Wiltshire County Scout Council

Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st March 2026

Overall Summary

The County finances remain healthy, enabling the County to continue to provide quality Scouting opportunities and support the Districts and Groups.

This report should be read in conjunction with the "*Trustee Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026*".

Income and Expenditure

Net unrestricted expenditure for the year of £19k has improved from last year's result of £53k, but County is still spending more than its income, and so its reserves are reducing. Excluding depreciation, the financial position is broadly break-even this year, as opposed to net expenditure last year. This is explained further below.

County considers income and expenditure in five categories:

1. **Programme and County Scouting**

   This category includes income from and expenditure on Membership Fees, programme support, training, and costs to run the County (including its regulatory and governance responsibilities). Net income received amounted to £31k compared to last year of £9k.

2. **County Growth and Development**

   This category covers the costs of Scout HQ staff to support the growth of Scouting across the County. It amounted to £29k for the year (£50k in the previous year). As a consequence of this investment, c250 additional young people benefitted from Scouting across the County this year, and additional support was given to prevent section closures, keeping additional young people and volunteers in Scouting. This all contributed to the growth recorded in the County this year of c3% (well above the national average). Support was also given to the County Team and Lead Volunteers across a number of areas including recruitment, induction and training.

3. **Wiltshire Scout Centre**

   This category covers all income and expenditure associated with the Wiltshire Scout Centre (WSC) at Potterne. Trustees seek to operate the WSC at break-even, with letting income matching operating costs. Since COVID, lettings have reduced and maintenance work has not kept up with operational needs, especially as the WSC ages. There have also been significant increases in utility costs. This has resulted in the last few years the WSC operating at a loss.

   As a consequence, the Trustees initiated a strategic programme to both improve the fabric and infrastructure of the WSC, maintain regulatory and safety requirements, and to review the marketing and lettings policy. Significant repair and maintenance work has been undertaken in the financial year under this programme already, and together with a renewed marketing effort this has resulted in an uplift in lettings towards the end of the year. This upturn is continuing into the 2026/27 financial year.

Trustees agreed to fund the strategic repairs and maintenance programme from the Legacy Fund that was established for the upkeep and improvements to the WSC. To further improve the position, County has successfully negotiated utility and insurance costs down on renewal.

Excluding expenditure funded from reserves of £17k, net expenditure at the WSC amounted to £11k compared to last year of £14k.

Moving forward the Trustees are about to embark on a programme of redecoration and investment in outdoor activity equipment.

The Trustees are also committed to replenishing the reserves as WSC returns to financial stability. The Trustees continue to monitor the position and will review the strategy for the WSC accordingly.

4. International Activities

This category covers all income and expenditure associated with International Events. Over the last year County has expanded the international programme and now provides at least two County international adventures annually, in addition to nationally run international events, such as the World Scout Jamboree. Each event is budgeted to be broadly self-funding, with Trustees typically agreeing a contribution to nationally run international events funded from the International Fund, which is topped up annually. For 2026 the Trustees gave grants of £14k towards participants and leaders attending the WSJ in Poland in 2027.

Note, International events are included in the accounts in the year they happen. Participant receipts and the payment of costs can arise for up to two years before the event takes place.

5. Depreciation

This category covers the annual ongoing depreciation of all County physical assets, such as the WSC land, buildings, and other equipment. Whilst this amount appears in the accounts as an expense at £17k, it is not a cash transaction. During the year a detailed review was undertaken of all existing assets, which resulted in a more representative and realistic listing of assets accounted for at the year end.

In addition to the above, cash balances are held between Barclays and a charity investment account, both are interest bearing. This year interest income amounted to £8k (£10k last year).

This can be summarised below:

£k	**2025/6**	***2024/5***
Programme and County Scouting	31	*9*
County Growth and Development	(29)	*(50)*
Wiltshire Scout Centre	(11)	*(14)*
Depreciation	(17)	*(20)*
Interest Income	8	*10*
Net Expenditure	**(18)**	***(53)***
Net Expenditure before Depreciation	*(1)*	*(33)*

Funds and Reserves

County reserves have been depleted in the year as noted above, amounting to a total balance of £218k, last year £238k. This excludes the value of WSC which is shown in the accounts.

County operates three Designated Funds – to be spent as specifically determined and defined by the Trustees, and one Restricted Reserve to be spent as defined by the terms of the donations of the original funds. All other funds are considered as General Funds, to be expended as appropriate for any charitable purpose, including replenishing Designated Funds as required. The Trustee Annual Report & Accounts details the description and amounts of the funds at the year end.

Whilst cash balance at the year-end amounted to c£560k, this included membership fees received from Districts in March 2026 and paid on to HQ in early April (c£276k – and included as a creditor in the accounts). It also includes cash paid by participants for international events that are yet to take place and will be paid for closer to the time of the event (c£163k – and included as a deferred income in the accounts). Excluding these at any one time during the year cash balances typically amounted to c£120k.

The Trustees consider the cash available sufficient to meet its current and predicted needs, whilst meeting the levels of reserves that the Trustees consider are required.

Reserves Policy

The County reserves policy has been reviewed in the year. Trustees have determined that sufficient reserves be held to continue the charitable activities of the County should income and fundraising activities fall short. The Trustees consider that the County should hold a sum equivalent to a year's operating costs plus funds be able to continue with development work. This should be retained within unrestricted current assets and amounts to £75k. Net unrestricted current assets at the year end sufficiently cover this amount, at £166k. Any additional funds will be to develop the activities and made available to support development and Scouting across the County.

Other Developments

The Trustees have adopted the requirement to show membership fees received gross of membership fees paid on to The Scout Association. As a consequence, such income and expenditure is reported separately rather than as a net income. The comparative figures have also been restated. This in accordance with The Scout Association's updated Policy, Organisation & Rules, and the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities.

County has updated its accounting software as at 1st April 2026. This will improve functionality, reporting and financial control. During the year end audit, the Auditors reviewed and reconciled the opening accounting balances in the new accounting software at 1st April 2026, with the closing balance in the old accounting software at 31st March 2026, giving Trustees assurance that all accounting records have been transferred to the new software accurately and completely.

Richard Holmes FCMA

Wiltshire Scout County Treasurer

June 2026