

2025 - 2026



Scouts
Northumberland

**Annual report and
financial statements**

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Chair report: Growing our impact

We continue to experience exciting times in Northumberland County for adults and young people alike.

During the year we have focused on health and safety, following the guidelines issued by the Scout Association to make sure that all our adults work with the assurance that the young people in our movement are free from danger. We thank our adult members for making this the focus of their attention this year.

An element of the guidelines laid down by the association is compliance. Making sure our adults, in all roles, meet the mandatory training requirements whether it be safety, safeguarding or being a Trustee is the work of our Group and District managers. I appreciate all their efforts in this area as it is not the most exciting area of Scouting, however extremely necessary.

Since transformation our executive committees have now become Trustee Boards, in Groups, Districts and the County. Trustee Boards now have a clearer purpose statement to fit with the focus on governance, and the operational tasks fall under the remit of the leadership teams. Northumberland County has worked hard to recruit strong and committed trustees and continues to do so year on year.

The County continues to be a financially sound and for all of our events we make sure that we are using our resources in the most effective way possible.

Among the serious aspects of Scouting there have been many enjoyable activities and events. Our campsite at Nunnykirk shows the County is developing, not standing still and the site has already been enjoyed by several Groups. A dedicated team is working hard to make the acquisition worthwhile and a flagship resource for Northumberland Scouts.

I would like to express my thanks to all our adult volunteers for their valued contribution and time given to the young people of Northumberland giving them the most amazing experiences!

Dr Helen Paterson
County Chair



CLV report: A year of adventure

Northumberland Scouts has continued to strengthen its position this year, delivering high-quality programme experiences, investing in our volunteers, and developing the infrastructure that underpins safe, inclusive and ambitious Scouting across the County.

As we align our work with the national Strategy to 2035, our focus remains clear: ensuring every young person has access to an exceptional programme that builds skills for life, and ensuring every volunteer feels supported, valued and equipped to succeed.

This year has been one of both progress and reflection. We have seen significant achievements, from major County events reaching thousands of young people, to record numbers of top awards. These successes demonstrate the strength of our volunteer teams and the resilience of our young people.

Some highlights:

This year marked our first full year of operating Nunnykirk campsite. Significant enhancements have been made, including

new cabins for storage and administration, tree planting, and essential repairs and decoration across the buildings and plumbing. The site has been well used by Groups and Units from across the County and has supported both programme delivery and adult training.

The team has ambitious plans for further development to ensure Nunnykirk continues to grow as a strategic asset for Northumberland Scouts. A sincere thank you goes to the site team for their hard work, and to the Scout and Guide Graduate Association for their contribution to maintenance, painting and the creation of orienteering trails.

The County delivered a wide range of programme opportunities this year, including major events and sectional activities. Over 2,200 young people and adults attended Camp Northumbria at Causey Park over the May Bank Holiday weekend. Despite challenging weather, the event was a huge success. Thank you to the management and delivery teams for their exceptional work.

We delivered several sectional events, including our first Explorer Scout Winter Camp at Nunnykirk — complete with snow — which provided a memorable experience for all involved.

Our Programme Team has supported adults to gain Nights Away Permits, adventurous activity training and activity permits, strengthening the County's capacity to deliver safe and exciting programme experiences.

We completed the selection process for our Unit to the 2027 World Scout Jamboree. Since selection, the young people and adults have been engaged in training camps, meetings and extensive fundraising. Poland 2027 is shaping up to be an excellent event, and we are delighted that so many of our adult volunteers will be attending as part of the International Service Team (IST).

Northumberland continues to see high numbers of young people achieving their DofE and Chief Scout's Awards. Across two presentation events, we awarded over 600 top awards. We are also proud to celebrate several King's Scout Award recipients over the past year. Presenting these awards is a great honour, and we congratulate every young person who has worked so hard to achieve them.

At the same time, we recognise the challenges ahead. Our census figures showed membership across the County remained fairly stable, despite challenges nationally. At the January 2026 census, Northumberland recorded 5,695 youth members, a decrease of 16 (0.3%) from 2025.

Adult membership decreased by 27 to 1,631 (unique individuals). Our Beaver Scout and Cub Scout numbers remain a concern, with three consecutive years of decline.

Strengthening these sections will be a focus for the year ahead, with targeted support planned for Beaver Scout Colonies and Cub Packs to help reverse this trend.

We also recognise that volunteer capacity remains a pressure point across several areas. Addressing these trends will be central to our priorities for the coming year.



Our County team continues to work to deliver opportunities and support across the County. In addition to programme support, our Volunteer Development Team has continued to deliver a wide range of training opportunities for adults and young leaders, including Wood Badge training, First Response and Critical Incident training. Alongside learning opportunities, the team has reviewed adult awards and managed complaints, ensuring volunteers feel recognised and supported.

Our Support Team has provided essential services across the County maintaining Scout House in Shiremoor and managing all digital and technology requirements. This year, the team successfully oversaw our transition from Microsoft to Google for email and storage. In addition to digital support, the team contributed significantly to County events including Camp Northumbria, Winter Camp and Top Award presentations.

Our County Youth Lead continues to champion youth voice, gathering feedback from young people and ensuring their views shape our events and decision-making. And our Administrative, Communications, Safeguarding and Safety teams continue to work tirelessly to ensure Northumberland Scouts remains safe, well-organised and well-communicated. The teams devote many hours each week, in meeting their responsibilities and their dedication underpins everything we do.

My thanks go to the County team for their support, leadership and friendship. I would also like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our adult volunteers for their commitment over the past year. Without your energy, expertise and generosity, we could not deliver the programme or achieve our strategic aims.

Together, we continue to make Scouting in Northumberland a place where young people can belong, grow and thrive.

Peter Thorp

County Lead Volunteer, Northumberland Scouts



Our purpose and method

Scouts gives young people skills for life. We actively engage and support them in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

The Scout County of Northumberland covers and operates across the local authority areas of Newcastle upon Tyne, North Tyneside, and Northumberland. Two types of service are provided by the County to further the Scout Association's purpose: support to the operation of Scouting in Northumberland and provision of activities for young people.

The County operates a programme of training for adult volunteers to equip them with the correct skills for their role. In addition, a team of volunteer leads, programme, support, and volunteer development team members, advisors and skills instructors provide support to Districts and Groups in the delivery of their Scouting.

In partnership with adults, young people take part in fun indoor and outdoor activities. They learn by doing, sharing in spiritual reflection and taking responsibility. They make choices, try new and challenging activities, and live their Scout Promise. All of this is underpinned by our Scout values.

These activities are open to all young members in the County via their Scout Groups and Districts. Some activities are restricted in participant numbers by their nature, in which case places are taken on a first come first served basis or by selection. Any selection process adheres to the Association's diversity policy and will consider any requirements of the activity. Activities are normally financed by a range of charges, together with fundraising for larger-scale activities. Should a young person not be able to pay 100% of the activity costs this would not be a bar to participation.

Northumberland Scout's Trustees have a duty to report on our public benefit in this Annual Report. We've assessed our aims, activities, and charitable objectives, which are to contribute to the development of young people in achieving their full potential as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their communities. We believe we've met the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria for both the advancement of education, and the advancement of citizenship and community development.

- Identifiable benefit: The way we help young people in their personal development and empower them to make a positive contribution to society.
- Public benefit: Scouts is a national movement. We're open to all young people aged 4–24 and adult volunteers who are willing to make the Scout Promise. We help young people build confidence and gain the skills they need to succeed in life.

The benefits of Scouts are further demonstrated throughout this report.



By 2035, Scouts aims to be a growing, inclusive and sustainable movement, where young people lead change, volunteers feel valued, and communities are stronger and better connected.

Place to belong, Scouts UK 2026 - 2035 strategy

Vision and strategic objectives

This year saw the culmination of our Skills for Life strategy and the development of the new Scouts UK strategy.

Place to belong, the Scouts UK strategy for 2026–2035 was launched nationally in early May 2026. It's shaped by 28,000 people in Scouts and beyond, including more than 3,000 young Scouts who made their voices heard. It's a strategy for young people, shaped by young people.

- Vision: Empowering more young people through adventure, teamwork and shared values to make a positive difference.
- Purpose: Supporting young people in their personal development so they can contribute positively to society.

It keeps the focus on what we do best, giving young people a place to belong and the skills to thrive. It centres on two core pillars: delivering an adventurous and inclusive programme and supporting our volunteers.

By 2035, Scouts aims to be a growing, inclusive and sustainable movement, where young people lead change, volunteers feel valued, and communities are stronger and better connected.



Over the next year, we'll be embedding this strategy and launching our Northumberland Scouts 2026-2029 action plan to help deliver it, focused on:

- Programme: safely delivering a fun, relevant and inclusive programme for all.
- Volunteering: ensuring our volunteers feel valued, supported and motivated
- Support: building a growing, sustainable and effective movement.

View our 2026 – 2035 strategy at scouts.org.uk/ourplan.

Place to belong 2026 - 2035: Our plan to share the future together



Membership

Our annual census is undertaken in January of each year.

Our January 2026 census recorded membership figures of:

Our youth membership data in January 2026:

Membership		2026	2025	2024
Young people	Boys	3,890	4,013	3,982
	Girls	1,690	1,664	1,595
	Self ID	10	9	14
	Prefer not to say	105	25	47
	Sub total	5,695	5,711	5,638
Adult (roles)*	Sub total	2,216	1,640	1,657
Total		7,911	7,351	7,295

Section	2026	2025	2024
Squirrels	374	312	250
Beavers	1,343	1,371	1,387
Cubs	1,645	1,665	1,713
Scouts	1,570	1,541	1,552
Explorers	623	712	637
Network	140	110	99
Total	5,695	5,711	5,638

YOUTH MEMBERSHIP

In 2026, we saw a small reduction of 0.3% (-16) in the number of young people. Beaver Scout and Cub Scout numbers remain a challenge, with three consecutive years of decline. This is in line with national trends, but understanding and addressing these trends continues to be a priority for the organisation.

*ADULT MEMBERSHIP

A change in the way adult membership is recorded over the past year, means it is not possible to compare adult membership at a role level.

Youth shaped scouting and programme

YOUTH SHAPED

In April 2025, eight young people from Northumberland Scouts took part in the UK Youth Forum in Edinburgh, joining Scouts from across Scotland and the North of England.

They explored the results of the national youth consultation and feedback from adult volunteers at Summit25 on our national strategy. They took part in youth voice workshops, discussed global challenges and how Scouts can make a positive impact, shared ideas for the future of Scouting, and worked with the UK media team to capture highlights from the event. The group thoroughly enjoyed the event and their input and participation directly contributed to our new national strategy, Place to belong.

The County Youth Team have met regularly throughout the year and consult with members and ensure that we continue to champion young people's voices.



PROGRAMME

The County Programme Team has worked hard over the past year to deliver a varied and successful calendar of section activities. Highlights included a Cub Scout fun day at Dilston, a Scout activity weekend, and a wonderfully snow-filled Explorer Scout and Scout Network camp at Nunnykirk.

In May 2025, we held our County camp – Camp Northumbria – at Causey Park Farm. It was excellent to see members from all six sections come together for a memorable weekend. For the first time, the camp also provided a residential opportunity for young people working towards their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, and the Gold DofE contingent offered invaluable support to the organising team. A full update on the

event is included within this report, and we are pleased to confirm that Camp Northumbria will return in May 2027.

In the same month, members of the 1st Alnmouth Sea Scouts travelled to London to represent the County at the national VE Day 80th celebrations.

In July, members of Scout Network travelled to Portugal to take part in the 16th World Scout Moot, proudly representing Northumberland Scouts. Over the summer, there was also an opportunity for Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members to undertake an Explorer Belt, beginning their journey in Amsterdam and travelling through Belgium to France whilst completing a range of international challenges.



Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members embarking on our Continental Explorer Belt 2025.



Members of the 1st Alnmouth Sea Scouts representing the county at the national VE Day 80 celebrations



Members of Northumberland Scout Network at the World Scout Moot



Members of Unit 53, our unit for the 2027 World Scout Jamboree

In October, we completed the selection process for our 2027 World Scout Jamboree unit. Since selection, the young people and adults of Unit 53 have engaged in training camps, meetings and extensive fundraising. It is encouraging to see the unit developing as a team ahead of what promises to be an excellent Jamboree experience. We are also delighted that many of our adult volunteers will be attending as part of the International Service Team (IST).

Throughout the year, our Programme Team has continued to support adults in gaining Nights Away Permits, adventurous activity training and activity permits, ensuring the safe and effective delivery of adventurous activities across the County.

Across all sections, young people have continued to work towards their top awards, with achievements celebrated at our September and March presentation events.

Our 14–24 volunteers and DofE teams across the County, have provided outstanding support, enabling many young people to progress towards and achieve a wide range of top awards.

Well done to all and thank you to all our adult volunteers for your continued efforts in supporting our young people.

Awards	Attainment	Awards	Attainment
Acorn Chief Scout's Award	124	Bronze DofE	83
Bronze Chief Scout's Award	240	Silver DofE	57
Silver Chief Scout's Award	278	Gold DofE	29
Gold Chief Scout's Award	106	Young Leader Belt	29
Platinum Chief Scout's Award	39	Coronation Medal	1
Diamond Chief Scout's Award	14	Explorer Belt	8
King's Scout Award	15	Scout of the World Award	2

“ Achieving the King’s Scout Award has had a significant impact on me, both personally and as a volunteer within Scouting. It challenged me to step outside my comfort zone, develop new skills and take on responsibilities that I may not otherwise have considered. It has given me confidence in my ability to lead, organise and overcome challenges, while also reinforcing the importance of teamwork, resilience and supporting others. Most importantly, the experience has encouraged me to continue challenging myself and to use the skills and experiences I have gained to continue make a positive contribution to Scouting.” ”

Andrew Gray, King’s Scout Award recipient

Members of Whitley Bay Explorer Scout Unit undertaking their DofE Expedition



**YOUTH
WITHOUT
LIMITS**

53.6% of our Explorer Scouts and Scout Network members participate in DofE through Scouts.

169 DofE awards presented at our Top Awards ceremonies

In the past year our young people have volunteered

5,668 hours
through their DofE awards. That's the equivalent of
£42, 792

Support and volunteer development

Over the past year, the **Volunteer Development Team** has continued to work hard to deliver high-quality training and development opportunities for adult members across Northumberland Scouts. Thank you to all our trainers who continue to make this possible.

The relaunch of our 'Woodbadge in a Weekend' has proved exceptionally popular and demonstrates the strong commitment from adult volunteers to continue developing skills that support their leadership. Safety and safeguarding training remain essential requirements for all volunteers, and our thanks go to everyone who completed their mandatory training, as well as to line managers who helped ensure compliance across the County.

We launched our Critical Incident training for our managers who organise or could be organising large scale events following the introduction of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's law. The Act aims to ensure the public are better protected at public premises and events.

We continue to deliver a high volume of First Response courses, and following recent national updates, we now offer an upgrade pathway for adults who hold external qualifications that cover all or part

of the Scout syllabus, such as workplace first aid. We have also delivered flexible First Response training options split over multiple days.

Our County Awards Team is now fully established and focused on supporting the approval of good service awards for adult volunteers. Nominating a fellow volunteer can now be completed through the new membership system, and we encourage all adult members to consider recognising a colleague who has made a significant contribution to delivering brilliant Scouting for young people across Northumberland.



Our **Support Team** has continued to provide essential services across the County, maintaining Scout House in Shiremoor and managing all digital and technology requirements. This year, the team successfully oversaw our transition from Microsoft to Google for email and storage, ensuring a smooth and efficient changeover for all adult members.

Our **Administrative, Communications, Safeguarding and Safety teams** also continue to work tirelessly to ensure Northumberland Scouts remains safe, well-organised and well-communicated.

The combined team has contributed significantly to major County events over the past year, including Camp Northumbria, Winter Camp and our Top Award presentations. Their behind-the-scenes work plays a vital role in enabling these events to run safely and smoothly.



Top: Members of our DofE Residential unit at Camp Northumbria 2025

Bottom: young people at our Top Awards presentation

Creating places.
Creating memories.



Nunnykirk

Over the past year, we have successfully completed our first full year of operating our new County campsite at Nunnykirk, near Rothbury. The site, consisting of three fields covering 15 acres, offers an excellent venue for camps, outdoor training, and one-off activities, and is already proving to be a valuable asset for Groups and Districts across Northumberland.

Since agreeing the lease in April 2025, we have made several enhancements to the site, including the addition of cabins for storage and administrative use, planting new trees, and carrying out repairs and decorating across the buildings and plumbing.

A number of Groups and Units have made use of the campsite, and it has supported a wide range of programme and training activities across the County. Over the past year, the site has hosted several major programme events, including the Explorer Scout and Scout Network Winter Camp and our multi-section Target Sports Days.

We are grateful to the small team of volunteers who are contributing to the development of Nunnykirk and also to the William Leech charity for a very generous donation that gave us the opportunity to get the site ready for campers. We also wish to thank a team from the Scout and Guide Graduate Association, for their assistance in preparing the site.

We have ambitious plans for the continued development of Nunnykirk, including the addition of toilet blocks and further activity facilities. We look forward to welcoming members from Northumberland and further afield to the site in the months and years ahead, as we continue to enhance this important resource for our young people and volunteers.



Top: Explorer and Scout Network Winter Camp
Bottom: Target sports day at Nunnykirk

Camp Northumbria 2025

Over the Bank Holiday weekend (23–26 May 2025), more than 2,000 young people and adults came together at Causey Park for an unforgettable, action-packed Camp Northumbria.

The programme was bursting with adventure — climbing, target sports, quad bikes, grass sledging, creative challenges, giant inflatables, fairground rides, evening entertainment, silent discos and our very own Northumbria's Got Talent!

We closed the weekend in style with a world record attempt for the largest number of people playing The Keel Row on kazoos, creating a brilliant finale.

Huge thanks to our partners who elevated the experience: Kielder Observatory for delivering an onsite planetarium and space activities, Animals About Town (with stars Eddie and Elvis the goats), All Star Productions, and The Queen's Own Yeomanry D Division for their impressive displays.

Significant amounts of the activities supported the completion of section interest badges, Challenge Badges and top awards and straightforward signposting supported young people and volunteers to keep a record of their progress.



For the first time, Camp Northumbria also offered a Gold DofE Residential, welcoming young people from across the region. Our DofE team worked tirelessly and were a tremendous support to Programme and Site Services teams throughout the weekend.

A big thank you to all the adult volunteers who helped bring groups to camp and ensure so many young people got to take part. The weekend wasn't always the easiest camping conditions due to the extremely windy weather, and we're grateful for everyone's efforts helping to make the weekend run as smoothly as possible.

To our DofE team, camp volunteers, and the camp organising team who spent months planning — thank you. Your hard work made Camp Northumbria 2025 a huge success, and we can't wait to do it all again.

Preparations are already underway for Camp Northumbria 2027 and we look forward to seeing you there!



Our finances



Our finances

The County's unrestricted income increased by £5,919 compared to the prior year.

This was driven by an increase in membership income of £6,877 reflecting higher levels of membership; an increase in other income of £953 relating to increased administration service recharges; a decrease in unrestricted charitable operations income of £1,874 reflecting fewer activities being held in year offset by the new campsite income; and an increase in investment income of £701 reflecting investment performance in the period. These were offset by a decrease in unrestricted donations of £738 due to receiving a one-off legacy donation in the prior year.

The County's unrestricted expenditure decreased by £71 compared to the prior year.

This was driven by an increase in Staff Costs of £1,529 offset by reduced conference fees of £2,260 due to a delegation attending a one-off national event (Summit 2025) in the prior year. Other variances are immaterial and reflect levels of activity and Scout House running costs.

Net movement in unrestricted funds (before investment gains or losses) for the year moved from a net surplus of £7,287 to a net surplus of £13,575. The net surplus achieved was in line with the County budget.

Investment gains were £15,678 (2025: £4,960). This gain in value reflects the overall impact of macroeconomic events on the global economy.

In FY26 the County held two large events; Camp Northumbria (formerly Camp Together), and an Explorer Belt expedition. Camp Northumbria involved £90,550 of income with £88,773 of expenditure, giving a net surplus of £1,777. The Explorer Belt expedition generated £86,737 of income with £65,479 of associated costs, giving a net surplus of £21,258.

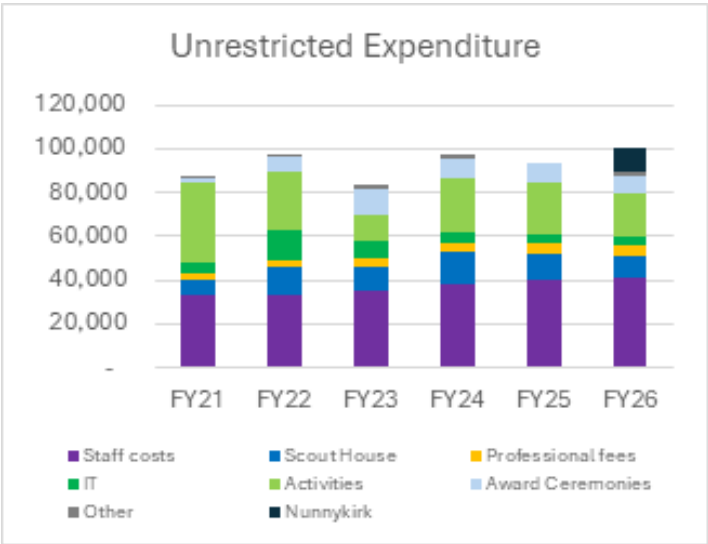
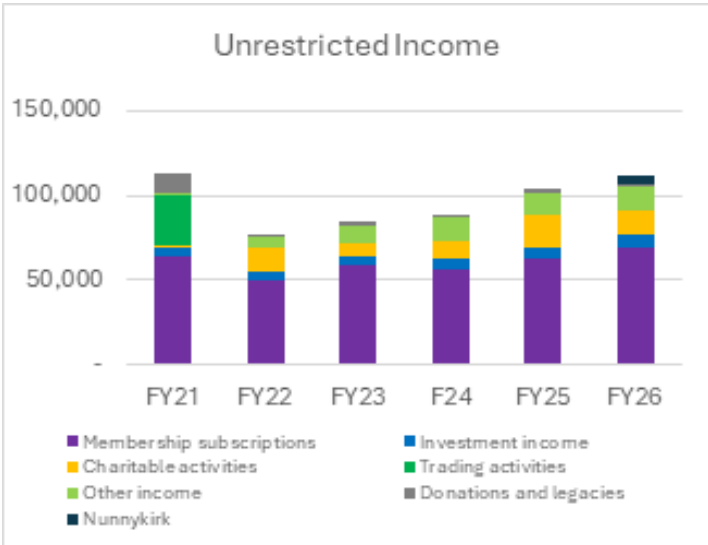
In its first year, Nunnykirk had income of £25,820 made up of £23,000 of grants received towards the site and £2,820 of site bookings income since opening in Spring 2026. The grants were hugely appreciated and enabled the County to expedite some of its plans regarding obtaining infrastructure and ensuring the site is fit for purpose. In the first year of operation, the campsite incurred costs of £30,859 driven by site set up and maintenance costs, and temporary waste management solutions for a handful of events while the County explored longer term options. The net result is that the site incurred a loss of £5,529 in the first year which is materially less than anticipated, as a result of obtaining higher value grants than anticipated.

At 31 March 2026, the general reserve on hand was £437,352 (2025: £385,064); of this £144,194 (2025: £120,010) is held as a fixed asset for the County's use. The free reserves at 31 March 2026 are £293,158 (2025: £265,054), of which 55% are held in investments which can be made available at short notice.

The Trustees have reviewed the level of reserves against the requirements of core expenditure and a surplus of funds of £193,158 has been identified as of 31 March 2026. The Trustees acknowledge that the reserves are in excess of these requirements and the Trustees continue to seek appropriate spending opportunities.

In April 2025 the Trustees took on a lease for a new County Campsite at Nunnykirk which will involve both capital and operational expenditure going forward, including operating at a deficit initially while we get the site established.

The qualitative benefits and opportunities this campsite brings are expected to be significant for the County – it is a fantastic site and incredibly exciting prospect. This is one of the core strategic initiatives the County are pursuing which will draw down upon some of these excess reserves.



RESERVES POLICY

Every year, the Trustees review our reserve policy. The intention is to hold reserves to protect the Charity and its delivery of charitable programmes. The policy is designed to provide Scouts with time to adjust to changing conditions.

The reserves policy establishes a target for the level of general ‘free’ reserves, as represented by the balance of the General Fund. This target is based on a risk assessment of the likely financial impact on The Scout Association’s activities, caused by a decline in income, an inability to meet its financial obligations, or an inability to reduce expenditure in the short term. The risk assessment also considers how likely these circumstances are to occur. The policy aims to create a balance between spending the maximum amount of income raised as soon as we receive it, while maintaining an appropriate level of reserves so the charity can operate uninterrupted. It also provides parameters for future budgeting, strategic plans, and decision making.

The COVID-19 pandemic showed how unexpected events can create significant short-term reductions in membership and the associated loss of commercial income while the need to maintain member services remains high. So, our Trustees currently believe that the appropriate target for Scouts' free reserves should be based on one year's unrestricted expenditure (excluding one-off, generally self-funded, events such as the Jamboree), with an additional element for possible future claims costs reflecting the longer time frame over which they emerge.

The Trustees consider that general reserves held should represent at least 12 months of core County expenditure, determined to be £100,000; under normal circumstances this allows necessary confidence for the continued financial stability of the County. As of 31 March 2026, the Trustees acknowledge that the reserves are in excess of these requirements and continue to look for suitable projects or resources which would assist in providing Scouting activities in the County.

INVESTMENT POLICY

The Trustees investment policy is reflected in the holdings of units in investment funds designed for charities. The units purchased include both fixed interest and income-producing investments; and represent 55% of the free reserves (see Finance Report).

GOING CONCERN

The Board has considered the financial plans for the budget year of 2026–27 and projections for the following two years, looking at both cash and reserve projections. The Board's view is the current reserves provide a significant level of resilience towards any possible financial risks that may materialise in the short to medium term.

Taking all the above into account, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has the adequate resources to continue operating for the foreseeable future. Accordingly, they believe the 'going concern' basis remains the appropriate approach for preparing the financial statements.

Trustee's responsibilities

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and 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 of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be 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 proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to 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 taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE TO OUR INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving our Trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the independent examiner in connection with preparing their report, of which the charity's independent examiner is unaware; and
- the Trustees, having made enquiries of fellow Trustees that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to make as a Trustee in order to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the charity's independent examiner is aware of that information.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the Trustees on 8th October and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Helen Paterson,
County Chair

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Northumberland County Scout Council

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the financial statements under section 145 of the 2011 Act,
- follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements,

and the seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently, no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

- which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 1. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 2. to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met, or
- to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

8th October 2026

E. J. Hartshorne-Ferguson BA FCA
Independent Examiner

Bell Tindle Williamson LLP
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
The Old Post Office
63 Saville Street
North Shields
Tyne and Wear, NE30 1AY

Statement of financial activities for year ended 31 March 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2026 £	Total 2025 £
INCOME					
Donations and Legacies	2	2,250	23,000	25,250	2,988
Income from Charitable Activities:					
Membership Subscriptions	3	69,153	-	69,153	62,276
Charitable Operations	4	17,569	177,287	194,856	61,667
Investment Income	5	7,400	-	7,400	6,699
Other Income	6	13,523	-	13,523	12,570
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		109,895	200,287	310,182	146,200
EXPENDITURE					
Expenditure on Charitable Activities:					
Charitable Operations	7	92,370	177,252	269,622	134,320
Other Expenditure	9	3,950	-	3,950	3,779
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		96,320	177,252	273,572	138,099
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE INVESTMENT GAINS / (LOSSES)					
		13,575	23,035	36,610	8,101
Net gains / (losses) on investments	14	15,678	-	15,678	4,960
		29,253	23,035	52,288	13,061
Transfers between funds	17	23,035	(23,035)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		52,288	-	52,288	13,061
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total Funds Brought Forward		385,064	-	385,064	372,003
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	17	437,352	-	437,352	385,064

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Balance sheet at 31 March 2026

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2026</u>		<u>2025</u>	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	13		144,194		120,010
Investments	14		<u>161,283</u>		<u>145,605</u>
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS			305,477		265,615
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	30,321		55,370	
Cash at Bank and in Hand		<u>286,464</u>		<u>374,681</u>	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		316,785		430,051	
CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	16	<u>167,632</u>		<u>310,602</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			149,153		119,449
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			454,630		385,064
CREDITORS - AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR	16		<u>17,278</u>		<u>-</u>
NET ASSETS			<u><u>437,352</u></u>		<u><u>385,064</u></u>
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Unrestricted Funds	17		437,352		385,064
Restricted Funds	17		<u>-</u>		<u>-</u>
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS			<u><u>437,352</u></u>		<u><u>385,064</u></u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 8th October 2026 and signed on their behalf, by:

Dr Helen Paterson
Chair

Mark Beckwith
County Treasurer

Statement of cash flows for year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Operating surplus for the financial year	36,610	8,399
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	-
Decrease/(increase) in trade and other receivables	25,049	(48,704)
Decrease/(increase) in investments	(15,678)	(4,960)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(125,692)	143,748
Cash from operations	(79,711)	98,483
Income taxes paid		
Net cash from operating activities	(79,711)	98,483
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of equipment	-	-
Purchases of property, plant and equipment	(24,183)	-
Gains on investments	15,678	4,960
Net cash from investing activities	(8,505)	4,960
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest paid		
Net cash used in financing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(88,216)	103,443
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	374,681	271,238
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	286,464	374,681

The notes on pages 33 - 43 form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant notes to the financial statements. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

b) Preparation of the financial statements on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern. There are no significant judgements or key sources of estimation uncertainty that affect the financial statements.

c) Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

- Donations and grants are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and the settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.
- Membership subscriptions collected on behalf of other parts of the Scout Movement are recognised net of any amount paid out. This is because these subscriptions are in effect held as agents before being paid out.
- Incoming resources from charitable activities are accounted for when receivable. Income for events is recognised using the accruals basis with the amounts being recognised in the period to which the event relates (see Fund Accounting Section below). For large activities such as World Scout Jamborees and Camp Northumbria, where amounts are received by instalments from the participants in advance these are recognised as deferred income (amounts received in advance) and are released to the appropriate fund when the event occurs.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

c) Income - continued

- Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

d) Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities comprises of those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other expenditure comprise of governance costs in connection with compliance and constitutional and statutory requirements, including an allocation of the costs of administration of the County.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

e) Support costs

Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include an apportionment of the costs, including salaries, of the administration of the County based on the allocation of staff time.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for a particular purpose. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds comprise donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for special projects being undertaken by the charity. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income and expenditure for events are accounted for on the accruals basis with the amounts being recognised in the period to which the event relates. For large activities such as World Scout Jamborees and Camp Together, where expenditure is incurred in advance of the activity taking place it is recognised as a prepayment, and where amounts are received by installments from the participants in advance, these are recognised as deferred income.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

g) Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing more than £500 are capitalised and initially held at cost.

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold property are stated at cost less depreciation. Freehold property is stated at valuation, the valuation being the current market value assuming vacant possession.

Depreciation on other tangible fixed assets is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost or valuation of those assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Asset category:	Annual rate
Freehold property.	See note above.
Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment	33% straight line.
Right of use assets.	Over the term of the lease.

h) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction value and subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price. The statement of financial activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation throughout the year.

i) Debtors

Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due. Accrued income is recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered.

j) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand comprise of petty cash and six bank accounts.

k) Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation as a result of a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

l) Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement date, with the exception of fixed asset investments which are subsequently measured at their fair value as at the balance sheet date using the closing quoted market price.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

m) Leases (policy effective 1 April 2025)

At inception of a contract, the charity assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration.

The charity recognises a right-of-use (ROU) asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The ROU asset is initially measured at cost, which comprises the initial lease liability, adjusted for any lease payments made at or before the commencement date, plus initial direct costs and an estimate of costs to dismantle or restore the asset, less any lease incentives received.

The ROU asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term. The ROU asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain remeasurements of the lease liability.

2) DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
			<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
R W Mann Grant	-	1,000	1,000	-
The William Leech Charity Grant	-	20,000	20,000	-
Handley Charity Grant	1,750	-	1,750	1,750
Barbour Trust Grant	-	2,000	2,000	-
General Donations	500	-	500	1,238
	<u>2,250</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>25,250</u>	<u>2,988</u>

Northumberland County Scout Council were extremely grateful to receive the following restricted grants during the financial year:

R W Mann: To support Camp Northumbria, our County camp.	£1,000
The William Leech Charity: To support the enhancement of Nunnykirk Campsite.	£20,000
Barbour Trust: To support the enhancement of Nunnykirk Campsite.	£2,000

General grants are those received from or via government agencies and charitable trusts, not conditional on delivering specified services, whilst donations are all other voluntary gifts and bequests. The trustees are grateful for all these grants and donations which provide valuable assistance in maintaining support for scouting in the county.

3) MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u> £
Membership Subscriptions	307,196	270,238
Less: Membership Subscriptions Paid on District	(238,043)	(207,962)
	<u>69,153</u>	<u>62,276</u>

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE OPERATIONS

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u> £
Kandersteg	-	-	-	42,224
Camp Northumbria	-	90,550	90,550	-
Explorer Belt	-	86,737	86,737	-
Smaller activities	17,569	-	17,569	19,443
	<u>17,569</u>	<u>177,287</u>	<u>194,856</u>	<u>61,667</u>

5) INVESTMENT INCOME

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u> £
Interest Earned	30	-	30	54
Dividends Receivable	7,370	-	7,370	6,645
	<u>7,400</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,400</u>	<u>6,699</u>

6) OTHER INCOME

	<u>Unrestricted</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u> £
Admin / polling station recharges	13,523	-	13,523	12,570
	<u>13,523</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>13,523</u>	<u>12,570</u>

7. CHARITABLE OPERATIONS

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
			<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Scouting activities</u>				
Explorer Belt	-	65,479	65,479	1,003
Camp Northumbria	-	88,773	88,773	-
Campsite	7,859	23,000	30,859	-
Kandersteg	-	-	-	40,407
Support costs	3,573	-	3,573	4,168
<u>County Services</u>				
Activity and training costs	16,225	-	16,225	18,764
Grants paid	500	-	500	-
Wages and salaries	29,693	-	29,693	28,591
Pension costs	1,144	-	1,144	1,100
Support costs	33,376	-	33,376	40,287
	<u>92,370</u>	<u>177,252</u>	<u>269,622</u>	<u>134,320</u>

8. SUPPORT COSTS

	<u>Scouting activities</u>	<u>County Services</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
			<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Training	3,613	-	3,613	4,168
Overheads	-	25,153	25,153	32,370
Wages and salaries	-	7,918	7,918	7,624
Pension costs	-	305	305	293
	<u>3,613</u>	<u>33,376</u>	<u>36,989</u>	<u>44,455</u>

Basis of allocation:

Where support costs cannot be specifically attributed to the provision of activities or services, they are allocated on the basis of staff time.

9. OTHER EXPENDITURE

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u>
	£	£	£	£
<u>Governance costs</u>				
Independent examination	1,894	-	1,894	1,800
Wages and salaries	1,980	-	1,980	1,906
Pension costs	76	-	76	73
	<u>3,950</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,950</u>	<u>3,779</u>

10. NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u>
	£	£
<u>This is stated after charging:</u>		
Independent examiner's fees	1,894	1,800
Right of use assets depreciation	6,049	-
Right of use assets lease interest	<u>738</u>	<u>-</u>

11. ANALYSIS OF STAFF COSTS, TRUSTEE REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES, AND THE COST OF KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u>	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u>
	£	£	£	£
Wages and salaries	39,591	-	39,591	38,121
Pension costs	1,525	-	1,525	1,466
	<u>41,116</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,116</u>	<u>39,587</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The charity considers its key management personnel comprises the trustees. Charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity in the year (2025: £Nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2025: £Nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2025: £Nil).

12. STAFF NUMBERS

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> <u>2025</u> £
Employees	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>property</u> £	<u>Right of use</u> <u>assets</u> £	<u>Fixtures,</u> <u>fittings and</u> <u>computer</u> <u>equipment</u> £	<u>Total</u> £
COST OR VALUATION				
At 1st April 2025	120,000	-	14,740	134,740
Additions	<u>-</u>	<u>30,243</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>30,243</u>
At 31st March 2026	<u>120,000</u>	<u>30,243</u>	<u>14,740</u>	<u>164,983</u>
DEPRECIATION				
At 1st April 2025	-	-	14,730	14,730
Charge for year	<u>-</u>	<u>6,049</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>6,059</u>
At 31st March 2026	<u>-</u>	<u>6,049</u>	<u>14,740</u>	<u>20,789</u>
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31st March 2026	<u>120,000</u>	<u>24,194</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>144,194</u>
At 31st March 2025	<u>120,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>120,010</u>

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS - continued

The purchase and refurbishment of the building was completed in April 2013 at a total cost of £162,086. The property was valued by ID Jefferson TD BA BSc MRICS, Chartered Surveyor, of Hindmarsh and Partners (who is external to the County) at £120,000 current market value with vacant possession in July 2014 and the Trustees consider that there has been no change in value since that date. The Trustees consider that to reflect the building at valuation rather than at cost reduced by further depreciation charges correctly reflects the purpose of acquiring a property for use as a County Office.

14. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	<u>Listed Securities</u> £
VALUATION	
Market value at 1 st April 2025	145,605
Net gain/(Loss) of investments	15,678
Market value at 31 st March 2026	<u>161,283</u>

The investments listed on a recognised stock exchange are 5365.92 units of M&G Charifund and 50,835.80 units of COIF Charities Short Duration Bond Fund.

Dividends received from these investments are shown in note 5 to the financial statements.

15. DEBTORS

	<u>TOTAL 2026</u> £	<u>TOTAL 2025</u> £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>30,321</u>	<u>55,370</u>

16. CREDITORS

	<u>2026</u>	<u>2025</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Accruals	8,960	4,665
Right of Use Lease	5,423	-
Deferred Membership Income	125,592	192,324
Deferred Event Income	27,657	113,613
	<u>167,632</u>	<u>310,602</u>
Amounts falling due after one year:		
Right of Use Lease	<u>17,278</u>	<u>-</u>

The ROU lease relates to a campsite and has a break clause on 31 March 2030. The lease term has been calculated over five years using a discount rate of 2.4% which is based on trustees opinion of an obtainable borrowing rate for this type of asset.

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	<u>At</u> <u>01.04.25</u>	<u>Incoming</u> <u>resources</u>	<u>Resources</u> <u>expended</u>	<u>Transfer</u> <u>between</u> <u>funds</u>	<u>Gains/</u> <u>(Losses)</u>	<u>At</u> <u>31.03.26</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>		<u>£</u>
Unrestricted Funds						
<u>General</u>	379,578	109,889	(96,320)	23,035	15,678	431,860
<u>Designated</u>						
Interest on Leech funds	5,486	6	-	-	-	5,492
	<u>385,064</u>	<u>109,895</u>	<u>(96,320)</u>	<u>23,035</u>	<u>15,678</u>	<u>437,352</u>
Restricted Funds						
Explorer belt	-	86,737	(65,479)	(21,258)	-	-
Campsite	-	23,000	(23,000)	-	-	-
Camp Northumbria	-	90,550	(88,773)	(1,777)	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>200,287</u>	<u>(177,252)</u>	<u>(23,035)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

17. STATEMENT OF FUNDS - continued

Unrestricted Funds - General

These funds can be used in anyway by the trustees in accordance with the objectives of the charity.

Unrestricted Funds - Designated

The following funds have been reserved for future planned activity:

Interest on Leech funds

The interest on funds loaned by the William Leech Charity has been set aside as a designated fund available for lending.

Restricted Funds

These represent funds received which are restricted for a specific purpose. Amounts are released from these funds when the expenditure to which they relate is incurred by the charity.

Transfers between funds

The Trustee Board has a policy that any surplus/(deficits) from large events are transferred/(reimbursed) from the County General funds following completion of the event. All large events are budgeted to make a small surplus, and the County ensures that any grants/fundraising amounts are utilised or returned where necessary.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>funds</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> £
Fixed Assets	305,477	-	305,477
Current Assets	316,785	-	316,785
Current Liabilities	(167,632)	-	(167,632)
Long Term Liabilities	(17,278)	-	(17,278)
Net Assets at 31 March 2026	<u>437,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>437,352</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS - PREVIOUS YEAR

	<u>Unrestricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>Restricted</u> <u>Funds</u> £	<u>TOTAL</u> £
Fixed Assets	265,615	-	265,615
Current Assets	430,051	-	430,051
Current Liabilities	(310,602)	-	(310,602)
Net Assets at 31 March 2025	<u>385,064</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>385,064</u>

How we operate

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Northumberland County Scout Council (informally known as 'the County' and increasingly as 'Northumberland County Scouts'), is a registered charity in England and Wales (No. 508681).

The County's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of The Scout Association, the Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of the Scout Association.

The Trustee Board is appointed at the Annual General Meeting of the County Scout Council. The Trustees who served during the year up to the date of signature of the annual report were:

- Helen Paterson
- Mark Beckwith
- Peter Thorp
- Joycelyn Collie
- Paul Coulson
- John Harvey
- Alan Kelly
- Sean Mulligan
- Logan O'Hara
- Norma Pigeon
- Daniel Thirlaway

Sub Committees

The Trustee Board operates with a couple of sub-committees focusing on specific areas of responsibility. Trustee Board members are encouraged to sit on one or more sub-committees.

The following sub-committees operated during the year. The County Chairman, County Lead Volunteer and County Youth Lead Volunteer are ex-officio members of all sub committees.

- Nunnyskirk Sub-Committee
- Finance Sub-Committee

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees is responsible for identifying, assessing, and managing the risks of the Charity. The Board of Trustees and its committees operate a comprehensive risk management process to make sure appropriate steps are taken to manage and mitigate governance, external, operational (including safety and safeguarding), legal/regulatory and financial risks. Scouts' activities require risk identification and reasonable mitigation to make sure our charitable objectives are achieved.

Responsibility for risk management is assigned to members of the Leadership Team (senior volunteers) and Chairs of the Board's committees. The Board reviews its major risks throughout the year. The safety and safeguarding of young people involved in Scouts are our highest priorities.

Other major risks to our organisation include:

- Public trust – reputational damage due to public perception, historical issues, and external factors
- Growth – or decline in membership
- Data security
- Digital delivery and adoption
- Equity, diversity and inclusion
- Driving the right working culture
- Financial loss or failure of investment and assets

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:

508681

PRESIDENT

Prof Sir Alan Craft

VICE PRESIDENTS

John Carr-Ellison

Don Charlton MBE

Her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland

Lucy Winskell OBE LL

CHAIR

Dr Helen Paterson

TREASURER

Mark Beckwith

COUNTY LEAD VOLUNTEER

Peter Thorp

ADVISORS**Bankers:**

Barclays Bank Plc

Newcastle City Branch

Leicester

LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner:

Emma Hartshorne-Ferguson BA, FCA

Bell Tindle Williamson LLP

63 Saville Street

North Shields

Tyne & Wear

NE30 1AY

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Scouts
Northumberland