Figgs Bidco LimitedAnnual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 Contents

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Company Information

Directors

J H Hudson C M McLeish

Company Secretary

R A Parker (appointed 27th January 2023) N D M Giles (resigned 27th January 2023)

Auditor

Deloitte LLP Statutory Auditor Four Brindleyplace Birmingham West Midlands United Kingdom B1 2HZ

Bankers

Lloyds Bank Plc 7 High Street Leicester United Kingdom LE1 9FS

Registered office

Leicester Road Ibstock Leicestershire England LE67 6HS

Registered number

09332893

Strategic Report

The Directors present the strategic report of Figgs Bidco Limited ('the Company') for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal activities

The Company is an indirect subsidiary of, and is included within the consolidated financial statements of, Ibstock Plc ('the ultimate parent' and 'the Group'). Its principal activity during the year was that of an intermediate holding company. The Directors do not expect that to change in the foreseeable future.

Results

The loss for the year, after taxation, amounted to £25,846,000 (2022: loss £25,274,000).

The Company had net liabilities of £149,408,000 as at 31 December 2023 (net liabilities of £123,562,000 as at 31 December 2022).

There is no other key financial or non-financial performance indicators used by the Directors to manage the business during the year.

Review of business and future developments

The increase in the Company's loss from 2022 to 2023 is due to the increased interest charge on the loan from its immediate parent company.

The Company's indirect trading subsidiaries delivered a resilient performance against a challenging market backdrop for the year ended 31 December 2023 and a robust year-end balance sheet position. With the factory network running at lower levels of utilisation, the Group will retain a level of fixed cost in 2024, which preserves our ability to build back quickly as markets recover.

Further details of the results of the Company's investments are set out within Note 6 of the financial statements.

The Company expects to continue in operation as a holding company and to incur interest charges on its existing loan to its direct parent.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Directors of the Company's ultimate parent consider the principal risks and uncertainties of the Group with assistance from its Audit Committee. The principal risks facing the Company are outlined below with full detail being included on pages 22 to 26 of the 2023 Annual Report and Accounts of Ibstock Plc, which does not form part of this report. The principal risks include business continuity, regulatory and compliance, people and talent management, cyber and information system, health, safety and environment, economic conditions, financial risk management, maintaining customer relationships and market reputation, climate change, anticipating product demand and innovation and major project delivery.

The Company's key financial risk management objective and policy are as per the below:

Financial risk management

Credit Risk

The Company's principal financial assets are intercompany receivables and investments. The Company's credit risk is primarily attributable to intercompany balances. An allowance for impairment is made where there is an identified loss event which, based on previous experience, is evidence of a reduction in the recoverability of the cash flows. No allowances have been recognised as at 31 December 2023 or 31 December 2022.

Liquidity Risk

Insufficient funds could result in the Company being unable to fund its operations. The Company's policy is to ensure that it has sufficient funding and facilities in place to meet any foreseeable liabilities when they become due. The Company also relies on financial support provided by the Group.

Strategic Report (continued)

Section 172(1) statement

The Company is a holding company for the principal subsidiaries as set out in note 6 of the Company's Annual Report and Financial Statements and has no suppliers, customers, communities, direct investors or employees. The Company's only stakeholders are therefore the Group, its subsidiaries, and Government & Regulators.

The Group's executive directors sit on the boards of each of the Company, the ultimate parent company and the Company's subsidiaries. This forms the primary communication between stakeholders and facilitates effective open, transparent and two-way engagement, any appropriate feedback from which forms part of each board's strategic discussions. This structure supports the board in performing its duties in compliance with the matters set out in section 172(1) of Companies Act 2006 ('s172').

The Directors ensure legislative and regulatory compliance with access to subject matter expertise and training as part of the on-going Group's compliance programme.

During the year, the Board continued to ensure that the Company and Group's strategy remained appropriate to deliver the long-term success of the Company, and oversaw Management's execution of the strategy. The Board carefully evaluated the likely consequences of its decisions, challenging management where necessary to ensure that the impact of any decisions over the long-term would be of benefit to the Company.

The Board remains committed to ensuring the business operates with the highest standards of integrity, and continually reviews and tests the compliance arrangements in place. A significant part of the Board's leadership responsibility is to ensure that the Company's purpose, strategy and culture remain aligned, and it recognises that a robust and transparent culture is a solid foundation for maintaining the Company and the Group's reputation for high standards of business conduct. Over the course of the year, the Board has overseen and supported the initiatives undertaken on culture.

It is acknowledged that it is not possible for all of the Board's decisions to result in a positive outcome for every stakeholder group. When making decisions, the Board considers the Company's purpose, vision and values, together with its strategic priorities and takes account of its role as a responsible business. By doing this, the aim is to ensure that decisions are robust and sustainable and drive long-term success for the Company.

To the extent necessary for an understanding of the development, performance and position of the entity, an explanation of how the ultimate parent company's board has considered the matters set out in s172 (for the Group and for the entity) is set out on page 42 and 43 of the Annual Report and Accounts 2023 of lbstock Plc, which does not form part of this report.

This report was approved by the Board on 4 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by

C M McLeish Director

04 July 2024

Directors' Report

The Directors present their report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The Company has chosen, in accordance with Section 414 C(11) of the Companies Act 2006, to include certain matters in its Strategic Report that would otherwise be required to be disclosed in this Directors' Report. Details of the Company's financial risk management policies and objectives, future developments and dividends, can be found in the Strategic Report on pages 2 to 3 and form part of this report by cross reference.

Registered number: 09332893

Directors

The following persons served as Directors during the year and up to the date of approval of the financial statements:

J H Hudson C M McLeish

Energy and carbon reporting

The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available to it as it meets the definition under Schedule 7 (1A) of the Large and medium-sized companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations. The Company is an indirect subsidiary of, and is included within the consolidated financial statements of, Ibstock Plc, which has the same financial year end as the Company.

Auditor

Deloitte LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditors and appropriate arrangements are being made for them to be deemed reappointed as auditors in the absence of an Annual General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each person who was a Director at the time this report was approved confirms that:

- so far as he is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and
- he has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a Director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of s418 of the Companies Act 2006.

Going concern

The Directors have concluded that it is reasonable to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. This is based on an expectation that the Company and its ultimate parent group ('the Group') have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least twelve months from the date of signing these financial statements.

From the Company's perspective, the Group has confirmed to the Directors that it will support the Company until at least 12 months from the date of this report in meeting its liabilities as they fall due, to the extent that money is not otherwise available to meet such liabilities.

In arriving at their conclusion on going concern, the Directors have given due consideration to whether the funding and liquidity resources available within the Group are sufficient to accommodate the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Company.

The Group has financing arrangements, comprising £100 million of private placement notes with maturities of between 7 and 12 years and a £125 million RCF for an initial four-year tenor, with an enacted one year extension option, both of which were arranged in 2021. At 31 December 2023 the Group had drawn £25 million under the RCF.

Directors' Report (continued)

Going concern (continued)

The Group's financial planning and forecasting process consists of a budget for the next year followed by a medium term projection. The Directors have reviewed and robustly challenged the assumptions about future trading performance, operational and capital expenditure and debt requirements within these forecasts including the Group's liquidity and covenant forecasts, and stress testing within their going concern assessment.

Registered number: 09332893

The key uncertainty faced by the Group is the industry demand for its products in light of macroeconomic factors. Accordingly, the Group has modelled financial scenarios which see reduction in the industry demands for its products thereby stress testing the Group's resilience. Further detail on the Group's scenario modelling is included within the Annual Report and Accounts 2023 of Ibstock Plc.

Having taken account of the various scenarios modelled, and in light of the mitigations available to the Group, the Directors are satisfied that the Company has sufficient resources and support of its parent to continue in operation for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of approval of this report. Accordingly, the financial information has been prepared on a going concern basis.

Dividends

No dividend was paid in the current or preceding period. The Directors do not recommend the payment of dividend after the balance sheet date.

Subsequent events and future outlook

No subsequent events requiring disclosure or adjustments to these financial statements have been identified since the balance sheet date.

This report was approved by the Board on 4 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Director

04 July 2024

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland." Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss of the Company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- · make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Income Statement

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Notes	2023 £000	2022 £000
Interest payable	4	(33,785)	(31,203)
Loss before taxation		(33,785)	(31,203)
Tax credit on loss	5	7,939	5,929
Loss for the financial year		(25,846)	(25,274)

All activities from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of the financial statements.

There are no other items of comprehensive income or loss in the current or prior year other than those included in the Income Statement and accordingly no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented.

Registered number: 09332893

as at 31 December 2023

Statement of Financial Position

	Notes		2023 £000		2022 £000
Fixed assets Investments	6		223,708		223,708
Current assets Debtors	7	54,439		46,500	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8 _	(427,555)	-	(393,770)	
Net current liabilities			(373,116)		(347,270)
Total assets less current liabilities		_	(149,408)		(123,562)
Net liabilities		- -	(149,408)	-	(123,562)
Capital and reserves Called-up share capital Share premium account Profit and loss account	9 9 9		4,000 36,000 (189,408)		4,000 36,000 (163,562)
Total shareholders' deficit		- -	(149,408)	_	(123,562)

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of the financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board and authorised for issue on 4 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

C M McLeish **Director**

04 July 2024

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Called- up share capital	Share premium account	Profit and loss account	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000
At 1 January 2022	4,000	36,000	(138,288)	(98,288)
Loss for the financial year	-	-	(25,274)	(25,274)
Total comprehensive expense	-		(25,274)	(25,274)
At 31 December 2022	4,000	36,000	(163,562)	(123,562)
At 1 January 2023	4,000	36,000	(163,562)	(123,562)
Loss for the financial year	-	-	(25,846)	(25,846)
Total comprehensive expense			(25,846)	(25,846)
At 31 December 2023	4,000	36,000	(189,408)	(149,408)

The notes on pages 10 to 14 form an integral part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of material accounting policies

Statement of compliance

Figgs Bidco Limited is a private company limited by shares incorporated in the United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 and registered in England and Wales. The Registered Office is Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire, England, LE67 6HS.

The Company's financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102 as it applies to the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

The principal activities of the company and the nature of operations are set out in the strategic report on page 2.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with applicable accounting standards. The financial statements are prepared in Sterling which is the functional currency of the Company and rounded to the nearest £'000. Under s400 (2) of the Companies Act 2006, the Company has not presented consolidated financial statements as these are included in the consolidated financial statements of the ultimate parent undertaking. Accordingly, the financial statements present information regarding the

Reduced disclosure exemptions

Company as an individual undertaking and not as a Group.

The Company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS 102 and has therefore taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available to it. Exemptions have been taken in relation to share based payments, financial instruments, presentation of a cash flow statement and remuneration of key management personnel.

Going concern

The Directors have concluded that it is reasonable to adopt a going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. This is based on an expectation that the Company and its ultimate parent group ('the Group') have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for at least twelve months from the date of signing these financial statements.

From the Company's perspective, the Group has confirmed to the Directors that it will support the Company until at least 12 months from the date of this report in meeting its liabilities as they fall due, to the extent that money is not otherwise available to meet such liabilities.

In arriving at their conclusion on going concern, the Directors have given due consideration to whether the funding and liquidity resources available within the Group are sufficient to accommodate the principal risks and uncertainties faced by the Company.

The Group has financing arrangements, comprising £100 million of private placement notes with maturities of between 7 and 12 years and a £125 million RCF for an initial four-year tenor, with an enacted one year extension option, both of which were arranged in 2021. At 31 December 2023 the Group had drawn £25 million under the RCF.

The Group's financial planning and forecasting process consists of a budget for the next year followed by a medium term projection. The Directors have reviewed and robustly challenged the assumptions about future trading performance, operational and capital expenditure and debt requirements within these forecasts including the Group's liquidity and covenant forecasts, and stress testing within their going concern assessment

The key uncertainty faced by the Group is the industry demand for its products in light of macroeconomic factors. Accordingly, the Group has modelled financial scenarios which see reduction in the industry demands for its products thereby stress testing the Group's resilience. Further detail on the Group's scenario modelling is included within the Annual Report and Accounts 2023 of Ibstock Plc.

Having taken account of the various scenarios modelled, and in light of the mitigations available to the Group, the Directors are satisfied that the Company has sufficient resources and support of its parent to continue in operation for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of approval of this report. Accordingly, the financial information has been prepared on a going concern basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

1 Summary of material accounting policies (continued)

Investments

Investments are stated at the lower of cost or recoverable amount. The carrying values of investments are reviewed for impairment in years if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Debtors

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price), less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Loans and other financial assets are initially recognised at transaction price including any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Creditors

Short term creditors are measured at transaction price (which is usually the invoice price).

Loans and other financial liabilities are initially recognised at transaction price net of any transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost determined using the effective interest method.

Taxation

A current tax liability is recognised for the tax payable on the taxable profit of the current and past years. A current tax asset is recognised in respect of a tax loss that can be carried back to recover tax paid in a previous year.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences between the recognition of income and expenses in the financial statements and their inclusion in tax assessments.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Current and deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Critical accounting judgements and estimates

No critical judgements or estimates were made in applying the Company's accounting policies for the current year.

2 Operating result

Auditor's remuneration for the audit of the financial statements of £4,053 (2022: £4,000) are borne by Ibstock Plc.

3 Staff costs

The Company has no employees other than Directors. The Directors' services to the Company do not occupy a significant amount of their time. As such the Directors do not consider that they have received any remuneration for their inconsequential services to the Company for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: £nil).

4	Interest payable	2023 £000	2022 £000
	Interest on loans from parent undertakings	33.785	31.203

Interest on loans from parent undertakings represents interest payable on the loan from Ibstock Building Products Limited, which carries an interest rate of 8% per annum.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

5	Tax credit on loss	2023	2022
		£000	£000
	Analysis of credit in year		
	Current tax:		
	UK corporation tax on loss of the year	(7,939)	(5,929)
	Tax credit on loss	(7,939)	(5,929)
	Tax credit on loss	(7,939)	(5,929)

Factors affecting tax credit for year

The differences between the tax assessed for the year and the standard rate of corporation tax are explained as follows:

	2023 £000	2022 £000
Loss before tax	(33,785)	(31,203)
Standard rate of corporation tax in the UK	23.50%	19.00%
Loss multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax	(7,939)	(5,929)
Total tax credit for year	(7,939)	(5,929)

There are no recognised or unrecognised amounts in respect of deferred tax for the current or prior year.

Factors that may affect future tax charges

There are no factors that may affect future tax charges.

6 Investments

Conti	£000
Cost: At 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023	223,708
Carrying value: At 31 December 2022	223,708
At 31 December 2023	223,708

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

6 Investments (continued)

The company had the following subsidiaries as at 31 December 2023.

Company	Shares held Class	Proportion of shares held (%)	Country of Incorporation	Nature of Business
Ibstock Group Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Holding Company
Forticrete Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Manufacturer of concrete products
Anderton Concrete Products Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Manufacturer and supplier of precast and prestressed concrete products
Supreme Concrete Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Manufacturer and supplier of precast and prestressed concrete products
Longley Holdings Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Holding Company
Longley Concrete Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Manufacturer of concrete products
G-Tech Coper Limited*	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Holding Company Limited	d Ordinary	100	UK	Holding Company
Ibstock Brick Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Brick sales and brick specials manufacturer
Kevington Building Products Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Leicester Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Aldridge Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Himley Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Westbrick Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Aldridge Property Limited	l Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Moore & Sons Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Manchester Brick and Precast Ltd	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Nostell Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Roughdales Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Brick Cattybrook Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Hathernware Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Bricks (1996) Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Loopfire Systems Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Dormant
Ibstock Manufacturing Services Limited	d Ordinary	100	UK	Brick manufacturer
Valerie Coltman Holdings Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Holding Company
Coltman Precast Concrete Limited	Ordinary	100	UK	Manufacturer and supplier of precast and prestressed concrete products

¹ Longley Precast Limited was renamed as G-Tech Coper Limited on 12 June 2023.

Ibstock Group Limited is owned directly by Figgs Bidco Limited. All other companies are indirectly owned.

The country of incorporation is the same as the place of business for all the above entities. All entities have the same registered office as the ultimate Parent Company, Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire LE67 6HS.

On 30 November 2023, the Group acquired 100% of the share capital of Valerie Coltman Holdings Limited and its subsidiary Coltman Precast Concrete Limited. The acquisition of the Coltman business will expand the Group's Concrete segment and supports further growth in precast and prestressed concrete business. The headline price for the acquisition was £3.4 million. The net cash paid in 2023 totalled £2.7 million (comprising gross payments of £5.2 million less cash acquired of £2.5 million). This net payment of £2.7 million excluded £0.7 million of the headline consideration, withheld ahead of finalisation of closing adjustments, which was concluded during the first quarter 2024.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 December 2023

7	Debtors	2023 £000	2022 £000
	Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	34,543	34,543
	Amounts owed by parent undertakings	19,896	11,957
		54,439	46,500

The amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings and parent undertakings are unsecured, do not carry any interest and are repayable on demand. These amounts have been recorded as current assets as plans are being put in place to settle them with their related counterparties and these are not expected to be used on a continuing basis.

8	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £000	2022 £000
	Amounts owed to parent undertakings	427,555	393,770
		427,555	393,770

Amounts owed to parent undertakings include a loan from Ibstock Building Products Limited, which carries an interest of 8% per annum. The unsecured loan is repayable on demand. The amount disclosed in this note includes accrued interest from the date of the grant.

9 Capital and reserves

	Nominal value	Number £000	2023 £000	2022 £000
Allotted, called up and fully paid:				
Ordinary shares	£0.10 each	40,000	4,000	4,000

The ordinary shares give full voting, dividend and capital distribution rights. There has been no change in ordinary shares allotted, called up and fully paid during the year.

The share premium reserve contains the premium arising on issue of equity shares, net of issue expenses.

The profit and loss reserve represents cumulative profit or losses net of dividends and other adjustments.

10 Related party transactions

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ibstock PLC as at 31 December 2023, the consolidated financial statements of which are publicly available at Ibstock PLC, Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire, United Kingdom, LE67 6HS. Accordingly, the company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102.33.1A, from disclosing transactions with members of Ibstock PLC group. Related party balances are disclosed in Note 7 and Note 8.

11 Controlling party

The Company's immediate parent company is Ibstock Building Products Limited. The ultimate parent, ultimate controlling party and the only Group company into which this company is consolidated is Ibstock PLC. Both Ibstock Building Products Limited and Ibstock PLC have the same registered office address as the Company.

The parent of the smallest and largest group in which these financial statements are consolidated is Ibstock PLC, incorporated in England.

The address of Ibstock PLC is: Leicester Road, Ibstock, Leicestershire, United Kingdom, LE67 6HS.

These financial statements are available on request from Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ.

12 Subsequent events

No subsequent events requiring disclosure or adjustments to these financial statements have been identified since the balance sheet date.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Figgs Bidco ltd

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion the financial statements of Figgs Bidco Limited (the 'company'):

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31st December 2023 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements which comprise:

- Income Statement
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of changes in Equity
- the related notes 1 to 12.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Basis for opinion

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 company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the Financial Reporting Council's (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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other

information contained within the annual report. 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.

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. 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.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are 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 directors determine is 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 directors are responsible for assessing the company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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 FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below.

We considered the nature of the company's industry and its control environment, and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to fraud and compliance with laws and regulations. We also enquired of management, internal audit and the directors about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including those that are specific to the company's business sector.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework[s] that the company operates in, and identified the key laws and regulations that:

- had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. . The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and tax legislation; and
- do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be
 fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included
 employment law, occupational health and safety regulations, the Environment Act, the Water
 Framework Directive, the Waste Directive, the Environmental Protection Act and the Energy
 Efficiency Directive.

We discussed among the audit engagement team including relevant internal specialists such as tax, valuations, pensions, IT regarding the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements.

In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. In addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, we tested the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessed whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluated the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to the risks identified included the following:

- reviewing financial statement disclosures by testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- enquiring of management, internal audit and in-house legal counsel concerning actual and potential litigation and claims, and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing internal audit reports.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in [the strategic report and] the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report in respect of the following matters if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or

- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of these matters.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's 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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Lee Highton (FCA)

(Senior statutory auditor)
For and on behalf of Deloitte LLP
Statutory Auditor
Birmingham, United Kingdom
4th July 2024