

Surrey Area – Treasurer’s Report for the Year Ended 30 September 2025

Overview – Key Financial Points

- Actual main expenditure: £2,956 (budget £5,525)
- Year-end reserve ratio: 225.6% (driven by timing differences in expenditure)
- Key variances: deferred publication and brushcutter training costs
- 2025/26 budget plans a controlled drawdown of reserves

Surrey Area’s activities during 2024/25 continued on a stable footing. The 2024/25 budget requested funding of **£4,000**, with planned main expenditure totalling **£5,525** (excluding group funding, restricted funds, and designated funds). The budget provided for a planned deficit of **£1,525**, with the intention of drawing down reserves towards the range recommended by Ramblers Central Office.

Actual main expenditure during the year amounted to **£2,956**, significantly lower than budgeted due to the timing of several significant payments falling shortly after the financial year end. As a result, the planned deficit did not materialise and the year closed with a reserve ratio of **225.6%**. This elevated reserves position is considered temporary, and reserves are expected to reduce once the deferred costs are recognised in the following financial year’s accounts.

Financial Highlights

1. Publication Costs

Surrey Area’s contribution towards the South East Walker publication in 2024/25 was £2,101, significantly lower than budgeted. This variance arose because the invoice for the September 2025 issue was received late and paid in October 2025. As the accounts are prepared on a cash basis, the net cost of £1,460 for this issue is recorded in the following financial year’s accounts. This is a timing difference only and does not represent a genuine underspend against the approved budget.

2. Walk Leader Training

An amount of £210 was budgeted to support walk leader training during the year; however, no expenditure was incurred in the 2024/25 financial year.

3. Practical Work

£600 was budgeted for brushcutter training; however, no expenditure was recorded in the year. An invoice of £360 for two courses held in June and September 2025 was paid in October 2025 and is therefore recorded in the following financial year’s accounts.

4. Meeting Costs

Meeting and administration costs totalled £658, slightly below budget. This included hall hire for the Area AGM and Area Council meetings, a contribution towards the annual Zoom licence, and modest event-related costs, reflecting a return to in-person meetings while maintaining prudent cost control.

5. Restricted Funds

Surrey Area continues to hold restricted funds for the Don’t Lose Your Way (DLYW) project, which focuses on researching lost paths in Surrey. At the year end, £1,378 remained available to support this work. These funds are ring-fenced and excluded from the calculation of main reserves.

Looking Ahead: Budget for 2025/26

Surrey Area's 2025/26 budget has been set with a continued focus on supporting core Area activities while managing reserves in line with Ramblers Central Office guidance. The key highlights of the upcoming budget include:

- Area Funding Request: **£3,000**
- Planned Main Expenditure: **£4,485**
- Planned Year-End Reserve ratio: **76%**

Planned Spending:

- Practical Work: **£600** to support essential footpath maintenance and related activities.
- Walk Leader Training: **£200** allocated to train new walk leaders.
- Publication Cost: **£2,850** for 3 printed issues of South East Walker.

In addition, Surrey's 16 groups have requested funding totalling £11,300 for 2025/26, representing a decrease from £15,200 in 2024/25. This reduction reflects the completion of planned programme work during the 2024/25 financial year, together with the fact that several groups hold sufficient existing reserves and therefore require less additional funding in the coming year. At the end of 2024/25, cash balances amounted to £53,020, compared to £47,800 at the end of 2023/24.

Overall, the Area's financial position remains stable, with planned expenditure and reserve levels under active review.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the **16 Surrey Group Treasurers** for their commitment and careful work throughout the year. Their efforts play a vital role in maintaining effective financial oversight at both Area and Group level, and in supporting our collective aims of promoting walking, protecting paths, and serving the walking community across Surrey.