CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 504634

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1984-03-07
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Bishop Lloyd's Palace 51-53 Watergate Street Row Chester CH1 2LE
Phone	01244 318415
Email	admin@chestercivictrust.org.uk
Website	www.chestercivictrust.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (I) TO STIMULATE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT. (II) TO PROMOTE HIGH STANDARDS OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT. (III) TO SECURE THE PRESERVATION PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF FEATURES OF HISTORIC OR PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT.

Activities: WE HELP TO CONSERVE CHESTER'S HERITAGE, WE INFLUENCE THE NATURE OF NEW DEVELOPMENT AND WE PROVIDE CONSTRUCTIVE OPINIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE CITY AND ITS SURROUNDING AREA.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** CITY OF CHESTER
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West & Chester

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£64,015	£23,908	-	-
2024-03-31	£29,582	£24,101	-	-
2023-03-31	£53,749	£57,534	-	-
2022-03-31	£35,636	£36,016	-	-
2021-03-31	£21,614	£10,876	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHRISTINE MARGARET RUSSELL	Chair	2013-02-01
ALISTAIR TAYLOR JONES		
ANTHONY RICHARD BARTON		2013-02-03
Andrew Pannell		2019-09-26
Cynthia Phillips		2016-09-29
DAVID JOHN EVANS		2013-02-03
DAVID JOHN TWEED		
Graham Catlin		2021-10-07
Hilarie McNae		2019-09-26
JOHN DAVID HERSON		2013-02-01
Jane Amanda Roberts		2023-10-05
Jean Evans		2021-10-07
John Stephen Langtree MBE		2019-09-26
Karen McKay		2018-09-27
Nicholas Clarke		2021-10-07
PETER WILLIAM COCKER		2013-02-01
Ruth Alexandra Davidson		2013-02-03
Susan Margaret Harris		2021-10-07
Valerie Faye Mustill-Daniels		2019-09-26

Accounts

Charity registration number 504634

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Hargreaves & Woods

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISERS

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

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CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	
Charity registration	England and Wales 504634
Principal address	Bishop Lloyds Palace 51-53 Watergate Street Row Chester CH1 2LE
Independent examiner	James Hargreaves FCA Cholmondeley House Dee Hills Park Chester Cheshire CH3 5AR

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

The main mission of the Trust is to preserve and improve the built environment in and around Chester and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. To achieve this mission it has set itself the following objectives:

- To foster civic pride and public interest in Chester's buildings and their settings;
- To champion good architecture, planning and design, and promote sustainability;
- To preserve and enhance Chester's architectural and cultural heritage;
- To improve the quality of life for people in Chester

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2025

2024/25 has been a year of celebration for Chester Civic Trust. A 'Blue Sapphire' 65th anniversary of the founding of Chester Civic Trust in 1960 coupled with the 50th anniversary of the European Architectural Heritage Year (EAHY) in 1975. It was very appropriate that one of the highlights of 2025 was the visit to our HQ, Bishop Lloyd's Palace, by HRH Duke of Gloucester as the blue sapphire is traditionally the gemstone of royalty! HRH had previously visited the city in 1975 to see at first hand the restoration work that was being carried out in the Bridgegate Action Area, one of the pilot projects of the EAHY. The key contribution of Chester Civic Trust at the time was the reinstatement of the medieval High Cross outside St Peter's Church. The High Cross had stood at the Cross from 1476 to 1646 when it was demolished after the surrender of Chester to the Parliamentarians in 1646. To celebrate both significant anniversaries, a successful Dinner was held at Chez Joules restaurant in June.

The Trust's finances are in good shape, thanks in part to generous legacies received from Dr Allan Pullin and Keith Truman, a long-standing member of the Events Committee. Membership numbers have remained stable and covered administrative costs. The income from hirers that pays for utility bills and repairs and maintenance has increased. We have started negotiations with Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council to renew the Bishop Lloyd's Palace lease.

Over the last 12 months we have moved into the digital age and increased the use of electronic communications to members. Members have welcomed the introduction of online bookings and payments.

In common with most small charities, Chester Civic Trust is totally dependent on volunteers. We have no paid staff. Whilst it can be invidious to mention individuals we should thank David Colclough for taking on the role of building manager and Rob Ford for the bookkeeping function. Liz Preedy continues to represent the Trust on a number of heritage committees and organisations. Faye Mustill-Daniels is the membership secretary who also has overall responsibility for hirers. We urgently need volunteers who have basic IT skills who can help with admin tasks a couple of hours a week - please get in touch!

The Trust is fortunate to have 5 hard-working Committee Chairs. The indefatigable Karen McKay, the Chair of Events Committee, organises a diverse range of talks and walks and visits. Highlights in the past year have included a 5 day visit to the Surrey Hills focussing on the Watts Village and Gallery and day visits to the World of Glass in St Helens and the Pontcysyllte World Heritage Site at Llangollen.

Forthcoming events include a study tour of the Viking influence in North Lincolnshire, a residential visit to Gdańsk and North Poland and a day visit to Bradford, the 2025 City of Culture. Andrew Pannell, the Chair of New Works Committee and John Tweed, the Chair of Strategic Planning, are leading discussions with the local authority and the developers of the 2nd Phase of Northgate and the revision of the Local Plan. Tony Barton, the Chair of the Heritage Committee is leading the EAHY commemorations and Nick Clarke, the Chair of Communications Committee is the Trust's link with our Corporate Members and individual members. The contribution of the Officers and Trustees should be acknowledged - Peter Cocker for navigating the Trust through the choppy waters of changing from an unincorporated to an incorporated charity, Sarah and Graham Catlin and Jane Harrad Roberts for publicising the work of the Trust to members, local residents and businesses and Peter Hadfield for chairing the Judging Panel of the annual Good, Bad and Ugly Awards.

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held in the Cathedral Refectory on Thursday 2nd October. The President of Chester Civic Trust, Lady Alexis Redmond MBE, the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire will be our guest speaker.

I would like to thank all members for their continuing support in 2024/25.

Financial review

Income from room hire at Bishop Lloyd's Palace increased again this year to £13,010 compared to £9,375 in the previous year. This is in part because we have retained a number of regular hirers who came on board in the previous financial year.

Expenditure associated with the upkeep and running of Bishop Lloyd's Palace, which is largely made up of rent, insurance, utilities and cleaning, amounted to £8,738, which is significantly higher than the previous year where these costs totaled £6,778. The increase is almost entirely down to substantial increases in utility costs – gas, electric and water, although around half of the water costs were recovered from the flat above BLP after the end of this financial year. Office administration costs, which include printing and postage, were broadly in line with previous years.

No significant repairs were carried out in the year.

Events held during the year generated a surplus of £2,535 compared to a surplus of £1,287 in the previous year. A substantial part of this was down to the success of the garden party for which attendance was at full capacity. Other events generated surpluses of between £40 and £330.

Income from membership subscriptions increased again this year from £6,560 to £8,238.

Investment income decreased to £470 compared to £831 in the previous year. There were no sales or purchases of investments during the year. The market value of the portfolio also showed modest growth in the year, increasing by £605 compared to an increase over the previous year of £5,578.

Chester Civic Trust was extremely fortunate to receive two substantial legacies during the year amounting to £30,651, as well as generous donation of £1,000.

Taking all of the above into account, the overall result for the year was a surplus of £40,712 compared with a surplus in the previous financial year of £11,059.

Reserves policy

Overall the Trust's reserves (excluding third party funds) increased from £86,948 at 31 March 2024 to £127,660 at 31 March 2025. Of this amount, £84,770 represents unrestricted general reserves and £42,890 represents unrealised gains on investments.

The Trust's reserves policy is to hold unrestricted funds, not committed or invested, equivalent to 3 months' expenditure on establishment expenses and services to members. As costs have continued to increase, this figure is now considered to equate to approximately £4,000 (2024: £2,500) of expenditure. Unrestricted reserves which are not committed or invested as at 31 March 2025 stand at £57,233 (2024: £17,126). The reserves policy requirement has therefore been comfortably met. The Trustees aim is to continue to retain reserves at a level which continues to meet this requirement going forward whilst also retaining funds to cover essential expenditure on repairs and renewals.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C M Russell
Mr N Clarke
Mr G Catlin
Ms S M Harris
Mrs J Evans
Mrs V F Mustill-Daniels
Mr A D Pannell
Mrs H McNae
Mr J S Langtree MBE
Ms K McKay
Mrs C Phillips
Mr A R Barton
Mr D J Evans
Mrs R A Davidson
Mr P W Cocker
Mr J D Herson
Mr D J Tweed
Mr B Dutton
Mr A Taylor-Jones
Mrs J A Harrad-Roberts

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are nominated by members and nominations are approved annually at the AGM. There are 6 Executive Officers - the Chair, 3 Vice-Chairs, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer plus 5 further Trustees who are the Chairs of the 5 Committees - Strategic Development, New Works, Heritage, Communications and Events. These Trustees are agreed by the members of the individual Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. The Membership Secretary is invited also to be a member of the Executive and a Trustee.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the charity.

The Trust is governed by the Executive Committee comprising:
- the three Custodian Trustees (who serve in perpetuity)
- the Officers of the Trust (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) who are elected annually - between 8 and 12 elected members elected annually (who serve a maximum term of 3 years) - the President and all Vice-Presidents plus any co-opted members (non-voting)

The Executive Committee meets at approximately six-weekly intervals and decides all policy matters relating to the affairs of the Trust. It also approves all significant financial decisions in advance of expenditure being incurred. The voting members of the Executive are the Trustees of the Trust.

Five sub-committees support the Executive Committee;
- New Works
- Strategic Development
- Communications
- Events
- Heritage

President
- Lady Alexis Redmond MBE

Vice Presidents
- Graham Fisher
- Stephen Langtree
- Cyril Morris

Chairman
- Christine Russell

Vice Chairmen
- Peter Cocker
- John Herson
- David Evans

Hon Secretary
- Graham Catlin

Hon Treasurer
- Sue Harris

Executive Committee Members (Elected)
- Nick Clarke
- Jean Evans
- Karen McKay
- Hilarie McNae
- Faye Mustill-Daniels
- Andrew Pannell
- Stephen Langtree
- Tony Barton
- Ruth Davidson
- Jane Harrad-Roberts

Executive Committee Members (Co-opted)
- Cynthia Phillips

Custodian Trustees
- Brian Dutton
- Alistair Jones
- John Tweed

Membership Secretary
- Faye Mustill-Daniels

Other matters

Membership

At 31st March 2025 there were 340 individual and joint members of Chester Civic Trust and 11 Corporate members.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

26 January 2026

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Civic Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements give a true and fair view, which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

James Hargreaves FCA
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH3 5AR
26 January 2026

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	**3**	32,719	583
Charitable activities	**4**	22,472	21,217
Other trading activities	**5**	8,238	6,560
Investments	**6**	470	831
Other income	**7**	116	391
Total income		64,015	29,582
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	**8**	7,883	6,408
Charitable activities	**9**	16,025	17,693
Total expenditure		23,908	24,101
Net gains/(losses) on investments	**14**	605	5,578
Net income and movement in funds		40,712	11,059
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		86,948	75,889
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		127,660	86,948

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	16		70,427		69,822
Current assets					
Debtors	17	9,929		297	
Cash at bank and in hand		67,076		17,841	
		77,005		18,138	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(19,772)		(1,012)	
Net current assets			57,233		17,126
Total assets less current liabilities			127,660		86,948
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	19		127,660		86,948
			127,660		86,948

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 26 January 2026

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Chester Civic Trust is a is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Bishop Lloyds Palace, 51 - 53 Watergate Street Row, Chester, CH1 2LE.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised when the claim has been submitted.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Donations and gifts	31,710	583
Gift Aid receipts	1,009	-
	32,719	583

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings		
Other income	13,010	9,375
Members activities		
Other income	9,462	11,842
	22,472	21,217

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Membership subscriptions and sponsorships	8,238	6,560

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Income from listed investments	470	831

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	116	391

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Trading costs		
Other trading activities	7,883	6,408

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings 2025 £	Members activities 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings 2024 £	Members activities 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Direct costs						
Establishment costs	8,738	-	8,738	6,778	-	6,778
Events expenditure	-	6,927	6,927	-	10,555	10,555
	8,738	6,927	15,665	6,778	10,555	17,333
Share of support and governance costs (see note 10)						
Support	360	-	360	360	-	360
	9,098	6,927	16,025	7,138	10,555	17,693
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	9,098	6,927	16,025	7,138	10,555	17,693

10 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Governance costs	360	360
Analysed between:		
Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings	360	360

11 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	360	360

12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

13 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

14 Gains and losses on investments

Gains/(losses) arising on:	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Revaluation of investments	605	5,578

15 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments £
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024	69,822
Valuation changes	605
At 31 March 2025	70,427
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	70,427
At 31 March 2024	69,822

Investments are valued at market value as provided by the Charity's brokers.

17 Debtors

	2025	2024
Amounts falling due within one year:	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	9,929	297

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other creditors	1,012	1,012
Accruals and deferred income	18,760	-
	19,772	1,012

Included within other creditors are amounts totalling £652 (2024: £652) received by the charity as agents. The Trustees have no discretion over the use of the funds and hence the funds have not been recognised as income.

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	86,948	64,015	(23,908)	605	127,660

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	75,889	29,582	(24,101)	5,578	86,948

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).

Accounts

Charity registration number 504634

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Hargreaves & Woods
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS & BUSINESS ADVISERS

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

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CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number	504634
Principal address	Bishop Lloyds Palace 51-53 Watergate Street Row Chester CH1 2LE
Independent examiner	James Hargreaves FCA Cholmondeley House Dee Hills Park Chester Cheshire CH3 5AR

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

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Objectives and activities

The main mission of the Trust is to preserve and improve the built environment in and around Chester and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. To achieve this mission it has set itself the following objectives:

- To foster civic pride and public interest in Chester's buildings and their settings;
- To champion good architecture, planning and design, and promote sustainability;
- To preserve and enhance Chester's architectural and cultural heritage;
- To improve the quality of life for people in Chester

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake.

Achievements and performance

Significant activities and achievements against objectives

CHAIR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023 / 24

2023 / 24 has been a busy stabilising year for Chester Civic Trust. The Trust is now back on a secure financial footing after an uncertain few years during the Covid pandemic and its aftermath. Membership figures have remained stable. Committees have been revitalised and an ambitious programme of events has been organised for members.

The Trust has continued to support partnership working with Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) on a number of projects such as the Chester Heritage Festival, the Rows Heritage Action Zone and the second phase of the Northgate development.

New Works Committee, chaired by Andrew Pannell, meets regularly to monitor and comment on planning applications. Members of the Committee have recently visited the Racecourse to discuss the latest development proposals with representatives of the Race Company.

The highlights of the Events Committee, chaired by Karen McKay, has been a study tour of the Hanseatic Ports in Northern Europe and a 4 day visit based in Cardiff taking in the Senedd, the Royal Mint and various historical sites. Plus an eclectic mix of day visits including a 750 year old Manor House in Salford and a quirky 1950s Museum in Denbigh. The Winter Lectures in the Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre have covered a diverse range of topics given by local and national speakers.

The Communications Committee, chaired by Nick Clarke, oversees the Trust's annual Good Bad and Ugly Awards. The Judging Panel, chaired by Peter Hadfield, gave the top award in 2024 to Picturehouse, adjacent to the Market, the fabulous new addition to Chester's cultural offer.

Both the Heritage Committee and the Strategic Development Committee have new Chairs in 2024. Tony Barton has taken over from Stephen Langtree at Heritage and John Tweed has replaced Peter Cocker as Strategic Development Chair. A number of our Committees would welcome new members. You don't need to be an 'expert' - just interest and enthusiasm! Meetings are usually held once every 6-8weeks.

One of the particular highlights of 2024 was a very successful fundraising Garden Party held at Crewe Hill Farndon by the kind invitation of Inger and Michael Trevor Barnston who are life members of Chester Civic Trust. Over 100 guests enjoyed tours of the amazing garden, music provided by the Farndon Brass Band, strawberries and cream and glorious sunshine. Nearly £1600 was raised that will help to pay towards the running costs of our HQ, Bishop Lloyd's Palace.

Since the death of Gerald Grosvenor, the 6th Duke of Westminster, the Trust has been without a President. We were delighted to announce earlier in the year that Lady Alexis Redmond MBE, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Cheshire, has accepted our invitation to take over as President of the Trust. Lady Redmond and her husband, Phil, were our special guests at the Garden Party.

The Trustees will be proposing at the AGM that the Trust becomes a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank Peter Cocker for his work on the preparation and submission of the successful CIO application to the Charity Commission. We are also planning to start negotiations with Cheshire West and Chester Council for the renewal of our lease for Bishop Lloyd's Palace that is due to expire in 2025.

I would like to thank all members for their continuing support and the Trustees for their hard work and commitment to the Trust.

Financial review

Income from lettings increased significantly in the year and amounted to £9,375 compared to £2,375 in the previous year.

Expenditure associated with the upkeep and running of Bishop Lloyd's Palace, which is largely made up of rent, insurance, utilities and cleaning, amounted to £6,778, which is broadly in line with the previous year where costs amounted to £6,090. No significant repairs were carried out during the year.

A full program of events was held during the year, generating a small surplus of £1,287 for the Trust.

Income from membership subscriptions increased slightly from £6,254 to £6,560 in the current year as membership numbers were broadly in line with the previous year.

Investment income increased to £831 compared to £463 in the previous year. There were no sales or purchases of investments during the year and the market value of the portfolio showed good growth, increasing by £5,578 compared to a decrease over the previous year of £1,090.

Taking all of the above into account, the overall result for the year was a surplus of £11,059 compared with a deficit in the previous financial year of £4,875.

Reserves policy

Overall the Trust's reserves increased from £75,889 as at 31 March 2023 to £86,948 at 31 March 2024. Of this amount, £44,663 represents unrestricted general reserves and £42,285 represents unrealised gains on investments.

The Trust's reserves policy is to hold unrestricted funds, not committed or invested, equivalent to 3 months' expenditure on establishment expenses and services to members. This equates to approximately £2,500 of expenditure. Unrestricted reserves which are not committed or invested as at 31 March 2024 stand at £17,126 (2023: £11,645). The reserves policy requirement has therefore been met. The Trustees aim is to retain reserves at a level which continues to meet this requirement going forward whilst also retaining funds to cover essential expenditure on repairs and renewals.

Structure, governance and management

The trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Mrs C M Russell
Mr N Clarke
Mr G Catlin
Ms S M Harris
Mrs J Evans
Mrs V F Mustill-Daniels
Mr A D Pannell
Mrs H McNae
Mr J S Langtree MBE
Ms K McKay
Mrs C Phillips
Mr A R Barton
Mr D J Evans
Mrs R A Davidson
Mr P W Cocker
Mr J D Herson
Mr D J Tweed
Mr B Dutton
Mr A Taylor-Jones
Ms S J Denly (Resigned 24 July 2023)
Mrs J A Harrad-Roberts (Appointed 5 October 2023)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are nominated by members and nominations are approved annually at the AGM. There are 6 Executive Officers - the Chair, 3 Vice-Chairs, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer plus 5 further Trustees who are the Chairs of the 5 Committees - Strategic Development, New Works, Heritage, Communications and Events. These Trustees are agreed by the members of the individual Committee and approved by the Executive Committee. The Membership Secretary is invited also to be a member of the Executive and a Trustee.

None of the trustees has any beneficial interest in the charity.

The Trust is governed by the Executive Committee comprising:

- the three Custodian Trustees (who serve in perpetuity)
- the Officers of the Trust (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) who are elected annually - between 8 and 12 elected members elected annually (who serve a maximum term of 3 years) - the President and all Vice-Presidents plus any co-opted members (non-voting)

The Executive Committee meets at approximately six-weekly intervals and decides all policy matters relating to the affairs of the Trust. It also approves all significant financial decisions in advance of expenditure being incurred. The voting members of the Executive are the Trustees of the Trust.

Five sub-committees support the Executive Committee;

- New Works
- Strategic Development
- Communications
- Events
- Heritage

Other matters
Membership
At 31st March 2024 there were 285 individual and joint members of Chester Civic Trust and 14 Corporate members.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

....
Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

Date: 27 January 2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Civic Trust (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report
As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared financial statements in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn.

I understand that this has been done in order for financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice effective for reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2015.

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

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

James Hargreaves

James Hargreaves FCA

Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
Cheshire
CH3 5AR

Dated: 28 January, 2025

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	583	2,132
Charitable activities	4	21,217	44,846
Other trading activities	5	6,560	6,254
Investments	6	831	463
Other income	7	391	54
Total income		29,582	53,749
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	8	6,408	6,997
Charitable activities	9	17,693	50,537
Total expenditure		24,101	57,534
Net gains/(losses) on investments	14	5,578	(1,090)
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		11,059	(4,875)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2023		75,889	80,764
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		86,948	75,889

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Investments	**16**		69,822		64,244
Current assets					
Debtors	**17**	297		345	
Cash at bank and in hand		17,841		14,584	
		18,138		14,929	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	(1,012)		(3,284)	
Net current assets			17,126		11,645
Total assets less current liabilities			86,948		75,889
Net assets excluding pension liability			86,948		75,889
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds			86,948		75,889
			86,948		75,889

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 27 January 2025

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Chester Civic Trust is a is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Bishop Lloyds Palace, 51 - 53 Watergate Street Row, Chester, CH1 2LE.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised when the claim has been submitted.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.7 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.8 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Donations and gifts	583	1,058
Gift Aid receipts	-	1,074
	583	2,132

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings		
Other income	9,375	2,375
Members activities		
Other income	11,842	42,471
	21,217	44,846

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Membership subscriptions	6,560	6,254

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Income from listed investments	831	463

7 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Other income	391	54

8 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £
Trading costs		
Other trading activities	6,408	6,997

9 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings 2024 £	Members activities 2024 £	Total 2024 £	Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings 2023 £	Members activities 2023 £	Total 2023 £
Direct costs						
Establishment costs	6,778	-	6,778	6,090	-	6,090
Events expenditure	-	10,555	10,555	-	43,070	43,070
Donations Civic Voice	-	-	-	-	1,000	1,000
	6,778	10,555	17,333	6,090	44,070	50,160
Share of support and governance costs (see note 10)						
Support	360	-	360	377	-	377
	7,138	10,555	17,693	6,467	44,070	50,537
Analysis by fund						
Unrestricted funds	7,138	10,555	17,693	6,467	44,070	50,537

10 Support costs allocated to activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Governance costs	360	377
Analysed between:		
Bishop Lloyd's Palace lettings	360	377

11 Net movement in funds

	2024 £	2023 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	360	377

12 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

13 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

14 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Unrestricted funds 2023
Gains/(losses) arising on:	£	£
Revaluation of investments	5,578	(1,090)

15 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

16 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2023	64,244
Valuation changes	5,578
At 31 March 2024	69,822
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2024	69,822
At 31 March 2023	64,244

Investments are valued at market value as provided by the Charity's brokers.

17 Debtors

	2024	2023
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Prepayments and accrued income	297	345

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	**£**
Other creditors	1,012	3,284

Included within other creditors are amounts totalling £652 (2023: £1,693) received by the charity as agents. The Trustees have no discretion over the use of the funds and hence the funds have not been recognised as income.

19 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	75,889	29,582	(24,101)	5,578	86,948

Previous year:	At 1 April 2022	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	80,764	53,749	(57,534)	(1,090)	75,889

20 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2023 - none).

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 504634

Accounts

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 504634

Chester Civic Trust

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2023

J A HARGREAVES ICAEW
Chartered accountants
Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

Chester Civic Trust

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2023

Chester Civic Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Chester Civic Trust
Charity registration number	504634
Principal office	Bishop Lloyd's Palace 51/53 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE

The trustees

Accountants

Chartered accountants
Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is governed by the Executive Committee comprising:
- the three Custodian Trustees (who serve in perpetuity)
- the Officers of the Trust (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) who are elected annually - between 8 & 12 elected members elected annually (who serve a maximum term of 3 years) - the President and all Vice-Presidents plus any co-opted members (non-voting)

The Executive Committee meets at approximately six-weekly intervals and decides all policy matters relating to the affairs of the Trust. It also approves all significant financial decisions in advance of expenditure being incurred. The voting members of the Executive are the Trustees of the Trust.

Five sub-committees support the Executive Committee; New Works, Strategic Development, Communications, Events, and Heritage.

Membership

At 31st March 2023 there were 267 individual and joint members of Chester Civic Trust and 15 Corporate members.

Objectives and activities

The main mission of the Trust is to preserve and improve the built environment in and around Chester and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. To achieve this mission it has set itself the following objectives:

- To foster civic pride and public interest in Chester's buildings and their settings;
- To champion good architecture, planning and design, and promote sustainability;
- To preserve and enhance Chester's architectural and cultural heritage;
- To improve the quality of life for people in Chester.

In setting the above objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Chair's Report
During 2022/23 Chester Civic Trust has been able to resume a full programme of activities and events following the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic in the preceding two years. The Trust has been consulted by Cheshire West and Chester Council on a number of key development proposals in the last 12 months including the One City Plan and the Chester Gateway proposals to regenerate the land around Chester Railway Station that includes a new pedestrian / cycle bridge next to the existing Hoole Bridge. Members of New Works Committee continue to meet regularly to monitor and submit comments on local planning applications.

Recently members of the Committee were invited by the Cathedral to view the improvements to Cathedral properties in Abbey Square and Northgate Street and discuss the exciting initiatives proposed for within the Cathedral and St Werburgh Street.

We had a bumper number of nominations from members for the annual 'Good, Bad and Ugly Awards'. This year's overall winner was the 'Regeneration of the Rows', a partnership of the local authority, Chester BID, Donald Insall Associates and owners of cafes, bars and shops.

The Trust continues to support the Chester Heritage Festival, the promotion of Chester's Waterways and national Heritage Open Days. As part of Heritage Open Days, Bishop Lloyds Palace was open to the public on Saturday 9th September with volunteers serving refreshments and showing visitors round our historic Grade1 listed HQ.

During the year the Events Committee organised a full programme of walks, talks, day visits, a 5 day study tour of Spitalfields and the East End and a series of monthly lectures at the Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre. Highlights planned for the coming year include an 8 day visit to the Hanseatic Ports of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands, a 5 day visit to Cardiff, a day visit to Kidderminster and Harvington Hall, a Twelfth Night Quiz and a diverse range of talks at Bishop Lloyd's Palace. The Winter Lecture Series, with local and national speakers resumed in October.

As you will note from the Treasurer's Report, one of the legacies of the pandemic has been a loss of income from hiring out rooms in Bishop Lloyd's Palace. Bookings have plummeted as organisations have continued to meet online rather than returning to face to face meetings. The lack of access is also a deterrent for hirers. We have started to explore the possibility of installing a lift with the owners of the building, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

A number of Chester Civic Trust's eminent members have passed away in the last year including Jim Latham, a Vice-President and a Founder Member of the Trust and Dr Allan Pullin, a much-loved past Chairman. We also mourn the untimely death of one of our most popular lecturers, Elain Harwood. She was the leading architectural historian of postwar building at Historic England.

I would like to thank all members for their continuing support and the Trustees for their hard work and commitment to the Trust.

Financial review

Income from lettings fell significantly in the year and amounted to £2,375 compared to £5,959 in the previous year.

Expenditure associated with the upkeep and running of Bishop Lloyd's Palace, which is largely made up of rent, insurance, utilities and cleaning, amounted to £6,090, which is broadly in line with the previous year if you exclude the £6,550 spent on emergency lighting and the Fire Risk Assessment during 2021-22.

A full program of events was held during the year, generating a small surplus of £574 for the Trust.

Income from membership subscriptions decreased from £8,123 in 2021-22 to £6,254 in the current year as a result of a decrease in the number of paying members and a timing difference on the collection of corporate member subscriptions which will now fall into the 2023-24 financial year.

Taking all of the above into account, the overall result for the year was a deficit of £3,785 compared with a deficit in the previous financial year of £380 (before accounting for the loss on the market value of the Trust's investment portfolio).

Reserves Policy

Overall the Trust's reserves decreased from £80,764 as at 31 March 2022 to £75,889 at 31 March 2023. Of this amount, £39,182 represents unrestricted general reserves and £36,707 represents unrealised gains on investments.

The Trust's reserves policy is to hold unrestricted funds, not committed or invested, equivalent to 3 months' expenditure on establishment expenses and services to members. This equates to approximately £2,500 of expenditure. Unrestricted reserves which are not committed or invested as at 31 March 2023 stand at £11,645 (2022: £15,430). The reserves policy requirement has therefore been met. The Trustees aim is to retain reserves at a level which continues to meet this requirement going forward whilst also retaining funds to cover essential expenditure on repairs and renewals.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 29 January 2024 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

Chester Civic Trust

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Chester Civic Trust

Year ended 31 March 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Civic Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

J A Hargreaves FCA
Independent Examiner

Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

30 January 2024

Chester Civic Trust

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	4	2,132	2,132	3,856
Charitable activities	5	44,846	44,846	22,966
Other trading activities	6	6,254	6,254	8,123
Investment income	7	463	463	618
Other income	8	54	54	73
Total income		53,749	53,749	35,636
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Costs of raising donations and legacies	9	6,997	6,997	5,259
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	50,537	50,537	30,757
Total expenditure		57,534	57,534	36,016
Net losses/(gains) on investments	12	1,090	1,090	(2,206)
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		(4,875)	(4,875)	1,826
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		80,764	80,764	78,938
Total funds carried forward		75,889	75,889	80,764

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 10 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Chester Civic Trust

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	16	64,244	65,334
Current assets			
Debtors	17	345	5,321
Cash at bank and in hand		14,584	28,534
		14,929	33,855
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	3,284	18,425
Net current assets		11,645	15,430
Total assets less current liabilities		75,889	80,764
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		75,889	80,764
Total charity funds	19	75,889	80,764

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 29 January 2024, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 51 - 53 Watergate Row, Chester, CH1 2LE.

2. Statement of compliance

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

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies ***(continued)***

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Investments

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations				
Donations	1,058	1,058	38	38
Gift Aid Receipts	1,074	1,074	1,151	1,151
Grants				
CWAC Discretionary Grant	–	–	2,667	2,667
	2,132	2,132	3,856	3,856

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Other income from charitable activities - BLP Lettings	2,375	2,375	5,959	5,959
Other income from charitable activities - Members activities	42,471	42,471	17,007	17,007
	44,846	44,846	22,966	22,966

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Subscriptions	6,254	6,254	8,123	8,123

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2023 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Other investment income - Dividends and interest	463	463	618	618

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Other income	54	54	73	73

9. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Costs of raising donations and legacies	6,997	6,997	5,259	5,259

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bishop Lloyd's Palace	6,090	6,090	11,827	11,827
Member Activities	44,070	44,070	18,930	18,930
Support costs	377	377	–	–
	50,537	50,537	30,757	30,757

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs	Total funds 2023	Total fund 2022
	£	£	£	£
Bishop Lloyd's Palace	6,090	–	6,090	11,827
Member Activities	44,070	–	44,070	18,930
Governance costs	–	377	377	–
	50,160	377	50,537	30,757

12. Net (losses)/gains on investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2023	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£	£
Gains/(losses) on listed investments	(1,090)	(1,090)	2,206	2,206

13. Independent examination fees

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	360	240

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2022: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

16. Investments

	Listed investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2022	65,334
Additions	–
Fair value movements	(1,090)
At 31 March 2023	64,244
Impairment	
At 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023	
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2023	64,244
At 31 March 2022	65,334

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Financial assets held at fair value

Investments are shown at the value provided by the Charity's brokers.

17. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	345	3,975
Other debtors	–	1,346
	345	5,321

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other Creditors	3,284	18,425

Included within other creditors is a balance of £1,693 (2022: £1.737) received by the charity as agent. The Trustees have no discretion over the use of the funds and hence the funds have not been recognised as income.

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	**At 31 March 2023**
	£	£	£	£	**£**
General funds	80,764	53,749	(57,534)	(1,090)	75,889

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	78,938	35,636	(36,016)	2,206	80,764

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	**Total Funds 2023**
	£	**£**
Investments	64,244	64,244
Current assets	14,929	14,929
Creditors less than 1 year	(3,284)	(3,284)
Net assets	75,889	75,889

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£
Investments	65,334	65,334
Current assets	33,855	33,855
Creditors less than 1 year	(18,425)	(18,425)
Net assets	80,764	80,764

CHESTER CIVIC TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 504634

Accounts

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 504634

Chester Civic Trust

Unaudited Financial Statements

31 March 2022

J A HARGREAVES ICAEW
Chartered accountants
Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

Chester Civic Trust

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 March 2022

Chester Civic Trust

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 March 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	Chester Civic Trust
Charity registration number	504634
Principal office	Bishop Lloyd's Palace 51/53 Watergate Row Chester CH1 2LE

The trustees

Accountants

Chartered accountants
Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

Structure, governance and management

The Trust is governed by the Executive Committee comprising:
- the three Custodian Trustees (who serve in perpetuity)
- the Officers of the Trust (Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer) who are elected annually - between 8 & 12 elected members elected annually (who serve a maximum term of 3 years) - the President and all Vice-Presidents plus any co-opted members (non-voting)

The Executive Committee meets at approximately six-weekly intervals and decides all policy matters relating to the affairs of the Trust. It also approves all significant financial decisions in advance of expenditure being incurred. The voting members of the Executive are the Trustees of the Trust.

Five sub-committees support the Executive Committee; New Works, Strategic Development, Publicity, Events, and Heritage.

President
Vacant

Vice Presidents
Graham Fisher
Stephen Langtree
Cyril Morris

Chairman
Christine Russell

Vice Chairmen
Peter Cocker
John Herson
David Evans

Hon Secretary
Graham Catlin

Hon Treasurer
Sue Harris

Executive Committee Members (Elected)
Nick Clarke
Jean Evans
Karen McKay
Hilarie McNae
Faye Mustill-Daniels
Andrew Pannell
Stephen Langtree
Tony Barton
Ruth Davidson

Executive Committee Members (Co-opted)
Sue Denly
Cynthia Philips

Membership

At 31st March 2022 there were 333 individual and joint members of Chester Civic Trust and 21 Corporate members.

Objectives and activities

The main mission of the Trust is to preserve and improve the built environment in and around Chester and to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. To achieve this mission it has set itself the following objectives:

- To foster civic pride and public interest in Chester's buildings and their settings;
- To champion good architecture, planning and design, and promote sustainability;
- To preserve and enhance Chester's architectural and cultural heritage;
- To improve the quality of life for people in Chester.

In setting the above objectives, the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and performance

Events and Activities

The Trust has continued to be the leading Charity for the protection and safeguarding of the built and natural environment in the city of Chester and its rural hinterland.

The work of the Charity continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings to monitor and comment on planning applications were held online or face to face whenever possible.

Partnership working carried on with Cheshire West and Chester Borough Council on regeneration projects like the Northgate, the Rows Heritage Action Zone and the restoration of Dee House. Members served on partnership boards like the West Chester Heritage Forum and the Chester Growth Partnership.

5 day Study Tours for members took place to Kings Lynn and the Fens in Autumn 2021 with further tours planned for 2022 to the Cotswolds (Spring 2022) and Spitalfields and the East End of London (Autumn 2022)

Day visits to places of historical and architectural interest, such as the silk-making industry in Macclesfield were organised

We managed to arrange and hold the annual Good, Bad and Ugly Awards despite the pandemic lockdowns.

Monthly Lectures at the Grosvenor Museum Lecture Theatre with local and national speakers were held on diverse topics such as 'Zero -carbon housing' / the Sandstone Ridge and the development of RHS Bridgewater.

Face to face AGMs for members have taken place every year during the pandemic with the Chief Executive of the local authority and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Chester as the guest speakers

Whenever possible fundraising social events have been held and members have been kept in touch with the work of the Trust through regular Newsletters and updates on our website

We have held Annual Receptions for the Trust's Corporate Members with key decision -makers in Chester and have managed to double the number of the Trust's Corporate Members

Achievements and performance *(continued)*

Chair's Report

2021/22 was a stop-start year for Chester Civic Trust. Many planned meetings, walks, talks, visits and lectures had to be cancelled or postponed owing to COVID restrictions. A good illustration is the Twelfth Night Quiz that happened on the Eleventh of February.

Throughout members have stayed loyal to the Trust and individual membership actually increased from 318 to 333. A Corporate Members Reception resulted in the recruitment of 12 new businesses and organisations - an increase of 100%.

You will note from the Treasurer's Financial Report that the loss of income from bookings and the cost of essential repairs and maintenance at Bishop Lloyd's Palace has been offset by the receipt of the final instalment of COVID - Recovery funding, income from Gift Aid and the large increase in subscription fees from Corporate Members. Careful budgeting has enabled us to continue funding to Chester Heritage Festival, the Good, Bad and Ugly Awards and the CWAC Civic Design Awards.

Members of New Works Committee have continued to monitor and comment on local planning applications. A frequent agenda item in the past year has been an application for a new hotel in the city centre. Perhaps the recent study by the Online Mortgage Advisor that identified Chester as 'the most beautiful city in the world' will bring tourists flocking to the city to occupy all the additional beds! The Trust is actively involved with the local authority in a number of regeneration schemes including the Northgate and the City Centre Heritage Action Zone.

The Events Committee has organised a diverse range of activities and visits. Lectures at the Grosvenor Museum have covered topics including Post-War Architecture, Creating Zero-Carbon Homes and the Development of RHS Bridgewater. 5 day visits to the Fens and the Cotswolds have proved very popular in 2021/22.

Members of the Publicity Committee ensure that all members of the Trust and the wider community are kept in touch with the activities of the Trust via newsletters, the website and posts on social media.

Financial review

Bishop Lloyd's Palace reopened for business following the COVID-19 lockdown in June 2021. As a result, Income from lettings in the year increased to £5,959 from just £1,567 in 2020-21. Expenditure associated with the upkeep and running of Bishop Lloyd's Palace increased as a result from £5,077 to £11,826, which includes £6,550 spent on essential work on the emergency lighting system following a Fire Risk Assessment and necessary improvements to the lighting in rooms 1 and 2 in response to regular complaints from hirers.

Events and trips began again and the Fens visit, which was postponed during 2020-21, went ahead in October 2021, generating a small surplus for the Trust.

Membership income increased by £2,138 compared to last year due to an increase in the number of corporate and individual members and the Trust received the final installment of the COVID-19 emergency funding grant of £2,667 from CWAC.

Taking the above into account, the overall result for the year was a deficit (before gains or losses on investments) of £380 compared to a surplus of £10,738 in the previous year.

Reserves Policy

Overall the Trust's reserves increased from £78,938 as at 31 March 2021 to £80,764 at 31 March 2022. Of this amount, £42,967 represents unrestricted general reserves and £37,797 represents unrealised gains on investments (the revaluation reserve).

The Trust's reserves policy is to hold unrestricted funds, not committed or invested, equivalent to 3 months' expenditure on establishment expenses and services to members. This equates to approximately £2,500 of expenditure. Unrestricted reserves which are not committed or invested as at 31 March 2022 stand at £15,430 (2021: £15,810). The reserves policy requirement has therefore been met. The Trustees aim is to retain reserves at a level which continues to meet this requirement going forward whilst also retaining funds to cover essential expenditure on repairs and renewals.

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, 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 applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK 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 presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and 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 applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the provisions of the Constitution. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 24 January 2023 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Chester Civic Trust

Year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Chester Civic Trust ('the charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

James Hargreaves

J A Hargreaves FCA
Independent Examiner

Hargreaves & Woods
Cholmondeley House
Dee Hills Park
Chester
CH3 5AR

25 January 2023

Chester Civic Trust

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds £
Income and endowments				
Donations and legacies	4	3,856	3,856	12,483
Charitable activities	5	22,966	22,966	1,567
Other trading activities	6	8,123	8,123	5,985
Investment income	7	618	618	1,579
Other income	8	73	73	–
Total income		35,636	35,636	21,614
Expenditure				
Expenditure on raising funds:				
Costs of raising donations and legacies	9	5,259	5,259	5,719
Expenditure on charitable activities	10,11	30,757	30,757	5,157
Total expenditure		36,016	36,016	10,876
Net gains on investments	12	(2,206)	(2,206)	(7,051)
Net income and net movement in funds		1,826	1,826	17,789
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		78,938	78,938	61,149
Total funds carried forward		80,764	80,764	78,938

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Chester Civic Trust

Statement of Financial Position

31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	**16**	65,334	63,128
Current assets			
Debtors	**17**	5,321	496
Cash at bank and in hand		28,534	17,973
		33,855	18,469
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**18**	18,425	2,659
Net current assets		15,430	15,810
Total assets less current liabilities		80,764	78,938
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		80,764	78,938
Total charity funds	**19**	80,764	78,938

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 24 January 2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

Mrs C M Russell
Trustee

The notes on pages 11 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Bishop Lloyd's Palace, 51 - 53 Watergate Row, Chester, CH1 2LE.

2. Statement of compliance

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

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Disclosure exemptions

The charity has applied Update Bulletin 1 as published on 2 February 2016 and does not include a cash flow statement on the grounds that it is applying FRS 102 Section 1A

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Investments

Unlisted equity investments are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently measured at fair value. If fair value cannot be reliably measured, assets are measured at cost less impairment.

Listed investments are measured at fair value with changes in fair value being recognised in income or expenditure.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Impairment of fixed assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

For the purposes of impairment testing, when it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

For impairment testing of goodwill, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the charity are assigned to those units.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in income and expenditure. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in the statement of financial activities, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

3. Accounting policies *(continued)*

Financial instruments *(continued)*

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations				
Donations	38	38	188	188
Gift Aid Receipts	1,151	1,151	1,222	1,222
Grants				
CWAC Discretionary Grant	2,667	2,667	11,073	11,073
	3,856	3,856	12,483	12,483

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Other income from charitable activities - BLP Lettings	5,959	5,959	1,567	1,567
Other income from charitable activities - Members activities	17,007	17,007	–	–
	22,966	22,966	1,567	1,567

6. Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Subscriptions	8,123	8,123	5,985	5,985

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Other investment income - Dividends and interest	618	618	1,579	1,579

8. Other income

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Other income	73	73	–	–

9. Costs of raising donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Costs of raising donations and legacies	5,259	5,259	5,719	5,719

10. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Bishop Lloyd's Palace	11,827	11,827	5,077	5,077
Member Activities	18,930	18,930	80	80
	30,757	30,757	5,157	5,157

11. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	**Total funds 2022 £**	Total fund 2021 £
Bishop Lloyd's Palace	11,827	11,827	5,077
Member Activities	18,930	18,930	80
	30,757	30,757	5,157

12. Net gains on investments

	Unrestricted Funds £	**Total Funds 2022 £**	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Gains/(losses) on listed investments	2,206	2,206	7,051	7,051

13. Independent examination fees

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	240	240

14. Staff costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2021: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

15. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by the trustees.

16. Investments

	Listed investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2021	63,128
Additions	–
Fair value movements	2,206
At 31 March 2022	65,334
Impairment	
At 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022	
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2022	65,334
At 31 March 2021	63,128

All investments shown above are held at valuation.

Financial assets held at fair value

Investments are shown at the value provided by the Charity's brokers.

17. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	3,975	301
Other debtors	1,346	195
	5,321	496

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other Creditors	18,425	2,659

Included within other creditors is a balance of £1,737 (2021: £1.995) received by the charity as agent. The Trustees have no discretion over the use of the funds and hence the funds have not been recognised as income.

19. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	**At 31 March 202 2**
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	78,938	35,636	(36,016)	2,206	80,764

	At 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Gains and losses	At 31 March 202 1
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	61,149	21,614	(10,876)	7,051	78,938

20. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	**Total Funds 2022**
	£	**£**
Investments	65,334	65,334
Current assets	33,855	33,855
Creditors less than 1 year	(18,425)	(18,425)
Net assets	80,764	80,764

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£
Investments	63,128	63,128
Current assets	18,469	18,469
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,659)	(2,659)
Net assets	78,938	78,938