

Draft Financial Statements at 05 January 2026 at 10:59:32

Charity registration number 1186865 (England and Wales)

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY
ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

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HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Rev A J Openshaw Mr O A Akinola Rev P G Kandeh Rev D R Skinner	(Appointed 9 December 2024)
Charity number (England and Wales)	1186865	
Principal address	14 Sedgwick Street Haddenham Aylesbury Bucks HP17 8FF	
Independent examiner		

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

TRUSTEES'S REPORT REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply 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)".

Objectives and activities

Houghton Regis Community Development Charity exists to benefit the residents of Houghton Regis and the surrounding area, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race, or political, religious, or other opinions. The charity seeks to advance education and provide facilities in the interests of social welfare, recreation, and leisure, with the objective of improving quality of life for local residents.

Alongside this, the charity works for the advancement of the Christian faith in and around Houghton Regis, primarily through inclusive outreach activities that serve the wider community and promote public benefit.

The trustees have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in carrying out the charity's activities during the year.

Activities

During the reporting period, the charity's primary activities focused on three interconnected areas: community development, the establishment of a permanent community facility, and faith-based pastoral engagement.

A significant element of the charity's work involved progressing the establishment of the Bidwell West Community Centre, including close cooperation with statutory bodies and partners. Alongside this, the charity employed a full-time Pioneer Community Worker to support community formation and engagement within the Bidwell West development and across Houghton Regis more broadly.

Contribution of Volunteers

Volunteers continued to play a significant role in the life and work of HRCDC throughout the year. Local residents gave generously of their time and skills, supporting large-scale community events, regular activities, engagement with families, and the practical delivery of projects across the town.

Volunteers were essential to the delivery of the annual community firework display, seasonal events, and neighbourhood initiatives, many of which would not have been possible without their commitment.

In addition, the charity benefited from professional voluntary support. Graham Seaton served as a volunteer adviser in relation to the community building project until November 2024. The charity also continues to receive pro bono legal support from Osborne Clarke LLP, and financial advice from David Hallworth. The trustees record their deep gratitude for all voluntary contributions received during the year.

Achievements and performance

During the year ended 31 March 2025, HRCDC delivered significant impact across its core pillars of Community, Building, and Faith, strengthening social cohesion, improving wellbeing, and laying foundations for long-term community benefit.

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

TRUSTEES'S REPORT REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Community

The charity saw notable growth in community engagement and partnership working. Key achievements included the delivery of large-scale community events, most notably the annual firework display attended by more than 5,000 people, and an Easter Messy Church event welcoming over 250 children and their families. These events helped to reduce isolation, build relationships between new and established residents, and foster a strong sense of belonging.

The charity played an active role in resident advocacy, supporting local people to engage with decision-makers around infrastructure needs. This included contributing to renewed commitments for a new primary school and supporting successful advocacy for improved public transport, resulting in the introduction of a new bus route.

Partnership working with housebuilders, local businesses, and charitable organisations led to tangible community benefits, including the provision of a community Christmas tree and the donation of a £250,000 eco-friendly converted shipping container to serve as a temporary community facility.

Building

Progressing the Bidwell West Community Centre remained a major strategic focus. During the year, the trustees agreed a phased development approach to enable earlier access to community facilities while ensuring long-term sustainability.

Significant progress was made on design development, planning discussions, and stakeholder engagement, working closely with Central Bedfordshire Council, architects, and other partners. The charity also undertook exploratory partnership work with local healthcare providers, including discussions with GP practices regarding the potential inclusion of a satellite surgery within the centre. Early indications suggest that up to £1 million may be available for local health provision, subject to further development.

This work has laid strong foundations for a community asset that will deliver lasting social, economic, and wellbeing benefits.

Faith

Faith-based activity remained an important strand of the charity's work, contributing positively to community wellbeing. The charity continued to offer Town Chaplaincy, providing pastoral presence and support to residents, staff, and volunteers.

Regular services and pastoral engagement in local care homes sustained relationships with older residents, many of whom experience loneliness or reduced mobility. The charity also participated in ecumenical and multi-faith initiatives, supporting cohesion and ensuring that faith continues to be a positive and inclusive presence within the town.

Financial review

The trustees have reviewed the charity's financial position as at 31 March 2025 and are satisfied that the charity remains financially viable. Income during the year came primarily from grants and contributions from church bodies and charitable trusts, enabling the continuation of staffing and project delivery.

Reserves policy

The trustees' policy is to hold reserves sufficient to ensure short-term financial stability and to manage timing differences between income and expenditure, while recognising that much of the charity's income is restricted to specific purposes. At the year end, reserves were held in line with this policy.

The trustees are not aware of any material uncertainties that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

TRUSTEES'S REPORT REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Principal Sources of Funding

During the year, the charity's principal sources of income included funding from the South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit, the Bedfordshire, Essex and Hertfordshire Methodist District, the Central Baptist Association, Houghton Regis Baptist Church, and the Peabody Community Foundation.

Risks and Uncertainties

The trustees have identified and actively managed a number of principal risks. These include financial sustainability, risks associated with the phased delivery of the community centre, governance and compliance obligations, reliance on volunteers, reputational risk, and the challenges of operating within a rapidly changing community context.

Mitigation measures include careful budgeting and monitoring, strong partnership working, regular policy review, volunteer recruitment and support, and ongoing engagement with residents and stakeholders.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by a constitution. Trustees are appointed by resolution of the board, with regard to the skills and experience required for effective governance.

Safeguarding and GDPR training is required for trustees, and policies are reviewed regularly. The charity is led by a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, supported by staff and volunteers.

The Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Rev A J Openshaw

(Appointed 9 December 2024)

Mr O A Akinola

Rev P G Kandeh

Rev D R Skinner

The Trustees's Report report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

.....
Rev Andrew Openshaw (Chair)

Date:

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE OF HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

I report to the trustees on my examination of financial statements of Houghton Regis Community Development Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 '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

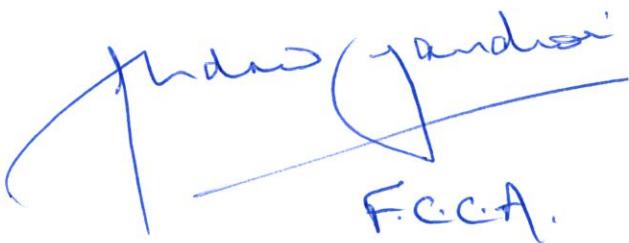
Your attention is drawn to the fact that the charity has prepared the financial statements in accordance with the relevant version of the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the 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 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.

Date: 20/1/2026



Handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Anderson" above a signature line, with "F.C.C.A." written below it.

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
Income from:			
Donations and legacies	3	59,306	77,041
Total income		59,306	77,041
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	4	3,240	-
Charitable activities	5	69,825	65,114
Total expenditure		73,065	65,114
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(13,759)	11,927
Reconciliation of funds:			
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		23,359	11,432
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		9,600	23,359

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

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand		12,290		24,550
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	9	(2,690)		(1,191)
Net current assets		9,600		23,359
The funds of the				
Restricted income funds	11	9,600		23,359
		9,600		23,359

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on

.....
Rev A J Openshaw

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Houghton Regis Community Development Charity is a charity registered in England and Wales. The registered office is 14 Sedgwick Street, Haddenham, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP17 8FF

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 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 . Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. 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 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 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 .

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the 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 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 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.

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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 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.

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 's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.7 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 is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.8 Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****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

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
Grants	59,306	77,041
Grants		
Central Baptist Grant	28,374	20,478
Central Baptist Grant-David	4,420	7,735
Beds, Herts and Essex Methodist District	6,996	7,000
HR Baptist Church Pioneer Funds	5,004	5,921
HRCC Salary Grant	250	3,000
The South Bedfordshire Methodist Circuit	14,262	13,582
Community Association	-	7,250
Baptist Insurance Grant	-	6,000
Donations and Grants	-	6,075
	59,306	77,041

4 Expenditure on raising funds

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Support costs	3,240	-

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****5 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	2025 £	2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	32,494	29,971
Telephone	576	623
Training	-	1,000
Insurance	1,002	909
Rent	17,770	16,200
Rates	1,746	1,661
Sundry expenses	580	428
BWCA	750	8,797
Legal and professional	11,773	4,420
Accountancy	1,440	-
Travel and subsistence	1,694	1,105
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	69,825	65,114
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Analysis by fund		
Restricted funds	69,825	65,114
	<hr/>	<hr/>

6 Net movement in funds

2025 £	2024 £
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The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):

Fees payable for the independent examination of the charity's financial statements

7 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

2025 Number	2024 Number
1	1

Employment costs

2025 £	2024 £
28,845	26,886
3,649	3,085
<hr/>	<hr/>
32,494	29,971
<hr/>	<hr/>

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

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025****8 Taxation**

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

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security	1,132	1,191
Accruals and deferred income	1,558	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,690	1,191
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10 Retirement benefit schemes

Defined contribution schemes	2025 £	2024 £
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	3,649	3,085
	<hr/>	<hr/>

11 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	23,359	59,306	(73,065)	9,600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,432	77,041	(65,114)	23,359
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:	
Current assets/(liabilities)	9,600
	<hr/>
	9,600
	<hr/>

HOUGHTON REGIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARITY

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12	Analysis of net assets between funds	(Continued)
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		Restricted funds 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:		
Current assets/(liabilities)		23,359
		<hr/>
		23,359
		<hr/>

13	Capital commitments	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts contracted for but not provided in the financial statements:			
		2025 £	2024 £
Rent		14,850	31,050
		<hr/>	<hr/>

14 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 - none).