



Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats Accounts for the Year Ended 31st December 2023

Registered Address: 1 Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2PN

Elected Representatives

Tim Farron

Member of Parliament

36 Councillors on Westmorland and Furness Council

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000, the responsible officers are:

Names

Adrian Waite

Jayne Richardson

Position

Chair

Treasurer

Branches

The Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats are responsible for 3 branches

Income received and expenditure incurred by those branches have been included in these accounts.

Accounting Notes

This statement of accounts uses accruals accounting method.

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Income Overview

Income is mainly from donations, alongside some fundraising events

Expenditure Overview

Expenditure is mainly for campaigning, especially during the election period, and decreased this year from last year because there were no scheduled elections in Westmorland, Fumess and Eden this year

Balance Sheet Overview

Reserves have increased this year, mainly as a result of additional fundraising in preparation for the General Election

Overview of Political Activities

The local party's main focus was campaigning in preparation for the next General Election

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Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	2023	2022
<u>Income</u>			
Membership	1	£856.41	£866.69
Affiliations	2	£0.00	£0.00
Donations	3	£232,679.56	£201,171.21
Branch income	4	£0.00	£0.00
Fundraising income	5	£15,944.00	£18,760.60
Investment income	6	£0.00	£0.00
Transfers in	7	£13,803.75	£14,530.42
Property & rental income / Office services	8	£19,662.61	£30,185.06
Miscellaneous	9	£0.00	£60.00
Total income		£282,946.33	£265,573.98
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Premises	-	£15,187.10	£14,344.68
Office & admin costs	-	£37,551.48	£27,333.50
Branch expenditure	4	£0.00	£0.00
Staff costs	10	£78,704.56	£79,018.12
Transfers out	7	£3,710.04	£15.00
Campaigning costs	-	£100,263.80	£143,954.34
Fundraising costs	5	£5,591.96	£6,766.18
Financing charges and Taxation	11	£375.59	£618.08
Depreciation	12	£0.00	£0.00
(Profit) / loss on sale of assets	15	£0.00	£0.00
Miscellaneous	9	£7,014.00	£6,685.00
Total expenditure		£248,398.53	£278,734.90
(Deficit) / surplus		£34,547.80	£(13,160.92)

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Balance Sheet

	Note	2023	2022
<u>Fixed Assets</u>			
Property	12	£0.00	£0.00
Fixtures and fittings	12	£0.00	£0.00
Office equipment	12	£0.00	£0.00
Investments	6	£0.00	£0.00
Total fixed assets		£0.00	£0.00
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash in hand and at bank	6	£84,885.52	£61,242.48
Stock	13	£2,872.70	£4,515.94
Debtors and Prepayments	14	£220.12	£1,693.00
Total current assets		£87,978.34	£67,451.42
<u>Liabilities</u>			
Creditors and Accruals	-	£15,409.82	£29,430.70
Loans outstanding	15	£0.00	£0.00
Total liabilities		£15,409.82	£29,430.70
<u>Total Net Assets / (Liabilities)</u>		£72,568.52	£38,020.72
<u>Reserves</u>			
Accumulated fund at the start of the year		£38,020.72	£51,181.64
Transfers between accumulated fund and other funds		£0.00	£0.00
Deficit / surplus		£34,547.80	£(13,160.92)
Accumulated fund at the end of the year		£72,568.52	£38,020.72
Asset Revaluation Reserve		£0.00	£0.00
Other funds		£0.00	£0.00
Total reserves		£72,568.52	£38,020.72

Notes to the Accounts

Membership fees received via the central party

2023	2022
£856.41	£866.69

There were no affiliation fees

2023	2022
£0.00	£0.00

Cash and cash equivalent donations

Notional / Donations in Kind

2023	2022
£216,413.95	£193,311.21
£16,265.61	£7,860.00
£232,679.56	£201,171.21

Note 4: Branch Income and Expenditure

Barrow
Kendal
North Westmorland

2023		2022	
Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Note 5: Fundraising Income and Expenditure

Fundraising in the year included an annual dinner, the Sovereign Club and other smaller events.

Note 6: Investment Income

Bank accounts
Investments

2023		2022	
Year-end balance	Income received	Year-end balance	Income received
£84,885.52	£0.00	£61,242.48	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Note 7: Transfers

From / to Liberal Democrat regional/state/central parties
From / to other Liberal Democrat local parties
Internal transfers between branches and accounting unit
From / to other Liberal Democrat accounting units

2023	
Incoming	Outgoing
£12,613.50	£0.00
£1,190.25	£2,012.04
£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£1,698.00
£13,803.75	£3,710.04

Note 8: Property and rental income / Office services

Rent received
Other services income

2023	2022
£6,495.00	£6,495.00
£13,167.61	£23,690.06
<u>£19,662.61</u>	<u>£30,185.06</u>

Note 9: Miscellaneous Income / Expenditure

Donations for Tim's charity events received by local party in error

Donations for Tim's charity events received by local party in error
 Poppy wreath
 Audit fee

2023		2022	
Income	Expense	Income	Expense
		£60.00	
			£60.00
	£54.00		£25.00
	£6,960.00		£6,600.00
£0.00	£7,014.00	£60.00	£6,685.00

Note 10: Salary Costs

Salary costs
 Employer's National Insurance and Pension costs
 Training costs

Number of staff

2023	2022
£74,242.09	£73,349.24
£4,112.47	£4,365.84
£350.00	£1,303.04
£78,704.56	£79,018.12
7	7

Note 11: Financing Charges and Taxation

Bank charges
 Interest charged
 Taxation charged

2023	2022
£375.59	£618.08
£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00
£375.59	£618.08

Note 12: Fixed Assets

Value at start of year
 Additions
 Disposals
 Revaluations
 Depreciation
Value at end of year

Property	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

Note 13: Stock

Opening balance
 Movements: Increase
 Movements: Decrease
Closing balance

2023	2022
£4,515.94	£3,571.27
£15,891.79	£20,146.86
£(17,535.03)	£(19,202.19)
£2,872.70	£4,515.94

Note 14: Debtors and Prepayments

Prepayments
 Debtors

£0.00	£0.00
£220.12	£1,693.00
£220.12	£1,693.00

Note 15: Loans

Outstanding at start of year
 Capital repayments
 New loans

2023	2022
£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00
£0.00	£0.00

Note 16: Profit / (Loss) on Disposal of Assets

No assets were disposed of during the year

Book value at disposal	Sale Proceeds	Profit / (Loss) on Disposal
£0.00	£0.00	£0.00

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Declaration

I confirm that the above statement of accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to my knowledge.

In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the executive committee of Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats.

Signature:



Name: Jayne Richardson

Position: Treasurer

Date: 26/06/2024

Signature:



Name: Adrian Waite

Position: Chair

Date: 28/06/2024

Independent Auditor's Report to the Registered Treasurer of Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the income and expenditure account, the balance sheet and the related notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Statement of Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the party's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Guidance Notes issued by the Electoral Commission; 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 charitable company 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 party'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 other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The registered treasurer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. 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. 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 registered treasurers for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the registered treasurers' responsibilities statement, the registered treasurers are 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 treasurers determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from

Independent Auditor's Report to the Registered Treasurer of Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats

material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the registered treasurers are responsible for assessing the charitable company'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 treasurers either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have 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 the 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: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting 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 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 Westmorland, Furness and Eden 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.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Westmorland, Furness and Eden Liberal Democrats, as a body, in accordance with Section 43 of the Political Parties, Election and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the registered treasurer 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 party and the registered treasurer, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



For and on behalf of Azets Audit Services Limited

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

Date: **28/06/2024**

12 King Street
Leeds
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