

Finance Report - End of Year 2025/26

Reporting Period: 1 April 2025 - 31 March 2026

Overview

Over the full year from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, we received total income of **£127,011.29** and spent **£127,447.94**, giving a net deficit of **£436.65** for the year.

It is worth noting that three items within the accounts relate to prior-year funding commitments that were carried into this year:

- £5,748.70 for the storage area hall upgrades,
- £5,248.02 as a catch-up payment on the insurance underpayment from last year
- £2,000 on the website development

Collectively, these represent £12,996.72 of expenditure that relates to the previous financial year.

In addition, £10,000 received from GDT for the Inclusive Playpark project will carry forward into next year and has not yet been spent.

Allowing for these adjustments, the underlying trading position for 2025/26 is a surplus of approximately **£2,560.11**

Total income is lower than last year's figure of **£130,975.08**. The decrease is largely due to the dry rot restoration income received in 2024/25 (£19,500 from GDT and £4,000 from D&G Key Facilities) which does not recur this year.

Accounts Examination

Georgina Smith has prepared the accounts and overseen transactions throughout the year for the Board. Murray Johnstone has agreed to serve as independent examiner for LING for another year. The Board extends its thanks to Georgina for her work during the year and to Murray for his ongoing support in this role.

Income

Total income for the year was **£127,011.29**. The principal sources were:

Grant Funding - £90,717.24 (71.4% of total income)

The main grants received during the year were:

- **Lottery (NLCF) Grant - £49,976.80**
- **Garfield Weston Grant - £15,000.00**
- **GDT Inclusive Playpark - £10,000.00**
- **GDT Hub Host Grant - £6,000.00**
- **D&G Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Fund - £5,625.00**
- **Galloway Association of Glasgow - £1,550.00**
- **Community Events (Drax/Community Council) - £2,437.45**

The continued support of these funders allows LING to keep running and offer facilities and welcoming spaces for the community.

Donations and Legacies - £12,001.96 (9.4% of income)

This is our LING-controlled income stream. Community support remained strong and is up slightly on last year (£11,885.67). Key items include:

- **Friends of the Town Hall - £3,838.00** (Although slightly down from last year)
- **Men's Coffee - £2,943.85** (up from £1,917.14)
- **Gift Aid - £1,997.37** (up from £563.74)
- **General Donations - £1,133.43** (up from £782.80)

- **Community Larder Donations - £958.92** (*£500 from GDT and £250 from Co-op)
- **Hubbub Donations - £1,130.39** (up from £822.83)

Income from Charitable Activities - £15,375.19 (12.1% of Income)

This is income generated through LING's own activities. The year totalled £15,375.19, compared with £10,082.97 last year - an **increase of over 50%**. Key contributors:

- **LING Events - £5,665.20** (up from £3,167.86)
- **Community Cafe - £8,073.99** (up from £5,743.11)
- **LING Sports - £1,055.00** (down from £1,076.00)
- **LING paid Classes (Wet Felting) - £581.00** (new of this year)

Hall Hire - £8,394.00 (6.6% of income)

Hall hire income has increased significantly compared with last year (£5,298.00), reflecting the growing use of the Town Hall as a community hub. This is unrestricted income we control and is an encouraging sign of organisational sustainability.

Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year was **£127,447.94**, compared with **£95,376.31** last year. The increase reflects increases in staff pay, insurance costs (including the prior-year catch-up) and continued investment/maintenance in the building.

Staffing - £64,383.28 (51% of total expenditure)

Staffing remains the largest area of expenditure and is essential to the delivery of all LING's services and programmes. This is also mostly covered by restricted grant funding. The team this year comprised:

- **John (Community Inclusion Leader) - £28,665.02**
- **Dom (Community Inclusion Officer) - £12,911.25**
- **Vanessa (Hubbub Host) - £6,794.60**
- **Julie (Assistant Hub Host) - £6,232.70**
- **Janet (Cleaner) - £2,717.00**
- **Georgina (Bookkeeper) - £3,500.00**
- **Community Gardener - £2,362.71**
- **Other Staff - £1,200.00**

Facilities and Building Costs - £37,271.13 (29% of total expenditure)

Expenditure here relates to the Town Hall building itself and its continual upgrading:

- **Hall Capital Works - £13,371.98** (includes £5,748.70 carried over from last year)
- **Insurance - £12,943.17** (includes £5,000 catch-up payment for prior-year underpayment; underlying current-year cost is £7,943.17)
- **Electricity - £5,716.01** (down from £6,330.70)
- **Facilities, Maintenance & Improvements - £5,239.97**

The main spend this year has been on emergency roof repairs (£2,040.00), new blinds (£2,370) and creating an office space (£1,735.49). The spending in this area ensures the hall remains resilient and modern for the community. All building and facilities costs are attributable to the Lottery and Garfield Weston grants, which fund capital improvement work under the grant conditions.

Raising Funds

This is money spent on activities and events that help generate funds and promote the work that LING carries out:-

- **Website - £2,086.40** (includes £2,000 carried over from last year)
- **LING Events Misc - £3074.66** (includes £2406.72 on the Gala Ball)
- **Marketing - £895.07** (This includes £567 spent on advertising in the Gazette)

It is worth noting that the large expenditure in each of these budget lines is one-off and should not recur annually.

Acknowledgements

None of what LING achieves on a year-to-year basis would be possible without the generosity, commitment and goodwill of the people around us, and it feels important to record that properly at the end of what has been a busy and productive year.

Thank you to the community of New Galloway and Kells and the surrounding area. Whether you have donated, attended an event, hired the hall, bought a lunch, or simply walked through the door and made it feel like a place worth coming to, your support is what makes this organisation real. The increase in donations across almost every stream this year is genuinely humbling and tells us that what we are doing matters to people locally.

To the staff team - John, Dom, Vanessa, Julie, Janet and Georgina - the Board wishes to record its sincere thanks and gratitude for everything you bring to LING. The Town Hall is a warm, accessible and welcoming place because of the effort, care and professionalism you bring every single day. That doesn't happen by accident, and it doesn't go unnoticed.

And to our volunteers - there are simply no words adequate to the contribution you make. The Community Larder, the Community Cafe, our events and programmes, and the day-to-day life of the hall all depend on people giving their time freely and enthusiastically. Without you, none of it works. The Board is deeply grateful, and we hope you know how valued you are.

Summary

- Although the accounts show a trading deficit for the year, the organisation is operating at a **profit of £2,560.11**. That is due to the £12,996.72 of prior-year costs falling into this reporting period. Our increase in spending is justified by our restricted income coming through grants.
- **Income from activities and hall hire has grown strongly**, with income up over 50% and hall hire income up 58% year on year.
- **Grant funding remains the primary income source**, accounting for 71% of total receipts. The support we receive is much appreciated but both Garfield Weston and National Lottery Community Fund will both end within this Financial year.
- **Staffing costs** reflect the team required to deliver current programmes and account for 51% of expenditure, broadly in line with similar organisations.
- **Community donations have increased across most streams**, particularly Mens Coffee, General Donations and Hubbub

The accounts will be subject to independent examination by Murray Johnstone before submission to OSCR.