

The annual accounts are:

- Presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Bristol South Scout Council of its information
- Uploaded to The Charity Commission (England & Wales) portal as part of the annual charity report
- Forwarded to the Avon Scout County for information
- Uploaded to the Bristol South Scouts website to enable public access

### Accounts Commentary 2023-2024

As the total district Income is less than £250k the accounts are in a 'Receipts & Payments' format as per The Charity Commission requirements and subject to an 'Independent Examination' rather than full audit.

Once again, the district finishes a review period in an apparently 'cash rich' situation, however, this is not totally by design. The trustees agreed to a 'negative budget' for the year, publicising the availability of grants, loans and support for activities to groups and units. However, the anticipated take up was in fact lower than anticipated. \*\*\* Hence the trustees have agreed to continue this support philosophy into 2024-25.

Until the effective use of funds can be made, most of the balances 'at bank' have been placed in a selection of interest-bearing account so that some gain is made from it whilst future expenditures are being identified and made. The trustees reaffirmed that it would not be prudent management to spend for spending's sake just to reduce balances to the agreed reserves levels. Indeed, some of these may need revaluation as costs across the board continue to rise, although reliefs on rates and utilities were still received. Gift Aid continues to be claimed where possible.

The trustees agreed that there would be no district membership levy in 2023-24 plus that district funds would pay a proportion of county and national membership based on numbers from the previous year's Scout Census. Looking forward to 2024-25, in order for a return to payment of district membership not coming as a complete surprise and massive financial imposition in future years to groups and units the trustees have agreed to levy a £1 per young person per head charge as part of the membership 2025 payment.

As in the previously year, expenditures and costs relating to Eastwinds have risen and the income stream for incidental third-party has started to return, although not significantly. The amount of contribution made by Forest School for regular use is reassessed annually to contribute to the site operational costs which also helps in keeping the costs of Scouting use to pre pandemic levels.

The value of badge stocks has decreased and as groups/units are now directly purchasing these costs and incomes will no longer effect the accounts. There is still the intention to sell off obsolete stocks as opportunities permit so value will be recovered.

The established formal reserves policy, retaining at least an average of three years reserve covering non deferable costs, anticipated to be in the region of £15k and the remediation allocation at £22k have been maintained with development and assistance provisions remaining static at £18k\*\*\*.

I end with my usual sincere thanks to all who have kept accounts over the year, enabling the timely production of these accounts, a successful Independent Examination and to the continued support of the account signatories for the smooth operation of the district finances.

As previously indicated, the production of the 2024-25 accounts will be my last function as District Treasurer.

**Tony Rees**  
**District Treasurer/Trustee**