Shropshire County Scout Council
Trustees' Annual Report
and Accounts to the year end 31 March 2026

Scouts
Shropshire

www.shropshirescouts.org.uk

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The Trustees of Shropshire County Scout Council present their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Section A: Reference and Administration Details

Charity Name:	Shropshire County Scout Council
Other Names the Charity is known by:	Shropshire Scouts Shropshire Scouting (historic)
Registered Charity Number:	524499
Gift Aid:	Recognised by the HMRC
The Scout Association Registration Number:	10000111

Charity's Principal Address:	c/o SYA, The New Lodge, Upton Lane, Shrewsbury, SY2 5RR
President:	Mrs Pauline Dee

Trustees:

David Shelmerdine	County Chair	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for three years)
Eddie Hulme	County Lead Volunteer	(ex-officio Trustee to 18 May 2026)
Nickie Philips	County Lead Volunteer	(ex-officio Trustee from 18 May 2026)
Alex Hadley	County Youth Lead	(ex-officio Trustee from 30 Jun 2025)
Catherine Turpin	County Treasurer	(elected 10 Sep 2025 for three years)
Tim Franklin	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for one year)
Emma Hodge	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for three years)
Kevin Jeynes	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for three years)
Richard Parkes	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for three years)
Stuart Rutherford	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for two years)
Justin Turpin	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for two years)
Ian Windler	Appointed Trustee	(elected 11 Sep 2024 for two years)

Independent Examiner:	Border Accountants, 5 Lower Brook St, Oswestry SY11 2HG
Bankers:	Barclay's Bank PLC

Section B: Structure, Governance and Management

Scope: The County is a separate unincorporated educational charity within the Scouts' federation of charities operating under The Scout Association's Royal Charter.

Governing Document: The County's governing documents are those of The Scout Association. They comprise a Royal Charter, which in turn gives authority to the Bye Laws of The Scout Association, and the Policy, Organisation and Rules of The Scout Association (POR).

Each year at the Shropshire County AGM the County Scout Council is required to formally adopt POR and any amendments adopted by the Association during the year. This adoption, or any deviation from, is recorded in the minutes of the County AGM.

Management: The County is managed by the County Trustee Board, the members of which are the 'charity trustees' of the Scout County. 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.

During the reporting year, the Trustee Board comprised the County Chair, County Lead Volunteer, County Youth Lead, County Treasurer, and seven (six from the AGM in September 2025) Appointed Trustees. The Board meets quarterly.

Trustee Selection: The Trustees are appointed in accordance with the POR.

Trustee Training: Members of the Trustee Board must complete *Being a Trustee in Scouts* learning within the first five months of joining the Board.

Board Role: The Trustee Board exists to make sure the charity is run safely and legally. At the heart of its role is a focus on strategy, performance and assurance to ensure that the County is meeting The Scout Association's overall aims and strategic goals.

Risk Management: The Trustees seek to identify and review all major risks to which the charity may be exposed and seek ways to mitigate them.

> **High Level Risks:** The Board has identified the top risks to Scouting in the County and some proposed actions to mitigate their impact. A paper is being prepared for circulation to Scout Districts and Groups.

Premises Risk Assessment Survey: The Board has issued a Premises Risk Assessment Survey to all Scout Groups in the County. The aim is to identify where Scout Groups might need support to ensure meeting places are safe to use.

Death of Explorer Scout: An Explorer Scout from another County died on the Great Orme, North Wales in August 2018. Following an inquest the Charity Commission for England and Wales issued Regulatory Advice and Guidance to The Scout Association on the Future Prevention of Deaths.

The Scout Association required all Scout County, District and Group Trustee Boards to confirm that they had reviewed and understood their obligations in relation to the changes following the issue of the advice and guidance.

The County sought to ensure each Trustee Board had reviewed and understood their obligations. All Trustee Boards reported that they had done so.

Safety Alert: At its August 2026 Board meeting the Board reviewed a Safety Alert and Learning Notice published by The Scout Association reinforcing carbon monoxide safety. The Board discussed what it meant for our future activities. This notice followed the death of a Leader in another County in 2017 due to CO exposure in a tent**.**

Assets: During the year, the Trustee Board continued the process of confirming the storage location of all assets owned by the County and updating the County's asset register.

Section C: Objectives and Activities

Purpose: Scouting's purpose is to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society.

Values: Scouting is guided by these values:

- Integrity - we act with integrity; we are honest, trustworthy and loyal.
- Respect - we have self-respect and respect for others.
- Care - we support others and take care of the world in which we live.
- Belief - we explore our faiths, beliefs and attitudes.
- Co-operation - we make a positive difference; we co-operate with others and make friends.

The Scout Method: The development of young people takes place 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
- make and live by their Promise.

Public Benefit: The County meets the Charity Commission's public benefit criteria under both the advancement of education and the advancement of citizenship or community development headings.

**"We may not be able to prepare the future for our children,
but we can at least prepare our children for the future."**

Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 – 1945), 32nd President of the United States

Section D: Achievements and Performance

County Membership (as at Jan 2026)

	Squirrel Scouts	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts	Network Members	Adults	Total
Totals	119	604	843	820	251	20	1240	3897

There has been a slight decrease in youth membership across the younger Sections (Squirrel Scouts, Beaver Scouts, Cub Scouts and Scouts). The number of Explorer Scouts has increased with young people moving up from the Scouts Section. Across youth membership (4–18 year olds) there was a decrease of just five Members.

The Network Members Section showed a decrease. It has been identified that the previous year's total was artificially high due to the inclusion of a significant proportion of Members who were no longer in the County or taking part in active Scouting in the County. The January 2026 census reflects the true number of Network Members who were active during the year.

In previous years the annual census has shown that we are often struggling to recruit adult volunteers. This year the adult membership figures were taken directly from the national Membership System. This reflects the actual number of active volunteers volunteering across the County. It showed a year-on-year increase of 46%.

The January 2026 Census are the figures that will drive the County growth planning for the next 12 months.

Groups / Sections / Units (as at Jan 2026)

	Scout Groups	Squirrel Dreys	Beaver Scout Colonies	Cub Scout Packs	Scout Troops	Explorer Units
Totals	45	9	43	48	46	19

As in previous years we had a national target to open Squirrel Dreys in all our Scout Groups. However, we have remained at nine Dreys in the same Scout Groups that reported last year.

The County believes there remains scope to open Dreys in some of the 36 Groups who do not currently have a Squirrel Scout provision.

Waiting Lists (as at Jan 2026)

	Squirrel Scouts	Beaver Scouts	Cub Scouts	Scouts	Explorer Scouts
Totals	185	163	140	61	0

The table reflects the number of young people waiting to join Scouting once places can be found to accommodate them.

Young People's Achievements: A key metric for measuring the performance of Scouting in Shropshire is how many young people have earned the top award relevant to their Section.

To earn a top award young people must have shown engagement and a level of aptitude in all areas of the programme: outdoor, adventure, skills, and world.

In the year ending 31 January 2026, the following awards were gained by young people.

In 2025, four young people achieved the highest award in Scouting, the King's Scout Award (formerly the Queen's Scout Award). They were invited to Windsor Castle in 2026 for the annual parade of King's Scout Award holders. In 2026, eight more young people gained the King's Scout Award.

Award (as at 31 January 2026)	**Number**	**Percentage of Eligible Youth Members Achieving the Award**
Chief Scout's Acorn Award (Squirrel Scouts 4 - 6 yrs)	53	43%
Chief Scout's Bronze Award (Beaver Scouts 7 - 8 yrs)	169	48%
Chief Scout's Silver Award (Cub Scouts 8 – 10½ yrs)	160	51%
Chief Scout's Gold Award (Scouts 13 - 14 yrs)	99	52%
Chief Scout's Platinum Award (Explorer Scouts 15 - 17 yrs)	16	12%
Chief Scout's Diamond Award (Explorer Scouts 15 - 17 yrs)	9	7%
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze (Explorer Scouts 15 - 17 yrs)	5	4%
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver (Explorer Scouts 15 - 17 yrs)	3	2%
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Gold (Explorer Scouts & Network Members 17 - 24 yrs)	1	1%
Explorer Belt (Explorer Scouts & Network Members 17 - 24 yrs)	0	0%
Young Leader Belt Buckle (Young Leaders 14-18 yrs))	5	8%
King's Scout Award (Explorer Scouts & Network Members 17 - 24 yrs)	4	6%
Scouts of the World Award (Network Members 18 - 24 yrs)	0	0%

Activities - Building Skills, Confidence and Adventure: The 2025–26 year has been a strong and active period for adventurous activity across the County. This despite several of the activity teams experiencing transition, changes in leadership, and ongoing challenges around volunteer capacity and permit-holder availability.

County activity teams have continued to provide a broad activity programme across water, caving, hillwalking, climbing and abseiling, archery, and target shooting. The programme gives young people and adult volunteers opportunities to develop skills, confidence and experience in adventurous environments.

Nearly 50 Groups, mainly Cub Scout and Scout Sections, and Explorer Units from all three Districts, accessed County-supported adventurous activities during the year, with delivery taking place both locally in Shropshire and further afield. This included a winter mountain activity in Scotland and national-level target shooting competitions.

County Capacity, Permits and Support: As of April 2026, the County had 88 permit holders, an increase of five on the previous year, holding a total of 153 adventurous activity permits.

Fourteen permits were issued during 2025–2026, representing an increase of around 10% in the total number of permits held.

Assessments were supported by seven assessors during the year. There are approximately 15 assessors available across the County for adventurous activities. In some specialist areas, out-of-County assessors continued to be used where local assessment capability or capacity was unavailable.

The County Trustee Board supported the purchase of key equipment, including canoes, trailer spars, climbing helmets, crampons and ice axes, and thereby helping teams maintain a safe and effective delivery of activities.

Water: The Andy Miles Centre (AMC) remained the County's main hub for paddlesports, supporting canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding on the River Severn. The AMC Team also assisted groups with canoe provision on other waterways such as the Llangollen Canal.

The AMC is led by Neil Trickett. Over 350 young people typically accessed paddlesport activities during the busy April to September period, with a wide range of groups attending from across the County.

The purchase of two more canoes and additional trailer spars strengthened the Centre's capacity, although the AMC remains short of paddlesport permit holders given the level of demand. There is one County Paddlesport Assessor.

Caving and Mining: The Caving and Mining Team continued to deliver local underground activity while undergoing a period of leadership transition following Idris Williams' retirement after many years of service. Alan Braybrooke and Chris Hughes have taken on key leadership responsibilities, with the team supporting around 80 Scouts through five visits to Ogof Llanymynech, an historic, copper and lead mine located on the Llanymynech Hill.

While no out-of-County trips were offered this year, the team aims to rebuild capacity so that future trips to areas such as South Wales and the Peak District can again be provided.

The County currently has 12 unique caving and/or mining permit holders, with Alan Braybrooke acting as County Assessor.

Hillwalking: The Hillwalking Team, led by Richard Parkes, delivered one of the year's most ambitious County activities through the February 2026 winter mountaineering trip to the West Highlands of Scotland.

Twenty Scouts and Explorers from all three Districts, supported by ten Leaders, developed winter mountain skills including the safe use of ice axes and crampons, avalanche awareness, and movement in winter conditions.

The group climbed Ben Nevis and other mountains, and covered during their time in Scotland around 80km, and ascended approximately 4,000m in total.

A planned volunteer training weekend in North Wales had to be abandoned because of severe weather, but a replacement weekend is planned for September 2026.

The County has 32 Terrain 1 and/or Terrain 2 hillwalking permit holders, plus eight Winter Terrain 2 permit holders, supported by three County Hillwalking Assessors.

Climbing and Abseiling: The Climbing and Abseiling Team, led by Dave Williams, provided nine evening climbing sessions during June and July 2025, giving around 75 young people an outdoor climbing experience.

Activity also involved providing Scout Groups from Bayston Hill, Meole Brace and St Martins, with a similar number of sessions together with additional involvement from Wem and Prees Scouts.

County-level promotion was limited because of the challenge of securing enough permitted climbing leaders, although some Scout Groups and Districts continued to deliver their own sessions locally.

The County has 13 natural rock climbing/abseiling permit holders and 15 artificial climbing permit holders, with assessment support from three County Climbing/Abseiling Assessors.

Archery: Archery delivery has become more locally focused, with Districts increasingly leading provision because of volunteer time constraints and resource availability.

Alex Hadley took over as County Archery Lead in early 2026 following Ed Dodson stepping down.

Tern Valley continues to host monthly District Archery Days, averaging around 25 young people.

Future County plans include identifying suitable venues for a weekend permit training course, supporting up to 12 additional permit holders, encouraging taster days, rebuilding assessor capacity, and developing a competition to complement Shropshoot.

The County currently records 35 archery permit holders and two accredited assessors, although only Alex Hadley is currently active as an assessor.

Target Shooting: Target shooting remained one of the County's largest and most active programmes, with 79 activities delivered or supported during 2025–2026 and around 1,171 young people taking part.

Shropshoot remained the largest single County event, attracting Scouts, Explorer Scouts and adults from across Shropshire.

The County Shooting Squad continued weekly training at 26th Shrewsbury HQ and participated in competitions and postal leagues. Shropshire Scouts achieved notable success at national level, including at the British Shooting Schools Championship qualifications and representation on the GB Scouts Target Shooting Team.

The team, led by John Dohoo, also delivered five National Small-bore Rifle Association (NSRA) training courses to 46 participants, including 11 Shropshire Leaders, generating surplus income to support equipment and event costs.

Looking ahead, the County aims to maintain activity levels, support local and national competition pathways, and continue instructor training where possible.

Overall Position and Priorities: Overall, the year demonstrated a strong and varied County adventurous activity offer, with clear evidence of high participation, committed volunteer leadership, and meaningful progression opportunities for both young people and adults.

The main priorities for the coming year are to strengthen team capacity, recruit and train more permit holders, develop assessor coverage in areas where provision is fragile, and continue investing in equipment that supports safe, sustainable delivery.

Maintaining the breadth of adventurous activity while rebuilding volunteer capacity will be central to ensuring Shropshire Scouts can continue offering high-quality experiences across all Districts.

International: The County Team continue to support all international activities. It is available to support Sections to integrate an international element into their programmes. It will also support Sections and contingents who wish to undertake trips abroad in accordance with the Association's rules and procedures. Several Groups travelled internationally in the year within Europe.

The County Team also supports Shropshire contingents attending international events, including but not limited to, World Scout Jamborees.

Danish International Jamboree 2026: The County Board provided a small grant to assist members of an Explorer Scout Unit to attend the event.

World Scout Jamboree 2027 (WSJ): This time the County will have its own Unit (36 youth Members and four Leaders) to the WSJ in Poland in 2027. At previous Jamborees we have had to share a unit with another County.

We successfully recruited Liz Kenny as the Unit Leader, and three Assistant Unit Leaders. In addition, we appointed an administrator to help with the financial aspects of running the Unit. This administrator will not attend the Jamboree.

Following roadshows run around the County, in November 2025 we asked youth Members to apply to attend the WSJ. The following numbers applied.

- Borders District 18 (4 Scouts, 14 Explorer Scouts)
- Severn and Teme District 21 (16 Scouts, 5 Explorer Scouts)
- Tern Valley District 19 (12 Scouts, 7 Explorer Scouts)

Following a selection event, we were able to offer places to 36 youth Members.

In a new step in the process of recruiting candidates for the WSJ International Service Team (IST), the County Lead Volunteer reviewed and supported the applications of a number of adults who had applied for IST roles. Following feedback from the WSJ held in Korea in 2023 this extra level of local vetting was introduced to the selection process.

Explorer Belt: The Explorer Belt provides a challenge of a lifetime for Explorer Scouts. It's a chance to take part in a ten-day expedition abroad that brings participants a real understanding of a different country, its culture and way of life.

A briefing event, attended by 16 Network Members was run by Jessica White. Two teams were now planning expeditions in 2027.

County International Recommender: The County is seeking to appoint a County International Recommender to support groups planning trips abroad. It is grateful for the help being given by Warwickshire County's International Recommender until our own local appointment can be made.

Other Activities: The operational side of delivering Scouting in the County is led by the County Lead Volunteer and their Team.

County Youth Team: The County established a youth team of three under the leadership of the County Youth Lead to support Explorer Scouts and Network Members.

National Victory in Europe Concert: The County was allocated ten tickets to attend the National Victory in Europe Concert in Horse Guards Parde, London in May 2025. The Board supported eight Explorer Scouts and two Leaders to attend.

Six Summits Challenge: The County entered the Six Summits Challenge organised by Birmingham Scout County.

Anniversaries: 2026 is the anniversary of the founding of three of Scouting's Sections. These are Squirrel Scouts (5 years); Beaver Scouts (40 years); and Cub Scouts (110 years). Districts have been encouraged to consider organising events to celebrate these birthdays.

Explorer Scout Programme: In June 2026, The Scout Association launched a new Explorer Scout programme. The exciting refresh reflects how teenagers live now, preparing them with the skills they need for work and adult life.

Explorer Scouts can now earn 40 badges, with 11 new activity badges including Employability and Democracy, Content Creation and Life Skills. There are some returning favourites which have been updated too. The new programme is more flexible, more youth-shaped and has outdoor adventure and real-world skills at its heart to help our teens thrive and find a place to belong.

There is also new branding for the Section including a fresh logo, colours, badge designs and resources. There is a transition period to the new programme until September 2027.

Volunteering Support and Development: The County delivered learning opportunities for volunteers to meet their training obligations and deliver activity skills. Adult training is a continuous process with learning and development opportunities regularly being run.

The Scout Association's transformation programme and the new digital system created a new challenge to everyone since it was introduced in December 2024.

It has taken time for the changes to be made following the new Membership on-line system. However, existing Members have adapted well to the challengers and the hundreds of new Members have taken the learning in their stride.

We now have a robust Safety and Safeguarding Learning Policy and everyone either completes the courses on time with only a few who needed encouraging to complete the courses or face suspension.

The Scout Association's Prevention of Future Deaths report required all Members to complete new on-line Safety Learning by the 14 July 2025. All adult volunteers achieved this level of training.

The on-line system identifies those whose mandatory learning has expired and appropriate action is taken.

The Growing Roots learning, which includes four additional modules, is progressing well. However, we still need to encourage Members to complete all four modules within six months of their appointment. With more than 150 new Members joining in the last 12 months, further challenges are likely ahead.

2026 heralded the restart of the Wood Badge Courses after a 12-month break. We currently have 12 Members working towards their Wood Badge and at least 20 who have registered to join the learning. Six Leaders have completed their Wood Badge this year.

The First Aid and First Response training team has had a busy 12 months. Sixteen one-day courses have been organised. A total of 161 Members completed their First Response learning.

The County also provides funding for two-day Outdoor First Aid and Emergency Care courses. The training is required for Members who lead or take part in adventurous activities.

Our thanks go to all the Members who supported the learning courses over the past 12 months. Without their help, we would not have been able to achieve such a high standard of quality across the County.

Inclusion: Scouting is open to all, and we believe it is a priority to continue to try to reflect the diversity of the communities in which we operate. In Shropshire this means looking at where we have a lack of provision within the areas and neighbourhoods of relative deprivation.

This means focusing on areas of deprivation with Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 1 to 3. There are ten Scout Groups in IMD areas 1 to 3. See the chart below.

In addition to this, we are a rural county and have a unique requirement in our dispersed communities with rural deprivation not accounted for within the IMDs.

Scout Groups with at least one Section meeting in IMD Deciles 1 to 3			
Scout Group	**District**	**Total Sections**	**Young People Meeting in IMD Decile 1-3**
1st Monkmoor	Shropshire Borders	3	65
26th Shrewsbury	Shropshire Borders	4	46
Gobowen	Shropshire Borders	3	44
1st Dawley	Shropshire Severn and Teme	5	76
1st Shifnal	Shropshire Severn and Teme	7	177
Lawley	Shropshire Severn and Teme	3	33
1st Priorslee and St Georges	Tern Valley	4	94
1st Wrekin (Hadley)	Tern Valley	2	25
2nd Wellington	Tern Valley	3	55
2nd Wombridge	Tern Valley	3	59

We also need to work within our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, including communities that have grown over the years through migration to Shropshire from Eastern Europe.

Compliance: The County Trustee Board, using data from The Scout Association nationally, monitors the training and disclosure compliance of volunteers and takes action to ensure the safe delivery of Scouting.

The County Lead Volunteer reviews, on a weekly basis, all volunteers via the Membership System. Alerts and reminders are sent to all adults at a Scout Group, District and County level where their mandatory safety, safeguarding is about to expire, or a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate is expiring.

Where individuals do not renew by the required dates, then for their safety and the safety of our young people, their membership has to be suspended. They are unable to attend Scouting activities or premises until such time as the mandatory requirements have been completed.

It is a national risk management policy that all adults attending an overnight activity where young people are attending, must have completed a Safety and Safeguarding course and hold an in-date DBS

certificate. Group Lead Volunteers and District Lead Volunteers enforce this. Compliance is checked weekly by the County and Regional Lead Volunteers.

Much of the year was spent ensuring that all adult volunteers had completed their mandatory Safety and Safeguarding Training. We are pleased to be able to report that Shropshire is one of the highest ranked Counties in the Country for completion of this training.

Section E: Financial Review

Reserves: The Trustees agreed at its February 2025 meeting that it would be prudent to retain general reserves of £25k to ensure that adequate funds are available to continue the charitable activities of the County in the event of unanticipated financial challenges.

Investments: The Trustee Board regularly monitors the levels of bank balances, and the interest rates received to ensure the charity obtains maximum value and income from its banking arrangements. Occasionally this may involve using an account that requires a period of notice before funds may be withdrawn. Before doing so the Trustee Board considers the cash flow requirements.

Financial Procedures: To ensure the integrity of its handling of the County's financial affairs, the Trustee Board has a Finance Manual. It was approved by the Board in August 2025. The manual covers financial controls and procedures.

Young Persons Bursaries & Sponsorships: The County will consider sponsoring a young person who shows potential to develop or achieve national recognition in their sport / activity of choice. The County has recently sponsored an Explorer Scout to attend the 2026 National Scout and Guide Band / Symphony Orchestra course.

Grants: The County will consider providing grants to develop Scouting. Recent grants include those towards improving disabled facilities at a Scout Group's headquarters to make it more available for hire and developing a campsite.

Loans: The County will consider providing loans to assist Scout Districts and Groups facing emergency situations.

IT and Website: Microsoft has changed the way it supports not-for-profit organisations with free software. The County has explored the new Microsoft offer. This will involve the County with higher costs for its future IT requirements.

The County has also moved its website to a new host to reduce hosting costs.

Section F: Future Plans

Strategic Planning: In January 2025, the County Lead Volunteer and County Chair were joined by a team Network Members in Shropshire at Summit 2025. This nationwide conference provided strategic input to shape the future of Scouting.

The Scout Association has now published a strategy up to 2035. The strategy *A Place to Belong* keeps the focus on what we do best – giving young people a place to belong and the skills to thrive.

It's a strategy for young people, shaped by young people. It has two key pillars: Programme (delivering an adventurous and inclusive programme) and Volunteering (supporting our volunteers).

It was shaped by 28,000 people inside and outside of Scouting, including supporters, volunteers and more than 3,000 young Scouts who made their voices heard.

The County will discuss how the strategy can be embedded into our work and continue to resource and support the deliverables and objectives as described in Section D.

Section G: Other Matters

County Storage: The County is grateful to the Housing Plus Group for providing dry storage in Shrewsbury for the County's archives and non-activity equipment. In return the County is discussing with the Housing Plus Group how Scouting activities might be provided for children of its tenants or community projects.

Support: The County is grateful to the people and organisations that support our work including: All About Youth, Shrewsbury; Allscott Sports Club; BBC Shropshire; Chris Hughes Multi Activity Service; Compleat Food Group (Palethorpes Bakery); Eventrex; Fostering Association; Georgia Williams Trust; Go Outdoors; Heys First Aid; Housing Plus Group; Longmynd Beer Festival; Longmynd Hike; Muller Yogurt and Desserts, Market Drayton; Priorslee Residents Association; Pure Geek; Shropshire & West Midland Agricultural Society; Shropshire Youth Foundation; Tesco; The Range, Shrewsbury; Trusted Schools; and Ultimate Fitness.

Thanks: The Trustees wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our volunteers who work on behalf of the young people of Shropshire and thank them for everything they do throughout the year.

The Board also wishes to record the contribution that Stuart Rutherford has made to the County as he steps down as a Trustee in September 2026. Stuart has served the County in various roles since 2009. These have included time as Network Commissioner; County Secretary; Appointments Secretary; and Trustee. We thank him for his service.

In May 2026, the County Lead Volunteer (CLV), Eddie Hulme stepped down from the role he took on in May 2022 for just two years. He was persuaded to extend the appointment to ensure that the County had fully settled after the major National Transformation Programme. His untiring leadership of the County will be recognised at the County AGM in September 2026.

Following an open selection process, we thank Nickie Phillips, for taking on the demanding role of CLV.

Section H: Accounts

Each Scout Group and District is a separate charity. The following accounting information relates only to the financial activities of the County Scout Council.

Section I: Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature



Full name: David John Charles Shelmerdine

Position: Chair

Date: 3 August 2026

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Shropshire County Scout Council (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011. In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act 2011.

Independent examiner's statement

Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) in preference to the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice issued on 1 April 2005 which is referred to in the extant regulations but has now been withdrawn. I understand that this has been done in order for the financial statements to provide a true and fair view in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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:

1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Charities Act 2011.

2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or

3 the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

J M Ollier FCA

Border Accountants Ltd

5 Lower Brook Street

Oswestry

Shropshire

SY11 2HG

Date: .....

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2026 £	Restricted funds 2026 £	Total 2026 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	**3**	26,631	4,500	31,131	26,198	3,500	29,698
Investments	**4**	2,516	-	2,516	2,718	-	2,718
Other income	**5**	22,515	-	22,515	13,040	-	13,040
Total income		51,662	4,500	56,162	41,956	3,500	45,456
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	**6**	60	-	60	282	-	282
Charitable activities	**7**	38,726	4,500	43,226	25,904	3,500	29,404
Total expenditure		38,786	4,500	43,286	26,186	3,500	29,686
Net gains on investments	**11**	3,625	-	3,625	817	-	817
Net income and movement in funds		16,501	-	16,501	16,587	-	16,587
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2025		172,540	-	172,540	155,953	-	155,953
Fund balances at 31 March 2026		189,041	-	189,041	172,540	-	172,540

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

SHROPSHIRE COUNTY SCOUT COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Notes	2026		2025	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	**13**		9,397		3,711
Investments	**14**		23,560		19,935
			32,957		23,646
Current assets					
Debtors	**15**	10,128		12,868	
Cash at bank and in hand		211,942		300,776	
		222,070		313,644	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**16**	(65,986)		(164,750)	
Net current assets			156,084		148,894
Total assets less current liabilities			189,041		172,540
The funds of the charity					
Unrestricted funds	**18**		189,041		172,540
			189,041		172,540

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on .....

.....

Trustee

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Shropshire County Scout Council is a charity established under Royal Charter within the structure of the Scout Association.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities not to prepare a statement of cash flows.

The financial statements 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 the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

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 £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, [modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value]. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charity.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Plant and equipment	16.67 on cost

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

1.8 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.10 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 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.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Restricted funds 2026	Total 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	-	4,500	4,500	30	3,500	3,530
Membership fees	26,631	-	26,631	26,168	-	26,168
	26,631	4,500	31,131	26,198	3,500	29,698

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Interest receivable	2,516	2,718

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Activities	22,515	13,040

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
	£	£
Fundraising and publicity		
Other fundraising costs	60	282

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Scouting 2026 £	Scouting 2025 £
Direct costs		
Duke of Edinburgh	1,503	1,113
Programme development	6,204	5,976
Insurance	2,391	2,424
Activities	22,948	12,901
Accountancy	780	942
AGM costs	286	503
Bank charges	335	213
Executive support	4,166	4,073
Adult recuitment	4,613	1,259
	43,226	29,404
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	38,726	25,904
Restricted funds	4,500	3,500
	43,226	29,404

8 Net movement in funds

	2026 £	2025 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements	780	942
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	1,704	1,995

9 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2026 Number	2025 Number
Total	-	-

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Gains and losses on investments

	Unrestricted funds 2026	Unrestricted funds 2025
Gains/(losses) arising on:	£	£
Revaluation of investments	3,625	817

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and equipment
	£
Cost	
At 1 April 2025	37,032
Additions	7,390
At 31 March 2026	44,422
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2025	33,321
Depreciation charged in the year	1,704
At 31 March 2026	35,025
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2026	9,397
At 31 March 2025	3,711

14 Fixed asset investments

	Listed investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2025 & 31 March 2026	19,935
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2026	19,935
At 31 March 2025	19,935

15 Debtors

	2026	2025
Amounts falling due within one year:	**£**	**£**
Other debtors	10,128	12,868

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2026	2025
		£	**£**
Deferred income	**17**	6,500	11,000
Other creditors		56,816	151,080
Accruals		2,670	2,670
		65,986	164,750

17 Deferred income

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Other deferred income	6,500	11,000

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	6,500	11,000

	2026	2025
	£	**£**
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2025	11,000	11,000
Resources deferred in the year	(4,500)	-
Deferred income at 31 March 2026	6,500	11,000

18 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2025	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	172,540	51,662	(38,786)	3,625	189,041

Previous year:	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Gains and losses	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General funds	155,953	41,956	(26,186)	817	172,540

19 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2025 - none).