Registered Charity No SC045398

The Carse of Stirling Partnership SCIO

Report and Accounts for the year ending 28th February 2026



The Carse of Stirling Partnership SCIO

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered Scottish Charity No SC045398

Principal Address	West Moss Side Thornhill STIRLING FK8 3QJ
Website	**https://www.thecarseofstirlingpartnership.org/**
Charity Trustees	Stuart Ogg - *Secretary* Nick Cooke - *Treasurer* Karin Helwig Jessica Langford *(resigned 17th May 2026)* Dave Penman Cath Preston Jim Riach Kate Sankey Rachel Smillie *(resigned 18th August 2025)*
Bankers	Virgin Money 56 Murray Place STIRLING FK8 2BX
Independent Examiner	Heather Reynolds 12 Bluebell Wood Doune Perthshire FK16 6EF

Annual Report of the Trustees

Introduction

The Trustees are pleased to present the annual report and accounts of The Carse of Stirling Partnership SCIO for the year ending 28th February 2026.

Review of Activities and Achievements

The Carse of Stirling Partnership (CoSP) was set up in 2012, with assistance from Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot) and guidance from the Star Development Group, to encourage co-operative working between landowners, farmers, communities and businesses in and around the Carse of Stirling on land use and heritage issues that might have previously been tackled in isolation. The Partnership became a SCIO in 2015. The focus of the Partnership's activities has been to bring together people from many different backgrounds and sectors focusing on specific issues to look at everything from flooding on the Carse to farm wildlife surveys, footpath access between local villages, protecting the area, cultural heritage and promoting the area as a tourist destination for visitors.

The charity's work is specifically focused on the communities in and around the Carse, including the villages of Gargunnock, Kippen, Buchlyvie, Thornhill, Arnprior and Port of Menteith. CoSP has been recognised for its innovative approach to local engagement and decision making with an Award for Planning Excellence from the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) and a nomination for an RSPB Nature of Scotland Award.

During the past year, Trustees have continued to engage with local communities and to give greater focus to engaging with local farmers in raising awareness on taking steps to implement more environmentally sustainable agricultural land management in order to address the growing effect of climate change.

Having secured a grant from Forth Environment Link (FEL) the Trustees organised a Climate Action Hub community workshop held in Gargunnock in June which focused on the impact of climate change on the Carse landscape and land management. Altogether over 40 people attended with the first part of the workshop focusing on a set of presentations from FEL, CoSP and Forestry & Land Scotland highlighting current work being carried out to address climate change locally. These were interspersed by contributions from the Stirling Makar as well as a photographer and a poet which offered creative reflections on the Carse landscape and its role in influencing climate change locally. The second part of the event involved a series of group workshops which gave local people a voice in advocating future action in addressing the climate change challenge. The outcomes of these workshop sessions were recorded and will be used to create a locally focused Climate Action Plan. Additional funds from Thornhill Environment Fund (TEF) and the Gargunnock Windfarm Trust also allowed the Partnership to arrange for the Stirling Makar and an illustrator to work with three local primary schools to encourage the children to express their own views and ideas about the Carse and climate change. Their work was displayed at the Climate Change Community Workshop.

During the latter part of the year, CoSP entered into new funding partnerships with Forth Rivers Trust (FRT) and Propagate Scotland CIC. Together these will considerably extend the scope and impact of CoSP activities over the coming year helping it to achieve some of its original ambitions, especially in engaging the farming and land management communities.

CoSP will be working with FRT under the FORTH2O project to promote nature-based solutions

to climate change while recognising the need to support viable land management practices. This will focus on delivering the Forth Resilient Water and Landscape Initiative (FRWLI). CoSP's initial work has focused on establishing and running two expert workshops to consider issues around behavioural change modelling to better understand how responses to climate change can be successful and to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework.

In the case of the partnership with Propagate Scotland CIC which is funded through the Scottish Government's Rural Development Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund, this has allowed CoSP to take on a facilitator to help promote regenerative farming across the Carse of Stirling. This local initiative is part of a 2-year Scotland-wide project with up to 8 farm clusters being involved. There will be regular meetings amongst the different farm cluster coordinators to share experience, good practice and possible joint solutions to issues. Similarly, some activities such as relevant podcasts will be made available through the local networks.

There is considerable synergy between the FRWLI project funded through FORTH2O and the Propagate - KTIF initiative. Central to both is bringing together regenerative farming and water resilience through the development of a local network of farmers and managers ensuring that as many solutions as possible are shared. Forth Rivers Trust has agreed to support some social media and website investment to help underpin the development of the Upper Forth Farmer and Land Manager Network that will be estabished.

The coming year will see both projects enter their main work phases and although currently funding is only available for a limited time, CoSP recognises the importance of working closely with its partners to ensure the initial work currently underway is sustained.

We held our AGM on 23 October 2025 at West Moss-side, when the Report & Accounts for 2024-25 were formally approved and Trustees were re-elected for the coming year. The Trustees appointed at the previous AGM have brought additional expertise and energy to the work of the Partnership's activities. The Partnership will continue to seek additional Trustees to help deliver its growing number of activities. Finally, from a governance perspective Trustees agreed towards the year end that CoSP's policies should be reviewed and updated which will happen during the early part of the new fiscal year.

Accounts

The Accounts that follow have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis to reflect the cash flow of CoSP in the period covered above. It is encouraging to note that total funds at the year-end rose to £6,524.

Structure, Governance and Management

CoSP is constituted as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and is governed by a constitution adopted in 2015. As a SCIO, the charity is subject to regulation by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR). The charity's Trustees are also its membership and it has no employees. A review of the current SCIO Constitution will be undertaken by the Board with a view to introducing a subscription membership scheme in 2027.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Trustees of CoSP are responsible for managing and safeguarding the assets of the charity and are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records and ensuring that the accounts are prepared in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Trustees regularly consider the risks faced by CoSP and ensure that appropriate management procedures are in place to mitigate those risks. None of the Trustees is disqualified from service under Section 70A of the 2005 Act.

Conclusion

The Trustees would like to thank all the individuals who have contributed their time, knowledge and energy to the development of CoSP during its seventh year of operations as a SCIO.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:



..... 26 October 2026

(Stuart Ogg, Secretary)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Carse of Stirling Partnership SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ending 28 February 2026 which are set out on pages 6 and 7 below.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention whichgives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

(1) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and

(2) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations,

have not been met, or

(3) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: ..... 20th October 2026

Heather Reynolds
12 Bluebell Wood
Doune
Perthshire
FK16 6EF

The Carse of Stirling Partnership SCIO

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ending 28th February 2026

	Notes	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds	*2025*
		£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Grants	2	13,433	0	13,433	*1,250*
Donations		0	0	0	*0*
Total Receipts		**13,433**	**0**	**13,433**	*1,250*
Payments					
Payments relating to charitable activities	3	7,882	398	8,280	*210*
Total Payments		**7,882**	**398**	**8,280**	*210*
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		**5,551**	**(398)**	**5,153**	*1,040*

Statement of Balances at 28th February 2026

	£	£	£	£
Balance at beginning of year	1,250	121	1,371	*331*
Surplus/ (deficit) for year	5,551	(398)	5,153	*1,040*
Total Cash Funds at end of year	**6,801**	**(277)**	**6,524**	*1,371*
Fund transfers	**(1,000)**	**1,000**		*0*
Represented by:				
Fund Balances at end of year	**5,801**	**723**	**6,524**	*1,371*

On behalf of the Trustees:

Signed: N.H. Cooke ..... Date: 26 October 2026

(Nick Cooke, Treasurer)

Notes to the Accounts

1. Accounting policies

Basis of Preparation

The accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis. They consist of a summary of all monies received and paid via the bank during the financial period, along with a statement of balances. No adjustments have been made for any income due but not received, nor for any funds received in advance at the end of the financial period. The charity owns no fixed assets.

Funds

Restricted Funds are deemed to cover receipts and payments used to support specific CoSP projects within a defined time limit under the terms of the grants awarded.

2. Grants Received – Restricted

	£	£	£
(a) FEL - Carse of Stirling Climate Action Hub project:			
Thornhill Development Trust.	500		
Gargunnock Windfarm Trust	300	800	
(b) FORTH20 – FRWLI project:			
Forth Rivers Trust		4,233	
(c) Farm Clusters - KTIF Upper Forth project			
Propagate Scotland CIC		8,400	13,433

3. Restricted Funds - Movement in Funds for the year

Project	Opening Balance	Receipts	Payments	Internal Transfers	Closing Balance
FEL - Climate Change Action Hub	1,250	800	(978)		1,072
FORTH20 – FRWLI	0	4,233	(3,770)		463
KTIF - Farm Clusters Upper Forth	0	8,400	(3,134)	(1,000)	4,266
Totals	**1,250**	**13,433**	**(7,882)**	**(1,000)**	**5,801**

4. Payments for charitable activities – Unrestricted

	£	£	£
Website - annual web hosting fee	19		
,, - domain renewal and administration	197	216	
Events Insurance		182	398

Notes to the Accounts - continued

5. **Remuneration of Trustees**
   No Trustees received reimbursement of project expenses during the year.

6. **Governance Costs**
   No governance costs were incurred during the year.