Trustees' Annual Report

South Marches District Scout Council
annual report and accounts for the period
1st April 2025 - 31st March 2026

Reference and Administration Details

Charity name	South Marches District Scout Council
Other names the charity is known by	Scouts South Marches
Registered charity number	521368
Charity's principal address	Scouts' Corner Park Street Hereford, HR1 2RX

Names of the trustees who manage the charity:

Name	**Office (if any)**	**Dates acted if not the whole year**
David Owen MBE	Chair	
Audrey Clements	Treasurer	
Richard Frost	District Lead Volunteer	
Matthew Bayley	Elected	
Christopher Ruffe	Elected	
Catherine Draper	Elected	
Neil Styles	Elected	
Patricia Rusher	Elected	

Names and contacts of advisors

Type of advisor	**Name**	**Address**
Independent Examiner	Michael Cole	Cole & Co., 4 The Sheepcote, Monks Orchard Farm, Lumber Lane, Lugwardine, Hereford, HR1 4AG
Architect	Mark Owen	Owen Hicks Architecture, Studio B3, Skylon Court, Hereford, HR2 6JS

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document

The District's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They consist of a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of the Association and The Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

How the charity is constituted

The District is a trust established under its rules which are common to all Scouts.

Trustee selection methods

The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association.

Policies and procedures

The District is managed by the District Executive Committee, the members of which are the 'Charity Trustees' of the Scout District which is an educational charity. As charity trustees they are responsible for complying with legislation applicable to charities. This includes the registration, keeping proper accounts and making returns to the Charity Commission as appropriate.

The Committee consisted of 6 independent representatives, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary together with the District Commissioners, District Explorer Scout and Scout Network Commissioners and Group Scouter's representation until September 2024 when Scouting Rules and Regulations changed. It now has 7 independent ex-officio and elected volunteers, whose details are on page 2 of this report, meeting at least 3 times a year.

This District Executive Committee exists to support the District Lead Volunteers in meeting the responsibilities of the appointments and is responsible for:

· The maintenance/ insurance of District property;
· The administration of District finances.
· District public occasion.
· Compliance with both Charity and Scouting Rules and Regulations to include overview risk assessments.
· Appointing District Administrators and Advisors other than those who are elected.

Risk and internal control

Damage to the building, property and equipment. The District would request the use of buildings, property and equipment from neighbouring organisations. The District has sufficient building and contents insurance to mitigate against permanent loss.

Injury to members. The District through capitation fees contributes to The Scout Association's national accident insurance policy. Risk assessments are undertaken for all activities.

Reduced income. The District is primarily reliant upon income from capitation fees and fundraising. The District holds a reserve to ensure the continuity of activities should there be a major reduction in income. The Committee could raise the value of capitation fees to increase the income to the District on an ongoing basis, either temporarily or permanently.

Reduction or loss of leaders. The District is totally reliant upon volunteers to run and administer the activities of the District. If there was a reduction in the number of volunteers there would have to be a contraction, in the worst case scenario the complete closure of the District

The District has in place systems of internal controls that are designed to provide reasonable assurance against material mismanagement or loss, these include 2 signatories for all payments, specific training for Executive Committee Members and comprehensive insurance policies to ensure that insurable risks are covered.

Objectives & Activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The objectives of the District are as a unit of The Scout Association.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Scouting actively engages and supports young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

This is achieved when young people, in partnership with adults, work together based on the values of Scouting and enjoy what they are doing and have fun; take part in activities indoors and outdoors; learn by doing; share in spiritual reflection; take responsibility and make choices; undertake new and challenging activities, and make and live by their Promise.

Public benefit statement

The District meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

Achievements & performance

The charity has continued to support Scouting throughout South Marches as well as operating Explorer Scout and Scout Network Units.

Financial Review

Overview

The District's income during the year was £159580 with expenditure of £137638 resulting in a cash surplus of £21943. The net current assets of the District at 31st March 2026 were £125731, of which £115823 were unrestricted funds, £9908 restricted funds. We currently hold cash reserves of £108718, stock valued at cost of £17013.

Reserves policy

The District's policy on reserves is to hold sufficient resources to continue the charitable activities of the District should income and fundraising activities fall short. The District Executive Committee considers that the District should hold a sum equivalent to 12 months running costs and to meet unexpected expenditure on the District's freehold assets, circa £25000. The District held sufficient cash reserves against this at year end.

Investment policy

The District has adopted a risk averse strategy to the investment of its funds. All funds are held in cash using only mainstream banks or building societies.

Declaration

The trustees declare they have approved the above Trustees' Annual Report. Signed on behalf of the trustees:

Signature:		
Full name:	David Fraser Owen	Matthew David Bayley
Position:	Chair, Trustee	Trustee
Date:	9th July 2026	9th July 2026