COLCHESTER PRIDE

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 November 2025

Charity registration number: 1193098

Contents

1. Reference and Administrative Details
2. Trustees' Annual Report
3. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities
4. Independent Examiner's Report
5. Statement of Financial Activities
6. Balance Sheet
7. Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Reference and Administrative Details

Charity name	Colchester Pride
Charity structure	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), Foundation model
Charity registration number	1193098
CIO registration number	CE024600
Principal office	c/o 56 Rawstorn Road, Colchester, CO3 3JH
Trustees	Benjamin Mark Powell (Chair, from 1 May 2025); James Robert Eniffer (from 1 May 2025); Thomas Harvey Saye (from 1 May 2025); Jenna Saiz-Abo Henriksen (from 8 February 2022); Daniel Joseph Deller-Thompson (13 January 2021 to 1 May 2025); Rhys Chapman (until 1 May 2025)
Independent Examiner	Chris Clarke, ACA, 12 Red Lion Mews, Odiham, RG29 1HP
Bankers	Co-operative Bank, Albert Hall Building, High Street, Colchester, CO1 1JW

2. Trustees' Annual Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2025. The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, and the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (the Charities SORP).

Objectives and activities

Colchester Pride's key aim is the promotion of equality and diversity for the public benefit. We seek to achieve this through staging an annual LGBTQ+ festival and smaller events throughout the year; working towards the elimination of discrimination; advancing education and awareness around equality and diversity; fostering understanding between people from diverse backgrounds; and cultivating a sentiment in favour of equality and diversity.

During 2024/25, we continued to deliver a year-round programme alongside our annual Pride festival. Our monthly Fun and Gaymes events provided a regular informal social space, complemented by activities including Little Camp Cabaret, a community picnic, quiz, creative workshops, World AIDS Day commemorations and the Ozmopolitan Ball. We also continued to recognise significant LGBTQ+ dates through our online platforms.

Our annual Pride festival returned to Firstsite on 16 August 2025, attracting approximately 2,000 attendees. The event incorporated our largest Pride march to date, a programme of LGBTQ+ performance and community stalls, and an indoor Poetry Takeover.

Throughout our activities, we continued to place particular importance on LGBTQ+ visibility, community connection and inclusion. During a challenging year for the trans+ community, we made and amplified statements of support and ensured that trans inclusion was visibly reflected within our Main Event and march.

We continued to work with and receive support from organisations including Colchester Borough Homes, the Mercury Theatre, Essex Sexual Health Service and Provide, while also sharing organisational experience with developing Pride organisations including Braintree Pride and Manningtree Pride.

In exercising their powers and duties, the trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The trustees consider that the activities described above deliver clear public benefit by promoting equality and diversity, advancing education, and providing accessible community events open to the wider public.

Achievements and performance

The trustees are pleased that the charity maintained the significant audience growth achieved in 2024, with approximately 2,000 people again attending the annual Pride festival.

Operational improvements resulted in a particularly smooth stallholder arrival and set-up process, alongside improvements to box office and audience check-in. The Pride march was our largest to date and included a large trans flag carried by members of the community alongside our Progress Pride flag. A specially created opening performance from local drag collective Haus of Slaye further communicated our commitment to trans inclusion.

Accessibility remained an important priority, with approximately 90% of Main Stage content BSL interpreted, compared with 80% in the previous year. Feedback from our post-event survey, which received 224 responses, was encouraging: more than 90% considered their ticket good value for money, Firstsite received an average suitability rating of 8.8 out of 10, and 87% felt that our stalls reflected their interests or those of the wider LGBTQ+ community. Feedback also highlighted areas for future improvement, particularly physical accessibility, seating and shade.

Beyond the Main Event, we maintained a consistent year-round community presence. Our programme combined larger events with smaller, lower-pressure opportunities for social connection, while cabaret and performance events continued to provide platforms for LGBTQ+ and emerging artists.

Delivery of the Main Event was supported by approximately 30–40 volunteers, alongside the committee. Our other year-round activities were delivered directly by committee members. The trustees recognise the significant contribution made by volunteers and committee members in enabling a comparatively small, volunteer-led charity to maintain this level of activity.

Financial review

Total income for the year was £31,951 (2023/24: £32,131), and total expenditure was £35,576 (2023/24: £29,639), resulting in a net operating decrease in funds for the year of £3,625 (2023/24: net increase of £2,493). After an other recognised gain of £571 (see Note 5), the net decrease in funds for the year was £3,054. Total funds carried forward at 30 November 2025 were £38,324, held entirely as cash at the charity's bank.

The deficit for the year was driven mainly by Pride Festival costs (artist fees and event costs totalling £25,999) exceeding Pride Festival ticket revenue (£15,992); ancillary events, vendor/stallholder fees, fundraising, and a distribution from the Mayor's Charities Fund contributed the balance of income.

Structure, governance and management

Colchester Pride is constituted as a Foundation Model Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and is governed by its constitution, most recently amended by majority vote on 24 September 2020. The only voting members of the CIO are its charity trustees.

Under the constitution, trustees are appointed by resolution at a properly convened meeting of the trustees. In selecting trustees, regard is given to the skills, knowledge and experience required for the effective administration of Colchester Pride.

During the year, Daniel Deller-Thompson stepped down as Chairperson and trustee while remaining a member of the wider committee. Benjamin Powell subsequently served as Acting Chairperson before being formally appointed Chairperson in May 2025. Thomas Saye and James Eniffer became trustees during the year.

The wider committee also developed during the period, with new members joining and responsibilities redistributed as required. The committee met approximately every four weeks, increasing the frequency of meetings in the lead-up to the Main Event.

The trustees remain conscious of the demands placed upon a volunteer-led organisation and of the need to continue improving the distribution of responsibility, organisational knowledge and succession planning as Colchester Pride develops.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The trustees have reviewed the major risks to which the charity is exposed. The principal risks identified are: reliance on a small number of volunteers and committee members to deliver the charity's activities; a significant proportion of income depending on the successful delivery of a single annual Pride festival, with variability in grant and sponsorship income between years; and the risk that the festival could be cancelled, curtailed or adversely affected by circumstances such as poor weather, given it is principally an outdoor event.

The trustees seek to manage these risks through succession planning and the ongoing development of the wider committee to broaden the base of volunteers involved in delivering the charity's activities (see Structure, governance and management, above); by diversifying income across ticket sales, vendor and stallholder fees, ancillary events held throughout the year, and grants and donations, rather than relying on any single source; and by maintaining a level of reserves intended to cover the costs of the next Pride event

(see Reserves policy, below), which would allow the charity to continue its activities even if the festival were disrupted in a particular year. The trustees consider these measures appropriate to manage the identified risks so far as is reasonably possible for a volunteer-led charity of this size.

Reserves policy

The charity does not currently operate a formally quantified reserves policy. In practice, the trustees seek to maintain sufficient unrestricted funds to ensure that the charity can meet its commitments and continue its activities despite the seasonal and variable nature of its income.

As a general principle, the trustees aim to retain sufficient resources to cover the next major Pride event while making substantial provision towards the event that follows. At 30 November 2025, the trustees considered the charity's level of reserves sufficient to support its planned activities and near-term commitments. All £38,324 of funds held at the year end are free reserves, being unrestricted and not represented by fixed assets.

Plans for future periods

During 2025/26, Colchester Pride intends to continue growing both its annual Pride festival and its year-round community programme.

Following two Main Events attracting approximately 2,000 attendees, we intend to explore further sustainable growth and assess whether there is sufficient demand and organisational capacity to support a future move to Castle Park for Colchester Pride's tenth anniversary event.

We also intend to diversify our ancillary programme further, enabling us to engage with a broader range of the LGBTQ+ community and provide different opportunities for connection, participation and visibility throughout the year.

Accessibility will remain a priority for the Main Event, building upon our expansion of BSL interpretation and responding to feedback received through our 2025 attendee survey.

Finally, we will continue working towards greater long-term organisational sustainability. This includes developing an approximately 18-month planning cycle, strengthening the distribution and retention of organisational knowledge, and working towards a structure capable of sustaining Colchester Pride beyond any particular committee or group of individuals.

This report was approved by the trustees on 23/09/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: 

Name: Benjamin Powell, Chair

3. Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Charity law (the Charities Act 2011 and the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012) requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity, in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act 2011. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

4. Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Colchester Pride

Report to the trustees of	Colchester Pride
On accounts for the year ended	30 November 2025
Charity no.	1193098
Set out on pages	9 to 14

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income did not exceed £250,000, I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

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

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

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

Signed:



Name: Chris Clarke, ACA

Date: 30 September 2026

Address: 12 Red Lion Mews, Odiham, RG29 1HP

5. Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account) for the year ended 30 November 2025

No restricted or endowment funds were held during the year; all funds are unrestricted (see Note 2).

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	3	1,653.91	-	1,653.91	*9,060.00*
Charitable activities (events, tickets, vendors, grants)	3	30,297.57	-	30,297.57	*23,071.00*
Total income		**31,951.48**	**-**	**31,951.48**	*32,131.00*
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	4	3,089.22	-	3,089.22	*2,541.00*
Charitable activities	4	31,402.79	-	31,402.79	*20,610.00*
Governance costs	4	1,084.22	-	1,084.22	*6,488.00*
Total expenditure		**35,576.23**	**-**	**35,576.23**	*29,639.00*
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		**(3,624.75)**	**-**	**(3,624.75)**	*2,493.00*
Other recognised gains/(losses) (Note 5)	5	571.16	-	571.16	
Net movement in funds		**(3,053.59)**	**-**	**(3,053.59)**	*2,493.00*
Total funds brought forward		41,378.00	-	41,378.00	*38,885.00*
Total funds carried forward		**38,324.41**	**-**	**38,324.41**	*41,378.00*

All income and expenditure in the year was unrestricted; the Restricted column is nil throughout. The 2023/24 comparative figures are as reported in the Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2024.

6. Balance Sheet

as at 30 November 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets (Note 8)	-	-
Current assets		
Cash at bank and in hand	38,324.41	*41,379*
Debtors	-	-
Total current assets	38,324.41	*41,379*
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	-	-
Net current assets	38,324.41	*41,379*
Total net assets	**38,324.41**	*41,379*
Funds of the charity:		
Unrestricted funds	38,324.41	*41,379*
Restricted funds	-	-
Total funds	**38,324.41**	*41,379*

Debtors and creditors are stated as £nil; the trustees confirm that no debtors, creditors, prepayments or accruals existed at 30 November 2025.

Approved by the trustees on 23/09/2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signed: 

Name: Benjamin Powell, Chair

7. Notes to the Financial Statements

Note 1 - Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with items recognised at cost or transaction value, on an accruals basis. They have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, and the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012. The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The trustees have considered the charity's financial position, including its cash reserves and the pattern of its income and expenditure, and are satisfied that it is appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis.

Note 2 - Accounting policies

Income recognition: Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably. Donations and grants without specific performance conditions are recognised in full once entitlement arises; where a grant carries specific performance conditions, income is recognised only once those conditions have been met. Ticket and vendor income is recognised at the point of sale.

Expenditure recognition: Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to pay, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are directly attributable to the activity to which they are allocated; no apportionment of shared costs between activities has been necessary.

Fixed assets: Equipment purchased in the year (£1,502, see Note 8) has been treated as expenditure in the year of purchase rather than capitalised.

Fund accounting: All funds held during the year were unrestricted general funds, available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the charity's objects. No restricted or endowment funds were held or received during the year.

Note 3 - Analysis of income

	2025 £	2024 £
Pride Festival ticket revenue	15,991.96	
Vendor / stallholder revenue	5,574.00	
Ancillary event revenue (net of refunds)	3,603.02	
Grants:		
Colchester City Council (9 January 2025)	200.00	
Colchester City Council (17 March 2025)	1,000.00	
Mayor's Charities Fund distribution (4 November 2025)	3,928.59	
Income from charitable activities - subtotal	**30,297.57**	***23,071.00***
Donations and legacies (incl. Rainbow Lottery, fundraising)	1,653.91	*9,060.00*
Total income	**31,951.48**	***32,131.00***

All grants received in the year were unrestricted (see Note 2) and were not subject to specific performance conditions.

A category-by-category comparison with 2023/24 is shown only at the subtotal level above, as the prior year's accounts did not analyse income on this basis.

Note 4 - Analysis of expenditure

Costs of holding ancillary fundraising events (artist fees and running costs) are classified as costs of raising funds, consistent with their purpose of generating income for the charity, rather than as costs of charitable activities.

	2025 £	2024 £
Advertising	132.66	
Ancillary event artist fees (fundraising events)	1,245.00	
Ancillary event running costs (fundraising events)	1,711.56	
Raising funds - subtotal	**3,089.22**	***2,541.00***
Pride Festival artist fees	7,550.00	
Pride Festival event costs (incl. road closure costs, £1,606.20)	17,449.07	
Equipment costs	1,501.61	
Storage (net of refund)	1,455.07	
Digital (website / email hosting)	494.40	
Insurance	789.00	
General expenses	73.86	
Other (incl. Mayor's Charity Fund contributions, £2,081)	2,089.78	
Charitable activities - subtotal	**31,402.79**	***20,610.00***
Committee expenses (governance costs)	1,084.22	*6,488.00*
Total expenditure	**35,576.23**	***29,639.00***

A category-by-category comparison with 2023/24 is shown only at the subtotal level above, as the prior year's accounts did not analyse expenditure on this basis, and the reclassification of ancillary fundraising event costs above has not been applied retrospectively to the 2023/24 comparative.

Note 5 - Adjustment to opening funds

The Trustees' Annual Report and financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2024 reported total funds carried forward of £41,378 at that date. The charity's bank statements show a balance of £41,949.16 as at 30 November 2024, a difference of £571.16. The trustees have concluded that this difference is not material and have therefore recognised it as a gain in the current year's Statement of Financial Activities, rather than restating the opening position for the year ended 30 November 2024.

Note 6 - Trustee remuneration and expenses

Trustees during part or all of the year: Benjamin Mark Powell (Chair, from 1 May 2025), James Robert Eniffer (from 1 May 2025), Thomas Harvey Saye (from 1 May 2025), Jenna Saiz-Abo Henriksen (from 8 February 2022), Daniel Joseph Deller-Thompson (13 January 2021 to 1 May 2025), and Rhys Chapman (until 1 May 2025).

	£
Jenna Saiz-Abo Henriksen - fee for performing services (12 May 2025)	500.00
Jenna Saiz-Abo Henriksen - reimbursed expenses (4 March 2025)	37.00
James Eniffer - reimbursed expenses while a trustee (from 1 May 2025)	93.82
Daniel Deller-Thompson - reimbursed expenses incurred while a trustee, paid 14 May 2025 (13 days after his resignation on 1 May 2025)	85.53

Note 7 - Related party transactions

Payment of £50 (20 October 2025) to Level Best, a cafe run by the Dacon Trust, in lieu of a fee to performer Mary-Ann Ambrose, at her request. The Dacon Trust is not connected to a trustee.

See also Note 6 for trustee remuneration and expenses.

Note 8 - Fixed assets

No fixed assets are recognised on the balance sheet. Equipment purchases of £1,501.61 during the year (see Note 4) have been expensed in full.

Note 9 - Independent examiner’s fees

No fee was charged for the independent examination of these accounts.