

City of Sanctuary UK AGM 2025 Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions (Rebecca Joy Novell, Co-Chairs of Trustees)

Rebecca welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM.

2. Apologies

None

3. Minutes of the last AGM 2024

Minutes agreed - nothing to amend.

4. Chair's report

Rebecca provided an overview of the Annual Report and Impact Report for 2025.

Rebecca thanked Andrew for his hard work in supporting the charity over the past ten years in the role of Treasurer.

5. Treasurer's report

Simon thanked Andrew White for all he has done as Treasurer.

Simon explained the key theme of accounts as ever increasing impact, alongside steadily increasing difficulty in raising funding.

Gave key figures: £501k expenses (incredible that City of Sanctuary has achieved all that it has with such a small budget), income of £453k due to more challenging funding environment, gives deficit of £48k for 2024.

Explained that this is not disastrous and could go on for many years with such a deficit as at end of 2024 funding was still healthy at £235k of unrestricted funds. But it's also clearly not sustainable so we need to turn this around. And need to turn it around in a way that doesn't mean key staff

spend all their time fundraising as they need to be implementing so we can continue to have our outstanding impacts.

Therefore we have developed strategic plan for optimising funding:

1) Key to fundraising will still be grant funding for many years to come (grants provided 80% of funds in 2024). So need to optimise efficiency of this in terms of factors such as:

- size of grants,
- streamlining applications and
- if possible getting rolling funding or at least simpler reapplication process once have shown results from initial grants.

2) Also looking to increase fees for some awards to recoup a bit more of the cost of making these awards. Of course have to be careful here not to charge so much that puts people off applying. But appears may be able to support slightly higher charges here.

3) And looking at new sources of funding - e.g. legacy funding to enable people to donate through their wills.

Conclusion:

- Achieved and incredible amount last year with relatively little funding
- Financial position is still healthy but there are headwinds, particularly in the funding landscape
- We're looking to get more secure and more efficient ways to raise funding in order to maximise our impact and would welcome any ideas, suggestions or advice as to how we might best do this

6. Election of trustees

See link for information about the trustees - <https://cityofsanctuary.org/about/trustees/>

In accordance with the constitution "At every subsequent annual general meeting of the members of the CIO one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire";

The following trustees retired: **Andrew White** and **Yusuf Ciftci** (standing for re-election).

Resolution One: Members voted unanimously to re-elect Yusuf Ciftci

The following stood for election to the board of trustees (after being co-opted onto the board during the year):

Resolution Two - Members voted unanimously to elect Odunayo Comfort Adeyemi was

Resolution Three - Members voted unanimously to elect Annie Karuimbo

Resolution Four: Members voted unanimously to elect Simon Milward