

# **The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors**

Annual Report  
for the Year Ended

**31 December 2023**

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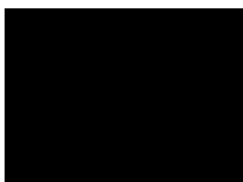
## Report of the Registered Treasurer

The Management Committee present their report and the audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.


Reference and Administrative Details of the Association, its Officers and Advisors

The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors ("ALDC") is the representative body of Liberal Democrat Councillors in Great Britain. ALDC is a Specified Associated Organisation (SAO) of the Liberal Democrat Party.

Operating address:



Association officers:

President	Tim Farron MP, Westmorland and Lonsdale
Chair	Councillor Prue Bray
Vice-Chairs	Katie Hall Councillor Darryl Smalley
Treasurer	Councillor Sarah Boad
Secretary	

Auditors: Azets Audit Services Limited  
12 King Street  
Leeds  
LS1 2HL

Bankers: National Westminster Bank plc



### Structure and Governance

The organisation aims to secure the election of Liberal Democrat Councillors, and to support councillors once elected. We represent Liberal Democrat Councillors and local government campaigners within the Liberal Democrats.

ALDC is the successor organisation to the Association of Liberal Councillors (ALC) and the Association of Social Democratic Councillors (ASDC), tracing our roots back to Liberal councillors first organising together in the 1960s.

ALDC is a membership organisation. Membership is open to any member of the Liberal Democrats, with most of the members being councillors or local government campaigners. Members elect a Management Committee to serve for a period of two years. A new committee was elected in November 2022 to serve for two years.

#### Structure and Governance (continued)

The Management Committee employs a staff team, most of whom are based at our offices in Salford, with a team of Development Officers who work across the country. In Scotland and Wales our Development Officers are staff jointly funded with the Scottish and Welsh Liberal Democrats.

We provide employment and line management services to some English Regional Parties as well as providing HR services for a number of local party organisers. We also work with local parties in Greater Manchester to run a successful paid intern scheme.

We also rely heavily on the work of volunteers, particularly to deliver our busy training programme. The committee would like to place on record its thanks to the staff team, and to our amazing volunteers, for their continuing commitment.

The organisation is delivering against its 2021-25 Strategic Plan, agreed at the end of 2020. The priorities for 2021-2025 are:

- More Liberal Democrat Councillors, at every level, across Great Britain.
- Enabling Liberal Democrat Councillors to effectively deliver a Liberal Democrat difference for the communities they serve.

#### Financial Review

In 2023 the Management Committee have reported a surplus of £25,410 (2022: deficit of £102,586).

The Association has a deficit fund balance of £43,199 at the year-end (2022: £68,609).

#### Income Strategy

The largest sources of income are from membership fees in grants from the Liberal Democrats and the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust (JRRT). We also rely on donations to our Fighting Fund and Local Election Appeal. We remain grateful for the continued commitment of the members, the Federal, English and Scottish Liberal Democrats, JRRT and others for their support. Other income comes from trading activities such as conferences, events, publication sales and mailings.

#### Going concern

The Strategic Plan plans our financial situation on a rolling three-year basis. An Income Strategy has been adopted to ensure that the Association has the income it requires to deliver its objectives.

Specific actions are in place in 2024 and planned for 2025 to ensure that the organisation returns quickly to a positive balance sheet.

#### Review of Political Activities

Achievements in 2023 included:

#### Winning Elections and Winning Local Elections

ALDC continued to support local Liberal Democrat campaigners to compete in the 2023 English local elections, as well as preparation for the scheduled 2024 English local elections and England and Wales Police and Crime Commissioner elections.

In the 2023 local elections, the Liberal Democrats made net gains of 407 seats. This included gaining overall control across a number of local authorities, including: Stratford upon Avon, Dacorum, South

Oxfordshire, Guildford, West Berkshire, Surrey Heath, Windsor and Maidenhead, South Hams, Teighbridge and Mid Devon.

ALDC's work towards local elections included delivering a full range of literature templates, including through our online literature portal ALDC Artworker. We delivered a full grants programme for the Party's joint local election grants scheme, G8, of which ALDC provides the secretariat, and through the ALDC Local Election Appeal grants scheme. We provided advice to our members through our advice line and online toolkits.

#### Supporting our Councillors and local campaigners

The organisation works hard to support elected Liberal Democrat councillors and to build up the volunteer campaigning capacity of the Liberal Democrats. We have done this through our Development Officer field, kindly supported by the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust and by working with English Regional Parties, through a programme of local volunteers, training at conferences and our own residential Kickstart weekends.

We were able to deliver physical Kickstart weekends in both July and November 2023, and accompanied these with a continuing programme of online training through the year. Alongside the July Kickstart Weekend we delivered a successful Councillors Weekend alongside our partners at the LGA Liberal Democrat Group.

In Scotland and Wales our Development Officer worked as part of their respective teams in both countries.

#### Strong Organisation

The Fighting Fund appeal continued and has enabled us support local parties to fight council by-elections. We raised funds for the 2023 Local Election Appeal with the fund particularly focuses on supporting candidates from groups currently under-represented in local government.

The Management Committee would like to take the opportunity to thank people who make ALDC possible: our volunteers, staff team, members and people who support the Association financially through grants and donations.

#### Reserves Policy

The Management Committee have adopted a Reserves Policy which is reviewed annually. This sets out that the organisation will hold reserves:

- To provide stability and some capacity in the event of an unexpected problem with income, expenditure or cash flow,
- Because monies have been given for a specific purpose and not yet spent on that purpose,
- To 'save up' for specific items or projects.

The Reserves Policy target sets out the desired range reserves should fall in, based on current expenditure commitments. In 2023 this is between £90,000 and £120,000. The Management Committee has plans to meet the minimum Reserves Policy target over a period of two years.

#### Auditors

The auditor, Azets Audit Services Limited, have indicated their willingness to stand for reappointment at the Annual General Meeting.

#### Statement of Registered Treasurer's Responsibilities

The Registered Treasurer of the association is required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the accounting unit and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Registered Treasurer is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Region will continue in business.


Section 41 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the accounting unit at that time and to enable him or her to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Act.

Section 43 of the Act requires that the Registered Treasurer is responsible for delivery of the statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline.

The Registered Treasurer is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the accounting unit and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Registered Treasurer has taken all steps they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any information required by the auditor for the purpose of their audit and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information. The Registered Treasurer is not aware of any relevant information of which the auditor is unaware.

The financial statements were approved by the Registered Treasurer of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors on 25/06/2024



Sarah Boad  
Registered Treasurer

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Management Committee of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors**

### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors ('The association'), for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the association's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission, except as where stated in the other audit matters section of this report; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

### ***Basis for opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of The Region in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### ***Conclusions relating to going concern***

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the registered treasurer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the registered treasurer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### ***Other information***

The Registered Treasurer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Management Committee of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors**

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### ***Responsibilities of the Registered Treasurer for the financial statements***

As explained more fully in the statement of Registered Treasurer's responsibilities set out on page 5, the Registered Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Registered Treasurer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Registered Treasurer is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Registered Treasurer intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### ***Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

### ***Extent to which the audit was considered capable of identifying irregularities, including fraud***

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and



## **Independent Auditor's Report to the Management Committee of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors**

appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the charitable company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.
- Independent Auditor's Report to the Registered Treasurer of Wales Liberal Democrats
- Performing audit work over the timing and recognition of revenue and in particular whether it has been recorded in the correct accounting period.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

### ***Other audit matters***

As explained in note 1 to these financial statements, the Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission includes reference to membership income being recognised on a cash basis. This is a departure from the general principle of accruals accounting which has been followed in the preparation of the financial statements. After discussion with the Electoral Commission, membership income has been recognised on an accruals basis on the basis of a true and fair override.

## Independent Auditor's Report to the Management Committee of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors

### *Use of the our report*

This report is made solely to The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors as a body in accordance with section 43 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Association Officers of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Association Officers of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors as a body for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



26/06/2024

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For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services Limited

Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor

12 King Street  
Leeds  
LS1 2HL

## Income & Expenditure Account

### For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Income</b>			
Membership subscriptions		312,554	289,003
Sponsorship		7,634	1,500
Grants and donations	2	369,169	337,546
Conferences and other events	3	14,830	12,936
Projects and activities	4	103,102	129,723
Other income	5	3,362	8,950
Staff costs recharged	7	309,609	352,696
Fighting fund	16	34,238	30,203
<b>Total income</b>		<b>1,154,498</b>	<b>1,162,557</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Costs of projects and activities	6	151,131	178,408
Wages and salaries – own staff	7	432,977	482,535
Wages and salaries – recharged staff and interns	7	310,007	379,601
Fighting fund staff costs	7/16	32,270	22,027
Running costs	8	129,601	135,902
Conferences	9	16,193	18,225
Other expenses	10	56,909	48,445
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,129,088</b>	<b>1,265,143</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>25,410</b>	<b>(102,586)</b>
Funds brought forward at 1 January 2023		(68,609)	33,977
<b>Funds carried forward at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>(43,199)</b>	<b>(68,609)</b>

The income and expenditure account has been prepared on the basis that all operations are continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains or losses other than those included in the Income and Expenditure Account.

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of the financial statements.

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2023

		2023	2022
	Notes	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>	<b>13</b>	-	1,909
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	14	39,209	36,419
Cash at bank and in hand		8,610	25,697
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>47,819</b>	<b>62,116</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	91,018	132,634
<b>Net current liabilities</b>		<b>(43,199)</b>	<b>(70,518)</b>
<b>Net liabilities</b>		<b>(43,199)</b>	<b>(68,609)</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
General fund		(60,172)	(86,660)
Local Election Appeal Fund		-	-
Fighting fund		16,973	18,051
	<b>16</b>	<b>(43,199)</b>	<b>(68,609)</b>

The financial statements were approved by the Registered Treasurer of The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors on 25/06/2024



Sarah Boad  
Registered Treasurer

The notes on pages 12 to 18 form part of the financial statements.

## Notes forming part of the Financial Statements For the year ended 31 December 2023

### 1 *Accounting policies*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with applicable accounting standards and the principles set out in the Electoral Commission's Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes. Whilst the Statement of Accounts Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission includes reference to membership income being recognised on a cash basis, this is a departure from the general principle of accruals accounting which has been followed in the preparation of the financial statements. After discussion with the Electoral Commission, membership income has been recognised on an accruals basis on the basis of a true and fair override.

The principal accounting policies that have been applied are as follows:

#### **Basis of preparation**

In accordance with the constitution of Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors ("the Region") the financial statements deal solely with its own activities. They do not include the income, expenditure, assets or liabilities of the local Parties within its geographical remit, except to the extent that control of those local parties has been assumed by the Region in accordance with its constitution. They also do not include the activities of operations undertaken by election agents appointed by election candidates.

#### **Going concern**

Notwithstanding reporting net liabilities of £43,199 (2022 – net liabilities £68,609) as at the balance sheet date, the financial statements of the association have been prepared on a going concern basis which the officers consider to be appropriate.

The Strategic Plan plans our financial situation on a rolling three-year basis. An Income Strategy has been adopted to ensure that the Association has the income it requires to deliver its objectives.

The organisation has prepared surplus budgets in both 2024 and 2025 to address this balance.

#### **Income recognition**

Income is recognised when all of the following conditions have been met:

- The association is entitled to the asset;
- There is reasonable certainty that the asset will be received; and
- The value of the asset can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Applying these criteria to specific types of income results in the following treatment:

- Donations of monetary assets and liquid investments are recognised in the income and expenditure account on receipt.
- Grants are recognised in the income and expenditure account when the conditions for receipt have been met.
- Membership and subscription fees that are not in arrears are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate. Arrears of membership and subscription fees are only recognised in the income and expenditure account if received before the financial statements are approved.
- Interest receivable is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### Value added tax

The association is partially exempt for Value Added Tax (VAT). Accordingly, the cost of any relevant VAT which is not recoverable is expenses within other expenses.

### Depreciation and amortisation

Tangible and intangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation and amortisation. Depreciation and amortisation are provided at the following annual rates in order to write off fixed assets less their residual value over their expected useful lives:

Fixtures and fittings	3 years straight line
Office equipment	2 years straight line
Website development costs	3 years straight line

### Pension costs

Contributions to the defined contribution pension scheme are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they become payable.

## 2 Grants and donations

	2023 £	2022 £
Federal Party	46,000	46,000
Policy development fund	27,500	30,000
The Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Limited	109,862	99,873
G8 reimbursement	92,250	69,360
English Party	25,000	25,000
Scottish Party	18,594	18,574
Welsh Party	11,977	4,630
General donations	37,986	44,109
	369,169	337,546

## 3 Conference and other events income

	2023 £	2022 £
Local Government conference	14,830	12,936
	14,830	12,936

## 4 Projects and activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Publication sales	1,147	2,298
Other council support income	48,897	51,710
Register sales	2,745	2,955
Training	50,313	72,760
	103,102	129,723

## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### 5 Other income

	2023 £	2022 £
Rental income	2,428	2,478
Other income	934	6,472
	<b>3,362</b>	<b>8,950</b>

### 6 Costs of projects and activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Training	66,326	90,807
Council support costs	84,805	87,601
	<b>151,131</b>	<b>178,408</b>

### 7 Wages and salaries

	2023 £	2022 £
Salaries and wages	397,830	441,514
Social security costs	35,391	32,849
Other pension costs	32,026	30,199
Wages and salaries – own staff	465,247	504,562
Wages and salaries – recharged staff and interns	310,007	379,601
Total wages and salaries expensed	<b>775,254</b>	<b>884,163</b>

The association incurs salary and wages costs relating to the staff of other accounting units, which are recharged to the association at cost plus an agreed per staff member monthly fee, totalling £309,609 in the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: £352,696).

The average number of persons employed directly by the association during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
Average employee numbers	13	14

## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### 8 Running costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Office rental and services	38,322	36,776
Telephone, internet and IT costs	14,963	16,542
Staff and volunteer expenses	17,330	15,475
Staff recruitment	-	2,063
Photocopying	1,401	1,150
Online communications	35,230	34,420
Postage	4,082	3,901
General stationery	265	605
Publications	-	5,312
Legal and professional	3,358	6,754
Office administration	4,482	3,532
Audit and accountancy	9,000	8,000
Management committee expenses and elections	1,168	1,372
	129,601	135,902

Audit and accountancy includes £6,400 payable to the auditor in respect of audit fees and £1,825 to the auditor in respect of accountancy services.

### 9 Conferences

	2023 £	2022 £
Conference costs	16,193	18,225
	16,193	18,225

### 10 Other expenses

	2023 £	2022 £
Bank charges	6,912	7,994
Irrecoverable Value Added Tax	46,690	32,552
Transfers to other accounting units	300	3,200
Depreciation	1,909	3,219
Sundry	1,098	1,330
Fundraising	-	150
	56,909	48,445

### 11 Taxation

As an association with no commercial activities, tax is only assessed on investment income above a de minimis level.



## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### 12 Intangible fixed assets

	Website development £
Cost 1 January 2023	51,222
31 December 2023	<b>51,222</b>
Depreciation:	
1 January 2023	51,222
31 December 2023	<b>51,222</b>
Net book value	
31 December 2023	-
31 December 2022	-

### 13 Fixed assets

	Fixtures and fittings £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost: 1 January 2023	6,300	69,768	76,068
31 December 2023	6,300	69,768	76,068
Depreciation: 1 January 2023	5,739	68,420	74,159
Charge for the year	561	1,348	1,909
31 December 2023	6,300	69,768	76,068
Net book value			
31 December 2023	-	-	-
31 December 2022	561	1,348	1,909

### 14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	4,127	3,358
Prepayments and accrued income	30,901	15,858
Other debtors	4,181	17,203
	<b>39,209</b>	<b>36,419</b>

## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	34,118	56,434
Taxation and social security	19,077	45,774
Deferred income, membership	19,695	16,044
Accruals	15,582	13,234
Credit cards	1,150	1,148
VAT payable	1,396	-
	<b>91,018</b>	<b>132,634</b>

### 16 Reconciliation of movement on reserves

	2023 £	2022 £
General funds brought forward	(86,660)	15,944
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	27,566	(102,622)
Surplus/(Deficit) relating to Local Election Fund Appeal	-	(2,805)
Surplus/(Deficit) relating to Fighting Fund	(1,078)	2,823
General Funds carried forward	(60,172)	(86,660)
Local Election Appeal Fund brought forward	-	2,805
Donations received	22,123	27,611
Transfer from Fighting fund	3,656	3,482
Local election appeal expenditure	(25,779)	(33,898)
Local Election Appeal Fund carried forward	-	-
Fighting fund brought forward	18,051	15,228
Donations received	34,238	30,203
Grants awarded	(6,702)	(8,835)
Staff costs	(32,270)	(22,027)
Transfer to Local Election Appeal	3,656	3,482
Fighting Fund carried forward	16,973	18,051
Total Funds at 31 December 2022	(68,609)	33,977
<b>Total Funds at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>(43,199)</b>	<b>(68,609)</b>

## Notes forming part of the financial statements (continued)

### **17    *Related party transactions***

The organisation is related by constitution with other Liberal Democrat entities, which are registered accounting units within the Party's registration with the Electoral Commission. Transactions with these entities are disclosed in these financial statements as appropriate:

- The Federal Party: A grant of £46,000 is provided for various projects under policy development funds and administration services (Note 2). An amount of £5,000 was unpaid at 31 December 2023, this has been accrued and is included in accrued income (Note 14).
- The English Party: A grant of £25,000 is provided for volunteering Project in accordance with Party's budget to provide training and increase campaigning capacity (Note 2). All amounts have been paid in the year.
- Scottish Party: A grant of £18,594 for sponsored staff (Note 2). All amounts have been paid in the year.
- Welsh Party: A grant of £11,977 for sponsored staff (Note 2). All amounts have been paid in the year.
- Local Parties and other party entities: The Association of Liberal Democrat Councillors receive recharge for the services provided to party entities (Note 7).

In addition, some expenses are paid by members of the Regional Executive in the first instance and reimbursed on a strict cost basis. There are no honorarium or other benefits paid to the Region's officers.

### **18    *Lease commitments***

Total operating lease commitment in relation to lease of the offices at Salford Quays of £18,210 (2022: £45,525) as at 31 December 2023.