Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Redbridge Scouts District

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Redbridge Scouts District for the year ended 31st January 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Redbridge Scouts District, 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 Redbridge Scouts District accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Redbridge Scouts District as required by section 130 of the Act; or

2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

Please note my concerns raised about the Hargreaves Campsite and shop to the Trustee Board 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: Robert Handworker

Relevant professional qualification or membership of professional bodies (if any)

Address: 25 Gordon Road, South Woodford, London E18 1DW

Date: 28/09/2026

Scouts
Redbridge

District Trustees Annual Report to the

REDBRIDGE DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

for the period 1st February 2025
to 31st January 2026

presented at the AGM 29th September 2026

Status

The Scout District was first registered with the Charity Commission on 22nd March 1963 as charity number 303803 with the name of Ilford East District Scout Council. On the merger of the Epping Forest South, Ilford Northwest and Ilford East Scout District's on the 16th October 2021 the name was changed to Redbridge District Scout Council.

The charity is part of the Scout Association, located within the Scout County of Greater London Northeast and has the District registration number 12158001.

Trustees

(Ex officio)

Shabana Shaukat	District Lead Volunteer
Adam Joiner	District Youth Lead

(Appointed)

Charlie Paddon	District Chairman
Tina Isherwood	District Treasurer

(Other Appointed)

Russell Vaughan
Phil Merchant
Matthew Balchin
Mel Knight

Proposed members to be approved by Scout Council at AGM

David Matson
Rani Sian
Saika Abdullah

Honorary Vice Presidents

Barbara Manwaring
Barbara Westcott
Dick Walker
Joan Stevens
Paul Plane
Sue Paddon

Principal Address

ROVSCO Hall, 72 Hollybush Hill, Wanstead, London, E11 1PE

Bankers

CAF Bank & Metro Bank

Independent Examiner

Rob Handworker

Redbridge District Website and e-mail Address

www.redbridgescouts.org.uk support@redbridgescouts.org.uk

Structure, Governance and Management

The District's governing documents and constitution are those of The Scout Association (TSA). These consist of Charter Royal, 1991 being the most recent, which in turn gives authority to the bye laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules (POR) of The Scout Association. The District is a trust established under its rules, which are common to all Scouts. The trustees are appointed in accordance with the rules and policies contained in POR of The Scout Association.

The District is led by a District Lead Volunteer and managed by a District Trustee Board (DTB). They are accountable to the District Scout Council for the satisfactory running of the District.

The Trustee Board exists to support the District Lead Volunteer in meeting the responsibilities of their appointment.

Members of the Trustee Board must act collectively as charity Trustees of the Scout District, and in the best interests of its members to:

- Comply with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association
- Protect and maintain any property and equipment owned by and/or used by the District
- Manage the District finances
- Provide insurance for people, property and equipment.
- Provide sufficient resources for Scouting to operate. This includes, but is not limited to,
    - supporting recruitment, other adult support, and fund-raising activities.
    - Promote and support the development of Scouting in the local area.
    - Manage and implement the Safety Policy locally.
    - Ensure that a positive image of Scouting exists in the local community.
    - Appoint and manage the operation of any sub-Committees, including appointing Chairmen to lead the sub-committees
    - Ensure that Young People are meaningfully involved in decision making at all levels within the District.
    - The opening, closure and amalgamation of Groups, Explorer Scout Units, Scout Network and Scout Active Support Units in the District as necessary.
    - Supervise the administration of Groups, particularly in relation to finance and the trusteeship of property.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the District are as a unit of the Scout Association. The Aim of The Scout Association is "to promote the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potentials, as individuals, as responsible citizens and as members of their local national and international communities."

"The method of achieving the aim of the Association is by providing an enjoyable and attractive scheme of progressive training, based on the Scout Promise and Law and guided by adult leadership."

Public Benefit

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the 'advancement of education' and the 'advancement of citizenship or community development' headings. The groups are mainly but not entirely based in the London Borough of Redbridge.

Risk and Internal Control

The District Trustee Board has identified the major risks to which they believe the District is exposed which are:

Injury or adverse impact to health to Leaders, Helpers, Supporters or Members

The District supports compliance with the Safety Policy and ensures appropriate risk assessment; elimination, reduction and control measures are taken to reduce the likelihood of any injuries or adverse impact to health (including mental health). In addition, through membership fees, the District contributes to the Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. A separate HS&E subcommittee is in place to help support the DC in the development and deployment of policy and good practice regarding health, safety, and environment.

Damage to Buildings, Property or Equipment

Should this impact on the operation of a Group or Unit, the District would request the use of buildings, property, and equipment from neighboring organisations. The District has sufficient buildings and contents insurance in place to mitigate against permanent loss.

Reduced Income from Subscriptions and Fund Raising

The District is primarily reliant upon income from subscriptions and fund-raising. The District holds adequate reserves to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The committee could also raise the cost of subscriptions to increase the District income either temporarily or permanently, recognising the potential risk to membership numbers.

Reduction or Loss of Members

The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there were a reduction in the number of volunteers to an unacceptable level, then there would have to be a contraction, consolidation or closure of activities or sections.

The biggest challenge to both maintaining and growing scouting provision in the District is the shortfall of adult leaders and volunteers, especially taking into account the increasing age of many of the key leaders.

At this time there are healthy waiting lists of young people wishing to join scouting, often constrained by a shortage of adult volunteers.

Internal Controls

The District has in place systems of internal control that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include dual signatories for payments, a robust expenses policy and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered

Financial Review

The attached accounts include the opening position of the District accounts as at 1st February 2025 to closure on 31st January 2026..

The accounts include the financial operation of all aspects of the Redbridge District including Scout shop, Hargreaves campsite, District HQ and other properties, Fellowships and Explorer Units.

The accounts have been agreed by the Trustees and reviewed and have been formally signed off by the Independent Examiner – the final approved set of Accounts were emailed to all members along with the Treasurers Report..

Statement of Trustees Financial Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the District.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the district and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The accounts have been drawn up on the receipts and payments basis and follow best practice as set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice “Accounting and Reporting by Charities.”

Additional Reporting Requirements

Numbers at the end of each comment refer to The Charity Commission 'Additional Reporting Requirements' template.

There were no 'serious' or notifiable incidents during the year under review. All processes are subject to review by the trustees (4&36).

Grant making is not the main way the charity fulfils its purposes. However, in this unprecedented period, small grants were available within the Scout District in addition to those usually considered e.g., hardship assistance. No funds were raised from the general public (5&10).

No funding was received as payment for contracts with central or local government. (11, 14,15&16).

The charity does not have any trading subsidiaries, nor does it operate outside of England & Wales and has not received any overseas funding (17,20&27).

All the trustees are volunteers and as such are not remunerated except for the payment of claimed expenses. There are no paid staff, thus no trustees have resigned to start paid appointments (29,31&32).

As a young person's charity, all volunteers including trustees are subject to a DBS check prior to appointment, which is reviewed upon positional changes and after five years. This service is provided centrally by The Scout Association via its approved contractor. Trustee details are recorded and shown on The Charity Commission portal (37&41).

Achievements and Performance

It has been an exciting and productive year for our Scout District, with some re-energising projects, significant engagement, and achievements across all sections. Our volunteers, young people, and supporters have worked tirelessly to uphold the spirit and values of Scouting. Below highlights key developments, successes, and challenges faced over the past Twelbe months.

Membership & Growth

There has been continued positive growth in our district's membership. We are pleased to report:

- An increase in youth participation across all sections, particularly within Squirrels and Beavers.
- The successful integration of new adult volunteers, enhancing leadership and support structures.

- Improved retention rates, attributed to engaging programs and strong mentorship.
- We have re-energised 1 existing Group and opened 1 new Explorer unit, and have established a Redbridge network for the district.

Since I'm new to the role, the focus has been visiting all the groups and building a picture of where the district's current strengths lies. The leadership team has met and have had a discussion on vision, strengths and areas to improve, both in the long term and short term.

Activities & Events

Over the past two years, we have successfully delivered a variety of activities and events, including:

- **Nights Away Experiences**: Leaders and young members enjoyed numerous camps and outdoor adventures, building resilience and teamwork.
- **District strategy meeting:** Leaders across the district met to discuss and share ideas of current strengths and from this we devised an action plan to work towards.
- **District trip to Chatham Docks**: This will be a first for Redbridge with the district subsidising the transport costs.
- **Duke of Edinburgh scheme**: we continue to see young people participating in the Bronze, Silver. The scheme has been running for 10 years in the district. This year saw the first time for the Gold Award to be completed.

Learning & Compliance

- We are seeing an increase in members applying for Nights Away Permits, which in turn gives our Young People lots of camping opportunities. Need to grow the NA assessor team
- The introduction of digital platforms has improved administrative efficiency and leadership communication.
- Many members are now completing the mandatory Safety & Safeguarding learning, helping to keep everyone safe

These initiatives have strengthened our district's leadership team, ensuring the quality and sustainability of Scouting within the community.

Challenges & Future Goals

While we celebrate successes, we acknowledge the challenges faced, including:

- Recruitment of additional volunteers to meet growing demand.

- Adapting to evolving digital administrative requirements.
- Creating cohesiveness among the groups and increased engagement from groups for district events and team meetings.

Looking ahead, we aim to:

- Enhance leadership development and volunteer engagement.
- Expand community outreach and collaboration efforts.
- Continue providing diverse, enriching Scouting experiences for all members.
- We look forward to supporting adults and youth who wish to experience the next World Scout Jamboree to Poland in 2027.

Conclusion

The past twelve months have helped redefine and renew the strength and enthusiasm of Scouting in our District. With ongoing dedication and teamwork, we look forward to another year of growth, adventure, and success.

Thank you to all leaders, volunteers, parents, and young members for their unwavering support in my first year as DLV..

Shabana Shaukat
District Lead Volunteer

FINANCIAL APPENDICES

Principal Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation
The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, the Charities Act 2011 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a 'true and fair' view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a 'true and fair view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by charities preparing their 'accounts' in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

Investments
Investment is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in market value is transferred to SOFA.

Income & Expenditure
Income is recognised on a receivable basis. Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised on point of sale. Liabilities are generally recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Stock
Scout shop Stock is stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Fixed Assets
Fixed Assets are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is charged at the following rates:

Land	Nil
Buildings	Between 10 and 40 years
Furniture Fittings and Equipment	Written off in the year of acquisition or straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset.

Description of Funds

- Restricted Funds are those received which are earmarked for a special purpose by the donor or the terms of an appeal.
- Designated Funds are those received which are set aside by the Trustees for a

specific purpose

- General Funds are those received which are not subject to any special restriction.