

NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES

statement of Accounts

Statement Date: 31 December 2019

1. Statement of Accounts: accruals accounting

Administrative information	
Registered address	
4Matthew Parker St, London, SW1H 9HQ	
Elected Representatives (ie MP, councillors if applicable)	
Name	Position
Guy Opperman MP	Member of Parliament Hexham
Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP	Member of Parliament Berwick-upon-Tweed
Ian Levy MP	Member of Parliament Blyth Valley
Coun. Eileen Armstrong	Northumberland County Councillor, Ponteland East & Stannington Division
Coun. David Bawn	Northumberland County Councillor, Morpeth North Division
Coun. John Benyon	Northumberland County Councillor, Morpeth Stobhill Division
Coun. Gordon Castle	Northumberland County Councillor, Alnwick Division
Coun. Trevor Cessford	Northumberland County Councillor, Hexham Central with Acomb Division
Coun. Wayne Daley	Northumberland County Councillor, Cramlington North Division
Coun. Richard Dodd	Northumberland County Councillor, Ponteland North Division

Coun. Christine Dunbar	Northumberland County Councillor, Cramlington Eastfield Division
Coun. Barry Flux	Northumberland County Councillor, Cramlington West Division
Coun. Rupert Gibson	Northumberland County Councillor, Humshaugh Division
Coun. Catherine Homer	Northumberland County Councillor, Hexham East Division
Coun. Colin Horncastle	Northumberland County Councillor, South Tynedale Division
Coun. Ian Hutchinson	Northumberland County Councillor, Haltwhistle Division
Coun. Peter Jackson	Northumberland County Councillor, Ponteland South with Hedden Division
Coun. Veronica Jones	Northumberland County Councillor, Ponteland West Division
Coun. Roderick Lawrie	Northumberland County Councillor, Norham & Islandshires Division
Coun. Robbie Moore	Northumberland County Councillor, Alnwick Division
Coun. Anthony Murray	Northumberland County Councillor, Wooler Division
Coun. Nicholas Oliver	Northumberland County Councillor, Corbridge Division
Coun. Wendy Pattison	Northumberland County Councillor, Longhoughton Division
Coun. Karen Quinn	Northumberland County Councillor, Bywell Division
Coun. Guy Renner-Thompson	Northumberland County Councillor, Bamburgh Division
Coun. John Riddle	Northumberland County Councillor, Bellingham Division
Coun. Gregah Roughead	Northumberland County Councillor, Berwick West with Ord Division

Coun. Glen Sanderson	Northumberland County Councillor, Longhorsley Division
Coun. Catherine Seymour	Northumberland County Councillor, Berwick North Division
Coun. Gordon Stewart	Northumberland County Councillor, Prudhoe South Division
Coun. Kenneth Stow	Northumberland County Councillor, Prudhoe North Division
Coun. Mark Swinburn	Northumberland County Councillor, Cramlington Village Division
Coun. Trevor Thorne	Northumberland County Councillor, Shilbottle Division
Coun. David Towns	Northumberland County Councillor, Pegswood Division
Coun. Jeff Watson	Northumberland County Councillor, Amble West with Warkworth Division
Coun. Richard Wearmouth	Northumberland County Councillor, Morpeth Kirkhill Division

Responsible Officers

For the purposes of the Political Parties Elections Referendums Act 2000 the responsible officers are:

Name	Position
Coun. Richard Wearmouth	Chairman
Mr Aidan Ruff	President
Coun. Peter Jackson	Group Leader
Mrs Ann Brown	Vice President
Coun. Cath Homer	Vice President
Mr Daniel Carr	Vice President
Mr Carl Rawlings	Treasurer
Coun. Gordon Stewart	Deputy Chair Political
Coun. Veronica Jones	Deputy Chair Membership and Fundraising
Coun. Guy Renner-Thompson	Constituency Officer - Berwick
Coun. Barry Flux	Constituency Officer - Blyth

Mr John Galbraith	Constituency Officer - Hexham
Mr Paul Scott	Constituency Officer - Wansbeck
Political activities	
Overview of political activities	
<p>Chairman's Report</p> <p>2019 has been a year of many elections for the Northumberland Conservatives Multi Constituency Association. The association has fought a Mayoral Election for the North of Tyne Combined Authority, a Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) By Election, European Elections and a General Election. In addition, the association has contested a series of by elections at all levels of local government.</p> <p>The fundraising associated with these elections was substantial and the level of campaigning above and beyond anything that the predecessor associations to the Northumberland MCA had managed to achieve.</p> <p>By the end of 2019 the MCA had a series of successes to celebrate including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Polling the most votes in Northumberland in the PCC by-election • Achieving 57 percent of the second preference votes in the North of Tyne Mayoral Election across the county • Securing a Conservative Member of Parliament in Blyth Valley for the first time ever • Coming within 814 votes of having a Conservative MP in Wansbeck with a vote swing of close to 12 percent. • Taking 49 percent of all votes across Northumberland in the General Election • Membership increased by about 21 percent 	
Branches	
<p>Berwick upon Tweed, Blyth Valley, Conservative Policy Forum, Cramlington, Felton, Glendale & Chatton, Hartburn & Longhorsley, Haydon & Hadrian, Hexham, Humshaugh, Ladies luncheon club, Morpeth, Norham & Islandshires, Ponteland, Young Conservatives.</p>	

Financial Activities	
Income overview	
<p>The 2019 accounts represent the second full year of the Northumberland Conservatives (NC) multi constituency association.</p> <p>Figures are rounded down to the nearest thousand(k).</p> <p>The NC income for 2019 increased and reflects that it was very much a year of elections.</p> <p>The price of membership did not change but membership income increased and exceeded budget because the number of members grew by 21% to 1320 (and membership is still growing in 2020).</p> <p>Income from Members was higher than budget while net fundraising reached £25k. The number of fundraising events was 22, similar to the 25 in 2018. Members are thanked for organising a wide range of events that included a successful May ball in Alnwick Castle.</p> <p>Our County Councillors are thanked for their continuing contribution of £12k in 2019.</p> <p>The main part of our income in 2019 came from donations. A fighting fund was launched to campaign in the General Election and £50,000 was raised quickly. Over 200 donations were made in the year and NC thanks all donors.</p> <p>The NC income exceeded expenditure in 2019 and we showed a surplus for the year.</p>	
Expenditure overview	
Continuing expenditure	
<p>The costs of staff and premises were under budget and lower than in 2018.</p> <p>Office costs were higher than budget due to the extra costs of electioneering such as printing and postage.</p> <p>Campaigning costs were the main area of expenditure.</p> <p>NC benefited from having a Campaign Manager for most of 2019. The post was funded by CCHQ. Most of the campaigning took place in Northumberland but when the General Election was called our Campaign Manager was redeployed to work mainly in the Tees Valley. This was a success with more Conservative MPs being elected in Northumberland and in the Tees Valley. The Campaign Manager has now left Northumberland and works in Westminster for a new Conservative MP from the Tees Valley area.</p>	
Additional investment	
<p>During the year, donations were invited towards the cost of acquiring a stuffing machine to assist with the production of</p>	

letters. A successful appeal led to the purchase of a stuffing machine for just under £7000.

Balance sheet overview

The balance sheet and cash reserves are monitored to deal with current levels of expenditure. The balance sheet has increased by 61% this year, and remains at a satisfactory level.

Accounting notes

ACCUALS OR CASH ACCOUNTING

These accounts have been prepared using the accruals accounting method, the same as last year.

Income and Expenditure Account			
	Note	2019	2018
Income			
Membership	1	45,144	34,632
Affiliations	2	-	-
Donations	3	163,263	22,908
Branch Income	4	-	-
Fundraising income	5	38,321	54,352
Investment income	6	37	45
Transfers in	7	33,843	13,000
Property and rental income/Office services	8	416	-
Miscellaneous	9	-	-
Total income		281,024	124,937
Expenditure			
Premises	-	11,970	12,428
Office costs	-	24,096	13,056
Branch Expenditure	4	-	96
Staff costs	10	29,816	55,027
Transfers out	7	-	1,000
Campaigning costs	-	172,979	46,039
Fundraising Costs	5	13,149	21,891
Financing charges and taxation	11	988	2,355
Depreciation	12	1,377	-
Miscellaneous	9	-	-
Profit/Loss on Disposal of Assets	16	-	-
Total expenditure		254,375	151,892
Deficit/surplus		26,649	(26,955)

Balance Sheet			
	Note	2019	2018
Fixed assets			
Property	12		
Fixtures and fittings	12		
Office equipment	12	5,511	-
Investment property	6		
Other investments	6		
Total fixed assets		5,511	-
Current assets			
Cash in hand and at bank	6	74,230	44,805
Stock	13		
Debtors and Prepayments	14		
Total current assets		74,230	44,805
Liabilities			
Creditors and Accruals		9,235	948
Loans outstanding	15	-	-
Total liabilities		9,235	948
Total Net Assets/(Liabilities)		70,506	43,857
Reserves			
Accumulated fund at start of year		43,857	45,793
Reserves transferred from Hexham Conservatives		-	24,019
Other funds - transferred from Hexham		-	1,000
Deficit/surplus		26,649	(26,955)
Accumulated fund at end of year		70,506	43,857
Asset Revaluation Reserve		-	-
Other funds		-	-
Total Reserves		70,506	43,857

Notes to the Accounts

Note 1: Membership

Description	2019	2018
Membership fees received directly by the accounting unit.	36,418	32,520
Membership fees received via/paid to the central party	8,726	2,112
Total Membership	45,144	34,632

Note 2: Affiliations

Affiliate	2019	2018
<i>Not applicable to the Conservative Party</i>	-	-
Total	-	-

Note 3: Donations

Donations	2019		2018	
	Cash	Non Cash	Cash	Non Cash
Received by Northumberland	163,263	-	22,908	-
				-
Total	163,263	-	22,908	

During the year the unit had donations totalling £125,172 that were **reportable to the Electoral Commission**, ie that were over £1,500 from the same donor in the year.

The total donation figure shown under income above is greater than this because of donations received that were below the PPERA reporting threshold.

Note 4: Branch Income and Expenditure

	2019			2018		
	Income	Of which: paid to assoc as quota	Expend	Income	Of which: paid to assoc as quota	Expend
						96
Total.						96

Note 5: Fundraising Income and Expenditure

Income activity	Income	Expenditure
<i>Chris Grayling event</i>	3,263	364
<i>Mid term ball</i>	10,000	5,765
<i>Race night</i>	1,638	-
<i>Pimms Party</i>	1,892	548
<i>Garden Party</i>	1,564	543
<i>Lilburn event</i>	2,178	-
<i>Hexham dinner</i>	3,552	2,095
<i>Stuffing machine</i>	6,713	-
<i>Ponteland dinner</i>	2,083	1,020
<i>Other</i>	5,438	2,814
Total	38,321	13,149

Note 6: Investment Income

	2019		2018	
Investment Income from Fixed Assets and Other Investments				
	Value as at 31/12/19	Dividend Received	Value as at 31/12/18	Dividend Received
Bank Deposit Interest	37		39	
Barclays Reward Scheme	-		6	
Capital Gain/ (Loss)	-		-	

Investment income from current assets:				
Bank Accounts	Balance as at 31/12/19	Interest Received	Balance as at 31/12/18	Interest Received
<i>Berwick Current</i>	6,624		993	
<i>Berwick Patrons</i>	18,844		9,849	
<i>Northumberland</i>	14,051		10,229	
<i>Wansbeck</i>	4,354		-	
<i>Hexham General</i>	3,488		1,260	
<i>200 Club</i>	481		314	
<i>Hexham Patrons</i>	7,751		3,562	
<i>Deposit</i>	18,637	37	18,504	39
<i>Hexham donor</i>	-		94	
Total	74,230	37	44,805	39

	2019			2018		
Trust Property	Net Asset Value of Trust as 31/12/19	Value of Holding	Income Rec'd	Net Asset Value of Trust as 31/12/18	Value of 50% Holding	Income Rec'd
Name of Trust						

Note 7: Transfers

Transfer From/To	Purpose of Transfer	Amount	
		Incoming	outgoing
Northumberland Councillors to association	Northumberland campaign subscriptions.	12,000	-
Wansbeck	North of Tyne Mayoral campaign.	3,343	-
Northumberland	Payments and receipts for election deposits. Receipts for election campaigns.	18,500	-
Total		33,843	-

Note 8: Property and rental income/Office services

Source	2019	2018
Postage for Councillors	302	-
Hexham bid refund	114	-
Total	416	-

Note 9: Miscellaneous Income Expenditure

	2019		2018	
	Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-

Note 10: Salary Costs

	2019	2018
Salary Costs	24,106	48,201
National Insurance/Social Security Costs	3,850	5,332
Pension costs	1,860	1,494
Total	29,816	55,027
	2019	2018
Number of staff	3	3
Average Cost	9,939	18,342

Note 11: Financing charges and taxation

	2019	2018
Bank charges	88	1,755
Accountancy & Examination Charges	900	600
Total	988	2,355

Note 12 Fixed Assets

Asset Cost	Property	Fixtures and Fittings	IT Equipment	Total
Balance B/fwd (A)		1,740		1,740
Additions			6,888	6,888
Disposals				
Revaluation		n/a	n/a	
Balance C/fwd (B)		1,740	6,888	8,628

Depreciation	Property	Fixtures and Fittings	IT Equipment	Total
	N/A	Straight Line over X years	Straight Line over 5 years	
Balance B/fwd (C)	-	1,740	-	1,740
Disposals				
Charge for the year			1,377	1,377
Balance C/fwd (D)	-	1,740	1,377	3,117

Net Book Value B/fwd (A-C)		-	-	-
Net Book Value C/fwd (B-D)		-	5,511	5,511

Note 13 Stock

	2019	2018
Opening Balance	-	-
Movements Increase	-	-
Decrease	-	-
Closing Balance	-	-

Note 14 Debtors and Pre-Payments

-Description	2019	2018
Pre-Payments		

Debtors**Total****Note 15: Loans**

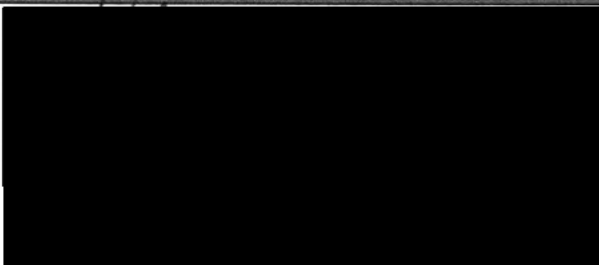
	2019	2018
Outstanding amount at start of year	-	-
Capital Repayment	-	-
New loans or mortgages	=	-
Outstanding amount at end of year		-

Note 16: Profit/(Loss) on Disposal of Assets

Item	NBV at Date of Disposal	Sale Proceeds	Profit/(Loss) on Disposal
Total	-	-	-

Declarations

I confirm that the above Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with guidance issued by the Electoral Commission and is correct to the best of my knowledge. In addition I confirm that these accounts have been approved by the Executive Council:

Signature	Position	Date
	Chairman: Richard Wearmouth	24/6/2020
	Registered Treasurer: Carl Rawlings	2, C/o, 20

I have examined the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31st December 2019 together with the underlying accounting records and confirm that the accounts are in accordance therewith.

Signature	Position	Date
	Independent Verifier: Stuart AF Faed BSc (Hons) CA DipPFS	25/6/20

NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

Qualified Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of Northumberland Conservatives Association (the 'Association') for the year ended 31 December 2019 which comprise the Income and Expenditure account, the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the accounting guidance issued by the Electoral Commission.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 31 December 2019 and its surplus/deficit for the year then ended.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

This is the first year the Association's financial statements have been required to be audited. We were unable to determine whether the Fundraising Income & Donations included within Income in the financial statements is complete, as insufficient audit evidence is available.

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 financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements 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.

The impact of uncertainties on our audit due to the UK leaving the European Union

Uncertainties relating to the effects of the UK leaving the European Union are relevant to understanding our audit of the financial statements. All audits assess the reasonableness of estimates made by the directors and the appropriateness of the going concern basis of preparation of the financial statements. These depend upon assessments of the future economic environment and the Association's prospects.

Leaving the European Union is a significant economic event for the UK, and at the date of this report its effects are subject to various possible outcomes, with the full range of possible effects unknown. We have applied a standard firm wide approach in response to this uncertainty when assessing the Association's future prospects. However, it is not possible to predict all of the possible effects on the Association of the UK leaving the European Union.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the treasurer's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the treasurer has not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Association's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.



NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

Other information

The Treasurer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Chairman's report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements 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 financial statements 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

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Association and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Chairman's Report.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

As explained more fully in the Treasurer's responsibilities statement below, the Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Treasurer determines are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Treasurer is responsible for assessing the association'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 officers either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the Treasurer

The Treasurer of the Association is required by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association and its surplus or deficit for that period, the Officers' report and the financial statements.

In preparing those financial statements, the Treasurer is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- 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 Association will continue in business.

NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF NORTHUMBERLAND CONSERVATIVES ASSOCIATION

Section 41 of the Act requires that the Treasurer is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Association's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Association and enable him to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Section 43 of the Act requires that the registered Treasurer is responsible for delivery of the statement of accounts to the Electoral Commission by the required deadline. The Treasurer is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Part III of the Political Parties, Election and Referendums Act 2000 and report in accordance with regulations made under that Act.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Other matters

The corresponding figures for the year to 31 December 2018 were unaudited. The year ended 31 December 2018 financial statements were independently examined as required, but did not need to be audited.

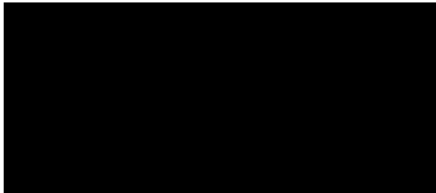
Use of our report

This report is made solely to the members in accordance with section 43 of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's 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 Association and its members, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stuart Faed CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Greaves West & Ayre

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

Date: 25 June 2020



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Berwick-upon-Tweed
Northumberland
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