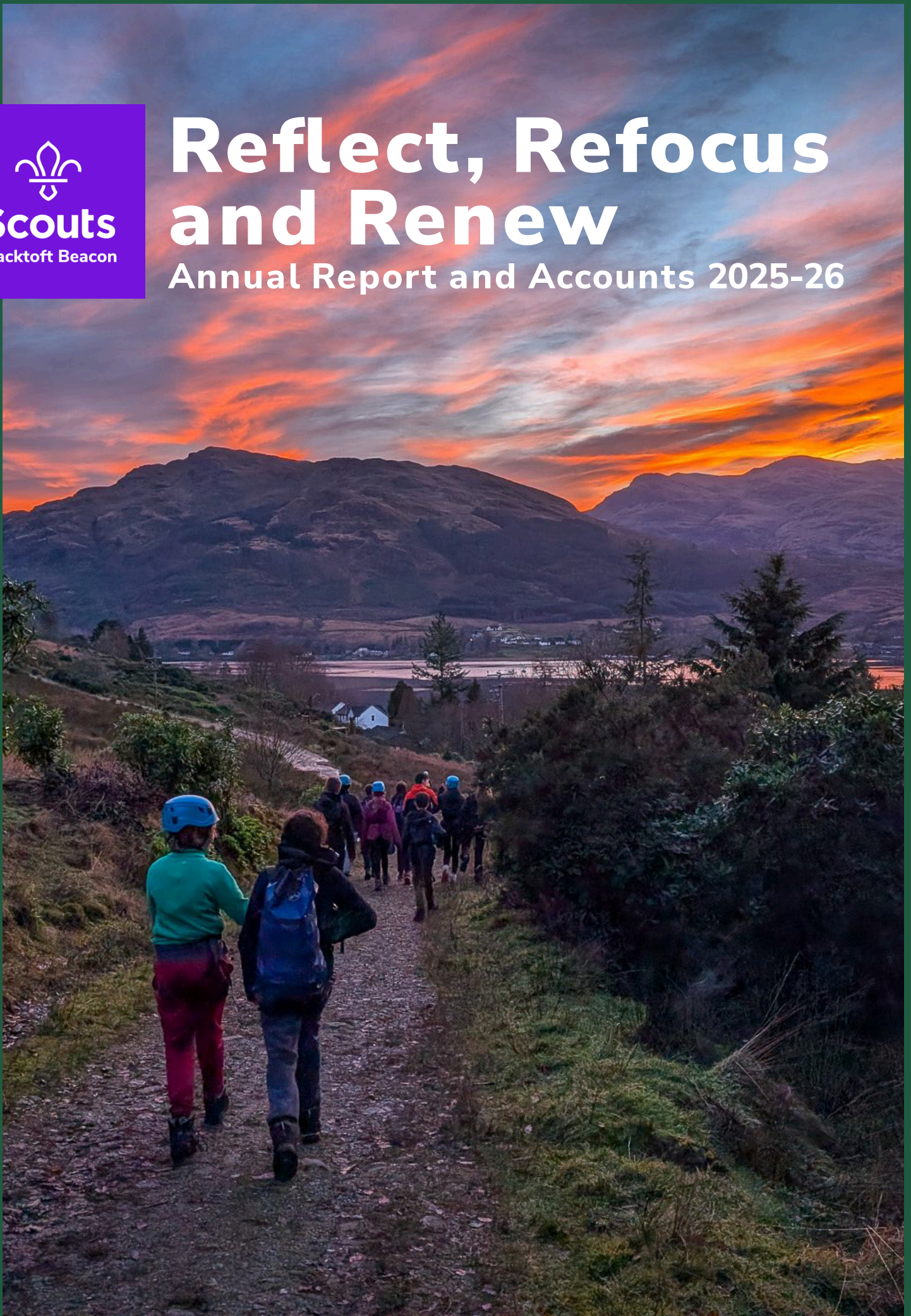




# Reflect, Refocus and Renew

Annual Report and Accounts 2025-26



# **Annual report and financial statements 2025–26**

## **Contents**

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. A Year of Scouting, Lead Volunteer Review
3. Our Membership Numbers
4. 14-24 Update
5. Volunteering Development Update
6. Youth Team Update
7. Trustee Board
8. District Constitution
9. Financial Review





# Welcome from The Chair

Looking back, it has been another exciting year of Scouting across Blacktoft Beacon District.

It has been fantastic to see the continued energy and enthusiasm from our volunteers, young people and communities. Across the district, groups and sections have continued to deliver amazing programmes, providing opportunities for young people to develop skills for life, try new experiences and create memories that will last a lifetime.

The past year has seen another fantastic range of events and activities, from district-wide celebrations and sleepovers to camps, challenges and adventures delivered by groups and sections. The commitment of our volunteers to creating these opportunities is a testament to the strength and spirit of Blacktoft Beacon.

We continue to build on the successful transition to a Trustee-led organisation, with our Trustee Board and groups working together to strengthen governance and support sustainable Scouting for the future.

It has also been wonderful to see the continued growth and development of our sections, particularly our Explorer and Network provision, creating more opportunities for young people as they progress through their Scouting journey. The achievements of our young people, including the increasing number of top awards being achieved, show the incredible impact of the experiences and support provided by our volunteers.

My thanks go to everyone who contributes to making Blacktoft Beacon such a fantastic district. Whether delivering activities, supporting behind the scenes, or helping young people gain skills for life, every contribution makes a difference.

**Scott Millard**  
Chair, Trustee Board







# A Year of Scouting

As I reflect on the past twelve months, I am once again reminded just how fortunate we are to have such dedicated volunteers across Blacktoft Beacon. Every week they continue to give their time, energy and enthusiasm to create opportunities that allow hundreds of young people to develop skills for life, and I would like to begin by thanking every volunteer for everything they do.

Whilst this year has brought many successes, it has also reminded us that growth cannot be taken for granted. We have seen a reduction in our overall youth membership, which is naturally disappointing. However, we have not stood still. A clear growth plan is now in place and is already being actively delivered across the district. Encouragingly, our Explorer section continues to grow, with the launch of a new Explorer programme and the opening of two additional Explorer Units providing exciting opportunities for more young people aged 14-18. It has also been fantastic to see two new Squirrel Dreys open this year, demonstrating the continued demand for Scouting in our communities and providing a strong foundation for future growth.

Our 18-24 provision has also continued to flourish. Network has gone from strength to strength over the past year, creating more opportunities for young adults to stay involved in Scouting, develop new skills and take on new adventures. One of the standout achievements was seeing members complete an incredible 10 Countries in 10 Days expedition to earn their Explorer

Belt. This remarkable international challenge perfectly captures the spirit of Scouting, pushing participants beyond their comfort zones while developing resilience, independence and a greater understanding of the world around them. Seeing our Network section continue to grow and provide experiences of this calibre is something we can all be incredibly proud of.

The quality of Scouting on offer across the district continues to be exceptional. Our calendar has once again been packed with opportunities for young people to challenge themselves, develop new skills and make lifelong memories. St George's Day once again brought the district together, while the Deep Sleepover, Jump Sleepover, Camp Craft, Welly Walk and Fells Marathon all proved hugely successful. Alongside these district events, groups have continued to deliver an incredible programme of camps and residential experiences, contributing to well over 100 nights away across the district. From local camps at Bailwood, Raywell and Melton to adventures further afield in London, and even an international trip to Belgium, our young people continue to benefit from experiences they will remember for years to come.

One area that has particularly impressed me this year has been the continued focus on safety. We have seen a noticeable improvement in our safety culture, with volunteers embracing good practice and recognising that keeping young people safe is at the heart of everything we do. Thank you to everyone who has supported this work and helped





ensure Blacktoft Beacon continues to provide safe, enjoyable and adventurous Scouting.

Alongside safety, governance has become an increasingly important area of focus. Following the Charity Commission's advisory notice earlier this year, charities across the country have rightly been encouraged to review their governance arrangements. Whilst I am pleased that Blacktoft Beacon is in a strong position, we know there are opportunities to strengthen our governance even further. Supporting our Trustee Boards and ensuring every group has the right governance arrangements in place will be an important priority over the coming year.

It has also been encouraging to see our volunteer team continue to grow. More adults have joined Scouting across the district this year, with increasing involvement from parents and carers supporting activities and sections. This is incredibly positive, but we know there is still more to do. Building an even stronger sense of community around our groups and creating flexible opportunities for people to get involved will remain an important part of our plans.

This year has also seen a number of leadership changes across the district. I would like to thank Rory Kershaw for his outstanding commitment as District Youth Lead. His passion for youth engagement has had a lasting impact on Blacktoft Beacon, and it is no coincidence that our district made up more than half of the County Youth Forum this year. That level of representation is something we should all be incredibly proud of and reflects the opportunities Rory has helped create for young people to shape Scouting. As Rory moves into the role of Programme Team Lead, I look forward to seeing how he continues to develop the fantastic events and experiences our district is known for. At the same time, I would like to welcome Kai into the Youth

Lead role and wish him every success as he builds on the excellent foundations that have been established.

It has also been wonderful to welcome new Group Lead Volunteers into several of our groups. Their enthusiasm, fresh ideas and commitment are already making a positive difference, and I look forward to seeing the impact they continue to have in the years ahead.

Another highlight has been the growing number of top awards achieved by our young people. Blacktoft Beacon has seen the largest increase in top awards across Humberside Scouts this year, which is a tremendous achievement and a reflection of both the dedication of our volunteers and the commitment shown by our young people in completing these prestigious awards.

Looking ahead, The Scouts has launched its new strategy, A Place to Belong, which sets out an ambitious vision for the future of Scouting. The themes of welcome, inclusion, community and adventure strongly reflect what we are already striving to achieve across Blacktoft Beacon. Over the coming year we will begin embedding this strategy into our own plans, ensuring that every young person and volunteer feels they belong and has the opportunity to thrive.

There is much to be proud of from the past year, and while there are challenges ahead, I am confident that we have the people, the passion and the ambition to meet them. Thank you once again to every volunteer, trustee, parent and supporter who continues to make Scouting possible across Blacktoft Beacon. I look forward to another year of growth, adventure and creating even more opportunities for young people to gain Skills for Life.

**Josh Morablanco**  
Lead Volunteer







# Our Membership Numbers

## 2026 Census Results

| Group                   | Squirrels | Beavers | Cubs | Scouts | Explorers | Network | Total Young People | Total Young Volunteers | Total Membership |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|------|--------|-----------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Cottingham              | 0         | 32      | 45   | 26     |           |         | 104                | 14                     | 118              |
| 2nd Kirk Ella St Andrew | 0         | 18      | 24   | 20     |           |         | 62                 | 11                     | 73               |
| Anlaby (St Mark's)      | 0         | 10      | 11   | 7      |           |         | 28                 | 7                      | 35               |
| Elloughton-Cum-Brough   | 8         | 22      | 21   | 32     |           |         | 115                | 37                     | 152              |
| Ferriby and Swanland    | 0         | 18      | 21   | 14     |           |         | 53                 | 13                     | 66               |
| Hessle                  | 0         | 44      | 47   | 45     |           |         | 155                | 42                     | 197              |
| South Cave              | 0         | 21      | 24   | 30     |           |         | 91                 | 25                     | 116              |
| Willerby                | 0         | 21      | 14   | 15     |           |         | 67                 | 8                      | 75               |
| Gilberdyke              | 16        | 17      | 17   | 16     |           |         | 67                 | 17                     | 84               |
| Goole                   | 0         | 3       | 13   | 0      |           |         | 16                 | 7                      | 23               |
| Howden                  | 16        | 20      | 30   | 20     |           |         | 105                | 16                     | 121              |
| Snaith                  | 16        | 40      | 40   | 32     |           |         | 141                | 23                     | 164              |
| District Volunteers     |           |         |      |        |           |         |                    |                        | 8                |
| District Sections       |           |         |      |        | 118       | 26      | 26                 | 14                     | 40               |
| TOTAL                   | 56        | 266     | 307  | 257    | 118       | 26      | 1030               | 242                    | 1272             |

This year has been a mixed but positive picture for membership across Blacktoft Beacon. Our core youth membership (Squirrels to Explorers) reduced by 9 young people, highlighting the importance of our continued focus on recruitment and retention. However, thanks to the incredible growth of our Network section, which increased by 26 members, our overall membership has grown by 17 young people.

It has been fantastic to see growth in our older sections, with Explorers increasing by 11 members and Scouts also growing. The opening of new Explorer Units and continued development of our 18–24 provision shows that young people continue to see Scouting as a place to belong, develop skills and take on new challenges.

We have also seen some brilliant growth stories across groups, with Snaith, Hessle, Willerby and Howden all making strong progress. At the same time, we recognise some groups are facing challenges and will continue working alongside them to support their growth plans.

Our volunteer team has also grown, with 20 more volunteers joining across the district. This growth gives us a stronger foundation to support more young people and continue delivering the amazing Scouting that happens every week across Blacktoft Beacon.







# 14-24 Update

The past year has been another busy and successful one for the 14-24 Team, with a wide range of camps, activities and new opportunities taking place across the district.

One of our key focuses has been encouraging Explorer Units to work together by sharing leaders and resources, rather than cancelling programme evenings when volunteer numbers are low. This has not only helped reduce pressure on section teams, but has also given young people the opportunity to meet Explorers from other units, experience different styles of programme delivery and build new friendships. The feedback from everyone involved has been overwhelmingly positive, and we look forward to developing this collaborative approach even further.

It has also been a year of growth. We were delighted to open a new Explorer Unit in Gilberdyke and successfully reopen Cottingham ESU, contributing to a continued increase in Explorer membership across the district.

Our young people have continued to challenge themselves through the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, with Explorers taking part in Bronze and Silver Awards throughout the year. We have also launched a refreshed Explorer programme, which will be introduced across all units over the coming year to provide an even stronger and more consistent experience for our members.

Our Network section continues to go from strength to strength. Thanks to the enthusiasm and drive of Lottie Rymer, supported by Rory Kershaw's calm guidance and leadership, Network has developed into a thriving and active section. Members have embraced a variety of exciting opportunities, including taking part in a remarkable 10 Countries in 10 Days Explorer Belt expedition. We were also incredibly proud to see one of our Network members achieve the King's Scout Award, a fantastic accomplishment and the highest award available to young people in Scouting.

As we look ahead, we are excited to build on the momentum of the past year, continue growing our Explorer and Network sections, and provide even more opportunities for young people across Blacktoft Beacon to develop skills, make friends and experience adventure.

**Gayle Tomlin**  
14-24 Lead



# Volunteering Development

As volunteers in Scouts, we're proud to help young people step forward with confidence, find their voice, dream boldly and develop the skills they'll carry through life. Thanks to the dedication of our adult volunteers across Blacktoft Beacon District, young people discover their place in the world, learn to believe in themselves and make a real difference in their communities. Every hour we give and every skill we share helps them grow.

By working together and living our values of integrity, respect, care, belief and cooperation, we aim to ensure that volunteering is positive, safe and rewarding for everyone involved. The Volunteering Development Team plays a key role in this, supporting all volunteers and helping to create an encouraging and welcoming culture. Our focus remains on making it simple for new volunteers to join, offering ongoing support, providing learning and development opportunities, and celebrating the achievements we accomplish together.

Welcome conversations continue to play an important role in helping new volunteers settle into their roles with confidence. These early discussions provide a friendly and supportive introduction to Scouting, giving volunteers a clear understanding of the time commitments linked to their learning requirements. They also offer a valuable opportunity for new volunteers to share their existing skills, experience and interests, helping teams to recognise and make the most of the strengths each person brings. By

starting with an open and welcoming conversation, we help ensure that every volunteer feels valued, informed and well supported from the very beginning of their journey.

Encouraging volunteers to complete their mandatory learning promptly continues to be an ongoing challenge, but we are here to help every step of the way. We are approaching the deadline for all leaders in regular face-to-face roles with young people to complete their First Response training. Details of available courses can be found on the county website, and we encourage everyone to complete this prior to the deadline to ensure the volunteer trainers can meet the demand for courses too. We are more than happy to facilitate local training sessions for groups within the District. If you would like support with any of this, please do get in touch — we're here to help.

**Wendy Macadam**  
Volunteering Development Lead





# Youth Team Update

This year has been another fantastic year for Youth Shaped Scouting across Blacktoft Beacon District, with young people continuing to play an increasingly important role in shaping the experiences, activities and events they take part in.

Across all sections, young people have been encouraged to share their ideas, influence programmes, and take ownership of their Scouting journeys. From planning activities and camps to providing feedback on district events, their voices have helped ensure that Scouting remains relevant, exciting and engaging for everyone involved. A huge thank you must go to the leaders and volunteers across the district who continue to champion Youth Shaped Scouting and create opportunities for young people to lead and influence.

One of the highlights of the year was the first-ever County Youth Forum. Blacktoft Beacon was incredibly well represented, with young people from across the district making up a significant proportion of those attending. Their enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to contribute demonstrated the strength of Youth Shaped Scouting within our district and ensured that the views of our young people were heard at county level.

The feedback gathered from young people throughout the year has directly influenced the way we deliver district events and activities. By listening to what young people told us they wanted, we have been able to make meaningful changes that have improved

experiences, increased engagement and helped create events that better reflect the interests and ambitions of those taking part. These improvements are a testament to the value of involving young people in decision-making and trusting them to help shape the future of Scouting.

As I step down from the role of District Youth Lead after seven years, I would like to thank everyone who has supported Youth Shaped Scouting across Blacktoft Beacon. It has been a privilege to see the growth in confidence, leadership and influence of so many young people during that time. While I am proud of what has been achieved, I am equally excited about the future.

The introduction of the new District Youth Team marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter. With fresh ideas, enthusiasm and the continued support of volunteers across the district, I am confident that Youth Shaped Scouting will continue to grow from strength to strength, ensuring that young people remain at the heart of everything we do.

Thank you to every young person, volunteer and supporter who has contributed to this journey. Together, we have built a strong foundation, and I look forward to seeing what comes next.

**Rory Kershaw**  
Youth Lead







# Trustee Board

## Ex Officio

Josh Morablanco, Lead Volunteer  
Scott Millard, Chairman  
Claire Norman, Treasurer  
Rory Kershaw, Youth Lead

## Nominated Members

Linda Thelwell  
Jo Cook  
Wendy Macadam  
Carl Cooper  
Liz Fraser  
Joy Milestone  
Andy Wales  
Frank Cook  
John Jobling  
Gayle Tomlin  
Kai Johnson  
*Co-opted March 2026*

## District Constitution

The District Scout Council voted to adopt POR 5c.2. and any future updates, as the district constitution at the AGM on 17th July 2025. The most up to date version can be found online at [scouts.org.uk/por](https://scouts.org.uk/por).

## District Presidents

Andy Eavis  
Christian Carver

## Independent Examiner

Peter Sargeson

## Bank

HSBC Bank PLC  
Hessle Merit House  
Hull







# Financial Review

for the year ending 31st March 2026

## BLACKTOFT BEACON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

|                          | 2026<br>£        | 2025<br>£        |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS           |                  |                  |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 57,926.90        | 62,321.48        |
|                          | <u>57,926.90</u> | <u>62,321.48</u> |

|                             |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| GENERAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT     |                  |                  |
| Balance Brought Forward     | 62,321.48        | 49,895.29        |
| Surplus (-deficit) for year | -4,394.58        | 12,426.19        |
|                             | <u>57,926.90</u> | <u>62,321.48</u> |

District Treasurer

District Commissioner

Report of the Auditor to the members of the Blacktoft Beacon District Scout Council.

The above Balance Sheet and the attached Income and Expenditure Accounts have been prepared from the records and information supplied by the Blacktoft Beacon District Scout Council and are in accordance therewith.



**BLACKTOFT BEACON DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026**

**GENERAL PURPOSE ACCOUNT**

| INCOME                             | 2026<br>£        | 2025<br>£        |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Subscriptions                      |                  |                  |
| Gross Collected                    | 55,707.00        | 53,955.00        |
| Less Collected on Behalf of Others | 52,961.00        | 52,169.50        |
| Net Collected                      | 2,746.00         | 1,785.50         |
| Refund of Capitataion              | 1,013.00         | 1,002.00         |
| Donation for Activities            | 150.00           | 0.00             |
| Sale of Badges                     | 312.80           | 235.82           |
| St Georges Day Income              | 5,200.00         | 6,261.54         |
| Explorer/Network                   |                  |                  |
| Poacher/Explorer Fest              | 802.00           | 590.00           |
| Scouts/Cubs/Beavers                |                  |                  |
| Deep Sleepover                     | 4,475.00         | 4,347.00         |
| Welly Walk                         | 0.00             | 249.00           |
| Gravity/Jump                       | 2,320.00         | 4,906.50         |
| Williams Den                       | 0.00             | 378.00           |
| Camp Craft                         | 226.32           | 840.00           |
| Earmarked Income                   |                  |                  |
| Jamboree                           | 1,519.50         | 0.00             |
| Fells                              | 4,353.00         | 7,867.50         |
| Tablers Wood                       | 7,059.99         | 3,755.45         |
| BBITS                              | 86.99            | 283.00           |
| Closure of Hook Scout Group        | -377.50          | 1,138.19         |
|                                    | <u>29,887.10</u> | <u>33,639.50</u> |
| EXPENDITURE                        |                  |                  |
| Insurance                          | 712.82           | 187.08           |
| Postage                            | 9.25             | 0.00             |
| Mileage                            | 272.21           | 404.14           |
| Stationery                         | 837.63           | 0.00             |
| St Georges Day Expenses            | 5,882.97         | 5,767.75         |
| Badges/Neckers                     | 410.00           | 1,061.34         |
| Hall Hire                          | 92.00            | 135.00           |
| Bank Charges                       | 27.00            | 64.80            |
| Video Licence                      | 301.54           | 511.14           |
| Sundry Expenses                    | 231.88           | 224.50           |
| Jamboree Fund Capitation           | 1,000.00         | 0.00             |
| Equipment                          | 1,282.80         | 0.00             |
| IT Development                     | 141.21           | 0.00             |
| Scouts/Cubs/Beavers Expenditure    |                  |                  |
| Deep Sleepover                     | 7,877.47         | 900.00           |
| Camp Craft                         | 355.61           | 380.95           |
| Gravity/Jump                       | 3,200.00         | 4,392.50         |
| Poacher                            | 1,680.00         | 0.00             |
| Williams Den                       | 0.00             | 387.55           |
| Welly Walk                         | 0.00             | 122.36           |
| Explorers/Network Expenditure      |                  |                  |
| Big Fun                            | 821.25           | 635.56           |
| StartUp Grant                      | 200.00           | 0.00             |

|                       |          |          |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| Earmarked Expenditure |          |          |
| Jamboree              | 0.00     | 0.00     |
| Fells                 | 6,015.87 | 3,790.01 |
| Tablers Wood          | 2,676.10 | 2,074.21 |
| BBITS                 | 254.07   | 174.42   |

|  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | <u>34,281.68</u> | <u>21,213.31</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------|

**SURPLUS (-DEFICIT) FOR YEAR**

|  |                  |                  |
|--|------------------|------------------|
|  | <u>-4,394.58</u> | <u>12,426.19</u> |
|--|------------------|------------------|

**Notes to the General Purpose Accounts: -**

|                        |          |                  |
|------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Jamboree Account       |          |                  |
| Income                 |          |                  |
| Capitation Levy        | 1,519.50 | 1,519.50         |
| Expenditure            |          |                  |
| Donations              | 0.00     | 0.00             |
| Net Income/Expenditure |          | <u>1,519.50</u>  |
| Fells Account          |          |                  |
| Fells                  |          |                  |
| Income                 |          |                  |
| Entry Fees             | 2,275.00 |                  |
| Adults                 | 0.00     | 2,275.00         |
| Expenditure            |          |                  |
| Venue                  | 1,930.00 |                  |
| Food                   | 531.89   |                  |
| Transport              | 3,032.70 |                  |
| Wristbands             | 0.00     |                  |
| Badges                 | 0.00     |                  |
| Stationery/Postage     | 0.00     |                  |
| Donations              | 0.00     | 5,494.59         |
| Wolds                  |          |                  |
| Income                 |          |                  |
| Entry Fees             | 2,078.00 | 2,078.00         |
| Expenditure            |          |                  |
| Venue                  | 0.00     |                  |
| Food                   | 166.28   |                  |
| Equipment              | 0.00     |                  |
| Consumables            | 0.00     |                  |
| Portaloos              |          |                  |
| Badges                 |          |                  |
| Donations              |          |                  |
| Postage/P&S            |          | 166.28           |
| Net Income/Expenditure |          | <u>-1,307.87</u> |



# Tablers Wood

## Income

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| Bookings | 7,059.99 |
| Badges   | 0.00     |
| Grants   | 0.00     |

7,059.99

## Expenditure

|                 |          |
|-----------------|----------|
| Maintenance     | 1,170.03 |
| P & C C Support | 0.00     |
| Water           | 428.51   |
| Insurance       | 114.32   |
| Electricity     | 433.64   |
| Gas             | 0.00     |
| Booking System  | 529.60   |
| Grass Cutting   | 0.00     |

2,676.10

## Net Income/Expenditure

4,383.89

# BBITS

## Income

|           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| Donations | 86.99 |
|-----------|-------|

86.99

## Expenditure

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Consumables | 254.07 |
|-------------|--------|

254.07

## Net Income/Expenditure

-167.08





