

The core mission of Manx Wildlife Trust (MWT) is to protect and enhance our environment, create more spaces for wildlife, and inspire people to act for nature, with the aim of having 30% of our Manx land and sea protected or effectively managed for nature by 2030.

MWT has continued to make strong progress over the past five years, expanding its impact through both land ownership and partnerships with others to increase the area under active management for nature. This growth reflects the confidence of supporters and donors in the work of MWT and has been supported by significant and much appreciated contributions, including major land purchase donations and personal gifts.

At the year-end January 2021, MWT held land and property assets of £1.75m and unrestricted cash reserves of £210k, which effectively represents working capital. In the current year, land and property assets have increased to £5.7m, demonstrating the scale of progress achieved.

While this growth is a positive reflection of our ambition and success, it sits alongside a wider context of rising operating costs across the organisation. Like many organisations, MWT is experiencing increased costs in areas such as staffing, utilities, materials, and project delivery. As a result, unrestricted cash reserves remain at around £210k, which limits flexibility in the short term.

There are no immediate concerns regarding financial stability. Many of MWT's major projects continue to benefit from secured operational funding through donations and sponsorship agreements that provide support over defined periods. However, the underlying cost pressures did contribute to an operating deficit of nearly £108k in the most recent financial year.

Addressing this deficit will be important in the current year to ensure that working capital is maintained and, ideally, strengthened. A stronger level of unrestricted cash flow will allow MWT to respond more effectively to opportunities and manage ongoing cost pressures.

To continue delivering on our mission and build on the significant progress already made, it is essential that we increase levels of unrestricted income. This can be achieved through the continued support of our members and through donations, both of which are deeply valued.

MWT continues to explore other avenues to deliver a more sustainable cashflow to supplement the funding raised through donations/gifts and this may include expanding our retail shop offering. If a suitable opportunity arises, we may consider opening a further retail outlet being in addition to the shop in Peel and the smaller one currently in the Sea Terminal in Douglas.

Together we are making meaningful progress in protecting the Isle of Man's land and waters and ensuring they are rich in wildlife and valued by our community.

John D Hunter

Treasurer