20,000. The following grants were approved during 2021/22:

	£
Start-up grants	
Kraken ES Unit, Chelmsford	200 *
5th Saffron Walden BS Colony, Saffron Walden	200 *
1st Chesterford CS Pack, Saffron Walden	200 *
2nd Chesterford Beaver Colony, Saffron Walden	200
1st Ockendon SS Drey, Thurrock	200 *
Other Grants	
Belchamps campsite - High ropes maintenance	2,000 *
1st Warley - 20ft container	3,000
1st Castle Hedingham - new lighting	1,000
Basildon Events & Activities Team - trailer	2,000
Archery Assessor Courses	440 *
note 21	9,440

* Paid during the year
Grants approved but not yet spent, are within creditors on the balance sheet, together with previously approved grants yet to be spent (£3,000).

11. Building Grants Fund

The Building Fund is financed by a 40p per head levy on the membership fee. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards building projects. The following grants were approved during 2021/22:

	£
Grants -approved	
1st Warley - New HQ fittings	967 *
Kingston Ridge - Building maintenance	500 *
1st Warley - 20ft container	1,033
1st Writtle - New extraction system	2,000
note 21	4,500

* Paid during the year
Grants approved but not yet spent, are within creditors on the balance sheet.

12. Special Needs Fund

The Special Needs Fund is financed by bequests and donations. The Grants Board considers applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with Special Needs.

No grants were made during 2021/22 (2020/2021 £nil).

13. Activity Teams

analysis of the income and expenditure during 2021/22 of the activity teams, including joint ventures, is set out below. Each of these activities has a separate designated fund. The County Activity Teams' accounts are separately managed and examined.

	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure / Transfer	Surplus / (deficit)	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
Joint venture with the Guide Association					
Essex International Jamboree	(5,573)	2,836	6,403	(3,567)	**(9,140)**
Individual County teams					
Archery	1,540	3	296	(293)	**1,247**
Caving	3,892	15	15	-	**3,892**
Communications	3,700	-	3,700	(3,700)	-
First Aid	1,161	-	1,161	(1,161)	-
Water Activities	2,349	-	2,349	(2,349)	-
Mountaineering	1,948	7,478	5,161	2,317	**4,265**
Service Team	1,835	-	125	(125)	**1,710**
Bushcraft Team	232	-	53	(53)	**179**
	16,657	7,496	12,860	(5,364)	**11,293**
	11,084	**10,332**	**19,263**	**(8,931)**	**2,153**
Total 2020/21	*69,332*	*6,819*	*65,067*	*(58,248)*	*11,084*

The Joint Venture funds shown above, are Essex County Scout's share of the overall available funds. The cancellation of the 2020 Jamboree and the resulting loss has pushed the reserves into deficit. The share of the deficit held on behalf of the three Essex Guide Counties are shown within debtors. Consideration is being given for the next Essex International Jamboree to be held in 2024, a final decision will be made before the end of 2022.

The three Activity Teams that are no longer operating, Communications, Water Activities and First Aid have been wound up and their reserves (£7,210) taken into the General Fund (see note 20),

14. Skreens Park Activity Centre

A sub-Committee of the County Executive manages the Skreens Park Activity Centre. A separate Designated Fund is maintained for its financial activities, other than major capital expenditure, which is financed from the Capital Development Fund (See Note 21). The closing balance on the Activity Centre Fund was a deficit of £12,467 (a deficit of £16,794 in 2020/21).

With the advent of 'lockdown' from Monday 23rd March 2020, the site was closed with immediate effect. During 2021/2022 the site was open sporadically, but as Scouts and other major users such as schools were unable to take advantage of it due to Covid restrictions, the use of the site was limited, with families (in their individual Covid 'Bubbles') in particular taking advantage of its availability. Essential maintenance and upgrade work has been carried out by volunteer staff, with all activities being run in accordance with the Covid guidelines operating at the time.

The shop was restocked after the previous year and made a surplus of £3,261.

	2021/22	*2020/21*
	£	*£*
Opening stock	**9,702**	*10,773*
Purchases	**4,453**	*-*
	14,155	*10,773*
Closing stock	**10,024**	*9,702*
Value of goods sold	**4,131**	*1,071*
Sales	**7,392**	*515*
Surplus/(deficit)	**3,261**	***(556)***

15. Employees' remuneration

At 31st March 2021, Essex County Scout Council employed 3 full time staff at Skreens Park Activity Centre, all working part-time. With Covid restrictions in operation, the management of the site was difficult but demand for activities remained strong. Of the staff on furlough in 2020/21, 6 resigned to seek alternative employment.

At 31st March 2022 there were 9 full-time staff.

No Trustee received any remuneration. No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year.

	2021/22	*2020/21*
	£	*£*
Salaries	**78,743**	*78,587*
Social security costs	**1,065**	*-*
Pension costs	**1,207**	*965*
	81,015	***79,552***

16. Trustees' Expenses

Four of the Essex County Scout Council Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £889. (Two Trustees received £180 in 2020/21).

17. Headquarters Subscriptions

During the financial year Essex County Scout Council received the 2022/2023 annual subscriptions in advance from Districts for onward transmission to Scout Headquarters, (see Note 8). These transactions are not reflected in the SOFA. Details are shown below.

	2021/22	*2020/21*
	£	*£*
Gross Receipts	**495,450**	*437,151*
Paid to HQ	**(455,814)**	*(403,524)*
Retained by County	39,636	*33,627*

18. County Activities

An analysis of the income and expenditure of activities, financed through the General County Fund, is set out below:

		Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)
		£	£	£
Beavers				
	35 years of Beavers	1,433	2,048	**(615)**
Cubs				
	Christmas Challenge	-	95	**(95)**
Scouts				
	Backpack 2022	15,663	12,697	**2,966**
D of E Award Scheme		7,150	6,027	**1,123**
		24,246	**20,867**	**3,379**
Total 2020/21		*19,186*	*18,462*	*724*

Most of the planned activities for 2021/2022 were cancelled, as a result of the Covid restrictions in place, which prevented individuals/groups meeting, with online virtual activities taking place instead.

The Scout Backpack took place in March 2022 with a full schedule of County activities planned for 2022/2023.

There are 4 Overseas Jamborees currently being planned: Finland 2022, World Scout Jamboree, South Korea 2023, North America 2023, and Jersey 2023. Some 300 young people and leaders are involved.

19. Summary Revenue Account

SUMMARY REVENUE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)	*2020/21*
	£	£	£	£
General County Fund				
Membership Subscriptions	27,207	-	**27,207**	*54,229*
Administration	1,205	25,129	**(23,924)**	*(18,941)*
Local Development	204	4,775	**(4,571)**	*-*
Adult Training	1,782	9,344	**(7,562)**	*(9,426)*
Thriftwood County Headquarters	26,564	11,537	**15,027**	*29,712*
County Stores	8,102	11,991	**(3,889)**	*(6,416)*
County Activities	24,246	20,867	**3,379**	*(2,046)*
	89,310	83,643	**5,667**	*47,112*
Designated Funds				
Special Needs	152	-	**152**	*157*
Memorial Fund	37	-	**37**	*152*
Capital Development	155,054	-	**155,054**	*70,065*
Building Grants	6,426	4,500	**1,926**	*(1,303)*
Norman Garon Grants	20,011	9,440	**10,571**	*19,824*
Activity Teams	7,496	5,650	**1,846**	*450*
Essex International Jamboree	2,836	6,403	**(3,567)**	*(58,698)*
Skreens Park Activity Centre	188,179	183,852	**4,327**	*(70,280)*
Total Funds	469,501	293,488	**176,013**	*7,479*

Adult training is funded through the annual subscription, which enables it to be free at the point of delivery.

20. General County Fund

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2021/22

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't	Adult Training	Thriftwood	County Store	Activities (Note 18)	Total	2020/21
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from									
Donations legacies & grants	4	796			13,369			**14,165**	*43,571*
Investment income		48						**48**	*258*
Charitable activities									
Subscriptions		27,207						**27,207**	*54,229*
Training fees				1,782				**1,782**	-
Activity fees							24,246	**24,246**	*19,186*
Camp fees and lettings					13,195	8,102		**21,297**	*5,320*
Other income		361	204					**565**	*356*
		27,568	204	1,782	13,195	8,102	24,246	**75,097**	*79,091*
Total income		**28,412**	**204**	**1,782**	**26,564**	**8,102**	**24,246**	**89,310**	*122,920*
Expenditure on									
Charitable activities									
PR & Recruitment		1,500	4,364					**5,864**	-
Activity costs							20,867	**20,867**	*18,462*
Property maintenance					9,812	5,840		**15,652**	*6,156*
Rates					320			**320**	*203*
Energy and water					(7,579)			**(7,579)**	*8,682*
Catering				674				**674**	*57*
Hire of premises				514		6,151		**6,665**	*6,307*
Travelling expenses				717	593			**1,310**	*678*
Scout school & Skills training				5,819				**5,819**	*8,779*
Essex Pride			271					**271**	-
Administration expenses		3,281	140	1,620	5,609			**10,650**	*3,796*
Insurances					2,782			**2,782**	*2,406*
		4,781	4,775	9,344	11,537	11,991	20,867	**63,295**	*55,526*
Governance costs									
Committee & meeting expenses		2,200						**2,200**	-
Travelling expenses		595						**595**	*180*
Office expenses		239						**239**	*2,818*
Communications team		257						**257**	*588*
Insurances		2,735						**2,735**	*3,239*
Accounting costs		5,611						**5,611**	*4,352*
Audit fee	3	6,080						**6,080**	*6,600*
Conference expenses		-						**-**	-
Annual report and AGM		65						**65**	*9*
Asset software		-						**-**	*2,088*
Other expenses		2,566						**2,566**	*408*
	3	20,348	-	-	-	-	-	**20,348**	*20,282*
Total expenditure		**25,129**	**4,775**	**9,344**	**11,537**	**11,991**	**20,867**	**83,643**	*75,808*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**3,283**	**(4,571)**	**(7,562)**	**15,027**	**(3,889)**	**3,379**	**5,667**	*47,112*
Reconciliation of Funds:									
Balance at 1 April								**225,342**	*178,230*
Thriftwood balance transferred to Designated Funds								**(15,027)**	-
Transfer defunct Activity teams to County General Fund								**7,210**	-
Balance at 31 March - General County Fund								**223,192**	*225,342*

Prior Year Comparative: General County Fund 2020/21.

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2020/21

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't Officer	Adult Training	Thriftwood	County Store	Activities (Note 18)	Total	2019/20
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from									
Donations	4	727			42,844			**43,571**	*855*
Investment income		258						**258**	*621*
Charitable activities									
Subscriptions		54,229						**54,229**	*68,900*
Training fees								**-**	*1,777*
Activity fees							19,186	**19,186**	*529,684*
Camp fees and lettings					5,220	100		**5,320**	*43,339*
Other income		356						**356**	*44*
		54,585	-	-	5,220	100	19,186	**79,091**	*643,744*
Total income		**55,570**	-	-	**48,064**	**100**	**19,186**	**122,920**	*645,220*
Expenditure on									
Charitable activities									
Pay and NI costs	14							**-**	*5,000*
Activity costs							18,462	**18,462**	*544,003*
Property maintenance					5,677	479		**6,156**	*24,064*
Rates					203			**203**	*1,972*
Energy and water					8,682			**8,682**	*6,915*
Catering				57				**57**	*1,805*
Hire of premises				270		6,037		**6,307**	*9,446*
Travelling expenses				66	612			**678**	*1,095*
Scout school & Skills training				8,779				**8,779**	*11,390*
Essex Pride								**-**	*60*
Administration expenses				254	772		2,770	**3,796**	*6,819*
Insurances					2,406			**2,406**	*1,856*
		-	-	9,426	18,352	6,516	21,232	**55,526**	*614,425*
Governance costs									
Committee & meeting expenses		-						**-**	*1,862*
Travelling expenses		180						**180**	*2,231*
Office expenses		2,818						**2,818**	*148*
Communications team		588						**588**	*931*
Insurances		3,239						**3,239**	*3,391*
Accounting costs		4,352						**4,352**	*7,587*
Audit fee	3	6,600						**6,600**	*6,300*
Conference expenses		-						**-**	*189*
Annual report and AGM		9						**9**	*756*
Asset software		2,088						**2,088**	*2,289*
Other expenses		408						**408**	*1,456*
	3	20,282	-	-	-	-	-	**20,282**	*27,140*
Total expenditure		**20,282**	-	**9,426**	**18,352**	**6,516**	**21,232**	**75,808**	*641,565*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**35,288**	-	**(9,426)**	**29,712**	**(6,416)**	**(2,046)**	**47,112**	*3,655*
Reconciliation of Funds:									
Balance at 1 April								**178,230**	*174,575*
Balance at 31 March - General County Fund								**225,342**	*178,230*

21. Designated Funds

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2021/22

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 9)	N Garon Fund (note 10)	Building Fund (note 11)	Special Needs (note 12)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 13)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Thriftwood	Total	2020/21
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£		£	£
Donations legacies & grants	4	155,000	20,000		150	-			20,249		**195,399**	*192,726*
Other trading activities	14								7,392		**7,392**	*515*
Investment income		54	11	6	2	37			3		**113**	*532*
Charitable activities												
Subscriptions				6,420							**6,420**	*8,573*
Activity fees							7,496	2,836	160,535		**170,867**	*(6,215)*
		-	-	6,420	-	-	7,496	2,836	160,535		**177,287**	*2,358*
Total income		**155,054**	**20,011**	**6,426**	**152**	**37**	**7,496**	**2,836**	**188,179**		**380,191**	*196,131*
Expenditure on												
Other trading activities									4,131		**4,131**	*1,071*
Charitable activities												
Pay, NIC and pension costs	15								81,015		**81,015**	*79,552*
Catering for campers									7,248		**7,248**	*13*
Property maintenance									37,071		**37,071**	*39,109*
Energy and water									20,442		**20,442**	*17,995*
Equipment									13,961		**13,961**	*10,781*
Catering for staff & volunteers									568		**568**	*92*
Travelling expenses									538		**538**	*3*
Conference and Training expenses									1,576		**1,576**	*110*
Office expenses									5,711		**5,711**	*2,686*
Insurances									7,446		**7,446**	*5,652*
Consultants									385		**385**	*2,659*
Staff Uniforms									1,425		**1,425**	-
Administration expenses									2,335		**2,335**	*870*
Activity costs							5,650	6,403			**12,053**	*65,067*
Grants	9/10/11/12		9,440	4,500							**13,940**	*10,104*
		-	9,440	4,500	-	-	5,650	6,403	179,721		**205,714**	*234,693*
Total expenditure		**-**	**9,440**	**4,500**	**-**	**-**	**5,650**	**6,403**	**183,852**		**209,845**	*235,764*
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		**155,054**	**10,571**	**1,926**	**152**	**37**	**1,846**	**(3,567)**	**4,327**		**170,346**	*(39,633)*
Reconciliation of Funds:												
Balances at 1 April		99,372	34,789	24,419	8,014	176,827	16,657	(5,573)	(16,793)	-	**337,712**	*377,345*
Thriftwood balance transferred from General Fund										15,027	**15,027**	-
Transfer defunct Activity teams to General Fund							(7,210)				**(7,210)**	-
Balances at 31 March		**254,426**	**45,360**	**26,345**	**8,166**	**176,864**	**11,293**	**(9,140)**	**(12,466)**	**15,027**	**515,875**	*337,712*

Notes 9 to 12 provide details of the significant designated funds.

The Memorial Fund was established in 2010/11, following the receipt of 2 substantial legacies. In 2016/17, £190,000 was received as a legacy from the late Laurie Pears' estate.

The Essex International Jamboree Fund is used to finance the Jamboree held jointly with the three Guide Counties of Essex, every four years. The above represents the Essex County Scout Council share of the deficit carried forward as a result of the cancellation of the 2020 Jamboree.

Prior Year Comparative: Designated Funds 2020/21

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2020/21

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 9)	N Garon Fund (note 10)	Building Fund (note 11)	Special Needs (note 12)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 13)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Total	2019/20
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	4	70,000	20,000		150				102,576	**192,726**	*40,280*
Other trading activities	13								515	**515**	*22,629*
Investment income		65	24	28	7	152			256	**532**	*1,044*
Charitable activities											
Subscriptions				8,573						**8,573**	*8,750*
Activity fees							6,819	-	(13,034)	**(6,215)**	*258,987*
		-	-	8,573	-	-	6,819	-	(13,034)	**2,358**	*267,737*
Total income		**70,065**	**20,024**	**8,601**	**157**	**152**	**6,819**	**-**	**90,313**	**196,131**	*331,690*
Expenditure on											
Other trading activities									1,071	**1,071**	*17,961*
Charitable activities											
Pay, NIC and pension costs	14								79,552	**79,552**	*103,619*
Freelance Instructors									-	**-**	*-*
Catering for campers									13	**13**	*13,238*
Property maintenance									39,109	**39,109**	*43,512*
Energy and water									17,995	**17,995**	*38,701*
Equipment									10,781	**10,781**	*13,670*
Catering for staff & volunteers									92	**92**	*1,174*
Travelling expenses									3	**3**	*219*
Conference and Training expenses									110	**110**	*5,090*
Office expenses									2,686	**2,686**	*4,032*
Insurances									5,652	**5,652**	*6,094*
Consultants									2,659	**2,659**	*1,925*
Staff Uniforms									-	**-**	*2,258*
Administration expenses									870	**870**	*10,327*
Activity costs							6,369	58,698		**65,067**	*22,657*
Grants	9/10/11	-	200	9,904	-	-				**10,104**	*36,950*
		-	200	9,904	-	-	6,369	58,698	159,522	**234,693**	*303,466*
Total expenditure		**-**	**200**	**9,904**	**-**	**-**	**6,369**	**58,698**	**160,593**	**235,764**	*321,427*
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		**70,065**	**19,824**	**(1,303)**	**157**	**152**	**450**	**(58,698)**	**(70,280)**	**(39,633)**	*10,263*
Reconciliation of Funds:											
Balances at 1 April		29,307	14,965	25,722	7,857	176,675	16,207	53,125	53,487	**377,345**	*367,082*
Balances at 31 March		**99,372**	**34,789**	**24,419**	**8,014**	**176,827**	**16,657**	**(5,573)**	**(16,793)**	**337,712**	*377,345*

22. Analysis of Net Assets

The table below sets out the analysis of net assets split between Designated funds and other Unrestricted funds.

2021/22 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total £
Designated	-	515,875	-	515,875
General County	-	223,192	-	223,192
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total Unrestricted	**1,574,363**	**739,067**	-	**2,313,430**

Prior Year Comparative: Net Assets 2020/21

2020/21 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total £
Designated	-	337,712	-	337,712
General County	-	225,342	-	225,342
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total Unrestricted	**1,574,363**	**563,054**	-	**2,137,417**

23. Pension Costs

Government legislation requires all employees to be eligible for workplace pensions from 2017, with the County's in-house pensions scheme established from 1st April 2017. The County contributes 3% and the employees 5%. The County Scheme is administered by Smart Pensions.

24. Related Parties

The Trustees have donated £336 (2020/21 £66) to the Charity without conditions, see note 4.

Two of the Trustees are also Trustees of the Norman Garon Trust (registered charity 1120656) which donated £175,000 to the Essex County Scout Council during the year.

During the year the charity paid Masons Audit Ltd £1,014 (2020/21 £1,050) for payroll services. Bob Bye is a Trustee of the charity and a director of Masons Audit Ltd.

During the year £1,072 (2020/21 £1,362) was paid to Fortinbras HR Solutions Ltd, for HR services. Chris Dear (Trustee) is a 50% shareholder of this company.

During the year, Mrs Wendy Bye was recruited as County Bookkeeper. This is a paid, self-employed part-time role. During the year her company was paid £2,197. Wendy is the wife of Bob Bye, the County Commissioner.

Report of the Independent Auditor

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Essex County Scout Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex County Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republicof Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' report. 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.
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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set out on page 6, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows;
·The engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

- We identified the laws and regulations applicable to the charity through discussions with trustees, and from our knowledge and experience of the charity sector.
- We focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations for the charity, including the Charities Act 2011, tax legislation and employment legislation.

To assess the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement, we:
·made enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual or suspected fraud and
·considered the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non compliance with laws and regulations.

To assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations we designed procedures which included but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation,
- reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation claims.

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships,
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater

regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (i.e. gives a true and fair view).

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Statutory Auditor
Chelmsford
Essex
CM2 0AW

5th July 2022

Edmund Carr LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Annual Census and Subscriptions - March 2022

		2021 Census numbers					2022 Census numbers					Increase/(Decrease) in numbers			
		Numbers				Subscriptions	Numbers				Subscriptions				
		Young People	Network	Adults	Total	received @ £39.00	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	received @ £37.50	Young People	Network	Adults	Total
Districts						£					£				
	Basildon	281	19	188	488	10,959	374	19	180	573	14,025	93	0	(8)	85
	Billericay & Wickford	540	22	221	783	21,060	650	20	244	914	24,375	110	(2)	23	131
	Braintree	588	10	214	812	22,932	590	5	194	789	22,125	2	(5)	(20)	(23)
	Brentwood	557	7	257	821	21,723	636	6	271	913	23,850	79	(1)	14	92
	Castle Point	532	10	206	748	20,748	702	0	230	932	26,325	170	(10)	24	184
	Chelmsford and District	1,620	3	588	2,211	63,180	1,762	5	539	2,306	66,075	142	2	(49)	95
	Colchester Estuary	619	0	290	909	24,141	765	0	304	1,069	28,688	146	0	14	160
	Colchester North	672	8	245	925	26,208	776	19	243	1,038	29,100	104	11	(2)	113
	Crouch Valley	708	86	230	1,024	27,612	835	113	207	1,155	31,313	127	27	(23)	131
	Halstead & Colne Valley	240	0	92	332	9,360	297	0	104	401	11,138	57	0	12	69
	Harlow	333	1	105	439	12,987	326	0	114	440	12,225	(7)	(1)	9	1
	Hatfield	361	0	140	501	14,079	445	0	155	600	16,688	84	0	15	99
	Maldon & East Essex	598	0	217	815	23,322	746	0	238	984	27,975	148	0	21	169
	Royal Forest	628	0	255	883	24,492	919	0	249	1,168	34,463	291	0	(6)	285
	Saffron Walden	399	18	124	541	15,561	558	18	156	732	20,925	159	0	32	191
	Southend Estuary	484	16	193	693	18,876	593	9	187	789	22,238	109	(7)	(6)	96
	Southend West	665	0	278	943	25,935	755	0	282	1,037	28,313	90	0	4	94
	Tendring	405	18	222	645	15,795	508	22	216	746	19,050	103	4	(6)	101
	Thurrock/Stanford Le Hope	979	5	410	1,394	38,181	975	0	409	1,384	36,563	(4)	(5)	(1)	(10)
	Districts Total	11,209	223	4,475	15,907	437,151	13,212	236	4,522	17,970	495,450	2,003	13	47	2,063
County															
	Activity Teams, Network etc	0	0	97	97	0	0	0	114	114	0	0	0	17	17
	Adventures Offshore	0	0	47	47	0	0	0	43	43	0	0	0	(4)	(4)
	County Total	0	0	144	144	0	0	0	157	157	0	0	0	13	13
	Grand Total	11,209	223	4,619	16,051	437,151	13,212	236	4,679	18,127	495,450	2,003	13	60	2,076



Kingston Ridge Campsite Beacon - one of the 70 Scout official Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons



Front Cover - Scout Pride Essex ASU celebrating 50 years of Pride and the first Chelmsford Pride parade
Back Cover - Scouts making shavings for the Kelly Kettle with Bushscout Essex ASU
Photography by Essex Scouts Media and Communications Team (except page 10)

Scouts
Essex

ESSEX COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

England & Wales - Charity number 302097

Accounts

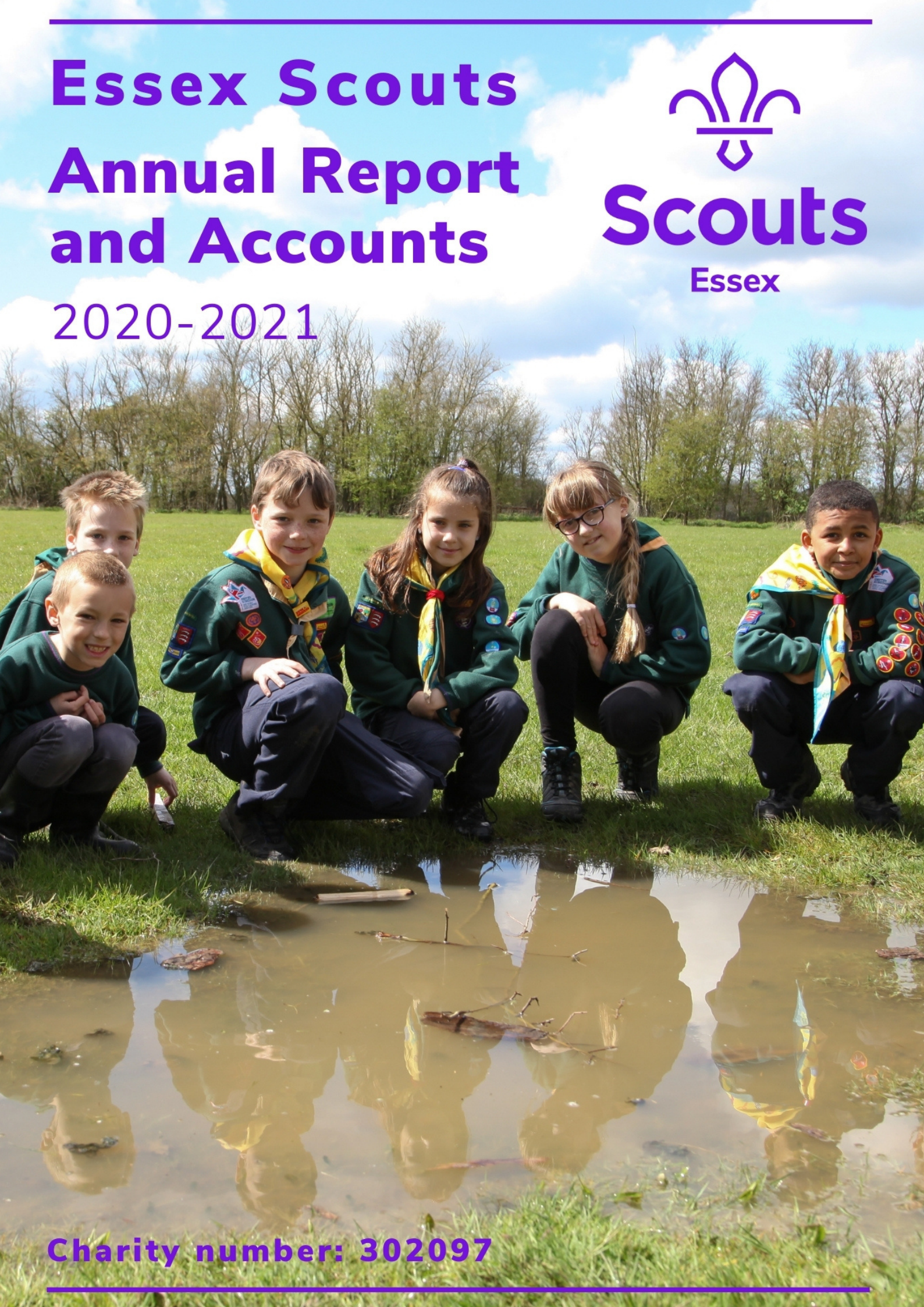
Essex Scouts

Annual Report and Accounts

2020-2021

Scouts

Essex



Charity number: 302097

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 21st, July 2021
Virtual Meeting by Zoom

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Scouts
Essex

The Essex County Scout Council is a Trust established under the rules of The Scout Association. Trustees are appointed under the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Essex County Scout Council

President
The Lord Petre, KCVO, DL

Vice Presidents
M C Treacher, MBE
B J Cousins
G Courtauld OBE, DL
L A Jordan, DL
J C Bailey

Bankers
Barclays Bank
2 High St
Chelmsford CM1 1BG

CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent ME19 4JQ

Auditor
Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Chelmsford CM2 0AW

Insurance Brokers
Merenda & Co Ltd
34 Ness Road
Shoeburyness
Essex SS2 9DF

Contact Address
County Secretary
11 Markland Drive
Maldon
Essex CM9 6UD
secretay@essexscouts.org.uk

The County Executive

Ex-officio Trustees
P J Stennett, County Chairman
R W T Pattison, County Commissioner
P W Murray, County Treasurer
A Maclachlan, County Secretary
Miss A Sturgeon, County Youth Commissioner
(as from 7th March 2021)

Nominated Trustees
Mrs S Griffiths
P Walker
R A Bye
Miss C Dell
Miss A Sturgeon (As from 16th September 2020)

Elected Trustees
G Monk
C Dear
J Freake
R Lyon
T Humphries (As from 16th September 2020)
Miss A Gore (until 16th September 2020)

Co-opted Trustees
Mrs E R Smith
K Connelly
M Falder

Charity Registration No.
302097

Scout Association No.
117

Online
www.essexscouts.org.uk
facebook.com/essexscouts
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instagram.com/essexscouts

Trustee's Report from the County Executive Committee

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on the businesses and communities in the UK and around the world throughout 2020 and into 2021, with unprecedented lockdown measures seen, combined with comprehensive and co-ordinated Government support measures.The lockdowns have had a significant impact on young people and their families, with Scouting stepping up to play its part in supporting its local communities. Within Essex, we have seen Scouts volunteer their time to support those who were Shielding, whether that be through providing support with shopping, collecting medication, or providing assistance in some other way. Essex Scout volunteers have helped to coordinate local initiatives, as well as providing support to the Essex Wellbeing Service and local equivalent services in the Boroughs of Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea, as well as providing volunteers to support roll-out of the vaccination process. A number of our Scouting volunteers are also key workers who have worked tirelessly throughout the last year under extremely challenging circumstances.

Throughout the year, a significant number of our Leaders have managed to continue to provide a Scouting experience to their young people, with meetings being held online as a result of face-to-face meetings stopping in March 2020. This at a time when everyone was trying to adapt to the significant changes being experienced in our lives, whether that be as a result of having to work from home, having been placed on furlough, being a key worker, facing redundancy or due to someone you know or a member of your family being affected by the virus.

As we move forward through 2021, the County team is working closely with the District Commissioners to identify and ensure that support is available to those Districts and Groups which need it, with us continuing to be flexible in terms of what type of assistance may be required.

There has never been a greater need for Scouting and what we have to offer in terms of providing help to each other as well as others in our communities. The Essex Scouts Trustees would like to acknowledge what has been done in the name of Scouting across the County by our Members and thank each and every individual who has done anything to provide support in whatever way they were able during the last year. At the time of writing this report, we are waiting to hear whether the Government will be agreeing to the final steps out of lockdown, with tentative steps being taken for a return to face-to-face Scouting, as restrictions allow.

Our Strategy

The Scout Association is developing a new strategic plan for Scouting across the UK, to secure a strategic direction through to 2023 and grow on the success of the current plan. Once complete, Essex Scouts will develop its own local strategic plan which will support the national strategy. Re-structuring of management teams at County level are already underway, with an interim development plan being formulated, focusing on post Covid lockdown recovery and Governance, in terms of volunteer training.

Objectives, Activities, Achievements

Purpose

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

Values

As Scouts we are guided by the following values:

·Integrity – We act with integrity; we are honest; trustworthy and loyal.
·Respect - We have self-respect and respect for others.
·Care – We support others and take care of the world in which we live.
·Belief – We explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
·Co-operation – We make a positive difference: we co-operate with others and make friends.

Vision

Essex Scouts actively support The Scout Association Vision for 2023:

“By 2023 we will have prepared more young people with skills for life, supported amazing Leaders delivering an inspiring programme. We will be growing, more inclusive, shaped by young people and making a bigger impact in our communities.

Method

Scouting takes place when young people, in partnership with adults, are provided with skills for life, working together based on the values of Scouting and:

·Enjoy what they are doing.
·Take part in activities indoors and outdoors
·Learn by doing
·Share spiritual reflection
·Take responsibility
·Undertake new and challenging activities
·Make and live by their promise.



Essex Scouting is open to all young people in Essex, Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock who are between the ages of 5 ¾ and 25 no matter what background, ethnic origin, nationality, race, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, political or religious belief.

Scouting in our County is provided through 20 Scout Districts, one of which is devoted purely to sailing, spread across 240 Scout Groups within those Districts. Covid-19 has had an impact on our overall membership numbers, primarily due to the fact that a number of sections were not able to meet during the year, for whatever reason. The January 2021 census showed that we have managed to retain c75% of our total membership, with us seeing a reduction in the number of young people of c4,750. Early indications are that the reduction in numbers may be temporary, with it anticipated that young people may return as we gradually get back to holding face to face meetings throughout the year. Whilst we saw a c12% reduction in the number of Leaders, our adult volunteers remain fully committed calling on their experience and training to deliver quality Scouting across the County.

The County Executive Committee acknowledges these volunteers are the most valuable asset and resource we have, without whom it would not be possible to provide Scouting to the young people of our County. As a membership organisation, one of the main priorities of the County has been to retain and recruit adult volunteers by supporting Districts and Groups, in order to increase youth membership, whilst also raising the recognition within the community of those volunteering to work with young people. The focus on this issue is part the County's re-structuring exercise which is ongoing and will be monitored to ensure it builds on past successes.

The Trustees confirm that they have paid due regard to the need in the Charities Act 2011 to demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit. Our assessment is that we have met the public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

The main principles of Scouting demonstrate that our aims are for the public benefit in the following ways:

·Developing young people towards their full potential, through the Scouting programme.
·There is a clear link between the purpose of Scouting and the benefits to young people.
·The various and numerous Scouting activities are undertaken with the health and safety of young people taken very seriously, and the benefit of these activities far outweighing any associated risks.
·The young people and other main beneficiaries of Scouting are in the 5¾ - 25 years age range.
·Young people who are prepared to make the Scout Promise are able to benefit from full scouting membership.
·We are an inclusive organisation, with membership open to all, including those living in financial hardship. Whilst an annual membership fee is payable by all members, the ability to join is not restricted by their ability to pay. Arrangements are in place locally to assist those who are unable to pay their annual membership and other costs, as well as funds being available nationally to assist with the purchase of uniforms and pay for activities, so as to ensure that young people are not excluded as a result of their inability to pay.

Structure, Governance and Management

Essex County Scout Council is the electoral body which supports and encourages the development of Scouting in the County, and operates in accordance with a written constitution. It is the body to which the County Executive Committee (the Trustees) is accountable. Details of the Trustees are shown on page1. The Trustees are appointed annually at the Annual General meeting of the County Scout Council, either by election or by nomination, and may also be co-opted by the County Executive Committee during the year. Trustees are made aware of their responsibilities, and are able to benefit from training provided by the County Team or e-learning packages from The Scout Association website. The County Executive Committee promotes Trustee's responsibilities to both District and Groups and compliance is monitored. We ensure that young people are involved in decision making, with two 18 – 25 year olds being members of the County Executive Committee. Young people are also given opportunities across the County to become Leaders of the future, leading to better retention of young people through adult volunteering.

The County Executive Committee met on five scheduled meeting dates throughout the year, together with an additional extraordinary meeting in August to consider the re-opening of Skreens Park Activity Centre following the Covid19 Lockdown. All meetings were held via zoom conferencing. Covid-19 presented many challenges and the Committee had to respond to issues, some at short notice, with decisions made by a consensus via email/telephone. The County Executive Committee is supported by a number of sub-committees and boards, consisting of Finance (including the County Grants Board), Appointments Advisory, Skreens Park Activity Centre, and Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre. The County Scout Council receives substantial support from a large number of volunteer helpers. There are c200 members of the County Team and other advisors directly supporting the County Scout Council. None of these volunteers receive any payments for services rendered. The principle sources of the Scout Council's income are membership subscriptions, fees paid by members for activities, together with grants and donations received from public bodies, trusts and individuals.

Trustees' Responsibilities Statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales 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 charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period.



In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:
·Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
·Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102).
·Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
·State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
·Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the charity will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Annual Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees confirm that major risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage those risks (As set out in the Risk Assessment Policy on page 18).

Covid-19

At the time of writing, there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel with many restrictions easing, although current rules still restrict many of our activities. So many Leaders across the County 'went the extra mile' to continue delivering quality Scouting to our young people, albeit via various forms of interactive electronic media. As a County, we held a Virtual Camp over a weekend in May, with the team led by Wendy Bye continuing to keep the fun in Scouting. Activities ranging from Science, outdoors, adventure, creativity, international and faiths & beliefs had zones with programmes that offered the chance to learn new skills, understand more about the world and take on adventurous challenges even indoors. Scouts from within Essex we were joined by other Scouts from across both the UK and the USA.





Across the County, numerous other activities were undertaken throughout the year in the name of Scouting, being performed by both Leaders and Young People in the support of their local communities. Tasks such as undertaking/collecting food shopping and collecting medication for those Shielding, volunteering for marshalling at testing stations and making their Scout Headquarters available for ambulance crews to use on their rest breaks.

The County Executive recognises the huge effort given by members in the name of Scouting and they offer a sincere "thank you" for rising to the challenge and contributing their time in an extraordinary period in our lives.

Achievements and Performance

Review of the Year

Covid -19 restrictions continue to have a major influence on Scouting in Essex. The County Executive, comprising of 16 Members, completed five scheduled meetings throughout the year and, along with the Annual General meeting, all meetings were held via the Zoom video conferencing facility. At the 2020 Annual General Meeting, two additional Members joined the Executive, Amber Sturgeon as one of our youth representatives and Tony Humphries whose experience in Health & Safety will ensure our Safety Policies are relevant and up to date. Safety and Safeguarding has always been paramount within Essex Scouts and with this in mind, much effort has gone into ensuring both County and District personnel have completed mandatory training as set by the Scout Association. Bob Bye (DCC) stated "…this was achieved by a small team put together to review Groups and Districts compliance and with their help and the encouragement of both Group Scout Leaders and District Commissioners I am pleased to say that ahead of our return to face-to-face Scouting Essex County Scouts has reached its target of more than 90% compliance in most areas…". In addition to Bob, thanks especially must go to Luke Bye, Hannah Welch and Wendy Bye for the hours spent in helping achieving our goals and for providing the data to Districts "

The County Executive Committee conduct their business with a high level of governance and commit to ongoing training to remain up to date with Policies and Procedures laid down by the Scout Association. The County has its own policies tailored to the needs of Essex Scouting and these are periodically reviewed by HR and H&S professionals. As a part of good governance, the County Executive regularly review throughout the year, potential 'risks' listed in a Critical Reminders document thus ensuring important issues do not get overlooked.

The County Executive Committee is supported by a number of Sub-Committees. They include the Finance, Skreens Park Activity Centre, Thriftwood County Headquarters & Training Centre, Appointments Advisory and County Grants Board, all of which report to the County Executive Committee.

It was always anticipated that the pandemic would have an adverse effect on the Youth membership numbers. This was confirmed when data from the 2021 census was collated. Whilst the Youth membership total had dropped to 11,000, it meant that we had actually retained c70% of our young people, despite the impact of the Covid pandemic, which is a great result and reflects changes seen across the Country. There are, however, strong indications that membership numbers are recovering and with the re-starting of face-to-face meetings in April 2021, it is hoped, Covid lockdowns permitting, numbers will be back to pre-pandemic levels during the year. Essex County Commissioner Richard Pattison recognised and acknowledged that across the County, a large number of Leaders "went the extra mile" to continue Scouting for young people and thanked them for their great effort.

Essex International Scout and Guide Jamboree

After the sad cancellation of the 2020 event due to the global pandemic the organizing team worked tirelessly to ensure all participant payments were fully refunded within a matter of a few months. Some non-refundable deposits were lost but in many cases refunds where negotiated with key contractors. Historic event reserves were however lost and funds sought from the Scout and Guides Counties to cover the shortfall.

We are indebted to the volunteer team especially the finance and registration teams who processed all the refunds and dealt with all the inquiries arising from the cancellation in a quick and efficient manner. Feedback received following the cancellation was very positive and leaders and volunteers were grateful for the early notice and the ease of the refund process.

The Scout and Guide Counties have asked Paul Walker and Karen Packer to lead a feasibility team which is now drawing up plans for the next event, expected to be held in 2024, albeit this remains subject to a considerable amount of ongoing uncertainty as Scouting, Guiding and the Country emerge from the pandemic and the running of large-scale events.

THRIFTWOOD
County Training HQ

Due to COVID 19 the County Headquarters and Training Centre at Thriftwood was closed for most of 2020-21 and unable to be used. The financial aspect of this will be covered in the County Treasurer's report.

Despite this our team of volunteers, known as C.H.A.P.S. carried out essential maintenance work on the Buildings when they were able, to ensure they did not deteriorate despite not being used.

The C.H.A.P.S. Team is a small group of volunteers who look after the maintenance of the County HQ and Training Centre complex at the Thriftwood Campsite, Brentwood. Currently there are thirteen permanent members led by Bill Marshall and we have to register the loss of Norman Sharpe during the year to the virus. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic a small group of the team have managed to get into the HQ as and when allowed, to undertake work.



In the past year the team gave 835 hours of service and completed over 102 pieces of work. A lot of their usual 'keep it tidy' work has been on hold as they dealt with finishing off the upgrade to the Main Hall gents' toilets and completing the refurbishment of the Main Hall ladies' toilets (see photos).

Ladies' restroom before



Ladies restroom after



The team have dealt with a number of electrical items as well as various safety issues, together with a few items arising following completion of an internal fire safety survey, with all either having been dealt with or are in hand.

The next major piece of work that the team have started is the conversion of The Snug and the back end of the Training Store into a County Heritage Centre. The back end of the Training Store is to become a proper Archive and The Snug will become the museum and research centre with access direct from the car park. A large part of this is a longer-term project but is hoped that the Archive & Museum will be completed in the coming year. The County have a current archive and museum housed above the kitchen but the archive is not readily accessible due to it being squashed under the eaves and the museum is not accessible to outsiders whenever the building is being used by others.

The new venue will allow us to look after our historic material much better and make access to everything much easier, enabling us to educate our Young People on Scouting's past in Essex and how we have changed as a progressive modern movement. It will also act as a resource for Scout Groups and Districts to research their early years. Rehousing of the County Heritage Centre has been generously sponsored by Malcolm Treacher.

A new County Scout Active Support Team has been formed to look after the Heritage Centre and currently has nine members led by Bill Marshall (Deputy County Archivist); with Irene Fisher as his Deputy and Malcolm Treacher (County Archivist) as Adviser.
We are all looking forward to a much better 2021
Once again our thanks must go to Bill Marshall and the C.H.A.P.S. team for all they do on a Voluntary basis at the County Headquarters & Training Centre.

County Grants Board

The role of the County Grants Board, which is a part of the Finance sub-Committee, is to distribute small grants to Groups and Districts seeking financial support. Grants are used for a variety of purposes. The most common are start-up grants, support for building work (which includes major repairs and new build), as well as replacement of kit used for adventurous activities. There is also a small amount of money available to support Special Needs activities.

All grants have one key objective, which is to enhance the benefits that Scouting brings to young people in Essex.

Monies available to the Grants Board are received from The Norman Garon Trust, the County Building Fund (CBF) and the Special Needs Fund (SNF). The CBF is funded from County Membership fees and the SNF from donations received.

Over the past year there has been only one start-up grant paid out, for a new Beaver Scout Colony. Other grants have been paid out for two new buildings and three for renovations projects as well as support for a van and archery equipment totalling over £36.5K, with commitments to pay nearly £10K. No applications were received for Special Need support during the year.

In addition to its normal activities this year, the Grants Board were asked to assist the Essex Council for Voluntary Youth Services distribute a total of just over £19K donated by local councils to 83 Scout Groups to assist them with the purchase of Covid 19 related equipment as they come out of lockdown. The County Grants Board have therefore distributed approximately £72.1K during the year from the funds listed to local Scout Groups and Districts in Essex.

Essex County Equipment Store and Events Team

This year the stores have been closed due to Covid 19 and cancellation of events that we usually support. As a result, we have made a loss due to being unable to rent out equipment for events. Having said that, the stores team have played their part in supporting the Covid 19 Vaccination Program by lending shelters (pop up tents) for people queuing.

Our thanks go to Will Burrage and his team for their ongoing management of the County Store and equipment.



The majority of the year has been dominated by the site closure due to the global pandemic. The site closed in March 2020 with no immediate prospect of reopening. The staff were furloughed and the site closed down. The management committee worked to reduce costs as much as possible, with many differing outcomes reviewed and discussed.

The Government's Covid Grants were successfully applied for and received, which have been vital to supporting the site and reducing the financial impact of closure. Over the year several staff left having found other work and several were made redundant, as the reality of the continued uncertainty and financial constraints was felt.

Following completion of a comprehensive set of Risk Assessments and development of Covid protocols, in line with national Scouting guidelines, the site re-opened on a limited basis in August. This saw the site used for public family camping and the provision of limited activity packages. The demand for the site was encouraging but difficult to service due to staffing numbers and continued uncertainty over future lockdowns. Sadly the site was forced to close again later in the year, due to the third National lockdown.

In early 2021 a roadmap was agreed in expectation of reopening. This included a review of safety and compliance matters, risk assessments, staffing and volunteer resources. Recruitment was undertaken to source two new staff members to start in May. This also identified a range of works that required attention including electrical, fire, tree and gas safety upgrades. On the back of this it was decided to use the opportunity of the site being closed to upgrade the kitchens and showers in Tinley and Leaman. Essential maintenance work has also been undertaken to the high ropes and climbing tower.

Leaman's upgraded kitchen



Leaman's upgraded toilets



Early 2021 also saw the creation of the Skreens Maintenance, Activity & Repair Team (SMART) Active Support Unit within which the volunteer team now sit. This team provide valuable support to the site across a wide range of tasks including IT, grass cutting, practical, technical and management input. The team continue to seek further volunteer support for this beautiful corner of Essex.

2021 sees 50 years of Scouting activities at Skreens Park. A badge competition has been run but celebrations have been muted by the continued financial, as well as practical constraints on the staff and volunteer resources. Plans are however in place to fully celebrate this milestone later in 2021 if permitted.

2020/21 will be remembered worldwide for the pandemic and for Skreens we will recall the year it was the sheep that enjoyed the park more than any young people, the significant impact on staffing and finances but also the year many volunteers stepped up and engaged on a completely different level. Every month saw twists and turns with lengthy discussions over multiple options and often the decision having to be changed or undone at short notice as the national picture chopped and changed.

We are an inclusive organisation.



The trajectory for the remainder of 2021 looks positive, but all decisions maintain an element of caution as we emerge from the pandemic. Two further staff have been taken on to help fulfil the very full booking commitments, which will result in a very busy year, provided we do not suffer any further lockdowns or setbacks.

Essex Scouts are indebted to the site staff for stoically coping with the uncertainty over their jobs, concerns about their own health and the site. Indeed Pat, Mikey and Ollie continue to dig deep as we juggle budgets with a very strong demand from Scouts, Guides, Schools and the public who are all eager to reengage with the great outdoors and adventurous activities the site provides.

A huge thank you also goes to the volunteer management team including Jim Freake, Stuart Little, Del Hales & Pete Murray who, led by Paul Walker, have guided the site through the last 12 months. The volunteer commitment grew exponentially overnight and bought with it extremely challenging circumstances, tough decisions and many difficult conversations. The committee as a whole have shown, during this most challenging of years, a steadfast commitment to our Scouting values.

The team look forward to welcoming Scouts, Guide, young people and families back to the site as we begin to emerge from the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic.

50 years of Scouting at Skreens (A brief history of the site)

The site was originally purchased in 1926 by Canon Samuel Tinley with a consortium for use as a holiday campsite for the parish families of St Luke's Victoria Docks in the east end of London. The land was part of the Skreens Park Estate being sold off in plots as part of the disposal of the original Skreens Park Manor, with the Manor House demolished.

The site consisted of 50 acres with a lake and some out buildings. The Canon added a larger timber bunkhouse and a simple 'earth' closet.

St Luke families used the site through to the early 1950's and on his retirement the Canon offered the site for the use of Scouts and Guides, who mainly held an annual county camp for special needs Scouts and Guides.

The deeds to the site were formally handed over in June 1970 during the annual Agoonex camp by Commander Delvin to David Papillion CC, David Evans DCC and Mrs Lyon CC for Guiding Essex West. Since its purchase the site has been the jewel in the crown of Essex Scouting. Many thousands of young people will have experienced camping, activities and the great outdoors.

The site has evolved proving popular for school and youth groups with full time staff employed to deliver activities at the site, strongly managed and supported by a dedicated volunteer crew.





A Fifty-Year Time Line



1970 Site handed to Essex Scouts
1971 first site warden
1972 new toilet block
1979 ex-army hut erected known as Leaman
1981 The Warren, the shop and the climbing tower erected
1989 Crew quarters erected
1990 Tinley roof replaced
1992 Wet weather barn erected
1993 Fire destroys Tinley
1994 New Tinley opened by Chief Scout
2000 Chapel renovated; Millennium wood planted
2003 Leaman opened by the Chief Scout
2004 Full time warden appointed
2005 Climbing tower opened
2006 New toilet and shower block opened
2007 Centenary of Scouting Sunrise Ceremony & Sensory gardens opened
2008 Last Essex Experience held
2010 Access drive purchased, road surfaced and new water main installed
2014 Skreens House (staff accommodation) opened
2019 Linear, Low, High and Wheelchair ropes courses funded by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex Freemasons
2020 HRH The Duke of Kent visits the site

THANK YOU

Scouting across Essex County has stepped up during the year in the face of unprecedented conditions, with the thousands of adult volunteers and administrators selflessly spending numerous hours and resources to continue providing exciting programmes and activities week after week for the benefit of our young people, albeit having to adapt to doing this virtually. In addition, a large number of our volunteer Leaders as well as Young People undertook numerous activities to support their neighbours and local communities and ensure that everyone was kept safe and well. It is the ongoing and committed support of our volunteers that ensures Essex Scouting continues to be the success it is and the County Executive Committee members would like to place on record their thanks and admiration for everything they do.

The next year will see the County working to recover from the impact of the pandemic, with their being a focus on the need to recruit more volunteers to work with our young people – there are people out there who, if asked, would be willing to help, so why not pop the question !
Essex continues to be one of the largest Scout Counties in the country, which is down to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, our greatest asset – WELL DONE AND THANK YOU ALL !

Paul J Stennett
County Chairman
June 2021

Report of the County Treasurer

It gives me great pleasure to present the accounts of the Essex County Scout Council for 2020/2021. During the year there was a surplus on the General Fund of £47k, which has increased our general reserves to £225k. This is more than sufficient to cover one year's expenditure and any contingencies arising during a year. The Executive continues to monitor the reserves on an on-going basis as outlined in the reserves policy below. In anticipation of this, the County's annual subscription for 2021/2022 has been reduced by £1 on the 2020/2021 subscription, to £3, and a deficit budget for 2021/22 has been agreed.

The budget for 2020/2021 was set to achieve a deficit of £22k for the year on the General Fund. This was to reduce the brought forward reserves on the General Fund in line with the Reserves Policy. However, with the effect of Covid and the lockdowns on Essex Scouting, the budget was revised to a surplus of £1k. In the event, the actual outcome came in at a surplus of £47k. The main reason for this was that we received Business Interruption Grants from Brentwood Council of £40k in respect of the County Headquarters & Training Complex at Thriftwood. To offset this income, with the slowdown of Scouting in general, expenses were less than budgeted.

Skreens Park, which was closed for the year, made a deficit of £70k against a budgeted deficit of £16k. The budget had been agreed as a deficit in order to continue a programme of refurbishment and development. The staff were put on to the Government Furlough scheme at the beginning of lockdown in April 2020 and during the year 6 of the staff left, leaving Pat Bailey, the Centre Manager, and 2 staff, as at March 2021. With the closure of the site and cancellation of camps, income was reduced, and refunds given/deposits carried forward. The deficit for the year includes accruals for deposits (future camping and activities) of £44k, fencing for the high ropes course of £13k and expenses of £7k. Business Interruption Grants totalling £40k were received from Chelmsford Council along with Furlough receipts of £62k from HMRC. During the year, some refurbishment and renovation work was able to take place.

The other Designated Funds continue to make funds available for the benefit of Essex Scouting generally. During the year, the Grants Board approved grants of nearly £17k. Details of all these grants can be found in notes 8 to 11 and note 20.

The various donations received during the past year, are shown in note 4, and are very gratefully acknowledged.

With the Covid-19 'lockdown' and curtailment of all Scouting activities from 23rd March 2020, all County events were either cancelled or postponed, notably, the closing of Skreens Park and cancellation of the Essex International Jamboree. The cost of cancelling the Jamboree was £117k of which 50% (£59k) is borne by Essex Scouts (see note 12). Planned activities for 2020 were also cancelled and new ones such as a 'Virtual Camp' replaced them. An accrual of £5k to cover the cost of cancellations was accounted in March 2020. The outturn of these activities can be seen in note 17.

Details of the accounts, notes and Auditor's Report are set out elsewhere in this document.

A full review of the County's finances is being undertaken, to see the effect of the pandemic on our financial position and our ability to fulfil our obligations going forward.
The 2021 County Census is also included with the main accounts for information.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has supported the County in the past year. Personally, I would like to thank our Chairman, Paul Stennett, and my assistant Jean Cunningham for all their support, without them my job would have been impossible.

Reserves Policy

Reserves represent that part of the Charity's Unrestricted Funds that are freely available to spend and enable the County Executive to fulfil its overall responsibilities. Whilst these responsibilities are mainly 'what ifs', the reserves should be sufficient to cover most eventualities and enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis and cover any contingencies should they arise.
The Trustees agreed that we are not looking to increase the level of reserves above their current level, with an absolute minimum figure of £100k being deemed sufficient to enable the County to operate on an ongoing basis. The level of Reserves may be varied by the Executive Committee if it identifies a longer-term project in which it might wish to invest, that seeks to further the objectives of Essex Scouting.

The Capital Development Fund will be used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre, although other projects across the County can be considered, when identified. Other earmarked reserves are maintained at a level to enable the specific objectives to be carried out.

Reserves will always be held as liquid assets in accounts regulated by appropriate banking institutions and governed as part of the investment policy.
The Trustees monitor the level of reserves on a regular basis.

Risk Assessment Policy

The Trustees and Commissioners are committed to conducting its undertaking in a manner that protects the health and safety of its employees, members, contractors and the public. In addition to complying strictly with the health and safety measures required by legislation, it is the Council's policy to promote and take all reasonably practicable steps to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of its employees, members and others who may be affected by its actions.

To meet the requirements of this policy the Trustees and Commissioners will work with all employees, volunteer leaders and other relevant parties to strive for continuous improvement in health and safety performance. They will operate an integrated, structured and documented system of management control over all its operations. This system of control commits the Executive Committee to:

- The undertaking of appropriate reviews and assessments of its operations and undertakings to measure progress, manage risk, and ensure compliance with this policy and that of the Scout Association.
- Setting up and maintaining safe and healthy systems of work to protect all county employees, members and others, including the public.

- Making all reasonable endeavours to ensuring that its county employees and volunteer leaders are fully competent to perform the tasks allocated to them by careful recruitment, ongoing training and development, and by provision of the necessary resources.
- Maintaining the health and safety awareness of all county employees and volunteer leaders by the establishment of sound health and safety practices and operations through competent management and good communications, leading to continuous improvement in health and safety performance.
- Ensuring that the contractors we directly engage are competent to perform the work contracted and encouraging good safety practice within such companies in compliance with this policy.
- Effective response to investigation of accidents and incidents and, to establish where appropriate root causes and take reasonable actions to prevent their reoccurrence.

To achieve this, the Executive Committee will work within the policies and procedures as laid down by the Scout Association and encourage and support all Districts in so doing. The Commissioners will provide information to, and ensure appropriate consultation with, county employees and volunteer leaders on matters relevant to this policy.

Prime responsibility for these matters lies with the Trustees and the County Commissioner and his Team; all other employees and volunteer leaders equally have responsibility for matters within their control. They have a duty to ensure that health and safety issues are given the fullest consideration at all times, and for providing a safe and healthy working environment for their employees and members.

In addition, all employees and members have a responsibility to themselves and others for the safety and prevention of ill health at work. We must all work together in the spirit of participation and co-operation to ensure the success of this Policy.

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer





STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
CONSOLIDATED SUMMARY 2020/21

	Notes	General	Designated	Total	2019/20
		Note 20	Note 21		
		£	£	£	£
Income from					
Donations and Grants	4	43,571	192,726	**236,297**	*41,135*
Charitable activities	19/20	79,091	2,358	**81,449**	*911,481*
Other trading activities	13	-	515	**515**	*22,629*
Investments - Bank interest		258	532	**790**	*1,665*
Total income		**122,920**	**196,131**	**319,051**	*976,910*
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities	2	75,808	234,693	**310,501**	*945,031*
Other trading activities	13	-	1,071	**1,071**	*17,961*
Total expenditure	2	**75,808**	**235,764**	**311,572**	*962,992*
Net income/(expenditure) resources before transfers		**47,112**	**(39,633)**	**7,479**	*13,918*
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds brought forward		178,230	377,345	**555,575**	*541,657*
Total Funds carried forward		**225,342**	**337,712**	**563,054**	*555,575*

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 £	£	2020 (restated) £	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible Assets	5		1,574,363		1,574,363
Current Assets					
Stocks		9,702		10,773	
Prepayments		21,235		147,237	
Sundry Debtors		11,997		47,774	
Cash	6	698,406		1,323,292	
		741,340		1,529,076	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year					
Sundry Creditors		42,867		80,945	
Provisions		15,461		20,480	
Accruals		41,422		18,426	
Receipts in Advance	7	78,536		853,650	
		178,286		973,501	
Net Current Assets			563,054		555,575
Total Assets less Current Liabilities			2,137,417		2,129,938
Net assets			2,137,417		2,129,938
Financed by					
General County Fund	19	225,342		178,230	
Designated Funds	20	337,712		377,345	
Total Usable Reserves		563,054		555,575	
Capital Financing Reserve	5	1,574,363		1,574,363	
Total Unrestricted Funds			2,137,417		2,129,938
Charity's Funds			2,137,417		2,129,938

These financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15th, July 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:

Paul Stennett
County Chairman

Peter Murray ACMA
County Treasurer

Statement of Cash Flows

	Total Funds	Prior Year	Note
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	624,886	(484,191)	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities			
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Purchase of property plant and equipment	0	0	5
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	0	0	
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(624,886)	484,191	
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	1,323,292	839,101	
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	698,406	1,323,292	6

Reconciliation in net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

Net movement in funds for the reporting period (as per the statement of reporting activities)	7,479	13,918	SOFA
Adjustments for:			
Purchase of plant and equipment	0	0	
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	1,071	(1,273)	
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	161,779	(187,064)	
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(795,215)	658,610	
Net cash provided by operating activities	(624,886)	484,191	

Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand	698,406	1,323,292	6
Total cash and cash equivalents	698,406	1,323,292	

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

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2.Analysis of expenditure

3.Analysis of governance costs

4.Donations and legacies

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1. Accounting policies

(i) Basis of preparation

These accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention and, other than disclosed in (iv) below, in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the FRS102 issued on 16th July 2014.

The accounts relate to the activities of the Essex County Scout Council and do not include the accounts of any of its individual Scout Groups or Districts within the County, each of which are set up as stand-alone charities.

The Charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS102.
Reclassification of prior year amounts. See Note 1(iv) below for details of prior year restatements.

(ii) Income

All incoming resources are included in the SOFA (Statement of Financial Activities) when the charity is legally entitled to the income, receipt is considered probable, and the amount can be reliably measured. Annual subscriptions received in respect of the following year and income for events in a future period is treated as deferred income (receipts in advance).

(iii) Expenditure

All expenditure, including irrecoverable VAT, is included as arising and on an accruals basis. All costs, other than governance costs, are directly attributable to specific activities.

(iv) Fixed assets – note 5

Tangible assets are divided into two categories:

- Freehold and leasehold land and buildings
- Equipment

The costs of equipment are written off and expensed in the year of acquisition and not held as assets in the balance sheet. All other fixed asset additions, whilst treated as an expense in the year of acquisition, are carried in the balance sheet at historic cost and the benefit recorded in the Capital Financing Reserve. On this basis no depreciation is provided.

The Trustees consider this conservative treatment to be appropriate for the charity as it is in line with the treatment of assets in the public sector.
The Trustees have conducted an impairment review and consider that the current value of the buildings is in excess of cost. Latest insured values are shown in note 5.

A new access road was built at Skreens Park in 2012 and the costs were written off as an expense in that year. No addition was made to the fixed assets or Capital Financing Reserve in respect of the costs incurred. The Trustees consider the cost of purchasing the land for the access road should be held as an asset in the balance sheet and accordingly a prior year adjustment has been made resulting in fixed assets and the Capital Financing Reserve being increased by £120,000 at 31 March 2020.

(v) Stocks – note 13

Stocks held at Skreens Park are valued at cost.

(vi) Fund accounting

The General County Fund is an unrestricted fund, which is available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in the furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Details of the nature and purpose of the designated funds are set out in note 20.
Restricted Funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor. The Trustees do not consider any such funds were held during the year.

2. Analysis of expenditure

	Youth Programme £	Adult Support £	Development £	2021 Total £	*2020 Total* £
Costs of generated funds					
Cost of goods sold	1,071	-	-	1,071	*17,961*
Charitable activities	262,441	27,778	-	290,219	*917,891*
Governance costs	18,341	1,941	-	20,282	*27,140*
	280,782	29,719	-	310,501	*945,031*
	281,853	**29,719**	-	**311,572**	*962,992*
Total 2020	*908,856*	*48,926*	*5,210*	*962,992*	

The high expenditure in 2020 in the Youth Programme Budget reflects the expenses incurred in connection with the World Scout Jamboree which took place in July & August 2019 in the USA. See Note 17.

3. Analysis of governance costs

The governance costs have been allocated based on gross expenditure of the activities. The total fees payable to the auditor amount to £6,600 in respect of audit services (2019/20 - £6,300). £1,000 of the fees are payable by the Essex International Jamboree, with the balance relating to the cost of auditing the County accounts only.

	Youth Programme	Adult Support	Development	2021 Total	*2020 Total*
	£	£	£	£	£
Governance costs					
Administration expenses	12,372	1,310	-	13,682	*20,840*
Audit fee	5,969	631	-	6,600	*6,300*
	18,341	**1,941**	-	**20,282**	*27,140*
Total 2020	*25,585*	*1,405*	*150*	*27,140*	

4. Donations and legacies

The following donations were received during the year.

	£
County Fund	
W. Marshall*	243
M. Treacher MBE*	118
J.C.Bailey*	200
P.J.Stennett*	66
Anonymous donations	100
	727
Capital Development Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**70,000**
Norman Garon Trust Fund	
Norman Garon Trust	**20,000**
Special Needs Fund	
Mrs P.A.Turtle*	**150**
Thriftwood Training Centre	
Brentwood Council - covid grants	40,286
W. Marshall*	58
M. Treacher MBE	2,500
	42,844
Skreens Park Activity Centre	
Government furlough receipts	61,909
Chelmsford Council - covid grants	40,137
Anonymous donations	530
	102,576
Total Donations 2020/2021	**236,297**
2019/20	*41,135*

** Indicates a donation made under gift aid*

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the above donations and thank the donors for their support of Essex Scouting.

The above includes those grants given by Central and Local Governments in line with the covid regulations.

5. Fixed assets

St Luke's Camp Site, Skreens Park, Roxwell is a freehold property (52 acres and 3-acre lake) acquired in 1971. The historic value of the site and buildings is £945,849. Thriftwood County Headquarters and Training Complex is a leasehold property (peppercorn rent) of 6 acres built in 1966 at a cost of £19,170 (99-year lease). The buildings at the two sites are currently insured for £4,010,248. The current value of equipment, vehicles and stocks for insurance purposes is £415,542. An analysis of the fixed assets is set out below.

	Mar 2021 £	*Mar 2020 (restated) £*
Skreens Park Activity Centre		
Original acquisition	11,615	*11,615*
Leaman House	286,081	*286,081*
Tinley House	249,353	*249,353*
Camp shop	27,085	*27,085*
Toilet and shower block	306,065	*306,065*
Wet Weather block	16,896	*16,896*
Climbing wall	46,765	*46,765*
Skreens House	184,186	*184,186*
Site Manager's Bungalow	5,236	*5,236*
High Ropes Course	301,911	*301,911*
Land purchase - access road	120,000	*120,000*
Thriftwood		
Original acquisition	19,170	*19,170*
	1,574,363	***1,574,363***

6. Cash

	2021	*2020*
	£	£
Operational accounts		
Barclays Current - No 1	88,434	*298,803*
Barclays Active Saver	446,762	*263,735*
CAF Bank Cash Main (current)	4,220	*5,643*
CAF Bank Gold (deposit)	84,303	*296,190*
CAF Bank Skreens (current)	4,668	*4,730*
CAF Bank Skreens Gold (deposit)	50,045	*66,396*
	678,432	*935,497*
Essex International Jamboree		
CAF Bank EIJ Main (current)	8,791	*107,931*
CAF Bank EIJ Registrations (current)	-	-
CAF Bank EIJ Gold (deposit)	48	*88,045*
	8,839	*195,976*
Barclays Current - No 2 - Jamboree Account	531	*179,547*
County Network (Paypal)	-	-
Cash held by activity teams		
Archery	1,542	*1,787*
Caving	3,892	*4,261*
Communications	-	-
First Aid and Ambulance	1,159	*1,159*
Mountaineering	1,946	*2,773*
Site Services Team	1,833	*2,037*
Bushcraft Team	232	*255*
	698,406	***1,323,292***

The reduction in cash held reflects the loss suffered by the Essex International Jamboree £117,396 and the 2021/22 Annual Subscription, £403,524, which was paid to Headquarters in March 2021. The 2020/21 Annual Subscription of £447,450 was paid over to Headquarters in April 2020.

7. Receipts in advance

Receipts in advance are as follows:

	2021 £	*2020* *£*
Annual Subscriptions	33,627	*510,250*
Skreens deposits	44,909	*252,076*
Eurojam 2020	-	38,199
Girlguiding Essex	-	*53,125*
	78,536	*853,650*

Annual subscriptions relate to the 2021/22 year, £403,524 was paid to Headquarters during March 2021 (note 16). The amount relating to Girlguiding Essex is in relation to the Essex International Jamboree and is held on behalf of the three Essex Guide Counties. The cancelation of the 2020 Jamboree and the resulting loss has pushed the reserves into deficit. These are now shown within debtors on the balance sheet. (Also, see note 12.) The other amounts relate to monies received in advance for particular events.

8.Capital Development Fund

The Capital Development Fund is a Designated Fund, used, principally, to finance new developments at Skreens Park Activity Centre. During 2020/21, no grants were made. However, the Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £70,000 for which we are most grateful.

9.Norman Garon Grants Fund

The Essex County Scout Council Grants Board administers funds made available annually by the Norman Garon Trust. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards new buildings, repairs, equipment and new group or section start-ups. The Fund benefited from a donation from the Norman Garon Trust of £20,000. The following grants were made during 2020/21:

		£
Start-up grants		
1st Corringham	*note 20*	200

Grants - already approved but not yet paid (£3,000), are within Creditors on the balance sheet:

10. Building Grants Fund

The Building Fund is financed by a 40p per head levy on the membership fee. The Grants Board considers applications from Scout Groups and Districts for financial assistance towards building projects. The following grants were made during 2020/21:

		£
Grants -approved		
15th Basildon - Emergency refurbishment		5,000
1st Broomfield - New storage building		3,404
1st Ingatestone & Fryerning - door & lights		1,000
Kingston Ridge Campsite		500
	note 20	9,904

Grants - already approved but not yet paid (£6,904), are within Creditors **on the balance sheet**:

11. Special Needs Fund

The Special Needs Fund is financed by bequests and donations. The Grants Board considers applications for any purpose that will enhance the scouting experience for those with special needs.

No grants were made during 2020/21 (2019/20 £nil)

12. Activity Teams

An analysis of the income and expenditure during 2020/21 of the activity teams, including joint ventures, is set out below. Each of these activities has a separate designated fund. The County Activity Teams' accounts are separately managed and examined.

	Opening balance £	Income £	Expenditure £	Surplus / (deficit) £	Closing balance £
Joint venture with the Guide Association					
Essex International Jamboree	53,125	-	58,698	(58,698)	**(5,573)**
Individual County teams					
Archery	1,785	56	301	(245)	**1,540**
Caving	4,261	7	376	(369)	**3,892**
Communications	3,700	-	-	-	**3,700**
First Aid	(956)	2,117	-	2,117	**1,161**
Water Activities	2,349	-	-	-	**2,349**
Mountaineering	2,775	4,639	5,466	(827)	**1,948**
Service Team	2,038	-	203	(203)	**1,835**
Bushcraft Team	255	-	23	(23)	**232**
	16,207	6,819	6,369	450	**16,657**
	69,332	**6,819**	**65,067**	**(58,248)**	**11,084**
Total 2019/20	*71,101*	*20,888*	*22,657*	*(1,769)*	*69,332*

The Joint Venture funds shown above, are Essex County Scout's share of the overall available funds. The share of funds held on behalf of the three Essex Guide Counties are shown within debtors.

In March 2020, the decision was made in the light of the Covid-19 virus, to cancel the Essex International Jamboree. Participants' money was repaid in April 2020. The loss by cancelling the Jamboree was £117,396, of which 50% is shown above. The other 50% has been borne by the 3 Guide Counties of Essex (see note 7). It has been decided that rather than carry the event forward to 2021, the next Essex International Jamboree will be held in 2024.

13. Skreens Park Activity Centre

A sub-Committee of the County Executive manages the Skreens Park Activity Centre. A separate fund is maintained for its financial activities, other than major capital expenditure, which is financed from the Capital Development Fund. The closing balance on the Activity Centre Fund was a deficit of £16,794 (surplus of £53,487 in 2019/20). With the advent of 'lockdown' from Monday 23rd March 2020, the site was closed and all bar one of the staff (8) were put on the Government's furlough scheme. The one remaining on payroll acting as caretaker. The site has remained closed until April 2021. Six of the staff left during the year. Grants under the Governments lockdown arrangements totalling £40,137 have been received. Essential maintenance and upgrade work has been carried out by volunteer staff.

The loss in the shop (below) was due to the disposal of out-of-date items.

	2020/21	*2019/20*
	£	*£*
Opening stock	**10,773**	*9,500*
Purchases	**-**	*19,234*
	10,773	*28,734*
Closing stock	**9,702**	*10,773*
Value of goods sold	**1,071**	*17,961*
Sales	**515**	*22,629*
Surplus/(deficit)	**(556)**	***4,668***

14. Employees' Remuneration

At 31st March 2020, Essex County Scout Council employed 9 full time staff at Skreens Park Activity Centre, the Centre Operations Manager, Programme Co-ordinator and seven activity instructors. With the advent of 'lockdown' from Monday 23rd March 2020, the site was closed and all bar one of the staff were put on the Government's furlough scheme.

At 31st March 2021 there were 3 staff who remain on flexible furlough, whilst working part-time.

No Trustee received any remuneration. No employee received benefits of more than £60,000 during the year.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Salaries	78,587	101,718
Social security costs	-	1,010
Pension costs	965	891
	79,552	103,619

A Local Development Officer is employed by The Scout Association on behalf of East of England Scout Region, to support the growth of Scouting, with this being the third year of a three-year project. Essex County Scouts is contracted to contribute £5,000 p.a. towards the overall costs, which are shared by the three participating Scout Counties within the Region. With the advent of lockdown, the LDO was put on the Government Furlough Scheme. Headquarters have informed us that no costs under the contract were payable in 2020/21 and no further costs would be forthcoming. (Note 19).

15.Trustees' expenses

Two of the Essex County Scout Council Trustees were reimbursed travel expenses totalling £180. (Six Trustees received £1,089 in 2019/20).

16. Headquarters subscriptions

During the financial year Essex County Scout Council received the 2021/22 annual subscriptions in advance from Districts for onward transmission to Scout Headquarters. These transactions are not reflected in the SOFA. Details are shown below.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Gross Receipts	437,151	510,250
Paid to HQ	(403,524)	(447,450)
Retained by County	33,627	62,800

17. County activities

An analysis of the income and expenditure of activities, financed through the General County Fund, is set out below:

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)
	£	£	£
Cub Scouts			
Situation Skreens	532	599	(67)
Virtual Camp	740	3,675	(2,935)
Easter Egg Hunt	-	81	(81)
Scouts			
Backpack 2020	14,567	15,686	(1,119)
Explorers			
Voice	60	93	(33)
Activity Contingency (accrual written back)	-	(5,000)	5,000
Essex Centenary Celebrations	-	37	(37)
Essex Weekend 2020	1,003	1,321	(318)
Litterpick	-	1,176	(1,176)
County Marathon	600	710	(110)
D of E Award Scheme	1,684	84	1,600
	19,186	18,462	724
Total 2019/20	*528,167*	*544,003*	*(15,836)*

The planned activities for 2020/21 were cancelled. Only virtual activities took place. No County activities have been planned for 2021/22. A contingency provision of £5,000 set up in March 2020 has been used to cover any costs incurred as a result of cancellations.

18. Summary Revenue Account

SUMMARY REVENUE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Income	Expenditure	Surplus / (deficit)	*2019/20*
	£	£	£	£
General County Fund				
Membership Subscriptions	54,229	-	**54,229**	*68,900*
Administration	1,341	20,282	**(18,941)**	*(24,103)*
Local Development Officer	-	-	-	*(5,060)*
Adult Training	-	9,426	**(9,426)**	*(17,087)*
Thriftwood County Headquarters	48,064	18,352	**29,712**	*6,276*
County Network	100	6,516	**(6,416)**	*(3,690)*
County Activities	19,186	21,232	**(2,046)**	*(21,581)*
	122,920	75,808	**47,112**	*3,655*
Designated Funds				
Special Needs	157	-	**157**	*(629)*
Memorial Fund	152	-	**152**	*473*
Capital Development	70,065	-	**70,065**	*20,047*
Building Grants	8,601	9,904	**(1,303)**	*334*
Norman Garon Grants	20,024	200	**19,824**	*(7,573)*
Activity Teams	6,819	6,369	**450**	*1,210*
Essex International Jamboree	-	58,698	**(58,698)**	*(2,979)*
Skreens Park Activity Centre	90,313	160,593	**(70,280)**	*620*
Total Funds	319,051	311,572	**7,479**	*13,918*

Adult training is funded by a £1 levy, included within the annual subscription, which enables training to be free at the point of delivery.

19. General County Fund

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2020/21

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't Officer	Adult Training	Thriftwood	County Store	Activities (Note 18)	Total	2019/20
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from									
Donations legacies & grants	4	727			42,844			**43,571**	*855*
Other trading activities	13							-	-
Investment income		258						**258**	*621*
Charitable activities									
Subscriptions		54,229						**54,229**	*68,900*
Training fees								-	*1,777*
Activity fees							19,186	**19,186**	*529,684*
Camp fees and lettings					5,220	100		**5,320**	*43,339*
Other income		356						**356**	*44*
		54,585	-	-	5,220	100	19,186	**79,091**	*643,744*
Total income		**55,570**	-	-	**48,064**	**100**	**19,186**	**122,920**	*645,220*
Expenditure on									
Raising funds	13							-	-
Charitable activities									
Pay and NI costs	14							-	*5,000*
Activity costs							18,462	**18,462**	*544,003*
Property maintenance					5,677	479		**6,156**	*24,064*
Rates					203			**203**	*1,972*
Energy and water					8,682			**8,682**	*6,915*
Catering				57				**57**	*1,805*
Hire of premises				270		6,037		**6,307**	*9,446*
Travelling expenses				66	612			**678**	*1,095*
Scout school & Skills training				8,779				**8,779**	*11,390*
Essex Pride								-	*60*
Administration expenses				254	772		2,770	**3,796**	*6,819*
Insurances					2,406			**2,406**	*1,856*
		-	-	9,426	18,352	6,516	21,232	**55,526**	*614,425*
Governance costs									
Committee & meeting expenses								-	*1,862*
Travelling expenses		180						**180**	*2,231*
Office expenses		2,818						**2,818**	*148*
Communications team		588						**588**	*931*
Insurances		3,239						**3,239**	*3,391*
Accounting costs		4,352						**4,352**	*7,587*
Audit fee	3	6,600						**6,600**	*6,300*
Conference expenses								-	*189*
Annual report and AGM		9						**9**	*756*
Asset software		2,088						**2,088**	*2,289*
Other expenses		408						**408**	*1,456*
	3	20,282	-	-	-	-	-	**20,282**	*27,140*
Total expenditure		**20,282**	-	**9,426**	**18,352**	**6,516**	**21,232**	**75,808**	*641,565*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**35,288**	-	**(9,426)**	**29,712**	**(6,416)**	**(2,046)**	**47,112**	*3,655*
Reconciliation of Funds:									
Balance at 1 April								**178,230**	*174,575*
Balance at 31 March - General County Fund								**225,342**	*178,230*

Prior Year Comparative: General County Fund 2019/20

GENERAL COUNTY FUND 2019/20

	Notes	Subs and Administration	Local Develop't Officer	Adult Training	Thriftwood	County Store	Activities (Note 18)	Total	2018/19
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Incoming resources from									
Donations	4	855						**855**	*760*
Investment income		621						**621**	*509*
Charitable activities									
Subscriptions		68,900						**68,900**	*100,852*
Training fees				1,157			620	**1,777**	*4,677*
Activity fees		1,517					528,167	**529,684**	*523,303*
Camp fees and lettings					35,553	7,786		**43,339**	*37,030*
Other income		44						**44**	*737*
		70,461	-	1,157	35,553	7,786	528,787	**643,744**	*666,599*
Total income		**71,937**	-	**1,157**	**35,553**	**7,786**	**528,787**	**645,220**	*667,868*
Expenditure on									
Raising funds	13							-	-
Charitable activities									
Pay and NI costs	14		5,000					**5,000**	*5,000*
Activity costs							544,003	**544,003**	*511,746*
Property maintenance					18,534	5,530		**24,064**	*30,077*
Rates					1,972			**1,972**	*1,726*
Energy and water					6,915			**6,915**	*12,986*
Catering				1,805				**1,805**	*1,433*
Hire of premises				3,500		5,946		**9,446**	*10,288*
Travelling expenses				1,095				**1,095**	*2,413*
Scout school & Skills training				11,390				**11,390**	*12,484*
Essex Pride			60					**60**	*657*
Administration expenses				454			6,365	**6,819**	*7,880*
Insurances					1,856			**1,856**	*2,228*
		-	5,060	18,244	29,277	11,476	550,368	**614,425**	*598,918*
Governance costs									
Committee & meeting expenses		1,862						**1,862**	*2,075*
Travelling expenses		2,231						**2,231**	*3,446*
Office expenses		148						**148**	*147*
Communications team		931						**931**	*3,353*
Insurances		3,391						**3,391**	*3,110*
Accounting costs		7,587						**7,587**	*7,514*
Audit fee	3	6,300						**6,300**	*5,000*
Conference expenses		189						**189**	*40*
Annual report and AGM		756						**756**	*688*
Asset software		2,289						**2,289**	*2,088*
Other expenses		1,456						**1,456**	*1,900*
	3	27,140	-	-	-	-	-	**27,140**	*29,361*
Total expenditure		**27,140**	**5,060**	**18,244**	**29,277**	**11,476**	**550,368**	**641,565**	*628,279*
Net income /(expenditure)/Net movement in Funds		**44,797**	**(5,060)**	**(17,087)**	**6,276**	**(3,690)**	**(21,581)**	**3,655**	*39,589*
Reconciliation of Funds:									
Balance at 1 April								**174,575**	*134,986*
Balance at 31 March - General County Fund								**178,230**	*174,575*

20. Designated Funds

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2020/21

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 8)	N Garon Fund (note 9)	Building Fund (note 10)	Special Needs (note 11)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 13)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Total	2019/20
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations legacies & grants	4	70,000	20,000		150				102,576	**192,726**	*40,280*
Other trading activities	13								515	**515**	*22,629*
Investment income		65	24	28	7	152			256	**532**	*1,044*
Charitable activities											
Subscriptions				8,573						**8,573**	*8,750*
Activity fees							6,819	-	(13,034)	**(6,215)**	*258,987*
		-	-	8,573	-	-	6,819	-	(13,034)	**2,358**	*267,737*
Total income		**70,065**	**20,024**	**8,601**	**157**	**152**	**6,819**	**-**	**90,313**	**196,131**	*331,690*
Expenditure on											
Other trading activities									1,071	**1,071**	*17,961*
Charitable activities											
Pay, NIC and pension costs	14								79,552	**79,552**	*103,619*
Catering for campers									13	**13**	*13,238*
Property maintenance									39,109	**39,109**	*43,512*
Energy and water									17,995	**17,995**	*38,701*
Equipment									10,781	**10,781**	*13,670*
Catering for staff & volunteers									92	**92**	*1,174*
Travelling expenses									3	**3**	*219*
Conference and Training expenses									110	**110**	*5,090*
Office expenses									2,686	**2,686**	*4,032*
Insurances									5,652	**5,652**	*6,094*
Consultants									2,659	**2,659**	*1,925*
Staff Uniforms									-	-	*2,258*
Administration expenses									870	**870**	*10,327*
Activity costs							6,369	58,698		**65,067**	*22,657*
Grants	9/10/11		200	9,904						**10,104**	*36,950*
		-	200	9,904	-	-	6,369	58,698	159,522	**234,693**	*303,466*
Total expenditure		**-**	**200**	**9,904**	**-**	**-**	**6,369**	**58,698**	**160,593**	**235,764**	*321,427*
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		**70,065**	**19,824**	**(1,303)**	**157**	**152**	**450**	**(58,698)**	**(70,280)**	**(39,633)**	*10,263*
Reconciliation of Funds:											
Balances at 1 April		29,307	14,965	25,722	7,857	176,675	16,207	53,125	53,487	**377,345**	*367,082*
Balances at 31 March		**99,372**	**34,789**	**24,419**	**8,014**	**176,827**	**16,657**	**(5,573)**	**(16,793)**	**337,712**	*377,345*

Notes 8 to 11 provide details of the significant designated funds.

The Special Needs Fund is used to finance activities for Scouts with special needs.

The Memorial Fund was established in 2010/11, following the receipt of 2 substantial legacies. In 2016/17, £190,000 was received as a legacy from the late Laurie Pears' estate. In 2018/19, £89,467 was put towards the low and disabled ropes courses.

The Essex International Jamboree Fund is used to finance the Jamboree held jointly with the three Guide Counties of Essex, every four years. The above represents the Essex County Scout Council share of the funds carried forward from previous events.

Prior Year Comparative: Designated Funds 2019/20

DESIGNATED FUNDS 2019/20

	Notes	Capital Develop't (note 8)	N Garon Fund (note 9)	Building Fund (note 10)	Special Needs (note 11)	Memorial Fund	Activity teams (note 13)	Essex International Jamboree	Skreens Park	Total	2018/19
Income from		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations & legacies	4	20,000	20,000		150				130	**40,280**	*46,010*
Other trading activities	13								22,629	**22,629**	*22,434*
Investment income		47	77	84	21	473			342	**1,044**	*836*
Charitable activities											
Subscriptions				8,750						**8,750**	*8,782*
Activity fees							20,888	-	238,099	**258,987**	*212,104*
		-	-	8,750	-	-	20,888	-	238,099	**267,737**	*220,886*
Total income		**20,047**	**20,077**	**8,834**	**171**	**473**	**20,888**	**-**	**261,200**	**331,690**	*290,166*
Expenditure on											
Other trading activities									17,961	**17,961**	*13,817*
Charitable activities											
Pay, NIC and pension costs	14								103,619	**103,619**	*90,639*
Freelance Instructors									-	**-**	*775*
Catering for campers									13,238	**13,238**	*12,607*
Property maintenance									43,512	**43,512**	*27,918*
Energy and water									38,701	**38,701**	*41,810*
Equipment									13,670	**13,670**	*8,177*
Catering for staff & volunteers									1,174	**1,174**	*702*
Travelling expenses									219	**219**	*57*
Conference and Training expenses									5,090	**5,090**	*622*
Office expenses									4,032	**4,032**	*4,379*
Insurances									6,094	**6,094**	*5,753*
Consultants									1,925	**1,925**	*1,463*
Staff Uniforms									2,258	**2,258**	*875*
Administration expenses									10,327	**10,327**	*5,063*
Skreens Park:											
Skreens' ropes courses										**-**	*139,283*
Activity costs							19,678	2,979		**22,657**	*51,212*
Grants	9/10/11	-	27,650	8,500	800	-				**36,950**	*102,033*
		-	27,650	8,500	800	-	19,678	2,979	243,859	**303,466**	*493,368*
Total expenditure		**-**	**27,650**	**8,500**	**800**	**-**	**19,678**	**2,979**	**261,820**	**321,427**	*507,185*
Net income/(expenditure)/ Net movement in Funds		**20,047**	**(7,573)**	**334**	**(629)**	**473**	**1,210**	**(2,979)**	**(620)**	**10,263**	*(217,019)*
Reconciliation of Funds:											
Balances at 1 April		9,260	22,538	25,388	8,486	176,202	14,997	56,104	54,107	**367,082**	*584,101*
Balances at 31 March		**29,307**	**14,965**	**25,722**	**7,857**	**176,675**	**16,207**	**53,125**	**53,487**	**377,345**	*367,082*

21. Analysis of Net Assets

The table below sets out the analysis of net assets split between Designated funds and other Unrestricted funds.

2020/21 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total £
Designated	-	337,712	-	337,712
General County	-	225,342	-	225,342
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total Unrestricted	**1,574,363**	**563,054**	-	**2,137,417**

Prior Year Comparative: Net Assets 2019/20

2019/20 Funds	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current assets £	Creditor in excess of 1 year	Total (restated) £
Designated	-	377,345	-	377,345
General County	-	178,230	-	178,230
Capital financing	1,574,363	-	-	1,574,363
Total Unrestricted	**1,574,363**	**555,575**	-	**2,129,938**

22. Pension costs

Government legislation requires all employees to be eligible for workplace pensions from 2017, with the County's in-house pensions scheme established from 1st April 2017. The County contributes 3% and the employees 5%. The County Scheme is administered by Smart Pensions (see note 14).

23. Related Parties

The Trustees have donated £66 (2019/20 £205) to the Charity without conditions, see note 4.

Two of the Trustees are also Trustees of the Norman Garon Trust (registered charity 1120656) which donated £90,000 to the Essex County Scout Council during the year.

During the year the charity paid Masons Audit Ltd £1,050 (2019/20 £672) for payroll services. R. Bye is a Trustee of the charity and a director of Masons Audit Ltd.

During the year £1,362 (2019/20 £1,762) was paid to Fortinbras HR Solutions Ltd, for HR services. Chris Dear (Trustee) is a 50% shareholder of this company.

Report of the Independent Auditor

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Essex County Scout Council

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Essex County Scout Council (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the cash flow statement and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republicof Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

·give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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 Charities Act 2011.

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 Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity 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 charity'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 other information comprises the information included in the trustees' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' report. 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.
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 course of 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

·the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
·sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
·the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
·we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 4, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements which 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 charity'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 charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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 an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

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

· to assess the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, we made enquiries of management as to their knowledge of actual or suspected fraud and considered the internal controls in place to mitigate the risks of fraud and non compliance with laws and regulations.
· to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations we designed procedures which included but were not limited to agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation, reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation claims.
· to address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships and tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

·Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
·Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the charity's internal control.

·Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
·Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
·Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Edmund Carr LLP
146 New London Road
Statutory Auditor
Chelmsford

Essex CM2 0AW
19th July 2021

Edmund Carr LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Annual Census and Subscriptions - March 2021

	2020 Census numbers					2021 Census numbers					Increase/(Decrease)			
	Numbers				Subscriptions Received -	Numbers				Subscriptions Received -	**Numbers**			
	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	Young People @ 32.50	Young People	Network	Adults	Total	Young People @ 39.00	Young People	Network	Adults	Total
Districts					£					£				
Basildon	498	37	231	766	16,185	281	19	188	488	10,959	(217)	(18)	(43)	(278)
Billericay & Wickford	719	21	251	991	23,368	540	22	221	783	21,060	(179)	1	(30)	(208)
Braintree	893	24	241	1,158	29,023	588	10	214	812	22,932	(305)	(14)	(27)	(346)
Brentwood	787	8	283	1,078	25,578	557	7	257	821	21,723	(230)	(1)	(26)	(257)
Castle Point	691	46	224	961	22,458	532	10	206	748	20,748	(159)	(36)	(18)	(213)
Chelmsford and District	1998	100	655	2,753	64,935	1620	3	588	2,211	63,180	(378)	(97)	(67)	(542)
Colchester Estuary	928	0	319	1,247	30,160	619	0	290	909	24,141	(309)	0	(29)	(338)
Colchester North	871	24	259	1,154	28,308	672	8	245	925	26,208	(199)	(16)	(14)	(229)
Crouch Valley	1041	98	262	1,401	33,833	708	86	230	1,024	27,612	(333)	(12)	(32)	(377)
Halstead & Colne Valley	380	0	104	484	12,350	240	0	92	332	9,360	(140)	0	(12)	(152)
Harlow	513	18	122	653	16,673	333	1	105	439	12,987	(180)	(17)	(17)	(214)
Hatfield	464	0	161	625	15,080	361	0	140	501	14,079	(103)	0	(21)	(124)
Maldon & East Essex	866	0	250	1,116	28,145	598	0	217	815	23,322	(268)	0	(33)	(301)
Royal Forest	1032	0	301	1,333	33,540	628	0	255	883	24,492	(404)	0	(46)	(450)
Saffron Walden	505	23	136	664	16,413	399	18	124	541	15,561	(106)	(5)	(12)	(123)
Southend Estuary	732	16	255	1,003	23,790	484	16	193	693	18,876	(248)	0	(62)	(310)
Southend West	826	0	315	1,141	26,845	665	0	278	943	25,935	(161)	0	(37)	(198)
Tendring	700	49	249	998	22,750	405	18	222	645	15,795	(295)	(31)	(27)	(353)
Thurrock	1256	18	415	1,689	40,820	979	5	410	1,394	38,181	(277)	(13)	(5)	(295)
Districts Total	15,700	482	5,033	21,215	510,250	11,209	223	4,475	15,907	437,151	(4,491)	(259)	(558)	(5,308)
County														
Activity Teams, Network etc	0	0	150	150	0	0	0	47	47	0	0	0	(103)	(103)
Adventures Offshore	0	0	67	67	0	0	0	97	97	0	0	0	30	30
County Total	0	0	217	217	0	0	0	144	144	0	0	0	(73)	(73)
Grand Total	15,700	482	5,250	21,432	510,250	11,209	223	4,619	16,051	437,151	(4,491)	(259)	(631)	(5,381)



Scouts
Essex