

Company No. 2662382

Charity No.1050456

**BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD
SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED**

**REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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Principal address and registered office:

96 Blackbird Leys Road
Blackbird Leys
Oxford OX4 6HS

Independent Examiners

Gravita Audit Oxford LLP,
Park Central
40-41 Park End St
Oxford
OX1 1JD

Registered Charity No. 1050456

Company No. 2662382

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Directors submit their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Objectives and activities

The principal activity of the company during the year was to provide advice and information services, in particular welfare rights, housing and money advice, to the residents of Blackbird Leys and the surrounding areas. Additionally, the company administers grants to individuals in need with funds donated specifically for that purpose.

The trustees consider the company a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102 (2019).

Achievements and performance

A detailed description of the company's activities and performance is available in the charity's annual impact report at <https://agnessmith.co.uk/annual-reports>. The Annual Impact Report 2024-2025 there should be read in conjunction with this report for a full coverage of the charity's achievements and performance.

During the year the company advised 1667 local residents in 2459 advice sessions, with each client potentially representing a household with other members (including children) benefiting from our advice. We achieved additional benefit gains for our clients totalling £3,487,884, and charity grants and other financial gains totalling £81,425. We helped clients to clear a total of £707,552 in unmanageable debts, freeing up client income for everyday living costs, and in some cases removing the risk of eviction for rent arrears. We prevented homelessness for 95 households. The total financial gain won for clients was £4,276,861. Our work contributes directly to local strategic priorities to reduce inequalities in Oxford, by increasing the resilience of local communities, maximising incomes, and teaching skills such as budgeting. We help with complex queries, often involving multiple, interrelated issues: resolving these challenging problems improves the quality of life of our clients and their families, and by extension has benefits for the whole community, through increased spending in the local economy and increased social participation. This year we opened a new outreach service at the Oxford Community Action food distribution hub, and provided money management groups as an initiative designed to prevent the development or escalation of financial problems for our clients.

Reference and administrative details

The company is a registered charity, No.1050456. The charity operates primarily under the name: Agnes Smith Advice Centre.

The directors who served throughout the year unless otherwise stated were as follows:-

Elizabeth Cairncross	Catherine Foot
Andrew Carver	Beverley Humberstone
Gillian Dodds	Peter Nowland – from 17 th July 2024
Paul Dornan	Simon Pitkin
Imade Edosomwan	Cora Spencer
Jesse Erlam	Wendy Spray

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Accordingly, the directors have no interest in the share capital of the company.

Structure, Governance, and Management

General Information

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales and a registered charity in England and Wales. The governing documents are the Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 12 November 1991 as amended by special resolution dated 14 October 1995 as amended on 14 Jul 2021 as amended on 15 Sep 2021 as amended on 25 Oct 2021 and registered with the Charities Commission.

The maximum liability of each member for payment of debts of the company is £1. At 31 March 2025 there were 26 members.

Method of appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors of the company limited by guarantee, BLNSS Ltd. Unless otherwise decided at a general meeting, there are 15 or fewer. At each annual general meeting (AGM), all the trustees/directors stand down, and must stand for re-election; at the AGM, retiring trustees/directors who have indicated their willingness to stand again are capable of being re-elected by the members. Other trustees/directors wanting to be elected at the AGM must be nominated by a member, and must indicate in writing their willingness to stand. Trustees/directors can be co-opted during the year, but must then stand for election at the next AGM.

Financial Review

The financial position as at 31 March 2025 is as detailed in the financial statements following this report. There was £370,617 in gross income and a surplus of £33,588, leading to total carried forward reserves of £189,632.

Risk assessment

The trustees have reviewed the major risks facing the organisation and developed strategies to mitigate them; a policy has been approved and adopted.

Reserves policy

Based on discussions about the risk assessment, the trustees have discussed and agreed the following statement on their reserves policy:

- BLNSS Ltd. aims to sustain its reserves at a level which would cover a minimum of 4 months' and a maximum of 6 months' operating costs;
- this is to serve as a contingency against future uncertainty affecting the service we provide;
- this will be used only at the discretion of the Board of Trustees in the case of financial necessity; if part of the reserve is used up for this reason the trustees would aim to replace it as soon as possible from any operating surpluses;
- reserves can also be designated for a specific purpose (i.e. to fund the development of the organisation);
- trustees would prefer to invest the reserves ethically, although relatively easy access is essential.

Significant costs are also anticipated in the future due to the continuing need to move to new premises. The decision was therefore taken during the 2008/09 year (implemented in 2009/10) to set aside some of these reserves in a relocation fund, to be used if necessary for moving and necessary renovations/alterations, purchase of a building and/or higher rent. A restricted donation of £10,000 was received in 2009/10. In addition, the trustees have set aside a sum of £40,000 from general reserves.

Excluding the £40,000 which has been set aside from unrestricted funds, the unrestricted funds carried forward at 31 March 2025 totalled £130,281, which represents approximately 5 months' budgeted expenditure.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

By order of the Board

W Spray, Director

Date: 03/09/2025



BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Blackbird Leys Neighbourhood Support Scheme Limited for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act")

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the "2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act

Independent examiner's report

Since the Company's gross income exceeds £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

- 1) Accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2) The accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- 3) The accounts do not comply with account requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4) The accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Name of examiner: Gary Pready FCA

Name of firm: Gravita Audit Oxford LLP

Relevant professional body: Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Address: Park Central, 40-41 Park End St, Oxford, OX1 1JD

Date: 5 September 2025

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2024-2025				2023-2024			
	Restricted Direct Benefits	Unrestricted (Advice)	Restricted Advice	Total 2025	Restricted Direct Benefits	Unrestricted (Advice)	Restricted Advice	Total 2024
Income:								
Donations and legacies		24,517		24,517		16545		16545
Bank interest		4,018		4,018		2890		2890
Grants (see Note 1a)	<u>30,317</u>	<u>185,172</u>	<u>126,593</u>	<u>342,082</u>	<u>28,748</u>	<u>147,667</u>	<u>94,516</u>	<u>270,931</u>
Total income	<u>30,317</u>	<u>213,707</u>	<u>126,593</u>	<u>370,617</u>	<u>28,748</u>	<u>167,101</u>	<u>94,516</u>	<u>290,366</u>
Expenditure								
Transfers to 3rd parties*	-	-	<u>16,640</u>	<u>16,640</u>	-	-	<u>12,480</u>	<u>12,480</u>
Administrative costs								
Total staff related costs	-	142,342	82,553	224,895	-	126,949	78,036	204,985
Other admin costs	-	<u>43,437</u>	<u>18,339</u>	<u>61,776</u>	-	<u>38,615</u>	<u>6,768</u>	<u>45,383</u>
Total administrative costs	-	<u>185,778</u>	<u>100,892</u>	<u>286,671</u>	-	<u>165,564</u>	<u>84,804</u>	<u>250,368</u>
Governance costs								
(Independent examination and bookkeeping see Note 1b) Account code 401	-	1,863	500	2,363	-	1,745	-	1,745
Direct benefits:								
Total direct benefits	<u>31,356</u>	-	-	<u>31,356</u>	<u>27,776</u>	-	-	<u>27,776</u>
Total expenditure	<u>31,356</u>	<u>187,642</u>	<u>118,032</u>	<u>337,030</u>	<u>27,776</u>	<u>167,309</u>	<u>97,284</u>	<u>292,369</u>
Net movement in funds	<u>-1,039</u>	<u>26,065</u>	<u>8,561</u>	<u>33,588</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>-207</u>	<u>-2,768</u>	<u>-2,003</u>
Reconciliation of funds:								
Total funds brought forward	1,076	144,216	10,752	156,044	104	144,423	13,520	158,047
Current year earnings	<u>-1,039</u>	<u>26,065</u>	<u>8,561</u>	<u>33,588</u>	<u>972</u>	<u>-207</u>	<u>-2,768</u>	<u>-2,003</u>
Total funds carried forward	<u>37</u>	<u>170,281</u>	<u>19,313</u>	<u>189,632</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>144,216</u>	<u>10,752</u>	<u>156,044</u>

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 8 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

* Thames Water Trust Fund grant to Oxford Community Work Agency for partnership project.

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

Company No 2662382

	Note		
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	5	2,979	2,837
Current assets			
Debtors	6	45,106	22,697
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>194,401</u>	<u>184,734</u>
Total current assets		239,507	207,432
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	7	52,854	54,224
Net current assets		<u>186,653</u>	<u>153,208</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>189,632</u>	<u>156,044</u>
Unrestricted funds	10	170,281	144,216
Restricted funds	9	<u>19,351</u>	<u>11,328</u>
Total funds		<u>189,632</u>	<u>156,044</u>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the period by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for:

- (i) ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- (ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial period and of its profit or loss for the financial period in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on 3rd September 2025



W Spray
Director



A Carver
Director

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Principal accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

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 £.

(a) Grants

Grants receivable represent amounts received during the year as adjusted for any elements that relate to future periods, which are included in the balance sheet as deferred income.

(b) Allocation of expenditure in Statement of Financial Activities

Independent examination and bookkeeping (accountancy service) costs are classified as governance costs. All other costs, which principally relate to advice workers' salaries, premises costs and office overheads, are classified as direct charitable expenditure.

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates estimated to reduce the cost of fixed assets to their residual values over their anticipated useful lives. The following annual rates are used:

Computer equipment	25%
Office equipment	25%

(d) Recognition of creditors

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from 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 and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(e) 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.

2. Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
The net movement in funds is stated after charging:	£	£
Reporting examiner's fee	1,800	1,200

3. Directors' emoluments

The directors received no emoluments or reimbursements of expenses from the company during the year.

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

4. Employees' emoluments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	203,419	186,087
Employer's National Insurance	11,957	10,187
Employer's Pension Contributions	9,519	8,712
	<u>£224,895</u>	<u>£204,985</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 9 (2023/24: 10). There were no employees who received employee benefits of more than £60,000. There were also none in the previous financial year (2023/24).

5. Tangible fixed assets

Cost	Equipment
At 1 April 2024	54,308
Additions	1,554
Disposals	-2,396
At 31 March 2025	<u>53,466</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	51,471
Charge for the year	1,412
Released on disposal	-2,396
At 31 March 2025	<u>50,487</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,979</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>2,837</u>

6. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accounts Receivable	27,518	12,519
Prepayments and accrued income	17,588	10,179
	<u>45,106</u>	<u>22,697</u>

7. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	£	£
Accruals	11,104	6,476
Deferred grant income (see note 8)	41,750	47,748
	<u>52,854</u>	<u>54,224</u>

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

8. Deferred income - grants in advance

	2025	2024
	£	£
Consortium (Peabody and GreenSquareAccord)	10,061	21,879
Henry Smith Charitable Foundation	20,000	20,000
A2 Dominion	-	5,869
Society of the Holy Child Jesus	11,689	
	<u>41,750</u>	<u>47,748</u>

9. Restricted funds

Advice Services

Fund	Revenue	Expenditure	Reserves at start	Reserves at end
AdviceUK DRO	1,000	1,000	-	-
Oxford Advice Partnership	2,885	2,085	-	800
Alice Smith Blackbird Leys	3,500	3,500	-	-
Consortium	23,769	23,769	-	-
CWU	975	61	-	914
Doris Field	1,000	1,000	-	-
OCC- General Coronavirus	-	752	752	-
Oxford County Council	20,000	20,000	-	-
Money and Pensions Service	24,653	17,054	-	7,599
Northmoor Relocation	-	-	10,000	10,000
Parish Council	500	500	-	-
Society of the Holy Child Jesus	8,311	8,311	-	-
Thames Water	23,360	23,360	-	-
Restricted projects total	109,953	101,392	10,752	19,313
Thames Water funding for Oxford Community Work Agency	16,640	16,640	-	-
Total Restricted funds for advice services	126,593	118,032	10,752	19,313

Direct client benefits

Fund	Revenue	Expenditure	Reserves at start	Reserves at end
Client City of Oxford	14,710	15,742	1,032	-
Client Stanton Ballard	4,927	4,927	-	-
OCC - Household Support Grants	10,000	10,000	-	-
Client General Fund	680	686	44	37
All donors total	30,317	31,356	1,076	37

Details of the restricted funds are as follows:

- 'Consortium' - a one year grant running from September 2024 to August 2025 from Peabody Trust and GreenSquareAccord Limited to contribute towards the salary and associated costs of advice work. Funds received in respect of the period after 31 March have been treated as deferred income (see note 8 above).
- The Northmoor Trust - Relocation Fund. Funds are being accumulated towards the costs of relocating the charity's offices. Unspent amounts are represented by cash at bank.
- Client General Funds comprise funds provided by various donors exclusively for direct client benefits with the beneficiary either proposed by the donor or recommended by the centre. The more significant donors in this category are named in the table above.
- Donors as listed - Grants to pay for costs as indicated. Any unspent amounts are represented by cash held at the bank or undepreciated fixed assets.

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

10. Unrestricted funds

10. Unrestricted funds

	General Fund	Designated Re- location Fund	Total
Income	213,707	-	213,707
Expenditure	187,642	-	187,642
Surplus for the year	26,065	-	26,065
Fund balance brought forward	104,216	40,000	144,216
Fund balance carried forward	130,281	40,000	170,281

11. Analysis of assets between the funds

	General	Designated Relocation Fund	Restricted	Total
Fixed assets	1,522	-	1,457	2,979
Current assets	166,483	40,000	33,024	239,507
Current liabilities	-37,724	-	-15,130	-52,854
	130,281	40,000	19,351	189,632

12. Related party transactions

Donations received from Trustees in the year totalled £34 (2024: £1,255).

13. Operating lease commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Due not later than one year	7,250	7,250
Due later than one year and not later than five years.	5,438	12,688
Due later than five years		
Total future minimum lease payments under operating leases for premises at year end	12,688	19,938
Lease payments during the year	7,250	7,250

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

FINANCIAL DETAILS FOR ADVICE SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Oxford City Council	81,026	800	81,826	81,776
Oxfordshire County Council		20,000	20,000	25,000
Consortium (Housing Associations)		23,769	23,769	22,424
A2 Dominionium	5,869		5,869	
Garfield Weston				25,000
National Lottery Community Fund				
Blackbird Leys Parish Council				2,500
Doris Field		1,000	1,000	
Henry Smith Charity	60,000		60,000	10,000
J.A. Pye Foundation	5,000		5,000	
Batchworth Trust				10,000
Kathryn Salmon Legacy	15,000		15,000	
Wates Foundation				7,000
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	10,000		10,000	
Postcode Society Trust				5,249
Thames Water Trust Fund		23,360	23,360	17,520
Landsec Futures	999		999	
Westmill Solar	5,000		5,000	4,943
Society of the Holy Child Jesus		8,311	8,311	
National Lottery Community Fund				3,400
AdviceUK		1,000	1,000	1,000
London Legal Support Trust - Legal Walk	5,101		5,101	4,139
Cumber Family Charitable Trust				1,000
Marsh Charitable Trust				700
Toby Golds Iyengar Yoga Social Responsibility Fund	1,134		1,134	752
MADL - Delteys Supermarket				500
Money & Pensions Service		24,653	24,653	
Stanton Ballard Charitable Trust	1,000		1,000	
St Peter's Church Wolvercote	1,494		1,494	
Somerville JCR	1,595		1,595	
Age UK		2,085	2,085	
Alice Smith Fund		3,500	3,500	
Comms Workers Union		975	975	
Penningtons Manche	600		600	
Lord Faringdon Charitable Trust	2,500		2,500	
BBL Bowls Club	550		550	
Others	12,821	500	13,321	23,345
Bank interest	4,018		4,018	2,890
Totals	213,707	109,953	323,660	249,138

BLACKBIRD LEYS NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT SCHEME LIMITED

FINANCIAL DETAILS FOR ADVICE SERVICES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025 (Contd)

Expenditure	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
Charitable Activities				
Consulting	1,315	700	2,015	100
Depreciation Expense	563	849	1,412	3484
Electricity	5,621		5,621	6902
Information Resources	6,004	1000	7,004	6662
Insurance	1805	3,000	4,805	4428
Internet	1,198		1,198	1018
Non-durable Office equipment	653	341	993	121
IT Software and Consumables				980
IT Support	4,508	9,900	14,408	3099
Legal and Professional Expenses	2,172		2,172	302
Miscellaneous	1,797		1,797	993
Office Supplies and Stationery	1,085		1,085	1303
Photocopying and Printing	1,511		1,511	1762
Postage, Freight & Courier	888		888	1199
Recruitment costs	602	526	1,128	535
Rent, rates, refuse collection & water	7,585	1,343	8,928	8915
Repairs & Maintenance	993	500	1,493	932
Telephone	1,550	180	1,730	1075
Training: Staff & Trustees	2,942		2,942	1241
Training : Volunteers	152		152	
Travel - Staff	36		36	92
Travel _ Volunteers	459		459	240
Salaries and related costs	142,342	82,553	224,895	204985
Governance costs				
Independent examination	1,800		1,800	1200
Bookkeeping	63	500	563	545
Total expenditure	187,642	101,392	289034	252113
Net Income	26,065	8,561	34626	-2976