

# Notice of Lower Central Gardens Trust Board

Date: Monday, 26 January 2026 at 10.00 am

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY



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## Membership:

### Chairman:

Cllr M Gillett

### Vice Chairman:

Cllr J Martin

Cllr B Nanovo

Cllr L Williams

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All Members of the Lower Central Gardens Trust Board are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcp council.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MId=6280>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Sinead O'Callaghan or email [sinead.ocallaghan@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:sinead.ocallaghan@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 454668 or email [press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk)

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at [democracy.bcp council.gov.uk](https://democracy.bcp council.gov.uk)

AIDAN DUNN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

16 January 2026

**DEBATE**  
**NOT HATE**



Available online and  
on the Mod.gov app

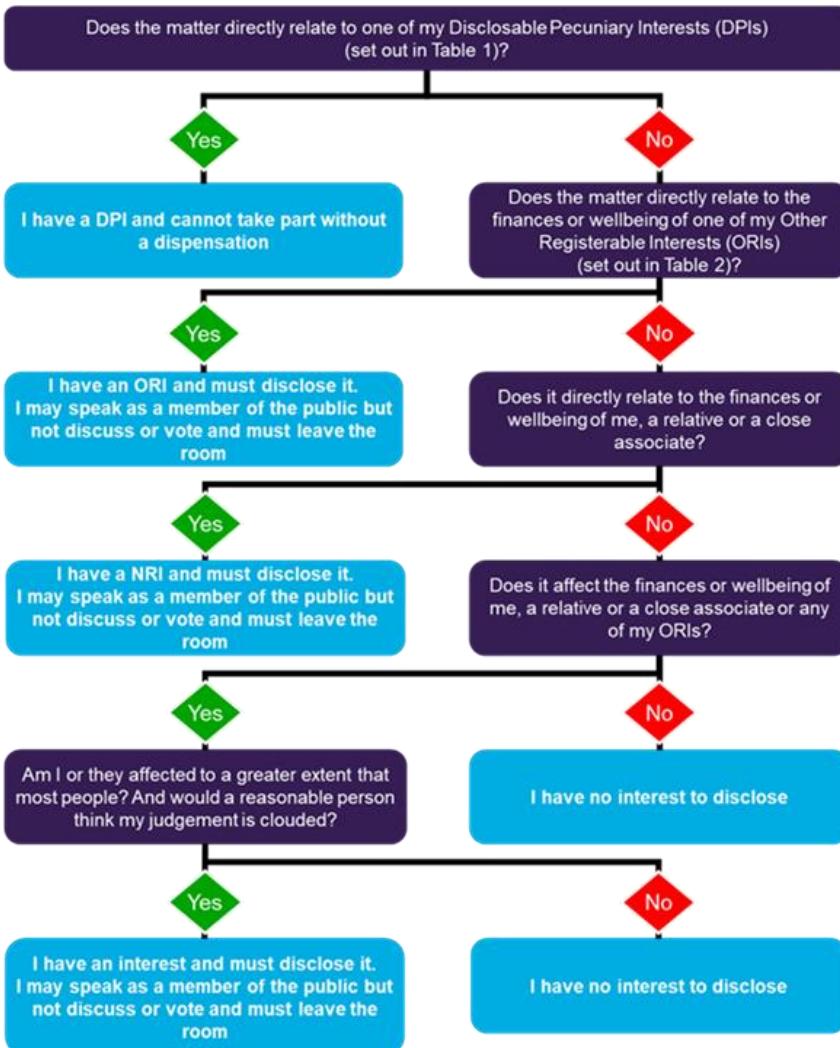


## Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

### Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



### What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

#### Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

#### Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

#### Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

#### Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

#### Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

#### Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

#### Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

#### Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

#### Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

# AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

## 1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

## 2. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda.

Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.  
Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

1 - 2

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 22 September 2025.

## 4. Financial Statements 2024-25

3 - 40

It is a statutory requirement to agree the annual financial statements for the Lower Central Gardens Trust and submit them to the Charity Commission by 31 January each year. The Board are asked to review and approve the financial statements and the Letter of Representation prior to them being signed off by Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy.

## 5. Future Meeting Dates and Work

To note, discuss and agree items of business for the Trust Board to consider at future meetings. Also, to confirm dates of future meetings.

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

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# Agenda Item 3

## LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD

MONDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 2025

**Present:** Councillor Matthew Gillett in the Chair

Councillors Cllr J Martin (Vice-Chair), Cllr B Nanovo and Cllr L Williams

**66 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**67 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**68 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2025 were confirmed as accurate records and signed by the Chair.

**69 Request for a multi-agency safety review or SARA**

The Board received a verbal update following concerns raised by Councillor Armstrong regarding evening conditions in the Lower Gardens. These concerns related to low lighting at the Westover Road entrance, the evening closure of public conveniences and feelings of reduced safety after dark.

The Head of Public Protection and Dorset Police outlined the ongoing multi-agency work in the area. This included high-visibility patrols, youth engagement, hotspot policing and CCTV improvements. The Board noted that antisocial behaviour and serious violence had reduced. Officers confirmed that reports of defective lantern lighting would be passed to the Street Lighting Team and that an update would be provided to the Board by email. **ACTION**

**It was Proposed, Seconded and RESOLVED that the Board receive an update on progress with the issues raised under this item including lighting and evening safety at the next suitable meeting on 18 May 2026.**

**70 Verbal Update on Bicycle Signage and Lighting in the Lower Central Gardens**

The Board received an update that a works order had been raised to refresh surface cycle signage at the entrances and exits to the Gardens. A new lining contractor had started work and the refresh would be completed during the autumn and winter period. Lighting matters identified during the Board walkaround would be addressed through an Environmental Visual Audit.

Officers agreed to request an Environmental Visual Audit of the Lower Gardens and to report the outcome back to the Board. **ACTION**

**71 Verbal Update on the Art and Makers Market**

The Head of Leisure and Events provided a verbal update on the operation of the Art and Makers Market. The Board was advised that the 2024 tender exercise did not attract any

**Monday, 22nd September, 2025**

submissions and that the market therefore continued in house until an external operator began a trial arrangement from June 2025. A mid-year review is scheduled for December 2025. The Board was advised that the operator was currently running the market every other weekend in an effort to rebuild footfall.

Two members of the public were invited to address the Board and provided their recent experience of the Art and Makers Market.

The Board considered the verbal update and raised the following points:

- In response to a query raised regarding access to storage within the hut, the Board was advised that officers would review current usage, confirm the allocation of space and report the findings to the Board by email. **ACTION**
- In response to a query raised regarding the impact on regular exhibitors and the practical challenges for older and disabled exhibitors, the Board was advised that these matters would be addressed through workable storage options with the operator and provide an update to the Board by email. **ACTION**
- In response to a query raised regarding vehicle access for loading and unloading, booking levels and artist participation, safety on quieter trading days, and differences between information reported by the operator and experience on site, the Board was advised that these issues would be reviewed with the operator and Public Protection as appropriate, and that reporting routes for antisocial behaviour would be reinforced.
- In response to a query raised regarding external funding opportunities, Members suggested that options such as the Arts Council may be available and officers agreed to explore these, subject to feasibility.

The Board noted that some exhibitors disputed the booking figures reported by the operator and asked that this be clarified as part of the update.

Outcomes of the mid-year review to be reported back to the Board. **ACTION**

## **72 Next Steps - Future Meeting Dates and Work**

The Board discussed and suggested items that they wished to be included on future meeting agendas.

The Board discussed the frequency of updates on ongoing matters and asked that information be provided regularly between meetings. Officers agreed to provide the Board with monthly email updates on matters within the gardens, including lighting, safety in the Gardens and the Art and Makers Market. **ACTION**

The Board noted the following meeting dates :

- 26 January 2026
- 18 May 2026

**Duration of the meeting:** 1.00 - 2.58 pm

Chairman at the meeting on  
Monday, 22 September 2025

# Agenda Item 4

## LOWER CENTRAL GARDENS TRUST BOARD



Report subject	<b>Financial Statements 2024-25</b>
Meeting date	26 January 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>It is a statutory requirement to agree the annual financial statements for the Lower Central Gardens Trust and submit them to the Charity Commission by 31 January each year. The Board are asked to review and approve the financial statements and the Letter of Representation prior to them being signed off by Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy.</p>
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b></p> <p><b>The Committee approve the financial statements and the Letter of Representation for the financial year 2024-25.</b></p>
Reason for recommendations	The Committee approve the financial statements and the Letter of Representation for the financial year 2024-25.

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Andy Hadley - Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn – Chief Executive Officer
Report Authors	Stephen White – Company Accountant
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Decision

## **Background**

1. As sole trustee BCP Council is required to approve the 2024-25 Lower Central Gardens Trust financial statements before they are submitted to the Charity Commission by the 31 January 2026. The Lower Central Gardens Trust Board is asked to review and approve the financial statements and the Letter of Representation prior to the Cabinet Member for Climate Response, Environment and Energy signing them off.

## **Options Appraisal**

2. There are no options as it is a statutory requirement to submit appropriately approved annual financial statements to the Charity Commission within the required deadline.

## **Summary of financial implications**

3. There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

## **Summary of legal implications**

4. The Council's executive exercises the functions as Trustee for the operations and management of the Lower Central Gardens Trust.
5. The annual financial statements for the period ending 31 March 2025 are required by the Charity Commission to be filed by 31 January 2026 in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008.

## **Summary of human resources implications**

6. There are no human resource implications as a result of this report.

## **Summary of sustainability impact**

7. There are no sustainability implications as a result of this report.

## **Summary of public health implications**

8. There are no public health implications as a result of this report.

## **Summary of equality implications**

9. The approval of the financial statements is not a policy or service change and therefore there are no equality impacts. For this reason and equality impact assessment has not been completed.

## **Summary of risk assessment**

10. The annual financial statements for the period ending 31 March 2025 are required by the Charity Commission to be filed by 31 January 2026 in accordance with The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Failure to file by this date would be non-compliant and could lead to reputational damage for the sole trustee BCP Council.

## **Background papers**

None

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Financial statements 2024-25

Appendix 2 – Letter of Representation 2024-25

Appendix 3 – Audit Findings 2024-25

Appendix 4 – Comfort Letter 2024-25

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Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth

Charity No. 299739

Trustee's Report and Audited Accounts

31 March 2025

	Page(s)
Trustee's Annual Report	2 to 4
Auditor's Report	5 to 8
Statement of Financial Activities	9
Balance Sheet	10
Statement of Cash flows	11
Notes to the Accounts	12 to 20
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	21 to 22

The trustee presents their report with the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity No. 299739

Principal Office

Civic Centre

Bourne Avenue

Bournemouth

Dorset

BH2 6DY

Trustee

The following trustee served during the year:

BCP Council

Trustees holding title to charity property

BCP Council

Key Management Personnel

Councillor Matthew Gillett - Chair

Councillor Bernadette Nanovo

Councillor Stephen Bartlett - resigned 7 May 2024

Mr Roger Boon - resigned 18 December 2024

Chief Executive Officer - Kate Langdown

Auditor

Hixsons

24 Cecil Avenue

Bournemouth

BH8 9EJ

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The object of the charity is the provision of open space for the recreation and enjoyment of the public. The Gardens are Listed Grade II in the Historic England "Register of Parks and Gardens".

The Charity is subject to several strategies that design the way that objectives are being fulfilled. The main document is Lower, Central & Upper Gardens 5-year Management Plan which was drafted in conjunction with: Bournemouth 2026 Community Strategy, Green Space Strategy, Playground Strategy, Nature Conservation Strategy.

The Management Plan and Lower Gardens Masterplan are providing details of proposals to improve the visitors' experience in the Gardens. The examples of these are: to review planting and phase replacement with new water tolerant planting, to refine and improve Christmas events in Lower Gardens to ensure smooth running, 4-year plan to renovate all the shrubs/tree boarders along Westover Road, to develop Westover Gardens as an area for the arts and other community events.

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The event highlights were the Air Festival (August 2024), the Arts By The Sea Festival and the Knife Crime Awareness Event (both September 2024), the Bournemouth Marathon (October 2024) and winter ice rink and Christmas Tree Wonderland (November 2024 - January 2025).

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

Historically the Council, in its role as local authority and corporate trustee, has provided donated services each year sufficient for the charity to achieve breakeven and meet any liabilities as they fall due. This is currently the policy that is expected to continue and so the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustee considers that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The unrestricted fund of £2,027 represents the value of the donated stock from BCP Council. The restricted income fund of £1,648,643 represents change in the fixed assets value and is not used for distribution. The endowment fund of £25,874,404 is held on trust to be retained for the benefit of the charity as a capital fund. The trustee must permanently maintain the whole of the fund. The fund consists of assets that are used for the purposes of the charity and cannot be spent as if it were income. The net revenue expenditure supports the objective of the Trust.

## PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Maintaining and improving the public's access to the Charity's land for use as pleasure gardens will continue to be the main focus in the years ahead.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The accounts recognise the treatment of the Charity as a separate entity with its own transactions distinct from those of BCP Council.

The Trust was created in 1873 under an Indenture between BCP Council's predecessor body the Bournemouth Commissioners and Sir George Eliot Meyrick Tapps Gervis. The day to day control and management of the Lower Central Gardens and hence the charity, was varied by s.29 Bournemouth Borough Council Act 1985. This vested in the Council the general power to use, control and manage the Lower Central Gardens. BCP Council manages the Charity in its role as trustee. Recommendations from the Council Cabinet on Charity issues are referred to full meetings of the Council acting as trustee for appropriate decisions.

The trustee recruitment process is carried out by existing trustees on behalf of Members of the Trust. The trustee vacancy is advertised in the local media and interested parties are then provided with:a. Briefing Note b. Application Form c. Draft Scheme of Management d. Master Plan drawing e. Lower Gardens summary. The applicants are then interviewed and appointed using the Charity Commission Operational Guidance, Trustee Act 2000, OG 86 B4 'Power to employ nominees and custodians'. On the appointment the trustees are provided with a copy of the Charity Scheme for the new Trust together with the rules for conflicts of interest.

There are no formal policies or procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees.

The law applicable to charities requires the charity trustee to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustee is required to:

- \* select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- \* observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- \* make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- \* state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed,
- \* subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- \* prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustee is responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. The Trustee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement of disclosure of information to auditor

So far as the trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware and each trustee has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Signed

BCP Council  
Trustee  
26 January 2026

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustee of Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth

**Opinion**

We have audited the accounts of Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the Notes to the Accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 ,and of its profit/loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

**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 accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts 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 accounts, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the accounts 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 group and parent charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from when the accounts are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees 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 accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustee is responsible for the other information.

Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in 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 there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the accounts is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustee's report; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustee

As explained more fully in the trustee's responsibilities statement found in the trustee's report, the trustee is responsible for the preparation of accounts which give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustee is responsible for assessing the charity'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 trustee intends to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

We have been appointed under the Charities Act 2011, s. 144 and report in accordance with the regulations made under the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts 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 accounts.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, including how fraud may occur by enquiring of management of its own consideration of fraud. In particular, we looked at where management made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. We also considered potential financial or other pressures, opportunity and motivations for fraud.

As part of this discussion we identified the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or noncompliance with laws and regulations and how management monitor these processes. Appropriate procedures included the review and testing of manual journals and key estimates and judgements made by management.

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates, drawing on our sector experience, and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to these laws and regulations, including fraud.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements, including, but not limited to, the Charities Act 2011 and UK tax legislation.

We made enquiries of management with regards to compliance with the above laws and regulations and corroborated any necessary evidence to relevant information, for example, minutes of the trustees' meetings and correspondence between the Charity and its solicitors.

Our tests included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation and enquiries with management, identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journal entries posted with unusual account combinations, reviewing of deferred income and accrued provisions.

We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud. As in all of our audits, we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls including testing journals and evaluation whether there was evidence of bias by the trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we are to become aware of it.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located 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.

#### Use of this report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' 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 charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Hixsons, Accountants and Statutory Auditors

24 Cecil Avenue

Bournemouth

BH8 9EJ

26 January 2026

Hixsons is eligible for appointment as auditor in terms of the Companies Act 2006, s.1212.

Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth  
 Statement of Financial Activities  
 for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Endowment funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
		£	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	3	216,085	175,093	-	391,178	389,465
Charitable activities	4	520,510	-	-	520,510	479,559
Other trading activities	5	166,951	-	-	166,951	176,311
<b>Total</b>		<b>903,546</b>	<b>175,093</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,078,639</b>	<b>1,045,335</b>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	127,265	-	-	127,265	160,093
Charitable activities	7	774,254	175,093	-	949,347	894,801
Other	8	-	18,868	715,116	733,984	697,038
<b>Total</b>		<b>901,519</b>	<b>193,961</b>	<b>715,116</b>	<b>1,810,596</b>	<b>1,751,932</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure	9	2,027	(18,868)	(715,116)	(731,957)	(706,597)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)		2,027	(18,868)	(715,116)	(731,957)	(706,597)
Other gains and losses						
Other Gains		-	(1,021,689)	7,210,520	6,188,831	823,638
Net movement in funds		2,027	(1,040,557)	6,495,404	5,456,874	117,041
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		-	2,689,200	19,379,000	22,068,200	21,951,159
Total funds carried forward		<b>2,027</b>	<b>1,648,643</b>	<b>25,874,404</b>	<b>27,525,074</b>	<b>22,068,200</b>

Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2025

Charity No. 299739

		2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	27,523,047	22,068,200
		<u>27,523,047</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	12	2,027	-
Debtors	13	<u>20,116</u>	<u>36,900</u>
		22,143	36,900
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	14	<u>(20,116)</u>	<u>(36,900)</u>
Net current assets		2,027	-
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>27,525,074</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>27,525,074</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>
Total net assets		<u>27,525,074</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	15		
Endowment funds		25,874,404	19,379,000
Restricted income funds		<u>1,648,643</u>	<u>2,689,200</u>
		27,523,047	22,068,200
Unrestricted funds	15		
General funds		2,027	-
		<u>2,027</u>	<u>-</u>
Reserves	15		
Total funds		<u>27,525,074</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>

Approved by the trustees on 26 January 2026

And signed on their behalf by:

BCP Council

Trustee

26 January 2026

Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth

Statement of Cash flows

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities		
Net income per Statement of Financial Activities	5,456,874	117,041
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	733,984	697,038
Other (gains)/losses	(6,188,831)	(823,638)
(Increase)/Decrease in stocks	(2,027)	9,559
Decrease/(Increase) in trade and other receivables	16,784	(36,900)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other payables	(16,784)	18,981
Net cash used in operating activities	-	(17,919)
Net cash from investing activities	-	-
Net cash from financing activities	-	-
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	-	(17,919)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	-	17,919
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	-	-
Components of cash and cash equivalents		
Cash and bank balances	-	-

## 1 Accounting policies

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth's corporate trustee includes the charity in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements are prepared under the International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public at:

<https://www.bcp council.gov.uk/About-the-council/Budgets-and-finance/Annual-accounts>.

In these financial statements the Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth is considered to be a qualifying entity (for the purpose of this FRS) and has applied exemptions available under FRS 102 in respect of the requirement to present a cashflow statement. Having given regard to Public Benefit Entity guidance the corporate trustee considers the Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth to be a Public Benefit Entity.

### Going Concern

Historically the Council, in its role as local authority and corporate trustee, has provided donated services each year sufficient for the charity to achieve breakeven and meet any liabilities as they fall due. This is currently the policy that is expected to continue and so the accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustee considers that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

As of 1st April 2019 the Council became part of a new authority Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council (BCP) and the policy of donation has passed to the new authority. This is enshrined in the following two UK Statutory Instruments: 1) 2018 No. 648 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (Structural Changes) Order 2018 & 2) 2008 No. 2176 The Local Government (Structural Changes)(Transfer of Functions, Property, Rights and Liabilities) Regulations 2008.

### Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

### Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Designated funds These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Revaluation funds These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Restricted funds These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income      Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Income with related expenditure      Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

Donations and legacies      Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts      Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.

Donated services and facilities      These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

Volunteer help      The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

Investment income      This is included in the accounts when receivable.

Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets      This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

Gains/(losses) on investment assets      This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure      Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

Expenditure on raising funds      These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.

Expenditure on charitable activities      These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.

Grants payable      All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.

Governance costs      These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.

Other expenditure      These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Pavilion 2% Straight line

Gardens 4 - 10% Straight line

Pavilion asset (above) is Pavilion and Lower Gardens bandstand. Gardens asset (above) is Lower Gardens minor buildings, certain improvements to main buildings.

Assets are assessed at each year-end; in 2025 this was by the external company Lambert Smith Hampton whose employees are accredited by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) as to whether there is any indication that they may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and any shortfall is recognised as an impairment loss.

Impairment losses are accounted for in the following ways: 1) where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Restricted Income fund the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance, up to the amount of the accumulated gains; 2) where there is no balance in the Restricted Income fund or an insufficient balance the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA).

Where an impairment loss is subsequently reversed the reversal is credited to the SoFA up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

The assets of the Charity are treated as comprising the freehold interest (based on the Council as trustee's right to manage) in the land between Bournemouth Square and the seafront laid out as formal public pleasure gardens. The area is approximately six hectares. Furthermore it comprises the Charity's ownership of the Pavilion. Assets included in the Balance Sheet are re-valued annually.

The assets of the Charity are: 1) Pavilion - at the end of 2009-10 the land swap took place giving the Charity full ownership of the building. The value of the asset in the Balance Sheet is based on the full amount of the depreciated replacement cost and is subject to a full depreciation charge. The Pavilion is leased to BCP Council who under the agreement have sub-leased it to BH Live. Both leases are for £nil consideration. 2) Lower Central Gardens - a full share of the existing use valuation based on the concessions. The land now occupied by concessions is carried at nil value. The trustee recognises that there is an intrinsic value to the rest of the gardens but as there is no likelihood of a full or major disposal and because of the costs and difficulty in obtaining a valuation this is carried at £nil.

Freehold investment property

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## Cash and cash equivalents

The charity does not have its own bank account, all receipts are paid into and all payments paid from BCP Council's main bank accounts.

## Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

## Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

## 2 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Endowment funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	226,196	163,269	-	389,465
Charitable activities	479,559	-	-	479,559
Other trading activities	176,311	-	-	176,311
Total	882,066	163,269	-	1,045,335
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds	160,093	-	-	160,093
Charitable activities	731,532	163,269	-	894,801
Other	-	19,267	677,771	697,038
Total	891,625	182,536	677,771	1,751,932
Net income	(9,559)	(19,267)	(677,771)	(706,597)
Net income before other gains/(losses)	(9,559)	(19,267)	(677,771)	(706,597)
Other gains and losses:				
Other Gains	-	(21,133)	844,771	823,638
Net movement in funds	(9,559)	(40,400)	167,000	117,041
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	9,559	2,729,600	19,212,000	21,951,159
Total funds carried forward	-	2,689,200	19,379,000	22,068,200

## 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donated services received from BCP Council	216,085	-	216,085	226,196
Donated services received from BCP Council	-	175,093	175,093	163,269
	<u>216,085</u>	<u>175,093</u>	<u>391,178</u>	<u>389,465</u>

## 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Commercial operations, activities and events (see below for detail)	520,510	520,510	479,559
	<u>520,510</u>	<u>520,510</u>	<u>479,559</u>
Refreshments & concessions	295,869	295,869	285,643
Knife Crime Awareness + Small events	5,420	5,420	-
Ice rink income + costs reimbursement	46,219	46,219	49,323
Arts by the Sea	39,844	39,844	16,377
Christmas Tree Wonderland	133,158	133,158	128,216
	<u>520,510</u>	<u>520,510</u>	<u>479,559</u>

## 5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Mini-golf	162,304	162,304	167,043
Art exhibition	4,647	4,647	9,268
	<u>166,951</u>	<u>166,951</u>	<u>176,311</u>

## 6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
<i>Fundraising trading costs</i>			
Commercial operations	127,265	127,265	160,093
	<u>127,265</u>	<u>127,265</u>	<u>160,093</u>

## 7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Maintenance of gardens and public buildings (see below for detail)	374,476	175,093	549,569	549,925
Activities and events (see below for detail)	390,778	-	390,778	336,626
<i>Governance costs</i>				
Audit fees	9,000	-	9,000	8,250
	<u>774,254</u>	<u>175,093</u>	<u>949,347</u>	<u>894,801</u>
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Maintenance of gardens and public buildings				
Direct costs - maintenance and repairs	26,030	-	26,030	31,118
Maintenance team	343,477	-	343,477	348,130
Public conveniences	4,969	-	4,969	7,408
Asset maintenance	-	175,093	175,093	163,269
	<u>374,476</u>	<u>175,093</u>	<u>549,569</u>	<u>549,925</u>
<i>Activities and events</i>				
Art Exhibition	5,067	-	5,067	1,705
Bandstand	150	-	150	428
Arts by the Sea	82,133	-	82,133	38,673
Christmas Tree Wonderland	212,143	-	212,143	205,365
Knife Crime Awareness	5,368	-	5,368	-
Ice Rink	35,964	-	35,964	33,416
Events team	13,091	-	13,091	13,497
Mini-golf	36,862	-	36,862	43,542
	<u>390,778</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>390,778</u>	<u>336,626</u>

## 8 Other expenditure

	Restricted	Endowment	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets</i>				
	18,868	715,116	733,984	697,038
	<u>18,868</u>	<u>715,116</u>	<u>733,984</u>	<u>697,038</u>

9 Net expenditure before transfers

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	733,984	697,038

10 Staff costs

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

There were no direct staff costs in the year and that all staff were supplied by BCP Council. The maintenance staff are employed by the Council rather than directly by the Charity and only the proportion of cost relating to the Lower Gardens is recharged. This arrangement is in place as this is considered the most cost effective way for maintenance of the Lower Gardens to be carried out. The actual cost is based on the timesheets records and estimates where the timesheets are not available.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Pavilion	Gardens	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or revaluation			
At 1 April 2024	19,379,000	2,689,200	22,068,200
Revaluation	6,495,404	(1,040,557)	5,454,847
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,874,404</u>	<u>1,648,643</u>	<u>27,523,047</u>
Depreciation and impairment			
Depreciation charge for the year	715,116	18,868	733,984
Revaluation	(715,116)	(18,868)	(733,984)
At 31 March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net book values			
At 31 March 2025	<u>25,874,404</u>	<u>1,648,643</u>	<u>27,523,047</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>19,379,000</u>	<u>2,689,200</u>	<u>22,068,200</u>

12 Stocks

	2025	2024
	£	£
Goods for resale and consumables	2,027	-
	<u>2,027</u>	<u>-</u>

	2025	2024
	£	£
Carrying value analysed by activities	2,027	-
	<u>2,027</u>	<u>-</u>
Commercial operations	2,027	-
	<u>2,027</u>	<u>-</u>

13 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	20,116	36,900
	<u>20,116</u>	<u>36,900</u>

## 14 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	9,713	9,455
Other creditors	10,403	27,445
	<u>20,116</u>	<u>36,900</u>

## 15 Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses)	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:				
Endowment funds:				
Pavilion	19,379,000	7,210,520	(715,116)	25,874,404
<i>Total</i>	<u>19,379,000</u>	<u>7,210,520</u>	<u>(715,116)</u>	<u>25,874,404</u>
Restricted income funds:				
Gardens	2,689,200	(846,596)	(193,961)	1,648,643
<i>Total</i>	<u>2,689,200</u>	<u>(846,596)</u>	<u>(193,961)</u>	<u>1,648,643</u>
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	-	903,546	(901,519)	2,027
<i>Total funds</i>	<u>22,068,200</u>	<u>7,267,470</u>	<u>(1,810,596)</u>	<u>27,525,074</u>

## Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

## Endowment funds:

Pavilion

The Pavilion became fully owned by the Charity in 2009-10 and was reflected that year in the accounts as a donated asset and the endowment fund. This reserve is in the nature of an endowment i.e. it may not be spent as income nor disposed of.

## Restricted funds:

Gardens

The full amount of total valuations and the cost of any subsequent routine fixed asset additions is credited to the restricted income fund as these assets can only be used for specific purposes. Any revaluations or disposals of assets within these sums is also adjusted through the reserve.

## 16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	-	27,523,047	27,523,047
Net current assets	2,027	-	2,027
	<u>2,027</u>	<u>27,523,047</u>	<u>27,525,074</u>

## 17 Related party disclosures

	2025	2024
	£	£

*Transactions with related parties*

*Name of related party* BCP Council in its role as local authority

*Description of relationship  
between the parties* Trustee

Amount received from the related party 391,178 389,465

Amount owing to the related party 10,403 27,445

The Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth's corporate trustee includes the charity in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements are prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public at

<https://www.bcp council.gov.uk/about-the-council/budgets-and-finance/annual-accounts>. Having given regard to Public Benefit Entity guidance the corporate trustee considers the Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth to be a Public Benefit Entity.

The Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth's corporate trustee includes the charity in its consolidated financial statements. The consolidated financial statements are prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards and are available to the public at

<https://www.bcp council.gov.uk/about-the-council/budgets-and-finance/annual-accounts>. Having given regard to Public Benefit Entity guidance the corporate trustee considers the Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth to be a Public Benefit Entity.

The Council acting in its role as trustee of the charitable trust nominates certain Members to act as members of the Trust Board. The Trust Board has a Constitution setting out administration and management arrangements of the trust. The charity trustee was not paid or reimbursed expenses during the year and did not receive any emolument or payment for professional or other services. There were no transactions involving the trustee and related parties and there were no ex-gratia payments. The Council has historically subsidised the annual deficits of the Charity.

Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth  
 Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
 for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Endowment funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies					
Donated services received from BCP Council	216,085	-	-	216,085	226,196
Donated services received from BCP Council	-	175,093	-	175,093	163,269
	<u>216,085</u>	<u>175,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>391,178</u>	<u>389,465</u>
Charitable activities					
Commercial operations, activities and events (see below for detail)	520,510	-	-	520,510	479,559
	<u>520,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>520,510</u>	<u>479,559</u>
Other trading activities					
Mini-golf	162,304	-	-	162,304	167,043
Art exhibition	4,647	-	-	4,647	9,268
	<u>166,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>166,951</u>	<u>176,311</u>
Total income and endowments	903,546	175,093	-	1,078,639	1,045,335
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Costs of other trading activities					
Commercial operations	127,265	-	-	127,265	160,093
	<u>127,265</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>127,265</u>	<u>160,093</u>
Total of expenditure on raising funds	127,265	-	-	127,265	160,093
Charitable activities					
Maintenance of gardens and public buildings (see below for detail)	374,476	175,093	-	549,569	549,925
Activities and events (see below for detail)	390,778	-	-	390,778	336,626
	<u>765,254</u>	<u>175,093</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>940,347</u>	<u>886,551</u>
Governance costs					
Audit fees	9,000	-	-	9,000	8,250
	<u>9,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>8,250</u>
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	774,254	175,093	-	949,347	894,801
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation					
Depreciation of Pavilion	-	-	715,116	715,116	677,771
Depreciation of Gardens	-	18,868	-	18,868	19,267

Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth  
 Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

	-	18,868	715,116	733,984	697,038
Total of expenditure of other costs	-	18,868	715,116	733,984	697,038
Total expenditure	901,519	193,961	715,116	1,810,596	1,751,932
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-	-
Net expenditure	2,027	(18,868)	(715,116)	(731,957)	(706,597)
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)	2,027	(18,868)	(715,116)	(731,957)	(706,597)
Other Gains	-	(1,021,689)	7,210,520	6,188,831	823,638
Net movement in funds	2,027	(1,040,557)	6,495,404	5,456,874	117,041
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	-	2,689,200	19,379,000	22,068,200	21,951,159
Total funds carried forward	2,027	1,648,643	25,874,404	27,525,074	22,068,200

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Hixsons Limited  
Chartered Certified Accountants  
24 Cecil Avenue  
Bournemouth

Date: 26 January 2026  
Our Ref: LCG2425LoR  
Contact: Stephen White  
Email: Stephen.white@bcpcouncil.gov.uk  
Tel: 01202 817754

Dear Sirs

## Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

The following representations are made on the basis of enquiries of management and staff with relevant knowledge and experience such as we consider necessary in connection with your audit of the charity's financial statements for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. These enquiries have included inspection of supporting documentation where appropriate and are sufficient to satisfy ourselves that we can make each of the following representations. All representations are made to the best of our knowledge and belief.

### **GENERAL**

1. We have fulfilled our responsibilities as trustees, as set out in the terms of your engagement letter under the Charities Act 2011, for preparing financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and for making accurate representations to you.
2. All the transactions undertaken by the charity have been properly reflected and recorded in the accounting records.
3. All the accounting records have been made available to you for the purpose of your audit. We have provided you with unrestricted access to all appropriate persons within the charity, and with all other records and related information requested, including minutes of all management and shareholder meetings.
4. The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
5. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial both individually and in total.

### **INTERNAL CONTROL AND FRAUD**

6. We acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control systems to prevent and detect fraud and error. We have disclosed to you the results of our risk assessment that the financial statements may be misstated as a result of fraud.
7. We have disclosed to you all instances of known or suspected fraud affecting the entity involving management, employees who have a significant role in internal control or others that could have a material effect on the financial statements.
8. We have also disclosed to you all information in relation to allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the entity's financial statements communicated by current or former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

### **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES**

9. The charity has satisfactory title to all assets and there are no liens or encumbrances on the charity's assets, except for those that are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.
10. All actual liabilities, contingent liabilities and guarantees given to third parties have been recorded or disclosed as appropriate.
11. We have no plans or intentions that may materially alter the carrying value and, where relevant, the fair value measurements or classification of assets and liabilities reflected in the financial statements.

**ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES**

12. Significant assumptions used by us in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

**LOANS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

13. The charity has not granted any advances or credits to, or made guarantees on behalf of, trustees other than those disclosed in the financial statements.

**LEGAL CLAIMS**

14. We have disclosed to you all claims in connection with litigation that have been, or are expected to be, received and such matters, as appropriate, have been properly accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements.

**LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

15. We have disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

**RELATED PARTIES**

16. Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in the financial statements. We have disclosed to you all relevant information concerning such relationships and transactions and are not aware of any other matters which require disclosure in order to comply with the requirements of charity law or accounting standards.

**SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

17. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements which require adjustment or disclosure have been properly accounted for and disclosed.

**GOING CONCERN**

18. We believe that the charity's financial statements should be prepared on a going concern basis on the grounds that current and future sources of funding or support will be more than adequate for the charity's needs. We have considered a period of twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements. We believe that no further disclosures relating to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern need to be made in the financial statements.

**GRANTS AND DONATIONS**

19. All grants, donations and other income, the receipt of which is subject to specific terms or conditions, have been notified to you. There have been no breaches of terms or conditions in the application of such income.

We acknowledge our legal responsibilities regarding disclosure of information to you as auditors and confirm that so far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information needed by you in connection with preparing your audit report of which you are unaware.

Each trustee has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a trustee in order to make themself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that you are aware of that information.

Yours faithfully

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees

The Trustee  
Lower Central  
Gardens  
Bournemouth

Civic Centre  
Bourne Avenue  
Bournemouth BH2 6DY

14 January 2025

Dear Sirs

### **Lower Central Gardens 2025 audit**

#### **Overview of the scope of our audit**

The following Audit Findings Report presents the observations arising from the audit that are significant to the responsibility of those charged with governance to oversee the financial reporting process, as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK)260. Its contents have been discussed with management.

#### **Conclusion**

We have substantially completed our audit of your financial statements and subject to outstanding queries being resolved, we anticipate that our

audit opinion will be unmodified, subject to the outstanding matters detailed below:

Receipt of:

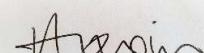
Signed management letter of representation

Signed financial statements

Signed letter of comfort that the charity will be continued to be supported by  
BCP Council

We very much appreciate the kind assistance provided by Council colleagues during our audit. They are a pleasure to work with

Yours faithfully



**Hixsons**

## **Hixsons Audit findings report**

As auditor we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) and the Code, which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting or refraining from acting based on the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

### **Audit approach**

Our audit approach was based on a thorough understanding of the charity's business and is risk based, and in particular included:

An evaluation of the Charity's internal controls environment, including its IT systems and controls;

Substantive testing of significant transactions and material account balances

We have not had to alter or change our audit plan, as communicated to you.

### **Findings related to significant risks**

Significant risks are defined by professional standards as risks that, in the judgement of the auditor, requiring special audit consideration. In identifying risks, we consider the nature of the risk, the potential magnitude of misstatement, and its likelihood. Significant risks are those risks that have a higher risk of material misstatement.

### **Risk audit approach**

#### **Fraud in revenue recognition**

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a presumed risk of fraud in relation to revenue recognition. The presumption is that the charity could adopt accounting policies or recognise sales in such a way as to lead to a material misstatement in the reported revenue position.

Our audit approach was:

Review and testing of revenue recognition policies.

Detailed substantive testing on material revenue streams.

Based on the audit work performed, no evidence of fraud in revenue has been identified.

### **Management override of controls**

Under ISA (UK) 240 there is a presumed risk that management and directors have the ability to process transactions or make adjustments to financial records outside of the normal financial control processes. Such transactions could lead to a material misstatement in the financial statements.

Our approach was to:

Make inquiries of management and key finance team members throughout the fieldwork.

Review a sample of manual journals through the year to ensure that these are appropriate and agree to supporting documentation.

Detailed review of significant estimates and judgements to ensure that these are appropriate.

Substantive audit of any one off or significant unusual transactions.

Based on the audit work performed, no evidence of management override has been identified.

### **Going concern**

Under ISA 570 (UK) those charged with governance are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and the assessment of the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. There is a risk that the going concern status of the charity is inappropriate as it runs at a deficit.

Our approach was to:

Review post period end position and performance.

Review of forecasts and budgets and discuss with management to understand assumptions.

Perform sensitivity analysis to identify the feasibility of going concern basis, discussions with management including consideration of related disclosures in the financial statements.

Based on the audit work performed, going concern basis used to prepare financial statements is appropriate.

There were no changes to our audit plan previously communicated to you.

### **Going concern**

We concur with management's assessment that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern and there are no material uncertainties relating to going concern which should be disclosed in the financial statements. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

## **Accounting policies, estimates and disclosures**

The accounting policies used in preparing the financial statements are unchanged from the previous year.

Our work included a review of the adequacy of disclosures in the financial statements and consideration of the appropriateness of the accounting policies and estimation techniques adopted by the charity. We found the disclosed accounting policies, significant accounting estimates and the overall disclosure and presentation to be appropriate for the charity.

## **Other communication requirements**

### Fraud or suspected fraud

We have previously discussed the risk of fraud with you and we have not been made aware of any other incidents in the period and no other issues have been identified during the course of our audit.

Our work as auditor is not intended to identify any instances of fraud of a non-material nature and should not be relied upon for this purpose. If the directors wish to obtain enhanced assurance with regard to the effectiveness of internal control in preventing and detecting fraud we should be happy to provide additional services.

### Non-compliance with laws and regulations

As part of our standard audit testing, we have reviewed the laws and regulations impacting the business.

There are no indications from this work of any significant incidences of non-compliance or material

breaches of laws and regulations stopping the business from continuing as a going concern or that would necessitate a provision or contingent liability.

There are also many other laws and regulations relating to health and safety as well as human resources generally and industry specific requirements. We are not aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance.

## **Internal controls**

The purpose of an audit is to express an opinion on the financial statements. As part of our work we considered internal controls relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such that we were able to design appropriate audit procedures. However, this work was not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of internal controls.

We are required to report to you in writing, significant deficiencies in internal controls that we have identified during the audit. These matters are limited to those which we have concluded are of sufficient importance or merit being reported to you.

The scope of our work is not designed to be an extensive review of all internal controls. If we had performed more extensive procedures, we might have identified more recommendations.

**Independence**

In accordance with our profession's ethical guidance there are no further matters to bring to your attention in relation to our integrity, objectivity and independence.

## **Recommendations**

### **Ledger system**

The charity's transactions are included within the Council's Ledger system and have to be extracted. This produces a potential risk that not all transactions will be extracted and therefore the charity's income and expenditure may be misstated. This occurred this year, and we recommend that this procedure is reviewed to ensure that this does not recur. It is also difficult to always trace the charity's transactions through to source documents given they are part of a substantially larger set of transactions. We recommend that the charity has its own set of ledgers and bank account. We are aware in the past management response has been that this is unnecessary, but we think that our audit time and therefore cost would be reduced, and the risk of misstatement would also be reduced.

### **VAT**

The charity does not have its own VAT registration, but all transactions are passed through the council's VAT account. This is unusual, and it is possible that this may misstate VAT particularly where charitable activities are concerned, as not all charity transactions allow for the recovery of VAT. We recommend that the charity has a separate VAT registration.

### **Reimbursement of expenses**

Every year there is an ice rink as part of the Christmas attractions in the Lower Gardens. This is operated by an external company, and the cost of electricity used by the ice rink, which is borne by the Trust, is recharged to the company. However, this was not done for the year to 31 March 2025 and was only discovered late in 2025. It was recharged to a company which had been dissolved using an address that that company had left some years earlier. When this mistake was rectified, the correct company, Skate Events Ltd, was invoiced, and the money (£20115.98) was eventually received on 8 January 2026. There has clearly been a breakdown of internal controls in correctly invoicing this reimbursement. We recommend that internal controls for the reimbursement of expenses are reviewed, and some check is introduced to ensure that the Trust does not omit future income

Nick Hixson  
Hixsons Limited  
24 Cecil Avenue  
Bournemouth  
BH8 9EJ

Date: 12 01 2026  
Our Ref: AR/Lower Central Gardens  
Contact: Stephen White  
Email: Stephen.white@bcp council.gov.uk  
Tel: 01202 817 754

Dear Nick

**Council Contributions made to The Lower Central Gardens during 2023/24 and 2024/25**

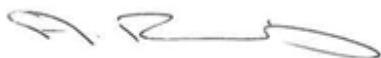
Please find below confirmation of the amounts contributed from the Council to the charity and the amounts owing by the charity to the Council during 2023/24 and 2024/25.

<b>The Lower Central Gardens Bournemouth Charitable Trust</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2023/24</b>
Total Council Contribution	£391,178	£389,465
Owing to BCP Council (related party)	£ 10,403	£ 27,445

Under the Bournemouth Council Act 1985, Bournemouth Council is responsible for donating services each year sufficient for the trust to achieve breakeven and meet any liabilities as they fall due. As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 the Council became part of a new authority Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole and the policy of donation has passed to the new authority under the two UK statutory instruments 2018 No.648 The Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole (Structural Change) Order 2018 and 2008 No.1276 The Local Government (structural change) (transfer of functions, property, rights and liabilities) regulations 2008. The Council will continue to support the trust under statute for at least 12 months following the date of signing of the accounts. This support will be sufficient to meet the operating deficit of the charity.

Finally, I confirm for the above charity that there have been no subsequent events affecting it that need to be brought to your attention.

Yours sincerely



Adam Richens  
Chief Financial Officer and Head of Financial Services - BCP Council

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