

King George's Field–City of London

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year
ended 31 March 2024

Charity registration number 1085967

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ORIGINS OF THE CHARITY

The King George's Field was established in 1936 as a memorial to King George V, the intention being to provide much needed open space for sports, games and recreation. The City of London Corporation was a Trustee of a King George's Field which was originally situated in Vine Street, Minories. In 1973 this site was acquired by compulsory purchase order by the Greater London Council and in return that council transferred to the City Corporation a plot of land in Portsoken Street which was laid out as a children's playground. The playground was closed in 1981, and the space then used as a garden for general public use.

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

The governing document is the Trust deed dated 19 December 1939. The charity is constituted as a charitable trust.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of the City of London (also referred to as 'the City Corporation' or 'the City of London Corporation'), a body corporate and politic, is the Trustee of King George's Field–City of London. The City Corporation is Trustee acting by the Court of Common Council of the City of London in its general corporate capacity and that executive body has delegated responsibility in respect of the administration and management of this charity to various committees and sub-committees of the Common Council, membership of which is drawn from 125 elected Members of the Common Council and external appointees to those committees. In making appointments to committees, the Court of Common Council will take into consideration any particular expertise and knowledge of the elected Members, and where relevant, external appointees. External appointments are made after due advertisement and rigorous selection to fill gaps in skills.

Members of the Court of Common Council are unpaid and are elected by the electorate of the City of London. The Key Committees which had responsibility for directly managing matters related to the charity during 2023/24 were as follows:

- **Finance Committee** - responsible for administering the Trust on behalf of the Trustee.
- **Audit and Risk Management Committee** – responsible for overseeing systems of internal control and making recommendations to the Finance Committee relating to the approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements of the charity.
- **Natural Environment Board** – the committee is the overarching policy and strategic body in relation to the activities of the City Corporation's Natural Environment Division. It is also responsible for the day to day management of the gardens, churchyards and green spaces in the City under the control of the Common Council.

Individuals collectively act as Trustee by virtue of positions that they hold in the City of London Corporation in accordance with the governing document. They act as a Trustee during their tenure of these positions.

All of the above committees are ultimately responsible to the Court of Common Council of the City of London. Committee meetings are held at the Trustee's discretion in public (except where it is not considered in the charity's best interests to do so), supporting a decision-making process which is clear, transparent and publicly accountable.

Governance Arrangements (continued)

The charity is consolidated within City Fund as the City of London Corporation exercises operational control over their activities. City Fund is a fund of the City Corporation responsible for delivering the functions of a local authority and a police authority for the Square Mile.

The Trustee believes that good governance is fundamental to the success of the charity. An initial review of governance has been undertaken to ensure that the charity is effective in fulfilling its objectives, and further more detailed work is currently being undertaken as part of a review of the City of London Corporation's Natural Environment charities which is due to conclude by 31 December 2024. Reference is being made to the good practices recommended within the Charity Governance Code, with a focus on ensuring regulatory compliance and the ongoing maintenance of an efficient and effective portfolio of charities that maximise impact for beneficiaries.

As part of the City of London Corporation's Target Operating Model (TOM) restructure, the Open Spaces Department merged with Planning & Transportation and Port Health & Environmental Services to form a new Environment Department. King George's Field became part of the Environment Department from 1 April 2022.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objective for King George's Field–City of London is to preserve in perpetuity a recreational and playing field as a memorial to King George V, under the provisions of the King George's Fields Foundation.

Public benefit statement

The Trustee confirms that it has referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing King George's Field–City of London's aims and objectives and in planning future activities. The purpose of the charity is to preserve in perpetuity a recreational and playing field as a memorial to King George V, under the provisions of the King George's Fields Foundation.

Consequently, the Trustee considers that King George's Field–City of London operates to benefit the general public and satisfies the public benefit test.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

The administrative details of the charity are stated on page 14.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

King George's Field was maintained during the year at a cost of £22,346 (2022/23: £20,987); this was met by the City of London's City Fund.

There were no improvements undertaken in 2023/24 other than general grounds maintenance.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The aim for King George's Field is to preserve in perpetuity a recreational and playing field as a memorial to King George V under the provisions of the King George's Field Foundation.

There are no improvements scheduled for 2024/25 other than general grounds maintenance.

The Trustee will continue with its plans in line with the charity's objectives.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income

In 2023/24, the charity's total income for the year was £22,346, an overall increase of £1,359 against the previous year (£20,987).

The only contributor to income was an amount of £22,346 (2022/23: £20,987) received from the City of London Corporation's City Fund as a contribution towards the running costs of the charity. The charity is supported wholly by the City of London Corporation and expenditure in the year was offset by this income.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was £22,346, all being for the category charitable activities (2022/23: £20,987). Activities consist of grounds maintenance costs £20,946 (2022/23: £18,491), premises maintenance costs of £1,300 (2022/23: £2,397) and administrative support of £100 (2022/23: £100), see note 4.

Funds held

There are no funds held for this charity as at 31 March 2024 (2022/23: £nil).

Reserves policy

The charity is wholly supported by the City of London Corporation which is committed to maintain and preserve King George's Field-City of London out of its City Fund. These Funds are used to meet the deficit on running expenses on a year by year basis. Consequently, this charity has no free reserves and a reserves policy is considered by the Trustee to be inappropriate.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The charity is committed to a programme of risk management as an element of its strategy to preserve the charity's assets. In order to embed sound practice the senior leadership team ensures that risk management policies are applied, that there is an on-going review of activity and that appropriate advice and support is provided. A key risk register has been prepared for the charity, which has been reviewed by the Trustee. This identifies the potential impact of key risks and the measures which are in place to mitigate such risks.

Risk	Actions to manage risks
Health & Safety	Good Health & Safety culture amongst staff; contractor protocol in place; regular review of site health and safety by peer review; comprehensive training programme and hierarchy of responsibilities. It is accepted that when providing a hands-on service and dealing with the public, a certain level of risk is inevitable and therefore cannot be removed completely.
Extreme weather and climate change risk	City Climate Adaptation Strategy now adopted. Emergency Plan in place; monitoring of warning systems; Extreme Weather Policy adopted for the Charity.

Risk	Actions to manage risks
	Current level of risk cannot be removed completely.
Poor repair and maintenance of buildings (inadequate planned or reactive maintenance)	Most pressing repairs/assets at risk have been escalated through the Cyclical Works Programme (CWP) or identified and submitted as target projects under the City Corporation's projects procedure. Seeking to further lower current risk level
Impact of development	Monitoring of local planning applications. Respond to consultation on host and neighbouring Borough local plans.
Pests and diseases	Comprehensive tree management system in place, along with training of staff in early identification and treatment. Some residual risk accepted (natural cycles).
Poor Public Behaviour	Including crime, irresponsible dog owners, rough sleepers, user conflict, trespassing and alcohol. Continue to develop strong relationship with CoL Police, community outreach teams and supported by use of outsourced security team at key times.
Budget Reductions Implications	Budgets monitored and reprofiled monthly; non-essential works cancelled and focus on increasing income to offset budget reduction. Review of staffing structures required in order to align with Target Operating Model.
Major Incident	Emergency Plan reviewed and updated annually, forming regular item on Divisional H&S meeting agenda. Superintendent attends Corporate Resilience Forum and disseminates learning. All staff have received counter terrorism awareness training.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	Notes	2023/24	2022/23
		£	£
Income from:			
Grant from City of London Corporation	2	22,346	20,987
Total income		22,346	20,987
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	3,4	22,346	20,987
Total expenditure		22,346	20,987
Net income/(expenditure)		-	-
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	6	-	-
Total funds carried forward		-	-

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains and losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Current assets		-	-
Total current assets		-	-
Current liabilities		-	-
Total net assets		-	-
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds		-	-
Unrestricted income funds	6	-	-
Total funds		-	-

The notes on page 9 to 13 form part of these financial statements

Approved and signed on behalf of the Trustee.

Caroline Al-Beyerty

Chamberlain of London and Chief Financial Officer

31 January 2025

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items that are considered material in relation to the financial statements of the charity.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements of the charity, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (second edition effective 1 January 2019) and the Charities Act 2011.

(b) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustee considers that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. The governing documents place an obligation on the City of London Corporation to preserve the open spaces for the benefit of the public. Funding is provided from the City of London Corporation's City Fund. The Trustee considers the level of grant funding received and plans activities as a result of this. On an annual basis, a financial forecast is prepared for City Fund.

In making this assessment the Trustee has considered the financial position of the charity in light of planned expenditure over the 12-month period from the date of signing these financial statements. The global pandemic of Coronavirus did not have an impact on income as the Charity has no income streams which would be affected by the closure of King George's Field. The charity is funded by the City of London Corporation's City Fund and the charity will be able to reduce its expenditure principally on grounds maintenance. For these reasons the Trustee continues to adopt a going concern basis for the preparation of the financial statements.

(c) Key management judgements and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenditure. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the result of which form the basis of decisions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected. Management do not consider there to be any material revisions requiring disclosure.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Statement of Cash Flows

As per section 14.1 of the Charities SORP the Charity is not required to produce a statement of cash flows on the grounds that it is a small entity.

(e) Income

All income is included in the Statements of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income; it is more likely than not that economic benefit associated with the transaction will come to the charity and the amount can be quantified with reasonable certainty. Income consists of a grant from the Trustee, the City Corporation.

The City of London Corporation's City Fund meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity. This income is recognised in the SOFA when it is due from City Fund.

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under the principal category of 'expenditure on charitable activities'. Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity does not employ any staff. Officers of the City Corporation provide administrative assistance to the charity when required. Costs incurred by the City Corporation in the administration and management of the charity are recharged.

(g) Taxation

The charity meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes, as set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010. Accordingly, the charity is exempt from UK taxation in respect of income or capital gains under part 10 of the Income Tax Act 2007 or section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

(h) Funds structure

Income, expenditure and gains/losses are allocated to particular funds according to their purpose:

Unrestricted income funds – these funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the Trustee and include both income generated by assets held within the permanent endowment fund and from those representing unrestricted funds. Specifically, this represents the surplus of income over expenditure for the charity which is carried forward to meet the requirements of future years, known as free reserves.

(i) Indemnity insurance

The Charity, elected Members and staff supporting the charity's administration are covered by the City Corporations insurance liability policies and otherwise under the indemnity the City Corporation provides to Members and staff, funded from City Fund.

2. INCOME FROM THE CITY OF LONDON CORPORATION

	Unrestricted funds 2023/24 £	Unrestricted funds 2022/23 £
Revenue grant from City of London Corporation	22,346	20,987

Income for the year included:

Grants from the City of London Corporation – being the amount received from the City of London Corporation's City Fund to meet the deficit on running expenses of the charity.

3. EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on charitable activities	Unrestricted funds 2023/24 £	Unrestricted funds 2022/23 £
Grounds maintenance costs	20,946	18,491
Surveyors maintenance costs	1,300	2,397
Support Costs (see note 4)	100	100
Total	22,346	20,987

Expenditure on the charitable activities includes labour, premises costs, equipment, materials, other supplies and services and administration fees incurred in the running of King George's Field-City of London.

4. SUPPORT COSTS

	Charitable activities £	2023/24 £	2022/23 £
Chamberlain	100	100	100
Total support costs	100	100	100

Following a review, from 2021/22, the City Corporation, as Trustee, took a decision to seek reimbursement for the administration fees incurred from each of its charities.

5. TRUSTEE EXPENSES

The members of the Finance Committee of the City of London Corporation are not remunerated and expenses are not reimbursed for acting on behalf of the Trustee during 2023/24 (2022/23: nil).

6. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

At 31 March 2024	Total as at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Total as at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	-	22,346	(22,346)	-

At 31 March 2023	Total as at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Total as at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	-	20,987	(20,987)	-

7. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The City Corporation is the sole Trustee of the charity, as described on page 2.

The charity is required to disclose information on related party transactions with bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the charity. Members are

required to disclose their interests, and these can be viewed online at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Members and senior staff are requested to disclose all related party transactions, including instances where their close family has made such transactions.

Figures in brackets in the following table set out amounts due(to)/from another entity at the balance sheet date. Other figures represent the value of transactions during the year.

Related party	Connected party	2023/24 £	2022/23 £	Detail of transaction
City of London Corporation	The City of London Corporation is the Trustee for the charity	22,346 (nil)	20,987 (nil)	The City of London Corporation's City Fund meets the deficit on running expenses of the charity.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS

CHARITY NAME: King George's Field–City of London

Registered charity number: 1085967

PRINCIPAL OFFICE OF THE CHARITY & THE CITY CORPORATION:

Guildhall, London, EC2P 2EJ

TRUSTEE:

The Mayor and Commonalty & Citizens of the City of London

SENIOR MANAGEMENT:

Ian Thomas CBE – The Town Clerk and Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation

Treasurer

Caroline Al-Beyerty - The Chamberlain and Chief Financial Officer of the City of London Corporation

Solicitor

Michael Cogher - The Comptroller and City Solicitor of the City of London Corporation

Environment Department

Katie Stewart - Executive Director of Environment

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc., P.O.Box 1000, BX1 1LT

Contact for The Chamberlain & Chief Financial Officer, to request copies of governance documents & of the Annual Report of City Fund:

CHBOffice-BusinessSupport@cityoflondon.gov.uk