The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Trustee's Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the financial period ending 31st March 2026

Scottish Registered Charity SC040588

Registered Company No. SC360363

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Table of Contents	**Pages**

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Reference and Administration Information

Charity Name:	Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils (SAREC)
Charity Registration Number:	SC040588
Company Registration Number:	SC360363
Principal Office:	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council 201 Shuna Street, Glasgow, G20 9EY
Registered Office:	West of Scotland Regional Equality Council 201 Shuna Street, Glasgow, G20 9EY
Bankers:	Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow City Branch 10 Gordon Street G1 3PL
Independent Examiner:	Fiona Ramsay MAAT 14 Newton Place Glasgow G3 7PY
Current Trustees:	Chairperson: Dr Malcolm Green Vice Chair: Etisham Ullah Khan Secretary: Ghzala Khan Member: Foysol Hussain Choudhury Member: John Tomlinson
Trustees Resigned:	Hector Williams

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their annual report and financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the charity's Constitution, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published on 16 July 2014.

WHO ARE WE

SAREC is a registered Scottish Charity (SC040588). All its affairs are governed by the Board of Trustees as stipulated in the charities Memorandum and Articles of Association, as well as the Charities Constitution.

Structure, Governance, Management.

Trustee members are appointed by Annual General Meeting established by the constitution. An induction programme will be provided for any new member, at which training, and governance support will be given to ensure that Trustee members are familiar with the Charity's values, aims and responsibilities in their role as designated Trustees of the charity.

SAREC has four-member organisations: Central Scotland Regional Equality Council, Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality Council, Grampian Regional Equality Council and West of Scotland Regional Equality Council. Each of these member organisations appoints two of its directors to serve as honorary Trustees of SAREC and to represent their organisation.

WHAT ARE WE DOING & FOR WHOM?

Our main aims and objectives are: -

- To work towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination
- To promote equality in diversity
- The advancement of citizenship and community development and human rights

Conflict resolution and reconciliation, and the promotion of racial and religious harmony.

Main activities in relation to these objects

The main activities of SAREC include: -

- Offer assistance to individual Regional Equality Councils to ensure they are well resourced and support them in raising funding for specific projects
- Influencing policy and establishing relationships with the UK and Scottish Governments as well as with key stakeholders in the public, private and voluntary and community sectors.
- Building effective links between minority and majority communities across all equality dimensions

Achievements and performance

The main activity of SAREC during the 2025-26 period was our Scottish Government-funded financial inclusion project. The aim of this project was to work across regions of Scotland to support individuals from minority ethnic communities to access financial inclusion support and to explore innovative solutions to the cost of living crisis.

The objectives of the project were as follows:

- People from minority ethnic communities have increased awareness and access to financial inclusion advice and support.
- Support 80-100 people (20-25 per region), either through direct advice and support, or via referrals to mainstream financial inclusion services
- Hold workshops with 3-5 providers of financial inclusion advice/support organisations within each of the regions, to identify and help address barriers experienced by minority ethnic communities.
- Pilot at least one innovative approach to the cost-of-living crisis in each region.

Most of these objectives were fully or partially achieved in each region across Scotland. However, it was noted by all partners that the short timeframe of the funding period impacted their ability to deliver. The key barriers to financial inclusion identified through the project related to immigration status/No Recourse to Public Funds, language barriers, lack of awareness, and employment barriers.

In addition to this project work, we continue to work across our regions to develop joined up working across Scotland on a range of fronts, including within our Casework (advice and advocacy) services, as well as developing a joined-up approach to delivering equalities training.

Financial Review

During the 2025/26 financial year, SAREC had a deficit of £8.

Reserve Policy

All the operating costs of the charity are funded by donations from member RECs and grants from external agencies. It is the charity's plan to build up reserves of unrestricted funds as they arise from our own activities. All reserves will be used to support activities in the community and to enable us to fulfil our national role.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees has assessed the major risks to which the SAREC is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances, and is satisfied that the systems in place are robust enough to mitigate all major risks.

Plans for the Future

We have a clear vision of where we want to be as an organisation:

SAREC will be a coalition which delivers equalities and anti-racism work with communities and uses these strong links with communities to influence policy and practice at a national level.

In addition, SAREC will be seen as a key partner by the Scottish Government (and others) because of: its connections with communities (through delivery of frontline services) and its ability to liaise with the "seldom heard" in policy making; its ability to consistently deliver projects and services of high quality; its use and development of evidence, with an emphasis on community voice and lived experience; its position as the umbrella body for Regional Equality Councils which provide a critical regional perspective that ensures the range of community voices and lived experience can inform evidence-based national/local policy

We will continue to seek funding for the projects we believe will help us deliver this vision.

Approved by the trustees on 30th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Dr Malcolm Green

Chairperson

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Independent Examiner's Report

For the Financial Period ended on 31st March 2026

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCOTTISH ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCILS

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on pages 10 to 16.

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) (a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:

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

    • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations;

    have not been met, or

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

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

REPORT BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCOTTISH ALLIANCE OF REGIONAL EQUALITY COUNCILS (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

This report is made to the charity's board of trustees, as a body, in accordance with the terms of the engagement. My work has been undertaken to enable me to undertake an independent examination of the charity's accounts on behalf of the charity's board of trustees and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's board of trustees as a body, for my work or for this report.

Fiona Ramsay.

Fiona Ramsay MAAT

Gallone & Co

14 Newton Place

Glasgow

G3 7PY

30 June 2026

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Statement of Financial Activities

For the 12 months ending 31st March 2026

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
INCOMING RESOURCES			
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:			
Voluntary Income			
Donation and Bequests			
Activities for Generating Funds			
Investment Income			
Income from Investments			
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities			
Other Incoming Resources		200	100
Total Incoming Resources		**200**	**100**
Resources Expended			
Cost of Generating Funds			
Cost of Generating Funds			
Charitable Activities		181	395
Governance Costs			
Total Resources Expended		**181**	**395**
Net Incoming Resources before Recognised Gains and Losses			
Gains/(Losses) on Investments			
Realised			
Unrealised			
Net Movement in Funds		**19**	**(295)**
Reconciliation of Funds			
Funds brought forward		(27)	268
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		**(8)**	**(27)**

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2026

		2026		2025	
	Notes	**£**	**£**	**£**	**£**
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets					
			0		**0**
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	4	0		0	
Income accrued	4	0		0	
Cash at bank and in hand		172		333	
		172		**333**	
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	5	**(180)**		**(360)**	
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)			**(8)**		**(27)**
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			**(8)**		**(27)**
NET ASSETS			**(8)**		**(27)**
RESERVES					
Unrestricted income funds	6		(8)		(27)
General reserves			0		0
TOTAL FUNDS			**(8)**		**(27)**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Audit Exemption

For the year ended 31st March 2026 the Company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. No members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for 2024/25 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies act 2006. The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with.

Approved by the trustees on 30th June 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Malcolm D Green

Dr Malcolm Green – Chairperson
Date 30th June 2026

The notes on pages 10 to 13 form part of these financial statements.

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Statement of Cash Flows
For year ending 31st March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (Note 12)	**(161)**	**(415)**
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Interest		
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	**0**	**0**
Cash flows from financing activities		
Cash inflows from new Grant		
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	333	748
Total cash & cash equivalents at the end of the year	**172**	**333**
Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities.		
Net income/(expenditure)	19	**(295)**
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges		
(Gains)/losses on investments		
Dividends, interest & rent from investments		
Loss/(profit) on sale of fixed assets		
(Increase)/decrease in stocks		
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(180)	(120)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(161)**	**(415)**

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities

1. Accounting Policies The principal accounting policies adopted, judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a) Basis of preparation The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the 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), the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

SAREC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s)

b) Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required.

c) Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The Trustees believe there is no foreseeable circumstance to restrict the Charity from continuing as a going concern

d) Income

Income is recognised when received. However, in accordance with FRS102, income is accrued if not received in the financial year commensurate with the activity of the charity

e) Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

f) Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the Charity's work or for specific artistic projects being undertaken by the Charity.

g) Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities (Continued)

h) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back-office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the Charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The basis on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7

i)Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis. There are no assets of the charity to be depreciated. The premise used by the charity is leased from the local council.

j) Stock

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.

k) 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.

l) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m) Creditors and provisions

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 provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n) Transition to FRS 102

No subsequent restatement of items has been required in making the transition to FRS 102. The transition date was 1st March 2014. However, the Charity has changed from a "Receipts & Payments" basis to an "accruals" basis in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) Effective 1 January 2015) – (Charities SORP [FRS 102]), and the Companies Act 2006.

Legal status of the Charity

SAREC was recognised as a Scottish charity with effect from 18th June 2009. The Charity is administered in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum and articles of Associations for a private company limited by guarantee.

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities (Continued)

	Notes	2026 £	2025 £
3.Income from donations and legacies			
Community Fund			
Other			

SAREC is grateful to the charities who gave grant funding. In accordance with FRS102 and the Charities SORP (FRS102), the economic contribution of general volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

4.Income from charitable activities			
Donations			
Membership fees			
Other general			
5.Investment Income			
Bank interest			

6. Analysis of expenditure on Charitable Activities

Expenditure on charitable activities was £395 (2024 £556) of which £39 was unrestricted and £0 was restricted.

		2026 £	2025 £
Restricted			
Training			
Salaries			
Other			
Unrestricted			
General expenses			
Charitable Activities		181	395
Total		**181**	**395**
7.Analysis of governance and support costs			
Professional fees		180	360
Salaries, wages and related costs			
General office and general charity expenses		1	35
Total		**181**	**395**

The Scottish Alliance of Regional Equality Councils Limited

Notes to the Statement of Financial Activities (Continued)

	2026	2025
	£	£
8.Analysis of staff costs		
Salaries and wages		

The charity Trustees did not receive any benefits from employment. No charity trustee received payment for professional services nor had personal expenses reimbursed. There were no related party transactions. The Charity does not operate a defined contribution pension scheme Therefore, there is no pension cost charged for the period to represent contribution payable to the scheme.

	2026	2025
9.Debtors		
Other Debtors		
10.Liabilities: amounts falling due within a year		
Deferred income		
Accrued expenses	180	360
Total	**180**	**360**
11.Funds of the charity		
Cost of Generating Funds		
General Reserves (Accruals)	(180)	(360)
Bank – Unrestricted	172	333
Bank - Restricted		
Grant received		
Total of bank account	**172**	**333**
Total funds of the charity	**(8)**	**(27)**
12. Cash flows from operating activities		
Net movement in funds		
Bank	**(161)**	**(415)**