



The Welwyn Hatfield Accounting Unit

Statement of Accounts For the year ended 31 December 2023

Introduction

This Statement of Accounts provides a report on the political and financial activities of the Welwyn Hatfield Conservative Association.

Registered Address

4 Matthew Parker Street
London
SW1H 9HQ

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, Mr E Sohrab is the Registered Treasurer, and Mr G P Michaelides the Deputy Registered Treasurer.

Review of Political Activities

Overview

The main focus of activity for the Unit in 2023 was the Borough Council election campaign, in which we won 4 of the 16 seats being contested. We pushed the opposition hard in the marginal wards in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City and fought off a strong Green candidate in the usually-safe seat of Welwyn West. Sadly, we lost the other four seats we were defending, meaning we ended the election on 22 seats, thereby losing our overall majority on the council. Labour and the Liberal Democrats combined to form a coalition council.

Our assessment for the poor results we experienced were largely the result of factors beyond our control. More specifically, the party's poor standing in national polls, and large banks of voters who normally support us deciding to stay at home. Our candidates were largely of a very high calibre, and they were supported financially to a more than sufficient degree.

During 2023, we held some successful fundraising events, including a Winter Supper in February, the Boultons' Tea Party in June, an Annual Dinner in October and a Christmas Market (this year known as the Winter Market, at the request of Hatfield House) in November. As always, we gave half the proceeds to the Isabel Hospice, which this year came to over £2,700.

Committees

The Unit's Executive Council, which is ultimately responsible for managing the business of the Unit, met several times during the year.

The Management Committee met at regular intervals throughout the year. The Management Committee is responsible for the day to day running of the business of the Unit. The role of the Management Committee is not only to increase the number of active members, where possible, but also to develop and implement the Unit's campaign strategy.

Review of Financial Activities

Overview

It is pleasing to be able to report a surplus for the fourth year in a row. The Association continues to exercise careful financial management and cost monitoring established in previous years and as a result a surplus of £18,897 has been recorded. This continues to build on last year's surplus of £3,850 as well as those brought forward from prior years.

Income and Expenditure

Income

Income raised from the usual events was higher than that generated in 2022.

Rental income received from the property owned by the association increased slightly against 2022 as we experienced no voids and were able to modestly increase rents in line with the local market towards the end of the year.

Throughout the year the Unit was grateful to receive various donations from members and in particular the support received for our appeal for the local elections in May 2023 which raised £3,842 (2022 £1,195).

Whilst interest rates increased notably during 2023, the Unit still received minimal investment income on funds on deposit due to the commercial offering available for such short-term deposits.

Expenditure

During 2023 the Unit continued to carefully monitor costs and, where possible, make savings. Overall costs were marginally lower compared to 2022.

Although classed as a non-profit making organisation the Association continues to be liable for corporation tax on its rental income. An amount of £5,223 has been accrued for 2023.

Balance sheet

The Unit managed to further pay down £6,371 of the original £140,000 property loan required for the site development costs incurred in 2020. This continues to be serviced by the rental income secured as a result of the redevelopment, and we will seek to make additional capital repayments if and when funds permit.

As at the year end funds in the Association's bank accounts amounted to £37,889 compared with £14,180 in 2022.

As at the year end the Association had net current assets of £22,603 compared with £8,348 in 2022.

Certifications

These accounts are a true and accurate record of all income and expenditure for the accounting unit over the year ending 31 December 2023.

Signed:



Mr. E Sohrab, Registered Treasurer

27/03 / 2024

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31 December 2023 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.

Signed:



Independent Accountant

27/03 / 2024

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2023

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | <u>2023</u> £ | <u>2022</u> <i>Restated</i> £ |
|---|-------|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>INCOME</u> | | | |
| Donations | 6 | 1,147 | 1,211 |
| Subscriptions | 14a | 11,294 | 12,847 |
| Rental income | 14b | 46,998 | 43,512 |
| Bank interest | | 197 | 3 |
| Fundraising & functions | 5/6 | 52,281 | 46,903 |
| Appeals | 6 | 3,842 | 1,195 |
| Payments from MP for non-political services | | 10,500 | 6,000 |
| Other income | | - | - |
| Notional income | 7 | 3,029 | - |
| Total Income | | <u>129,288</u> | <u>111,671</u> |
| <u>Expenditure</u> | | | |
| Salaries & Employment costs | 12 | 34,245 | 30,699 |
| Printing & Stationery | | 2,610 | 5,094 |
| Computer costs | | 1,636 | 1,341 |
| Postage & delivery costs | | 613 | 664 |
| Repairs & maintenance | | 7,024 | 5,461 |
| Property Agents Fees | 14b | 4,262 | 4,255 |
| Rates | | 2,766 | 8,616 |
| Gas, electric & other utilities | | 4,857 | 2,064 |
| Telephone | | 2,677 | 2,228 |
| Campaign & Election costs | | 13,493 | 12,694 |
| Costs of fundraising & functions | | 14,281 | 10,651 |
| Agents expenses & travel costs | | 1,021 | 671 |
| Professional and Legal fees | | 634 | 8,433 |
| Bank charges | | 525 | 755 |
| Interest Payable | | 7,435 | 4,567 |
| Insurance | | 2,178 | 1,610 |
| Depreciation | 9 | 1,749 | 1,663 |
| Sundry expenses | | 133 | 904 |
| Notional costs | 7 | 3,029 | - |
| Total Expenditure | | <u>105,168</u> | <u>102,370</u> |
| Excess (expenditure) over income before taxation | | 24,120 | 9,301 |
| Taxation | 8 | (5,223) | (5,451) |
| Excess income over expenditure | | <u>18,897</u> | <u>3,850</u> |

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET - 31 DECEMBER 2023

| | Notes | <u>2023</u> | | <u>2022</u> | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| FIXED ASSETS | 9 | | 296,938 | | 298,687 |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | | | |
| Cash & Bank | | 10,740 | | 4,180 | |
| Deposits | | 27,149 | | 10,000 | |
| Debtors | 10 | <u>3,874</u> | | <u>10,878</u> | |
| | | 41,763 | | 25,058 | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | | | |
| Creditors | 11 | <u>(19,160)</u> | | <u>(16,710)</u> | |
| NET CURRENT ASSETS | | | 22,603 | | 8,348 |
| CREDITORS FALLING DUE AFTER 1 YEAR | 11 | | (101,668) | | (108,059) |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS | | | <u>217,873</u> | | <u>198,976</u> |
| Financed By: | | | | | |
| Accumulated Fund | 13 | | 217,873 | | 198,976 |
| TOTAL FUNDS | | | <u>217,873</u> | | <u>198,976</u> |

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Notes to the Accounts

1 Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

2 Accounting convention

The statements are prepared on a historical cost basis.

3 Change in basis

There have not been any material change to the Statement of Accounts since last year's return.

4 Related party transactions

During the year amounts totalling £0 (2022: £93) were paid to James Taylor Construction Ltd for the provision of services. James Taylor Construction Ltd is a company in which the Association's current Chairman, Mr Emil Sohrab, is a majority shareholder.

5 Fundraising & Functions

Where it is possible to easily determine, receipts from fundraising and from functions held have been shown gross with the associated costs shown separately.

6 Donations & Appeals

Normal donations received during 2023 amounted to £1,147 (2022: £1,211). Fighting Fund appeal contributions towards the local elections held in May 2023 amounted to £3,842 (2022: £1,195).

Reportable donations, either in kind or cash, received during the year totalled £0 (2021: £5,000). These donations have been disclosed in the accounts as follows:

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | £ | £ |
| Donations | - | - |
| Appeals | - | - |
| Fundraising & functions | - | 5,000 |
| Notional income | - | - |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>5,000</u> |

Reportable donations are those made by any one individual or organisation which in total equal or exceed £1,500 in any calendar year.

7 Notional income & expenditure

Notional income and expenditure recorded in 2023 was from donations in kind.

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

8 Taxation

The Unit is required to pay Corporation Tax on its rental income less attributable costs.

The liabilities for the years up to 2022 have been settled to HMRC. The charge for the year of £5,223 represents a provision for 2023.

9 Fixed Assets

Changes to the tangible assets of the organisation during the year :-

| | <u>Property</u> | <u>Fixtures & Equipment</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Cost | | | |
| Balance brought forward | 293,158 | 8,747 | 301,905 |
| Additions during the year | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| Balance carried forward | <u>293,158</u> | <u>8,747</u> | <u>301,905</u> |

Depreciation

| Method | Not Depreciated | Straight Line over 5 years | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Balance brought forward | - | 3,218 | 3,218 |
| Disposals | - | - | - |
| Charge for the year | - | 1,749 | 1,749 |
| Balance carried forward | <u>-</u> | <u>4,967</u> | <u>4,967</u> |
| Net book value brought forward | <u>293,158</u> | <u>5,529</u> | <u>298,687</u> |
| Net book value carried forward | <u>293,158</u> | <u>3,780</u> | <u>296,938</u> |

10 Debtors and Prepayments

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other Debtors | - | 10,048 |
| Prepayments | <u>3,874</u> | <u>830</u> |
| | <u>3,874</u> | <u>10,878</u> |

WELWYN HATFIELD CONSERVATIVE ASSOCIATION

Notes to the Accounts (cont'd)

11 Creditors and Accruals

Amounts falling due within one year:-

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Trade creditors | 561 | 882 |
| Corporation Tax | 5,223 | 5,227 |
| Accruals | 13,241 | 10,524 |
| Other | 135 | 77 |
| | <u>19,160</u> | <u>16,710</u> |

Amounts falling due after one year:-

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Property loan | 101,668 | 108,059 |
| | <u>101,668</u> | <u>108,059</u> |

12 Staffing costs

The average number of employees during the year was 3.

The breakdown of salaries and pension costs was :

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Salary costs | 33,742 | 30,254 |
| Social Security | - | 2 |
| Pension costs | 503 | 443 |
| | <u>34,245</u> | <u>30,699</u> |

13 Accumulated Funds

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Balance brought forward | 198,976 | 195,126 |
| Transfer from Income & Expenditure | 18,897 | 3,850 |
| Utilised in year | | |
| Balance carried forward | <u>217,873</u> | <u>198,976</u> |

14 Prior Year Adjustment

The prior year adjustment in these accounts relate to the recognition of membership income in 2022.

- a Membership income was previously recognised as the gross membership fees received from members (income) before apportionment of the amount due to Conservative Central Office (recognised in expenditure). Due to the centralisation of membership administration and to ensure consistency with other Conservative Party accounting units and Conservative Central Office, funds are now reported net and reflect funds due the accounting unit and apportioned from Central Office. This has resulted in a reduction in income and the associated expenditure in 2022 of £4,316.
- b Rental Income in 2022 was shown net of Agents Commission and has been adjusted to reflect this year's presentation of showing Rental Income gross and the commission in expenditure.