

Annual Audit Report West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts – year ended 31 March 2024

June 2025





Forvis Mazars

Glasgow

G1 3DN

100 Queen Street

The Trustees

West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts

16 Church Street Dumbarton G82 1QL

19 June 2025

Dear Trustees,

Annual Audit Report - Year ended 31 March 2024

We are pleased to present our Annual Audit Report for the year ended 31 March 2024. The purpose of this document is to summarise our audit conclusions and findings.

The scope of our work, including identified significant audit risks, and other key judgement areas, was outlined in our Annual Audit Plan, which we presented to the Council's Audit Committee on 4 September 2024.

We have reviewed our Annual Audit Plan and concluded that the significant audit risks and other key judgement areas set out in that report remain appropriate.

We would like to express our thanks for the assistance of your team during our audit.

If you would like to discuss any matters in more detail then please do not hesitate to contact me on 07816 354 994

Yours faithfully

1. Reid

Tom Reid (Auditor Director)

Forvis Mazars LLP

Forvis Mazars LLP – 100 Queen Street- Glasgow- G1 3DN Tel: 0141 227 2400 – www.forvismazars.com/uk

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Our reports are prepared in accordance with Terms of Appointment Letter from Audit Scotland dated 18 May 2022 through which the Accounts Commission has appointed us as external auditor of West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts (the Charitable Trust) for financial years 2022/23 to 2026/27. We undertake our audit in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended; and our responsibilities as set out within Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice 2021.

Reports and letters prepared by appointed auditors and addressed to the Charitable Trust are prepared for the sole use of the Charitable Trust and made available to Audit Scotland and the Accounts Commission, the Controller of Audit. We take no responsibility to any member or officer in their individual capacity or to any other third party.

Executive Summary

Executive summary

Audit conclusions and significant findings

The detailed scope of our work as your appointed auditor for 2023/24 is set out in Audit Scotland's Code of Audit Practice 2021. Our responsibilities and powers are derived from Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and as outlined in our Annual Audit Plan, our audit has been conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and means we focus on audit risks that we have assessed as resulting in a higher risk of material misstatement.

In section 4 of this report, we have set out our conclusions and significant findings from our audit. This section includes our conclusions on the audit risks and areas of management judgement in our Annual Audit Plan, which include:

· Management override of controls.

Misstatements and internal control recommendations

Section 5 sets out internal control recommendations and section 6 sets out audit misstatements. There are no unadjusted misstatements.

Status and audit opinion

We have completed our audit in respect of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. We have the following conclusions:



Audit opinion

We have issued an unqualified opinion, without modification, on the financial statements. Our audit opinion is included in the draft auditor's report in Appendix B.



Matters on which we report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Commission to report to you if, during the course of our audit, we have found that adequate accounting records have not been kept; the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.



Executive summary (continued)

Conclusions from our audit testing and audit opinion (continued)

Other information



We are required to report on whether the other information (comprising the Trustees' Annual Report), is materially inconsistent with the financial statements; is materially inconsistent with our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit; or is materially misstated.

No inconsistencies have been identified and we have issued an unmodified opinion in this respect.



Wider powers

Section 101 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 requires us to give any person interested, the opportunity to question us about the accounting records of the Charitable Trusts and to consider any objection made to the accounts. We confirm that no such correspondence from electors has been received.



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Status of the audit

Status of our audit

Our audit work is complete.



03

Audit Approach

Audit Approach

Changes to our audit approach

There have been no changes to the audit approach we communicated in our Annual Audit Plan, issued on 4 September 2024.

Materiality

Our provisional materiality at the planning stage of the audit was set at £5,369 using a benchmark of 2% of net assets. Our Performance materiality was set at £3,758.

There have been no changes to the materiality levels we communicated in the Annual Audit Plan.

We have provided our consideration of our independence as part of the Charitable Trust engagement in Appendix C.



04

Significant findings

Significant findings

Significant findings, including key areas of management judgement

The significant findings from our audit include:

- our audit conclusions regarding significant risks and key areas of management judgement outlined in the Annual Audit Plan;
- our comments in respect of the accounting policies and disclosures that you have adopted in the financial statements. On page 14 we have concluded whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework and commented on any significant accounting policy changes that have been made during the year;
- any further significant matters discussed with management; and
- · any significant difficulties we experienced during the audit.



Significant findings (continued)

Management override of controls

Description of the risk

This is a mandatory significant risk on all audits due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur.

Management at various levels within an organisation are in a unique position to perpetrate fraud because of their ability to manipulate accounting records and prepare fraudulent financial statements by overriding controls that otherwise appear to be operating effectively. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur there is a risk of material misstatement due to fraud on all audits.

How we addressed this risk

We addressed this risk through performing audit procedures over journals and other adjustments recorded in the general ledger in preparing the financial statements.

Audit conclusion

Our work has provided the assurance we sought and there are no material issues to bring to your attention.



Significant findings (continued)

Qualitative aspects of the Charitable Trusts' accounting practices

We have reviewed the Charitable Trusts' accounting policies and disclosures and concluded they comply with the with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulations 9(1), (2) and (3) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, appropriately tailored to the Charitable Trusts' circumstances.

The Council provided unaudited accounts for the Charitable Trusts on 27 June 2024 and these were of a good quality.

Significant matters discussed with management

During our audit we did not identify any significant matters to discuss with management.

Significant difficulties during the audit

During the course of the audit we did not encounter any significant difficulties and we have had the full co-operation of management.



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Internal control conclusions

Internal control conclusions

Overview of engagement

As part of our audit, we obtained an understanding of Charitable Trust's' internal control environment and control activities relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, which was sufficient to plan our audit and determine the nature, timing, and extent of our audit procedures. Although our audit was not designed to express an opinion on the effectiveness of Charitable Trusts' internal controls, we are required to communicate to the trustees any significant deficiencies in internal controls that we identified in during our audit.

Deficiencies in internal control

A deficiency in internal control exists if:

- A control is designed, implemented, or operated in such a way that it is unable to prevent, detect, and/ or correct potential misstatements in the financial statements; or
- A necessary control to prevent, detect, and/ or correct misstatements in the financial statements on a timely basis is missing

The purpose of our audit was to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our audit, we have considered the Charitable Trusts' internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements to design audit procedures to allow us to express an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Charitable Trust's internal controls or to identify any significant deficiencies in their design or operation.

The matters reported in this section of our report are limited to those deficiencies and other control recommendations that we have identified during our normal audit procedures and which we consider to be of sufficient importance to merit being reported.

If we had performed more extensive procedures on internal control, we might have identified more deficiencies to report or concluded that some of the reported deficiencies need not in fact have been reported.

Our comments in this section should not be regarded as a comprehensive record of all deficiencies that may exist or improvements that could be made.

We have not identified any deficiencies in the Charitable Trust's internal controls as at the date of this report.

We identified control deficiencies in the Council's IT general controls within its financial ledger system, which is also used by the Charitable Trusts. We have not reported them here as they were not significant deficiencies. We will include full details in the Council's Annual Audit Report.

Significant deficiencies in internal control

A significant deficiency in internal control is one which, in our professional judgement, has the potential for financial loss, damage to reputation, or a loss of information which may have implications on the achievement of business strategic objectives. Our view is that observations categorised as a significant deficiency is of sufficient importance to merit the attention of the trustees.

We have not identified any significant deficiencies in the Charitable Trust's internal controls as at the date of this report.

Other observations

We also record our observations on the Charitable Trust's internal controls where, in our professional judgement, there is a need to strengthen internal control or enhance business efficiency that do not constitute significant deficiencies in internal control but which we view as being important for consideration by management.



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Summary of misstatements

Summary of misstatements

Adjusted and unadjusted misstatements

We identified no misstatements, adjusted or unadjusted, above our reporting threshold as at the date of this report.

Our overall materiality, performance materiality, and clearly trivial (reporting) threshold were reported in our Annual Audit Plan, issued on 4 September 2024. Any subsequent changes to those figures are set out in the section 3 of this report.

Disclosure misstatements

The name of the trust as disclosed in the financial statements was changed to "West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts" to match the OSCR registration.

There were other minor adjustments to the annual report and financial statements for other disclosures, page numbers, consistency and presentational matters.



Appendices

- A: Draft management representation letter
- B: Draft audit report
- C: Confirmation of our independence
- D: Other communications

Appendix A: Draft management representation letter

Tom Reid Forvis Mazars 100 Queen Street Glasgow G1 3DN XX June 2025

Dear Tom

West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts - Audit for Year Ended 31 March 2024

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts (the Charities) for the year ended 31 March 2024 for the purpose of expressing an opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

I confirm that the following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience (and, where appropriate, inspection of supporting documentation) sufficient to satisfy myself that I can properly make each of the following representations to you.

My responsibility for the financial statements and accounting information

I believe that I have fulfilled my responsibilities for the true and fair presentation and preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

My responsibility to provide and disclose relevant information

I have provided you with:

- access to all information of which I am aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as records, documentation and other material;
- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to individuals within the Charities you determined it was necessary to contact in order to obtain audit evidence.



I confirm that I have taken all the necessary steps to make me aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you, as auditors, are aware of this information.

As far as I am aware there is no relevant audit information of which you, as auditors, are unaware.

Accounting records

I confirm that all transactions that have a material effect on the financial statements have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements. All other records and related information, including minutes of all trustee meetings, have been made available to you.

Accounting policies

I confirm that I have reviewed the accounting policies applied during the year in accordance with International Accounting Standard 8 and consider these policies to faithfully represent the effects of transactions, other events or conditions on the Charities' financial position and financial performance.

Contingencies

There are no material contingent losses including pending or potential litigation that should be accrued where:

- information presently available indicates that it is probable that an asset has been impaired or a liability had been incurred at the balance sheet date; and
- the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated.

There are no material contingent losses that should be disclosed where, although either or both the conditions specified above are not met, there is a reasonable possibility that a loss, or a loss greater than that accrued, may have been incurred at the balance sheet date.

There are no contingent gains which should be disclosed.

All material matters, including unasserted claims, that may result in litigation against the Charities have been brought to your attention. All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to you and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the Code, as amended by the Code and applicable law



Laws and regulations

I confirm that I have disclosed to you all those events of which I am aware which involve known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations, together with the actual or contingent consequences which may arise therefrom.

The Charities have complied with all aspects of contractual agreements that would have a material effect on the accounts in the event of non-compliance.

Fraud and error

I acknowledge my responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error and I believe I have appropriately fulfilled those responsibilities.

I have disclosed to you:

- all the results of my assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
- all knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Charities involving:
 - trustees;
 - o employees who have significant roles in internal control; and
 - o others where fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.

I have disclosed to you all information in relation to any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the Charities' financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

Related party transactions

I confirm that all related party relationships, transactions and balances, have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the requirements of Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

I have disclosed to you the identity of the Charities' related parties and all related party relationships and transactions of which I am aware.

Impairment review

To the best of my knowledge, there is nothing to indicate that there is a permanent reduction in the recoverable amount of assets below their carrying value at the balance sheet date. An impairment review is therefore not considered necessary.



Charges on assets

All the Charities' assets are free from any charges exercisable by third parties except as disclosed within the financial statements.

Future commitments

The Charities have no plans, intentions or commitments that may materially affect the carrying value or classification of assets and liabilities or give rise to additional liabilities.

Subsequent events

I confirm all events subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.

Should further material events occur after the date of this letter which may necessitate revision of the figures included in the financial statements or inclusion of a note thereto, I will advise you accordingly.

Impacts of Russian Forces entering Ukraine

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of Russian Forces entering Ukraine on the Charities and there is no significant impact on their operations from restrictions or sanctions in place.

Covid-19

I confirm that I have carried out an assessment of the potential impact of the Covid-19 Virus pandemic on the business, including the impact of mitigation measures and uncertainties, and am satisfied that the financial statements and supporting notes fairly reflects that assessment.

Going concern

To the best of my knowledge there is nothing to indicate that the Charities will not continue as a going concern in the foreseeable future. The period to which I have paid particular attention in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis is not less than twelve months from the date of approval of the accounts.



Narrative Report

The disclosures within the Narrative Report fairly reflect my understanding of the Charities' financial and operating performance over the period covered by the financial statements.

Unadjusted misstatements

I confirm that there are no unadjusted misstatements.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Martin Rooney

Trustee



Independent auditor's report to the trustees of West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts and the Accounts Commission

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion on the financial statements

We certify that we have audited the financial statements in the statement of accounts of West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts ("the Charities) for the year ended 31 March 2024 under Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The financial statements comprise the Statement of Receipts and Payments Account, the Statement of Balances and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and a receipts and payments basis.

In our opinion the accompanying financial statements:

- properly present the receipts and payments of the Charities for the year ended 31 March 2024 and their statement of balances at that date; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and regulations 9(1), (2) and (3) of The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)), as required by the Code of Audit Practice approved by the Accounts Commission for Scotland. 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 Charities in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council'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.



Responsibilities of the trustees for the financial statements

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the financial reporting framework, and for such internal control as the trustees determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities outlined above to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. Procedures include:

- using our understanding of the local government sector and charity sector to identify that the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 are significant in the context of the Charities;
- inquiring of the Trustees as to other laws or regulations that may be expected to have a fundamental effect on the operations of the Charities;
- inquiring of the Trustees concerning the Charities' policies and procedures regarding compliance with the applicable legal and regulatory framework;
- discussions among our audit team on the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur; and
- considering whether the audit team collectively has the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the Charities' controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

Irregularities that result from fraud are inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error as fraud may involve collusion, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. The capability of the audit to detect fraud and other irregularities depends on factors such as the skilfulness of the perpetrator, the frequency and extent of manipulation, the degree of collusion involved, the relative size of individual amounts manipulated, and the seniority of those individuals involved.



A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Reporting on other requirements

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information in the statement of accounts. The other information comprises the Trustees' Annual Report.

Our responsibility is to read all 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.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon except on the Trustees' Annual Report to the extent explicitly stated in the following opinion prescribed by the Accounts Commission.

Opinions prescribed by the Accounts Commission on the Trustees' Annual Report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Trustees' Annual Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and that report has been prepared in accordance with The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by The Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.



Use of our report

This report is made solely to the parties to whom it is addressed in accordance with Part VII of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and for no other purpose. In accordance with paragraph 108 of the Code of Audit Practice, we do not undertake to have responsibilities to members or officers, in their individual capacities, or to third parties.

Tom Reid, Director
For and on behalf of Forvis Mazars LLP

100 Queen Street

Glasgow

G13DN

XX June 2025



Appendix C: Confirmation of our independence

We communicate any matters which we believe may have a bearing on our independence or the objectivity of Forvis Mazars LLP and the audit team. As part of our ongoing risk assessment, we monitor our relationships with you to identify any new actual or perceived threats to our independence within the regulatory or professional requirements governing us as your auditors.

We confirm that no new threats to independence have been identified since issuing our Annual Audit Plan and therefore we remain independent.

Fees for work as the Charitable Trusts' auditor

The fee for our work for the 2023/24 financial year is £10,000 (2022/23 fee: £6,500).



Appendix D: Other communications

	Other communication	Response
	Compliance with Laws and Regulations	We have not identified any significant matters involving actual or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations. We will obtain written representations from management that all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing financial statements have been disclosed.
	External confirmations	We did not experience any issues with respect to obtaining external confirmations.
Å_Å_Å	Related parties	We did not identify any significant matters relating to the audit of related parties. We will obtain written representations from management confirming that: a. they have disclosed to us the identity of related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which they are aware; and b. they have appropriately accounted for and disclosed such relationships and transactions in accordance with the requirements of the applicable financial reporting framework.
	Going Concern	We have not identified any evidence to cause us to disagree with the trustees that West Dunbartonshire Council Charitable Trusts will be a going concern, and therefore we have not identified any evidence to cause us to consider that the use of the going concern assumption in preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate. We will obtain written representations from management, confirming that all relevant information covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements has been taken into account in assessing the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements.



Appendix D: Other communications (continued)

	Other communication	Response
	Subsequent events	We are required to obtain evidence about whether events occurring between the date of the financial statements and the date of the auditor's report that require adjustment of, or disclosure in, the financial statements are appropriately reflected in those financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.
//		We will obtain written representations from management that all events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements and for which the applicable financial reporting framework requires adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted or disclosed.
	Matters related to fraud	We have designed our audit approach to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement due to fraud. In addition, we have assessed the adequacy of the Charitable Trust's arrangements for preventing and detecting fraud or other irregularities as part of the wider scope audit and concluded that they are sufficiently designed and implemented.
		We will obtain written representations from management, and where appropriate the trustees, confirming that:
		a) they acknowledge their responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud;
-\		b) they have disclosed to the auditor the results of management's assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud;
		c) they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving:
		i. Management;
		ii. Employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
		iii. Others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and
		d) they have disclosed to the auditor their knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.



Contact

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