

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales · Charity number 1129312

Details

Other names ASDC

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [06798106](#)

Registered 2009-04-24

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Suite 101
QC30
Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol
BS1 4HJ

Phone 0117 915 0181

Email info@sciencecentres.org.uk

Website www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO SERVE AND SUPPORT SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES AND RELATED ORGANISATIONS, IN THE UK AND BEYOND, FOSTERING LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.

Activities: To serve and support science and discovery centres and related organisations, in the UK and beyond, fostering learning and engagement in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the public benefit.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UK AND OVERSEAS
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£656,964	£606,228	£240,374	5
2024-03-31	£663,080	£645,541	£189,638	4
2023-03-31	£543,376	£511,913	£172,099	5
2022-03-31	£448,087	£525,897	-	-
2021-03-31	£571,994	£647,388	£218,446	5

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dr STEPHEN GERARD BRESLIN	Chair	2018-10-09
Abisola Fafolu		2024-09-18
Bipon Bhakri		2024-09-18
Bridget Mary Holligan		2017-09-19
Bryan Alun Snelling		2021-09-01
Donna Speed-Grenfell		2019-11-20
Dr Sheila Pearson		2022-12-07
Dr Stephen David Scott		2024-09-18
Gareth Paul Giordano McTiffin		2023-09-28
Hassan Joudi		2022-12-07
Jill Mary Farrell		2025-09-09
Joanne Quinton-Tulloch		2020-10-23
John David Bull		2023-09-28
Laurence George Butler		2023-09-28
TUDOR GWYNN		2018-10-09
Victoria Denoon		2021-09-01

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129312

Accounts



Association for
**Science and
Discovery Centres**

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year end: **31st March 2025**

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres
Charity registration number: 1129312
Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)
ASDC Website: www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Registered Office and operational address:
 Suite 101, QC30,
 30 Queen Charlotte Street, Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers:
 Co-operative Bank
 PO Box 250, Skelmersdale Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
 Bristol Queens Square RMS 2 Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountants:
 Evans Entwistle
 Elm House, 10 Fountain Court New Leaze,
 Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4LA

 Linden Accountants (appointed September 2024)
 Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburgh's,
 Bristol BS2 9LB

Trustees and Directors:

Bipon Bhakri	National Space Centre (appointed 18 Sep 2024)
Dr Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre (retired 18 Sep 2024)
John Bull	Independent (prev. Cambridge Science Centre)
Laurence Butler (Hon Secretary)	Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum
Dr Jennifer Chambers	STFC, UKRI (retired 18 Sep 2024)
Dr Hermione Cockburn (Hon Secretary)	Dynamic Earth (retired 18 Sep 2024)
Victoria Denoon	W5
Abi Fafolu	Lit Laboratory (appointed 18 Sep 2024)
Tudor Gwynn (Treasurer)	Eureka! The National Children's Museum
Bridget Holligan	Independent (prev Science Oxford)
Hassan Joudi	Innova
Sheila Kanani	Independent (prev Royal Astronomical Society)
Gareth McTiffin	Techniquest
Joanne Quinton-Tulloch	National Science & Media Museum
Steve Scott	UKRI (appointed 18 Sep 2024)
Bryan Snelling	Aberdeen Science Centre
Donna Speed-Grenfell (Deputy Chair)	We The Curious
Savita Willmott	Natural History Consortium

Secretary

Laurence Butler

Executive Team

Shaaron Leverment, Chief Executive

Structure, Governance and Management*Governing document*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election for a three-year period, unless they have served as a Trustee for a nine-year period, in which case they must retire from the Board of Trustees.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack and meeting which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity), Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee, Conflict of interest and forms for signature.

Management

The Board of Trustees (the "Board") delegate day-to-day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the Board when the Board meets. This occurs on a quarterly basis, with 3 dedicated Board meetings every year, alongside the pre-AGM Board meeting. The Board of Trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities*Objectives of the organisation*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) exists to serve and support the ASDC membership by fostering learning, innovation and shared practice within the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and engagement for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

- ASDC Vision - A society where science is accessible, inclusive and valued by all as a fundamental part of everyday life.
- ASDC Mission - To champion our members, bringing them together to achieve collective impact and reach through connection, advocacy and insight.
- ASDC Values – These 5 core values of the ASDC team provide a values screen that defines the work taking place and our working practices: Inclusion – Connection - Collaboration – Evidence-based - Sustainability

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are addressed on a case-by-case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board. The major risks to which the charity is exposed are:

- The lack of sustainable core funding and reliance on project delivery
- Small team and high workloads increase risk of long working hours, stress and high staff turnover.
- The impact of the current economic climate on membership and ASDC funding sources.

Operational Report

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant, national charity that strategically and practically supports over 60 major science engagement organisations across the UK. The ASDC membership includes independent and non-independent UK science centres, science museums, research centres, environmental science centres (e.g. eco-attractions), outreach organisations, aligned networks, learned societies and research council facilities (e.g. STFC National Labs). This national infrastructure provides spaces where business, industry, research and enterprise converge and coheres with a diverse public. Within this sector resides exceptional inclusive ambition and huge potential for skills, life-long learning, cultural significance of science, and the ability to bring plural perspectives into the sphere of science. Through the ASDC network we promote belonging, agency and identity with STEM that can empower, inform and inspire the citizens for the future.

Every year ASDC members engage with over 25 million people of all ages, genders, backgrounds and abilities through their science exhibitions and activities via school, public and community engagement programmes. Together, our vision is of a society where science is accessible, inclusive and valued by all as a fundamental part of everyday life.

From 2024-2025, ASDC has worked to the mission of bringing together the membership by creating and running regular knowledge exchange and professional development events, including leading national STEM projects and facilitating ongoing opportunities for collaboration, connection, advocacy and innovation via a number of digital platforms. Since Covid, the majority of events and programming take place online to support wider accessibility of our full network. ASDC also runs targeted in-person events that promote professional development and networking within the membership, alongside opportunities to work with funders, research councils, wider networks and government advocates to

promote a culture of accessible science for all.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol.

As of 31 March 2025, the roles within the ASDC team are as follows:

- Chief Executive (0.6 FTE)
- Project Manager (1.0 FTE)
- Head of Communications (0.8 FTE)
- Business Manager (0.8 FTE)
- Comms and Office Support (0.4 FTE)

Membership 2024-2025

During the membership year 2024-2025, ASDC increased membership fees at a below-inflation rate of 4% to recognise increasing cost pressures following holding membership fees constant in the previous year. ASDC continues to have three tiers of membership, with the number of core member and national partners growing from the previous year.

1. Core Members: primarily science and discovery centres and museums
2. National partners: national STEM partners who share ASDC values and vision.
3. Associate members: commercial organisations that wish to support ASDC and/or who provide key services to organisations within the sector.

ASDC represents 52 core members and national partners, and 9 associate members. During this financial year, income from subscriptions reached over £60,000 for the first year.

Connection and Collaboration across the membership

ASDC core values commit to promoting connection, collaboration, inclusion, sustainability and evidence-based practice across the sector. ASDC continues to grow opportunities for members to share inspiring practice, ideas and experiences across the national network and wider. Between April 2024 and March 2025, ASDC convened nineteen separate professional development and knowledge exchange [events](#) for our membership across the UK. These include:

- Monthly members-only meetings on a variety of topics, focused for professionals working at different levels and in different departments within membership centres.
- Individual CPD events and networking events, such as
 - the STFC Masterclass on emerging technologies (AI, Machine Learning and Quantum Computing)
 - Space Engagement Professionals Community
 - Mini course on social media and digital strategies for the sector
- In-person 1-day or 2-day conferences such as the CEO awayday and the annual, national conference.

ASDC sustains a number of online Communities of Practice to share aims and priorities, areas of challenge and opportunities for collaborative practice towards common goals, for example:

- ASDC Ambassadors Network
- Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion advocates
- Decarbonisation Group

- Volunteers Network
- Education Network

ASDC continues to provide mechanisms for regular communications with members across a number digital platforms such as the [ASDC newsletter](#) and social media channels [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Websites and shared resource spaces include:

- The [ASDC Website](#): Our main broadcast platform for [events](#), [projects](#), [news](#) and shared [resources](#).
- [The Inclusion Website](#): Shared learning on equitable and inclusive practice across strategy and evaluation, staff training, partnership and content.
- [The Climate Hub](#): carbon-cutting measures and engagement resources for climate action for a collective approach.

The [ASDC 2024 National Conference](#) was hosted by the Royal Society in central London on 18th and 19th November 2024, with the theme 'Shaping the future of science together'. The conference included in-depth workshops, activities, the AGM, a networking dinner and 2 days of inspiring keynotes, discussion tables and lightning talks. In delegate numbers it was the largest conference ASDC has held to date.

- 4 keynote speakers
- 35 sessions
- 2 ASDC awards (Volunteer of the Year and the Youth Voice Award)
- 100 speakers and session leaders
- 11 Exhibitors
- 240 delegates

The ASDC Board of Trustees

Following a review of the skills existing within the current Board and acknowledging the experience and diversity essential for the Board of Trustees as individuals retired, ASDC held an external recruitment for new Trustees. Following the membership vote, ASDC welcomed and onboarded three new trustees at our September 2024 AGM: [Bipon Bhakri](#), [Abi Fafolu](#) and [Steve Scott](#).

Advocacy for science and discovery centres

ASDC continues to explore opportunities that may lead to core funding or longer-term financial support for ASDC and our network organisations. This includes the re-ignition of the campaign 'Science Centres for our Future' in March 2024.

Online and in-person advocacy from the executive team at ASDC and the ASDC Trustees continues to celebrate the work of the network at high-profile events and with key politicians, such as Chi Onwurah MP who attended and spoke at our national conference. ASDC also worked with the Government Office for Science (GO-Science) to raise the visibility and potential of our network with the [Chief Scientific Advisor](#) and [GO-Science](#) team.

Advocacy for the sector prioritises the national impact of science and discovery centres and museums to reach diverse audiences, enabling wider participation with STEM. ASDC has a strategic goal to articulate this impact and the great potential of the sector to promote greater diversity in science, innovation and technology. This work developed into an

evidenced framework to measure more inclusive outcomes under shared language of impact. The first draft of the ASDC 'Valuing Inclusion' Theory of Change was shared widely in 2024-2025, and continues to be evidenced as part of a final project working with STFC, part of UKRI.

To support advocacy efforts, benchmarking and ASDC goal setting, ASDC ran the sector survey for a second year, collecting data in January and February 2025 relating to organisational structure, audiences, workforce, finances and ambitions for the year ahead. The resulting Power BI report provided the membership with a unique and valuable tool to use data collected through an interactive dashboard in order to benchmark, explore audience and workforce trends, and understand successful initiatives in areas of shared challenge. The survey has also re-affirmed ASDC mission goals and the value held by members in the ASDC offer.

ASDC continues to foster a closer relationship with the Museums Association as the joint project Mindsets + Missions completed. Our aim is to capitalize on opportunities for collective voice and collective action on cross-cutting themes such as equity, inclusion and sustainability of museums and discovery centres.

National STEM Programmes

During 2024-2025, ASDC ran a number of high-impact national STEM programmes across the sector that aligned with our organisational [vision, mission and values](#). Projects enable ASDC to deliver sector-wide support, share knowledge and bring together communities of practice, while contributing to the sustainability of the charity. A summary of projects delivered in 2024- 2025 follows:

[Explore Your Universe, Valuing Inclusion](#)

- Funded by: STFC
- Timeline: December 2023 – July 2024, extended October 2024 – March 2026
- Summary: The project aims to promote equity and inclusion as the key to unlocking more diverse participation in STFC research, development, industry and innovation for the future. The ASDC [Valuing Inclusion Theory of Change](#) was developed through this programme. Projects are currently extending its recognition, use in practice and evidence base for the measurement of meaningful, inclusive participant outcomes. These outcomes are articulated as the mechanisms of change, that nurture STEM capital and STEM identity for young people from diverse regions and backgrounds.
- Key deliverables:
 - Recruitment of projects that provide evidence that supports or challenges the assumptions of the Theory of Change.
 - Delivery of an 'evaluation 101' training academy for science centres and their community partners to align measures of inclusive practice.
 - Delivery of a Theory of Change model/framework (see above) with a strong, research-informed approach that engages with wider networks, funders and pulls evidence from practitioners.
 - Opportunity for new or refreshed STFC engagement equipment for

- participating centres
- Staff swap scheme
- Qualitative and quantitative external evaluation
- Final project reporting and dissemination of assets (evaluation report, assets, visual report) due 31 March 2026

Mindsets + Missions

- Funded by: UKRI
- Partners: The Museums Association, The Liminal Space
- Timeline: 01 September 2022 – 30 September 2024
- Summary: A key part of UKRI's mission to break down the barriers between research, innovation and society. UKRI provided grants to support twelve museums and science centres for this work.
- Key Deliverables (ASDC role):
 - Learning Programme [insights report](#) delivered by the Liminal Space
 - Ongoing evaluation consultation with Cornish & Grey
 - Panel selection committee, dissemination and participation on the steering group
 - Scoping document outlining the approach of Mindsets + Mission #2
 - Final sector-facing report collating assets and resources for wider practitioner learning.

GO Science Posters

- Funded by: Government Office for Science
- Timeline: 01 December 2024 – 31 March 2025
- Summary: To understand the impact of a national roll out of a series of posters to share science insights from the Government Office for Science for schools. These posters focus on emerging technologies designed to spark conversations about the opportunities that technology will bring to the lives of young people and an approach through the science and discovery centres was piloted with National Space Centre and Science Oxford.
- Key Deliverables:
 - Co-design of posters with Science and Discovery Centre input
 - Pilot across 30 schools in Oxfordshire and Leicestershire
 - Creation of simple landing page with further information for teachers
 - Mini evaluation report with metrics / feedback followed by exit meeting
 - Celebration visit to Science Oxford by Chief Science Advisor Dame Angela McLean

Our World From Space

- Funded by: NERC and UK Space Agency
- Timeline: 01 December 2022 – 31 March 2025

- Summary: A programme working across 25 centres and museums promoting the value of space for the sustainability of planet earth and the relevance of space science for everyday life.
- Key Deliverables:
 - Research and Development period (December 2022 – March 2023) funded by NERC informed a two year project (delivery flexible, playing to strengths of individual partners)
 - Content areas include Climate, Biodiversity, Clean Air and Oceans with a 'From global to Local' narrative
 - Content charrette during research and development
 - A new suite of equipment and training resources
 - A 2-day national training academy (3rd & 4th July, National Space Centre)
 - Delivery period Summer 2023 – Winter 2024
 - Large scale evaluation programme

Future Plans

ASDC will continue to seek opportunities to run national programmes of work that align with its vision, mission and values. These programmes deliver sector-wide inspiration, encourage shared practice, demonstrate collective impact and support professional development, while keeping ASDC sustainable. For example, the 'Valuing Inclusion' Theory of Change can articulate inclusive impact and support practitioners to present a compelling case to STEM funders that an equitable and inclusive approach to science engagements results in greater diversity of participation in STEM.

Reserves have been built during this financial year. Therefore, ASDC is able to invest in its membership offer. For example, ASDC supported an event in April 2025 'Accessibility Unlocked' focusing on how the network can improve the accessibility of science for people with different needs and disabilities. ASDC aims to place equity, accessibility and inclusion as a business essential for the future, alongside support on measurable indicators of impact.

ASDC has also been able to ignite a campaign that focuses on the advocacy for the 28 Science and Discovery Centres who are largely excluded from infrastructure and capital funding pots available from ACE, NLHF and DCMS. The urgent need for the campaign 'Science Centres for our Future' was gathered from insight data from the two-years of sector survey data and CEO discussions. With financial backing from the network, ASDC is convening collective action to acquire a capital fund for science and discovery centres to support aging building and estates, renewing exhibitions and aligning with membership targets towards net zero.

ASDC will deliver a National Conference for members and the wider sector. The 2025 ASDC conference will be held at the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford, the UK City of Culture, and plans are in place to host the 2026 conference in Cardiff, taking our national event to Wales one month ahead of Techniquest's 40th year celebrations.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The Board of Trustees (who are also the Directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019);
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Trustee and Chairperson – Dr Stephen Breslin

Date:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025 which are set out on pages 10 to 18.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

David Wright BSc FCA

Corrigan Accountants Limited

First Floor, 25 King Street

Bristol

BS1 4PB

Date:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 (Restated) £
INCOME					
Charitable activities	2	-	521,610	521,610	543,121
Other trading activities	3	136,054	700	135,354	119,959
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		<u>136,054</u>	<u>520,910</u>	<u>656,964</u>	<u>663,080</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	85,945	520,282	606,228	645,541
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>85,945</u>	<u>520,282</u>	<u>606,228</u>	<u>645,541</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		50,109	627	50,736	17,539
Balances brought forward		184,896	4,742	189,638	172,099
Gross transfers between funds	15	(1,578)	1,578	-	-
Balances carried forward		<u>235,005</u>	<u>5,369</u>	<u>240,374</u>	<u>189,638</u>

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 13 to 19 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Note	2025 £	£	2024 (Restated) £
FIXED ASSETS:			
Tangible assets		535	-
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Debtors	106,391		117,653
Cash at bank and in hand	204,718		161,942
	311,108		279,595
CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: falling due within one year	(71,269)		(89,957)
Net current assets		239,839	189,638
NET ASSETS:		240,374	189,638
FUNDS			
General funds	233,430		184,896
Restricted funds	6,945		4,742
		240,374	189,638

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended **31st March 2025**.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- (a) Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records with comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- (b) Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Trustees on and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Trustee - Stephen Breslin

.....
Trustee - Tudor Gywnn

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH INFLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
<u>Statement of Financial Activities: Net movement in funds</u>	50,736	17,539
Depreciation	134	-
Increase / (decrease) in operational creditors: current liabilities	(18,688)	25,661
Decrease / (increase) in operational debtors	11,262	(53,704)
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities	43,444	(10,504)
<u>Statement of Financial Activities: Non-operational movements in funds</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	43,444	(10,504)
Non-operational cash flows:		
Investing activities		
Payments for tangible fixed assets	(669)	-
Net cash (outflow)/inflow for the year	42,775	(10,504)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH DURING THE YEAR

	2025	2024	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	204,718	161,943	42,775
	2024	2023	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	161,942	172,446	(10,504)

Cashflow restrictions

Charity law prohibits the use of net cash inflows on any endowed or other restricted fund to offset net cash outflows on any fund outside its own objects, except on special authority. In practice, this restriction has not had any effect on cash flows for the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102 SORP) effective from 1st January 2019, and applicable UK Accounting Standards, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Funds structure

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds where the trustees, at their discretion, have set aside resources for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or the terms of a specific appeal.

Income

Income comprises:

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable. Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to the expenditure. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that agree all costs related to the category. Support costs have been allocated 100% towards raising funds for and the charitable activities of the charity.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both the direct pay and non-pay costs and support costs relating to those activities.

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue its operations for the foreseeable future and therefore they have continued to adopt the going concern basis when preparing the financial statements.

Governance costs

Governance cost include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity, and include its independent examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity including trustee expenses.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value of each asset, over its expected useful life. The rates used are: 20% straight line for IT and office equipment.

Allocation of support and governance costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Governance costs are the costs associated with the governance arrangement of the charity, including the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements and any costs associated with the strategic management of the charity's activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on the following basis:

	2025	2024
Raising funds	30%	30%
Charitable activities	70%	70%

Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Grant Income				
Destination Space (Phase 4)	-	-	-	3,000
EYU Legacy	-	-	-	10,160
EYU Valuing Inclusion	-	34,980	34,980	244,020
EYU Valuing Inclusion (2024-2026)	-	180,676	180,676	-
Go Science	-	8,811	8,811	-
Josh Award	-	2,500	2,500	-
Mindsets and Missions	-	14,360	14,360	11,360
Our World from Space	-	243,297	243,297	267,331
Our World from Space (NERC)	-	30,000	30,000	-
STFC Masterclass	-	6,986	6,986	-
Other grants	-	-	-	7,250
	-	521,610	521,610	543,121

3 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Subscription income	66,527	-	66,527	54,545
Other income	69,527	(700)	68,827	65,414
	136,054	(700)	135,354	119,959

4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	Total Funds 2025 £
Direct project costs	-	5,576	-	5,576
External contractors	-	55,368	-	55,368
Project catering	-	1,124	-	1,124
Project room hire	-	28,326	-	28,326
Science Centres grant-making	-	233,782	-	233,782
Accountancy fees	-	7,334	3,938	11,271
Bank charges	-	-	2,952	2,952
Computer costs	-	2,957	3,661	6,618
Consultancy fees	-	-	936	936
Entertaining	-	640	912	1,552
Governance costs	-	-	34	34
Insurance	-	-	4,374	4,374
Irrecoverable VAT	-	4,929	12,160	17,089
Legal and professional fees	-	-	1,905	1,905
Office consumables	-	5	743	749
Office equipment depreciation charge	-	-	134	134
Other marketing costs	-	11,138	35	11,173
Postage and stationery	-	137	528	665
Premises costs	-	17,878	1,563	19,441
Salaries (incl. Employers' NI and Pension)	-	177,492	6,071	183,562
Staff training and welfare	-	75	930	1,005
Subscriptions	-	70	942	1,012
Telephone and fax	-	-	3,131	3,131
Travel and subsistence	-	8,744	5,705	14,449
	-	555,575	50,653	606,228

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Allocation of support & governance costs	15,196	35,457	(50,653)	-
	<u>15,196</u>	<u>591,032</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>606,228</u>

Prior period comparison

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	Total Funds 2024 £
Purchases	-	337,393	32,410	369,803
Salaries (incl. Employers' NI)	-	-	161,094	161,094
Pension contribution	-	-	7,571	7,571
Recruitment and temporary staff	-	-	-	-
Staff training and welfare	-	545	1,034	1,579
Travel and subsistence	-	18,657	6,154	24,811
Entertaining	-	108	222	330
Premises costs	-	-	19,980	19,980
Telephone and fax	-	-	3,117	3,117
Postage and stationery	-	38	67	105
Subscriptions	-	586	495	1,081
Bank charges	-	-	585	585
Irrecoverable VAT	-	11,611	6,864	18,475
Insurance	-	-	3,639	3,639
Computer costs	-	844	4,673	5,517
Office consumables	-	486	827	1,313
Accountancy fees	-	4,278	8,053	12,331
Other marketing costs	-	8,282	1,803	10,085
Governance costs	-	-	244	244
Legal and professional fees	-	-	3,881	3,881
	<u>-</u>	<u>382,828</u>	<u>262,713</u>	<u>645,541</u>
Allocation of support & governance costs	78,814	183,899	(262,713)	-
	<u>78,814</u>	<u>566,727</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>645,541</u>

5 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

This is stated following these charges:

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	134	-
Trustees' remuneration	-	-
Trustees' expense reimbursement	-	-
Fee for independent examination	1,575	1,575

In the current year, no expenses were reimbursed to the trustees (2024: £Nil).

6 CORPORATION TAX

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

7 STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	164,649	151,418
Social security costs	10,749	9,676
Pension contributions	8,165	7,571
	<u>183,562</u>	<u>168,665</u>

	2025	2024
Management	1	1
Administration	4	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

	2025	2024
Full time equivalent	3.6	3.6

	2025	2024
Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)		
Between £30,000 and £40,000	2	-
Between £40,000 and £50,000	1	1

The key management personnel of the charitable company comprise the Trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employment benefits of the key management personnel were £47,323 (2024: £46,419).

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Totals £
COST:		
At 1 April 2024	-	-
Additions	669	669
At 31 March 2025	<u>669</u>	<u>669</u>
DEPRECIATION:		
At 1 April 2024	-	-
Charge for the year	134	134
At 31 March 2025	<u>134</u>	<u>134</u>
NET BOOK VALUE:		
At 31 March 2025	<u>535</u>	<u>535</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

9 DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	103,290	110,217
Other debtors and prepayments	3,100	7,436
	<u>106,391</u>	<u>117,653</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	42,636	82,491
Accruals and deferred income	22,375	1,500
Tax and social security	5,836	2,253
Pensions payable	-	1,116
Other creditors	422	2,597
	<u>71,269</u>	<u>89,957</u>

11 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 March 2025, the charity had total commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2025 £	2024 £
Rent of registered office	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Fixed Assets	-	-	535	535
Current Assets	6,945	-	304,163	311,108
Current Liabilities	-	-	(71,269)	(71,269)
	<u>6,945</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>233,429</u>	<u>240,374</u>

Prior period comparison (Restated)

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Total Funds 2024 (Restated) £
Fixed Assets	-	-	-	-
Current Assets	4,742	-	274,853	279,595
Current Liabilities	-	-	(89,957)	(89,957)
	<u>4,742</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>184,896</u>	<u>189,638</u>

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Analysis of Fund movements	Balance b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund c/fwd £
Restricted funds					
EYU Valuing Inclusion	9,345	34,980	(46,223)	1,898	-
EYU Valuing Inclusion (2024-2026)	-	180,676	(178,382)	-	2,294
Go Science	-	8,811	(6,325)	-	2,486
Josh Award	-	2,500	(707)	-	1,793
Mindsets and Missions	(5,450)	14,360	(8,538)	-	372
Our World from Space	847	242,597	(243,119)	(325)	-
Our World from Space (NERC)	-	30,000	(30,002)	2	-
STFC Masterclass	-	6,986	(6,986)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>4,742</u>	<u>520,910</u>	<u>(520,282)</u>	<u>1,575</u>	<u>6,945</u>
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	<u>184,896</u>	<u>136,054</u>	<u>(85,945)</u>	<u>(1,575)</u>	<u>233,430</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>184,896</u>	<u>136,054</u>	<u>(85,945)</u>	<u>(1,575)</u>	<u>233,430</u>
Total funds	<u>189,638</u>	<u>656,964</u>	<u>(606,228)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>240,374</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Description of Restricted Funds

EYU Valuing Inclusion / EYU Valuing Inclusion (2024-2026)

This programme is a continuation of the work of Explore Your Universe: Valuing Inclusion (2024) with the objective to further refine and define the meaningful inclusive outcomes and their role as mechanisms of change, that nurture STFC STEM capital and STEM identity. There are 12 delivery partners collaborating with their chosen community partner to test out the Theory of Change whilst engaging their audiences with STFC science. The programme is funded from October 2024 until March 2026.

Go Science

The Government Office for Science (GO Science) worked with ASDC to roll out a series of posters designed to engage and inspire pupils to explore science and technology. The posters were displayed in schools as part of British Science Week in March 2025. The project was run as a trial, working with two science centres to deliver posters to a small number of primary schools: Science Oxford and schools in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and the National Space Centre and schools in Leicestershire and Nottingham. Work started in October 2024, running through to the evaluation and next steps meeting in April 2025.

Josh Award

ASDC is a partner with BIG and the British Science Association (BSA) to promote the Josh Award across the STEM engagement network. ASDC secured funds for the JOSH award winner from the Ogden Trust for the 2024-2026 award. These funds are utilised to directly support the winners' expenses to develop, deliver and evaluate their activities. ASDC, BIG and the BSA provide in-kind support in the promotion of the JOSH Award across the science engagement community and subsequently supports providing opportunities for year-long delivery within the ASDC network.

Mindsets and Missions

Mindsets + Missions (M+M) was a pilot learning and grants programme funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) to support museums and science centres to engage underrepresented groups with knowledge, research and innovation. Running through 2023 and 2024, M+M took a cohort of museums, science centres, community groups and researchers through a learning programme (phase one) and the opportunity to access project grants (phase two). The programme was delivered by a partnership of ASDC, the Museums Association (MA), and The Liminal Space.

Our World from Space

ASDC developed and ran Our World From Space, a strategic two-year, national STEM programme funded by the UK Space Agency in partnership with the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), part of UK research and Innovation. The programme has had a significant national reach, engaging with 263,847 individual participants across the UK. From schools in the Outer Hebrides to community groups in coastal towns of Devon, Our World From Space fostered a new understanding of space science's role in our everyday lives and for the future health and sustainability of our planet. 25 science centres and museums received grants as part of this programme. The project was funded from May 2023 to March 2025.

Our World from Space (NERC)

The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), part of UK research and Innovation funded the development phase of Our World From Space from December 2022 to March 2023. This funded supported ASDC to develop content, resources, branding and the evaluation framework for the Our World From Space programme. Additional funding of £30,000 in December 2024 to support additional delivery grants and equipment grants for delivery partners alongside the UKSA funding.

STFC Masterclass

On 12th February 2025 the ASDC team and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) public engagement team delivered a masterclass at the National Quantum Computing Centre in Didcot, for 28 science engagement professionals from science and discovery centres around the UK. The event included keynote speakers, workshops and tours of the facilities. The funding supported delegates to attend, covering their travel and accommodation expenses.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

Prior period - For the year ended 31 March 2024 (Restated)

Analysis of Fund movements	Balance b/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund c/fwd (Restated)
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Destination Earth	15,026	-	(15,026)	-	-
EYU Legacy	2,110	10,160	(12,270)	-	-
EYU Valuing Inclusion	-	244,020	(234,675)	-	9,345
Bold Futures	9,170	-	(9,170)	-	-
Mindsets and Missions	(2,711)	11,360	(14,099)	-	(5,450)
Our World from Space	-	267,626	(266,779)	-	847
Sector CPD	-	-	(3,429)	3,429	-
Destination Space (Phase 4)	9,696	3,000	(7,696)	(5,000)	-
STFC Impact	17,484	-	(17,484)	-	-
Total restricted funds	50,775	536,166	(580,628)	(1,571)	4,742
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	121,324	126,914	(64,913)	1,571	184,896
Total unrestricted funds	121,324	126,914	(64,913)	1,571	184,896
Total funds	172,099	663,080	(645,541)	-	189,638

13 TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31st March 2025, nor the year ended 31st March 2024.

14 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2025, nor for the year ended 31st March 2024.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129312

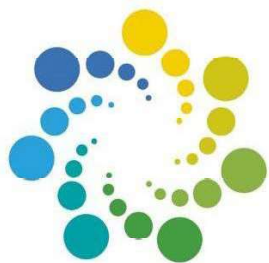
Accounts

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2024



Association for
**Science and
Discovery Centres**

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THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)

Registered Office and operational address: Suite 101 QC30
30 Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2
Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountant: Evans Entwistle
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4LA

ASDC Website – www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Trustees and Directors

Dr Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
Scot Owen (Treasurer)	Xplore! Science Discovery Centre (retired 28 Sep 2023)
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre
John Bull	Cambridge Science Centre (appointed 28 Sep 2023)
Laurence Butler	Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum (appointed 28 Sep 2023)
Dr Jennifer Chambers	STFC, part of UKRI
Dr Hermione Cockburn (Honorary Secretary)	Dynamic Earth
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life (retired 28 Sep 2023)
Victoria Denoon	W5
Tudor Gwynn (Treasurer)	Eureka! The National Children's Museum
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Hassan Joudi	WSP
Sheila Kanani	Royal Astronomical Society
Gareth McTiffin	Techniquist (appointed 28 Sep 2023)
Joanne Quinton-Tulloch	National Science & Media Museum
Bryan Snelling	Aberdeen Science Centre
Donna Speed-Grenfell (Deputy Chair)	We The Curious
Savita Willmott	Natural History Consortium

Secretary

Dr Hermione Cockburn

Executive Team

Shaaron Leverment, Chief Executive

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election for a three-year period, unless they have served as a Trustee for a nine-year period, in which case they must retire from the Board of Trustees.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

Management

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the organisation

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) exists to serve and support the ASDC membership by fostering learning, innovation and shared practice within the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and engagement for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

- *ASDC Vision* - A society where science is accessible, inclusive and valued by all as a fundamental part of everyday life.
- *ASDC Mission* - To champion our members, bringing them together to achieve collective impact and reach through connection, advocacy and insight.
- *ASDC Values* – These provide a values screen that lens the work taking place and working practices:
Inclusion – Connection - Collaboration - Innovation - Sustainability

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are addressed on a case-by-case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board"). The major risks to which the charity is exposed are:

- The lack of sustainable core funding and reliance on project delivery.

- Small team and high workloads increase risk of long working hours, stress and high staff turnover.
- The impact of the current economic climate on membership and ASDC funding sources.

Operational Report

Overview

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK's leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. The ASDC membership includes independent and non-independent UK science centres, science museums, research centres, environment centres (e.g. eco-attractions), outreach organisations, aligned networks, learned societies and research councils. In recent years, the ASDC network has engaged over 25 million children and adults each year with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science exhibitions and activities via school, public and community engagement programmes.

From 2023-2024, ASDC has worked to the mission of bringing together the ASDC membership by creating and running regular knowledge exchange and professional development events, including leading national STEM projects and facilitating ongoing opportunities for collaboration, connection, advocacy and innovation via a number of digital platforms. Since Covid, the majority of events and programming take place online, alongside some specific targeted in-person events and the ASDC annual national conference, which took place on 28th and 29th September 2023 in Belfast. These events promote professional development and networking within the membership, alongside opportunities to work with funders, research councils, wider networks and government advocates to promote a culture of accessible science for all.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol.

The project director (0.4 FTE) left ASDC on 28th July 2023. As of 31 March 2024, the roles within the ASDC team are as follows:

- Chief Executive (0.6 FTE)
- Project Manager (1.0 FTE)
- Head of Communications (0.8 FTE)
- Business Manager (0.8 FTE)

Membership 2023-2024

During the membership year 2023-2024, ASDC held membership fees at 2022-2023 rates to recognise the difficulties of increasing costs impacting the sector. ASDC continues to have three tiers of membership, with the number of core member and national partners growing from the previous year.

1. Core Members: primarily science and discovery centres and museums.
2. National partners: national STEM partners who share ASDC values and vision.
3. Associate members: commercial organisations that wish to support ASDC and/or who provide key services to organisations within the sector.

Increasing from 44 core members and national partners (2022-2023) ASDC now represents 52 core members and national partners, and 9 associate members. Income from subscriptions was maintained at over £50,000 for a second consecutive year.

Connection and Collaboration across the membership

ASDC core values commit to promoting connection, collaboration, inclusion, sustainability and evidence-based practice across the sector. ASDC continues to grow opportunities for members to share inspiring practice, ideas and experiences across the national network and wider. Between April 2023 and March 2024, ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange [events](#), meetings and forums for science engagement practitioners across the UK. For example:

- Monthly members-only meetings on a variety of topics for professionals working at different levels and within breadth of different departments within the membership.
- Sustaining Communities of Practice to share aims and priorities, areas of challenge and opportunities for collaborative practice towards common goals including:
 - The Ambassadors Network
 - Volunteers Network
 - Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion advocates
 - Education Network
 - Marketing Network
 - ASDC Space Engagement Professionals Community
- Individual CPD and support events such as:
 - Management Masterclass for emerging leaders
 - Decarbonisation Group meetings supporting centres to set and reach net zero targets
- In-person 1-2 day conferences and events
 - ASDC Community Engagement skills Academy
 - CEO awayday
 - Evaluation 'Valuing inclusion' masterclass
- Supporting the recruitment and retention of diverse staff with specialist forums for HR and access to the [Evenbreak](#) Best Practice Portal of resources.

ASDC continues with increasing commitment to provide mechanisms for regular communications with members across a number digital platforms such as the [ASDC newsletter](#) and social media channels [X](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Websites and shared resource spaces include:

- The [ASDC Website](#): Our main broadcast platform for events, projects, news and shared resources.
- [Accessibility Hub](#): "Small changes, big impact" supporting science centres and museums on their journey to becoming fully accessible social spaces.
- [The Inclusion Portal](#): Shared learning on equitable and inclusive practice.
- [The Climate Hub](#): carbon-cutting measures, engagement resources and external events on climate action for a collective approach.
- The [Diversci collective](#): a pan-European collective, resource hub and associated bi-monthly informal/drop-in [Community of Practice](#) of which ASDC is a founding contributor.

The [ASDC 2023 National Conference](#) was hosted by W5 in Belfast on 28th and 29th September 2023, with the theme 'Exploring the who, what, where, why and why of science engagement'. The conference included in-depth workshops, activities, the AGM, a networking dinner and 2 full days of inspiring keynotes, discussion tables, lightning talks and workshops. In delegate numbers it was the largest conference ASDC has held to date.

- 4 Sponsors
- 5 keynote speakers
- 5 Exhibitors
- 6 lightning talks
- 19 workshops and panel sessions
- 18 discussion tables
- 167 delegates

The ASDC Board of Trustees

Following a review of the skills existing within the current Board of trustees, alongside acknowledging the experience being lost as individuals retired from the Board, ASDC held an internal recruitment for new trustees to enable a more representative reflection of the national spread and diversity of the membership.

We welcomed three new trustees at the AGM held on 28th September 2023, following gaps identified in the Board's representation of Wales, of small science/discovery centre representation, and of museum members.

Advocacy for science and discovery centres

ASDC continues to explore opportunities that may lead to core funding or financial support for ASDC and our wider network. This include mini-campaigns across digital channels, and in-person advocacy from the ASDC Chief Executive and ASDC trustees that celebrate the work of ASDC and the network at high-profile events and with key politicians. Advocacy primarily focusses on the role of the sector to promote greater diversity and inclusion in the future science, innovation and technology sector and workforce.

To support advocacy efforts and ASDC goal setting, ASDC launched a comprehensive sector survey to include benchmarking and audience insight data, reporting of areas of challenge and innovation and insight into the value held in the ASDC membership offer. Resource allowing, the aim is that this survey will become an annual event to build a robust picture of data trends from year to year.

ASDC has also continued to foster a closer relationship with the Museums Association during 2023-2024 with a view to increase opportunity for joint programming, aligning work across similar streams of activity and to enhance the collective voice for the science centre and museums sector.

National STEM Programmes

During 2023-2024, ASDC placed resource into application for core funding to support future sustainability of the charity but has - as yet - been unsuccessful in this endeavour. ASDC continues to run National programmes and projects that align with organisational [vision, mission and values](#). Projects enable ASDC to deliver sector-wide support, share knowledge, bring together communities of practice, and contribute to the sustainability of the charity. A summary of projects delivered in 2023-2024 follows:

Explore Your Universe, Valuing Inclusion

- **Funded by:** STFC
- **Timeline:** December 2023 - July 2024
- **Delivery partners:** Aberdeen Science Centre, Armagh Observatory & Planetarium, Cambridge Science Centre, Catalyst Science Centre, Dundee Science Centre, Dynamic Earth, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, National Space Centre, Royal Astronomical Society, Science Oxford, Techniquet, W5, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre, We The Curious.
- **Development partners:** British Science Association, Professor Emily Dawson, Dr Jen DeWitt, and Dr Sophie Bartlett, alongside National partner and wider network consultancy.
- **Summary:** The project aim is to promote equity and inclusion as the key to unlocking more diverse participation in STEM research, development, industry and innovation for the future.
- **Key deliverables:**
 - Recruitment of 12 projects devoting time, staff expertise and partnerships to provide evidence that supports (or challenges) the assumptions of the Logic Model.
 - Delivery of an 'evaluation 101' training academy for science centres and their community partners to align measures of inclusive practice.

- Delivery of a Logic model/framework that adheres to the aim of the programme (see above). This Logic model will have a strong, research-informed approach that engages with wider networks, funders and pulls evidence from practitioners.
- Supporting the UK cohort/community of practice focussing on inclusive science engagement
- Final evaluation report and publication of the developed Logic Model.

Mindsets + Missions

- **Funded by:** UKRI
- **Partners:** The Museums Association, The Liminal Space
- **Timeline:** September 2022 – September 2024
- **Learning programme cohort and delivery partners:** TBC
- **Summary:** A key part of UKRI's mission to break down the barriers between research, innovation and society. UKRI is providing grants of up to £75,000 per organisation to explore museums, science centres and galleries as the space for this work.
- **Key Deliverables (ASDC role):**
 - Ongoing evaluation consultation with Cornish & Grey
 - Panel selection committee and ongoing participation on the steering group
 - Programme dissemination
 - Scoping of the potential future of Mindsets + Missions

Our World From Space

- **Funded by:** NERC and UK Space Agency
- **Timeline:** 01 December 2022 – 31 March 2025
- **Delivery partners:** Aberdeen Science Centre - Aero Space Kinross - Armagh Observatory & Planetarium - Cambridge Science Centre - Dynamic Earth - Dundee Science Centre - Exeter Science Centre - Glasgow Science Centre - Life Science Centre - Living Rainforest - National Space Centre - Oxford University Museums of Natural History - Royal Museums Greenwich - Science Oxford - Science Skills Academy - STEM Discovery Centre - Techniquist - The Observatory Science Centre - Thinktank - Wonderseekers - W5 - Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
- **Summary:** NERC funding allowed for the research and development phase of the programme and the UK Space Agency funding commenced April 2023. A theme of the value of space for the sustainability of planet earth, this project offers a modular approach for 22 participating science centres and museums across the UK, with £8000 delivery grants, £1500 of equipment (bespoke as requested per centre), in depth and bespoke evaluation support and a high-level evaluation and communication strategy across the wider 'Space to learn' projects supported by the UK Space Agency.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Two year project (delivery flexible, playing to strengths of individual partners)
 - £8000 delivery grants for up to 23 science and discovery centres and museums playing to individual strengths
 - Content areas include Climate, Biodiversity, Clean Air and Oceans with a 'From global to Local' narrative
 - Content charrette during research and development
 - A new suite of equipment and training resources with a budget of £1500 per centre
 - A 2-day national training academy (3rd & 4th July 2023, National Space Centre)
 - Delivery period Summer 2023 – Winter 2024
 - Large scale evaluation programme working with OnData Ltd

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £663,080 (2023: £543,376). Total expenditure for the year was £645,541 (2023: £511,913) giving a surplus of £17,539 (2023: £31,463).

Reserves and Investment Policies

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. At year end we had £185,743 (2023: £121,324) in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

Future Plans

ASDC will continue to seek opportunities to run national programmes of work that align with its vision, mission and values. These programmes deliver sector-wide inspiration, encourage shared practice, demonstrate collective impact and support professional development, while keeping ASDC sustainable. For example, 'Explore Your Universe: Valuing Inclusion' will deliver an evidence-based Logic Model to support evaluation of impact for practitioners and present a compelling case to STEM funders that an equitable and inclusive approach to science engagements results in greater diversity of participation in STEM. ASDC aims to place equity and inclusion as a business essential for the future, alongside support on measurable indicators of impact.

Alongside project funding, and due to the increased difficulty in attaining project funding, ASDC will continue to seek suitable core funding as a priority, with collaborations, new relationships and enhanced membership offers providing further opportunities for core funding. Current and/or future projects running with the MA also provide opportunities for partnership work and shared resources.

ASDC will also deliver a National Conference for members and the wider sector. The 2024 ASDC conference will be held at the Royal Society in November, and plans are in place to host the 2025 conference with the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford UK City of Culture 2025.

Membership growth is enabled through more formal understanding of the diversity of ASDC members, including 'outreach centres' (larger organisations that achieve their mission without a centralised publicly accessible venue). In addition, pre-approvals from trustees facilitate a more proactive model of membership growth for organisations such as botanical gardens, universities departments and potential national partners.

Two new core strands of work have emerged during 2023-2024 to be taken forward for future plans. The ASDC sector survey furthered insight and data for advocacy. The resource required to undertake this survey was extremely high but provided our members with a valuable tool. Members have opportunity to use data collected through an interactive dashboard, in order to benchmark, explore audience and workforce trends, and understand successful initiatives in areas of shared challenge. The survey has re-affirmed ASDC mission goals and the value held by members in the ASDC offer. The sector survey and 2023 & 2024 CEO discussions also highlight the need for ASDC to convene collective action to acquire a capital fund that supports science and discovery centres' aging building and estates, aligning with membership targets towards net zero.

Advocacy for the sector prioritises raising the profile and evidence for the national impact of science and discovery centres and museums to reach diverse audiences and for wider participation with STEM, championing the cultural and social impact of the national ASDC membership.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019);
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:


Stephen Breslin (Oct 8, 2024 15:49 GMT+1)

Trustee – Dr Stephen Breslin

Date: 08/10/24

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 11 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *S Crisp*

Stuart Crisp BSc FCA
Corrigan Accountants Limited
First Floor
25 King Street
Bristol BS1 4PB

Date: 15 October 2025

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income from					
Charitable activities	3	7,250	535,871	543,121	437,962
Other trading activities	4	119,664	295	119,959	105,414
Total income		126,914	536,166	663,080	543,376
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities		62,348	583,193	645,541	511,913
Total expenditure	5	62,348	583,193	645,541	511,913
Net income/(expenditure)		64,566	(47,027)	17,539	31,463
Transfers between funds		(147)	147	-	-
Net movement in funds		64,419	(46,880)	17,539	31,463
Total funds at 1 April 2023		121,324	50,775	172,099	140,636
Total funds at 31 March 2024	14	185,743	3,895	189,638	172,099

All income and expenditure is derived from the charity's continuing activities.
All gains and losses recognised during the year are included above.

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	117,653	63,949
Cash and bank balances		161,942	172,446
		<u>279,595</u>	<u>236,395</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(89,957)	(64,296)
Net current assets		<u>189,638</u>	<u>172,099</u>
Net assets		<u>189,638</u>	<u>172,099</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	3,895	50,775
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	185,743	121,324
Total charity funds	12	<u>189,638</u>	<u>172,099</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue, on and were signed on its behalf by:


Stephen Breslin (Oct 8, 2024 15:49 GMT+1)

08/10/24

Trustee – Stephen Breslin



14/10/24

Trustee – Tudor Gwynn

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds	17,539	31,463
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(53,704)	49,507
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	25,661	(21,553)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(10,504)</u>	<u>59,417</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>172,446</u>	<u>113,029</u>
Cash at the end of the year	<u>161,942</u>	<u>172,446</u>

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Ireland (FRS102) (Effective January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

Income

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

Resources expended

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

Creditors

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

Pension scheme

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Grants	7,250	535,871	543,121	437,962
	7,250	535,871	543,121	437,962

During the year grant income was received towards running the charity and for certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £543,121 receivable in 2024, £7,250 is included within unrestricted funds (2023: £Nil) and £535,871 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2023: £437,962). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Membership income	54,545	-	54,545	52,705
Annual conference	45,718	-	45,718	38,422
Other income	19,401	295	19,696	14,287
	119,664	295	119,959	105,414

5 Expenditure

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2024 £	2023 £
Purchases	337,393	32,410	369,803	248,085
Salaries (incl. employer's NI)	-	161,094	161,094	164,769
Pension contribution	-	7,571	7,571	7,609
Recruitment and temporary staff	-	-	-	21
Staff training and welfare	545	1,034	1,579	2,115
Travel and subsistence	18,657	6,154	24,811	16,003
Entertaining	108	222	330	373
Premises costs	-	19,980	19,980	19,210
Telephone and fax	-	3,117	3,117	3,658
Postage and stationery	38	67	105	93
Subscriptions	586	495	1,081	3,987
Bank charges	-	585	585	605
Irrecoverable VAT	11,611	6,864	18,475	12,428
Insurance	-	3,639	3,639	4,543
Computer costs	844	4,673	5,517	5,468
Sundry expenses	486	827	1,313	695
Accountancy fees	4,278	8,053	12,331	13,659
Other marketing costs	8,282	1,803	10,085	6,067
Governance costs	-	244	244	130
Legal and professional fees	-	3,881	3,881	2,395
	382,828	262,713	645,541	511,913

5 Expenditure (continued)

Of the £645,541 expenditure, £62,348 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2023: 118,203) charged to unrestricted funds) and £583,193 has been charged to restricted funds (2023: £393,710 charged to restricted funds).

6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

7 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-	2024	2023
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,500	1,400
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	11,000	11,000
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

8 Salaries

	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries	151,418	154,758
Social security costs	9,676	10,011
Pension contributions	7,571	7,609
	<u>168,665</u>	<u>172,378</u>

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of employees (and full time equivalents) in the year was:

	2024	2023
	number	number
Management	1	1
Administration	3	4
	4	5
Full time equivalent	3.6	3.6

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2024	2023
	number	number
Between £30,000 and £40,000	-	1
Between £40,000 and £50,000	1	-
		<u>-</u>

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £46,419 (2022: £38,906).

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	110,217	56,638
Other debtors and prepayments	7,436	7,311
	<u>117,653</u>	<u>63,949</u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	82,491	48,862
Tax and social security	3,369	8,324
Other creditors	2,597	2,116
Accruals and deferred income	1,500	4,994
	<u>89,957</u>	<u>64,296</u>

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2024 the charity had total commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Operating lease commitments	11,000	11,000
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 23	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	At 31 Mar 24
	£	£	£	£	£
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	121,324	126,914	(62,348)	(147)	185,743
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Destination Earth	15,026	-	(15,026)	-	-
Bold Futures	9,170	-	(9,170)	-	-
EYU4 Legacy	2,110	10,160	(12,270)	-	-
EYU Valuing Inclusion	-	244,020	(234,675)	-	9,345
Mindsets and Missions	(2,711)	11,360	(14,099)	-	(5,450)
Our World From Space	-	267,626	(269,344)	1,718	-
Sector CPD	-	-	(3,429)	3,429	-
Destination Space Phase 4	9,696	3,000	(7,696)	(5,000)	-
STFC Impact	17,484	-	(17,484)	-	-
	<u>50,775</u>	<u>536,166</u>	<u>(583,193)</u>	<u>147</u>	<u>3,895</u>
Total funds	<u>172,099</u>	<u>663,080</u>	<u>(645,541)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>189,638</u>

Transfers between funds

Expenditure in excess of restricted funding received has been transferred from unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Details of the larger restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on pages 6 and 7.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 22 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 23 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	140,636	105,291	(118,203)	(6,400)	121,324
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Destination Earth	-	51,040	(36,014)	-	15,026
EYU4 Legacy	-	59,020	(56,910)	-	2,110
STFC Phase 4 EYU	-	-	(284)	284	-
Bold Futures	-	25,000	(15,830)	-	9,170
ISEN	-	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Project Lightyear	-	42,273	(48,007)	5,734	-
Mindsets and Missions	-	6,752	(9,463)	-	(2,711)
NERC 2.5	-	-	(572)	572	-
Destination Space Phase 3	-	-	(1,810)	1,810	-
Destination Space Phase 4	-	52,000	(42,304)	-	9,696
STFC Impact	-	200,000	(182,516)	-	17,484
	-	438,085	(393,710)	6,400	50,775
Total funds	140,636	543,376	(511,913)	-	172,099

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	-	437,962	437,962
Other trading activities	105,291	123	105,414
Total income	105,291	438,085	543,376
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities	118,203	393,710	511,913
Total expenditure	118,203	393,710	511,913
Net expenditure	(12,912)	44,375	31,463
Transfers between funds	(6,400)	6,400	-
Net movement in funds	(19,312)	50,775	31,463
Total funds at 1 April 2022	140,636	-	140,636
Total funds at 31 March 2023	121,324	50,775	172,099

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 (continued)

14 Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total 2023 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	275,700	3,895	279,595	236,395
Current liabilities	(89,957)	-	(89,957)	(64,296)
	<u>185,743</u>	<u>3,895</u>	<u>189,638</u>	<u>172,099</u>

15 Pensions

The pension charge amounted to £7,571 (2023: £7,609). At the year-end £1,116 (2023: £1,371) was outstanding.

16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2024, nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2024, nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129312

Accounts

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2023



Association for
**Science and
Discovery Centres**

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THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)

Registered Office and operational address: Suite 101 QC30
30 Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2
Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountant: Blenheim, Chartered Accountants
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4LA

ASDC Website – www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Trustees and Directors

Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
Scot Owen (Treasurer)	Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre
Dr Jennifer Chambers	STFC
Dr Hermione Cockburn (Honorary Secretary)	Dynamic Earth
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre (resigned 28 Sept. 22)
Victoria Denoon	W5
Tudor Gwynn	Eureka!
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Hassan Joudi	WSP (appointed 7 December 22)
Sheila Kanani	Royal Astronomical Society (appointed 7 December 22)
Joanne Quinton-Tullock	National Science & Media Museum
Bryan Snelling	Aberdeen Science Centre
Donna Speed-Grenfell (Deputy Chair)	We The Curious
Savita Willmott	Natural History Consortium (appointed 7 December 22)

Secretary

Dr Hermione Cockburn

Executive Team

Shaaron Leverment, CEO

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election for a three-year period, unless they have served as a Trustee for a nine-year period, in which case they must retire from the Board of Trustees.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

Management

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the organisation

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) exists to serve and support the ASDC membership by fostering learning, innovation and shared practice within the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and engagement for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

- *ASDC Vision* - A society where science is accessible, inclusive and valued by all as a fundamental part of everyday life.
- *ASDC Mission* - To champion our members, bringing them together to achieve collective impact and reach through connection, advocacy and insight.
- *ASDC Values* – These provide a values screen that lens the work taking place and working practices:
Inclusion – Connection - Collaboration - Innovation - Sustainability

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are addressed on a case-by-case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board"). The major risks to which the charity is exposed are:

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

- The lack of sustainable core funding and reliance on project delivery.
- Small team and high workloads increase risk of long working hours, stress and high staff turnover.
- The impact of the current economic climate on membership and ASDC funding sources.

Operational Report

Overview

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK's leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. The ASDC membership includes independent and non-independent UK science centres, science museums, environment centres (e.g. eco-attractions), learned societies and research councils. In recent years, the ASDC network has engaged over 25 million children and adults each year, with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science exhibitions and activities via school, public and community engagement programmes.

From 2022-2023, ASDC has worked to the mission of bringing together the ASDC membership by creating and running regular knowledge exchange and professional development events, leading national STEM projects, and facilitating ongoing opportunities for collaboration, connection and innovation via a number of digital platforms. The majority of events and programming take place online, with a number of Board-level meetings and the National Conference in 2022 taking place in-person following the release of all Covid restrictions. These events promote professional development and networking within the membership, alongside opportunities to work with funders, research councils, wider networks and government advocates. Together we aim to raise the profile of our sector and to promote a culture of accessible science for all.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol and has maintained the same core team since April 2021. There have been a number of role changes following the appointment of Shaaron Leverment to the Chief Executive role in April 2022:

- Chief Executive (appointed from Acting CEO, 01 April 2022) (0.6 FTE)
- Project Manager (1.0 FTE)
- Project Director (promoted from Project Manager 11 April 2022) (0.4 FTE)
- Head of Communications (promoted from Communication and digital manager, 04 April 2022) (0.8 FTE)
- Business Manager (promoted from Office and projects administrator, 01 August 2022) (0.8 FTE)

Membership 2022-2023

ASDC increased its membership fees by 30% in April 2022 and evolved the membership structure to include a new, third tier of membership for more commercial organisations to enhance core funds to the organisation.

1. Core Members: primarily science and discovery centres and museums.
2. National partners: national STEM partners who share ASDC values and vision.
3. Associate members: commercial organisations that wish to support ASDC and/or who provide key services to organisations within the sector.

During 2022-2023 membership was strong with subscriptions at more than £50,000 for the first time in ASDC history, from 44 core members and national partners and 11 new associate members of ASDC.

Bringing the membership together

ASDC core values commit to promoting connection, collaboration, inclusion, sustainability and evidence-based practice across the sector. ASDC continued to grow opportunities for members to share inspiring practice, ideas and experiences across the national network and wider. Between April 2022 and March 2023, ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events, meetings and forums for science engagement practitioners across the UK. For example:

- Building communities of practice to share aims and priorities, areas of challenge and opportunities for collaborative practice towards common goals including:
 - The Ambassadors Network
 - Volunteers Network
 - Diversity, Equity, Access and Inclusion advocates
 - Decarbonisation Group
 - Education Network
 - Marketing Network
- Individual CPD and support events such as:
 - Management Masterclasses for emerging leaders
 - Ambassador and CEO breakfast meetings
- Monthly members-only meetings on a variety of topics for professionals working at different levels and within breadth of different departments within the membership.
- Supporting the recruitment and retention of diverse staff with specialist forums for HR and access to the Evenbreak Best Practice Portal of resources.

ASDC continues with increasing commitment to provide mechanisms for regular communications with members across a number digital platforms such as the ASDC newsletter and social media channels Twitter and LinkedIn. Websites and shared resource spaces include:

- The ASDC Website: Our main broadcast platform for events, projects, news and shared resources.
- Accessibility Hub: “Small changes, big impact” supporting science centres and museums on their journey to becoming fully accessible social spaces.
- The Inclusion Portal: Shared learning on equitable and inclusive practice.
- The Climate Hub: carbon-cutting measures, engagement resources and external events on climate action for a collective approach.
- The Diversci collective: a pan-European collective, resource hub and associated bi-monthly informal/drop-in Community of Practice of which ASDC is a founding contributor.

The ASDC 2022 National Conference was hosted by Glasgow Science Centre on 28th and 29th September 2022. The theme was ‘Inspiring a new culture of science’. The conference included in-depth workshops, activities, the AGM, a networking dinner and 2 full days of inspiring keynotes, discussion tables, lightning talks and workshops:

- 165 delegates
- 85 organisations
- 3 keynote speakers
- 79 speakers
- 47 workshops, talks and presentations.

Diversification of the ASDC Board: Trustee Recruitment

During 2022-2023, ASDC refreshed the articles of association to allow for non-members to sit on the ASDC Board of Trustees. The new articles of association were accepted at the AGM (28th September 2022) and were submitted to Companies House and the Charities Commission, along with the resolution adopting the new articles. Trustee recruitment launched for three new ASDC trustees to support skills and experience gaps and promote an external perspective on the governance of the charity. Following the recruitment process, an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held for the membership to vote on the acceptance of three new trustees. The EGM was held on 7th December 2022.

Advocacy for science and discovery centres

Following the Parliamentary debate (held on 24th March 2021) and ongoing communications with Dr Ben Spencer MP, ASDC continues to explore opportunities that may lead to core funding or financial support for ASDC and our wider network. Advocacy focusses on the value of science and discovery centres and museums for EDI, through school, family and youth engagement with communities traditionally underrepresented in STEM and the STEM workforce.

During 2022, ASDC wrote a policy document, elements of which were utilised to appeal to include England's science and discovery centre in the Museum Estate and Development (MEND) fund and engaged with members of Government to support the inclusion of the sector in considerations during the review to identify businesses and organisations most at risk from higher energy costs and requiring support.

ASDC has also been fostering closer relationships and partnerships with the Museums Association during 2022-2023 with a view to increase opportunity for collective voice and advocacy up.

National STEM Programmes

ASDC continues to run National Programmes that align with the vision, mission and values. Projects enable ASDC to deliver sector-wide support, share knowledge, bring together communities of practice, and contribute to the sustainability of the charity. A summary of projects delivered in 2022-2023 follows:

Explore Your Universe, Phase 4 (EYU4) LEGACY

- **Funded by:** STFC
- **Timeline:** July 2022 - June 2023
- **Delivery partners:** Aberdeen Science Centre, Cambridge Science Centre, Dynamic Earth, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, Science Oxford, Techniquist, W5, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
- **Summary:** Focussed on shared learning, advocacy and providing professional development opportunities grown from EYU4, this programme built new assets and a professional network that supports the skills and understanding of inspiring practice that works across STFC science and community engagement with 'Wonder' audiences.
- **Key deliverables:**
 - A 2-day in-depth training academy for professional practice in community engagement
 - A UK cohort/community of practice focussing on inclusive science engagement
 - A simple framework to support the measurement of inspiring EDI practice
 - Shareable engagement assets to share practice and learning
 - Final report (including ongoing work with EYU4 community partnerships)

Bold Futures

- **Funded by:** Wellcome
- **Partners:** The Museums Association, The Liminal Space
- **Timeline:** June 2022 – September 2023
- **Delivery partners:** Armagh Observatory and Planetarium, Cambridge Science Centre, Centre for Alternative Technology, Dynamic Earth, Kielder Observatory, Science Oxford, Wonderseekers, Winchester Science Centre
- **Summary:** ASDC is facilitating capacity building grants across seven science and discovery centres. The aim of these grants is to support values-led work that involves underrepresented audiences and explores how this can affect future purpose and financial sustainability.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Cross-sector workshops delivered by the Liminal Space
 - A cohort of science centre active champions working for community representation and engagement in the context of future financial sustainability
 - End of project evaluation that enhances the development of the collective outcomes framework (EYU4) by bringing in the MA toolkit for socially engaged practice and power to the people framework for cross sector relevance and to pilot within Mindsets + Missions

Mindsets + Missions

- **Funded by:** UKRI
- **Partners:** The Museums Association, The Liminal Space
- **Timeline:** September 2022 – September 2024
- **Learning programme cohort and delivery partners:** TBC
- **Summary:** A key part of UKRI's mission to break down the barriers between research, innovation and society. UKRI is providing grants of up to £75,000 per organisation to explore museums, science centres and galleries as the space for this work.
- **Key Deliverables (ASDC role):**
 - Ongoing evaluation consultation with Cornish & Grey
 - Panel selection committee and ongoing participation on the steering group
 - Programme dissemination
 - Scoping of the potential future of Mindsets + Missions

Destination Space INTERIM

- **Funded by:** UK Space Agency
- **Timeline:** October 2022 – March 2023 (COMPLETED)
- **Delivery partners:** Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Centre, National Space Centre, W5, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
- **Summary:** Five centres who delivered both Destination Space and Operation Earth participated in this phase, with the aim to support momentum with the themes of space and climate and gather data that informs the development of delivery and evaluation of 'Our World From Space'.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Delivery of climate activities and links to space/space data took place between December 2022 and March 2023, enabled by small grants to participating centres
 - Interim evaluation report delivered March 2023

Project Lightyear

- **Funded by:** Disney
- **Timeline:** March 2022 – September 2022 (COMPLETED)
- **Delivery partners:** Aberdeen Science Centre, Armagh Observatory & Planetarium, Dynamic Earth, Glasgow Science Centre, Life Science Centre, National Space Centre, Royal Observatory Greenwich, Techniquet, Thinktank, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
- **Summary:** To utilise the broad appeal and brand of the Disney movie release 'Lightyear' on 17th June 2022, ASDC worked with participating centres to explore the science that inspired the movie for school-age children and their families.
- **Key deliverables:**
 - A collection of educational activities and fun resources to share with schools/home educators
 - Reaching 100,000 children and adults across Summer 2022
 - Final impact report exploring reach (numbers, activities, images, quotes)

Our World From Space

- **Funded by:** NERC and UK Space Agency
- **Timeline:** December 2022 – March 2025 (NERC PHASE COMPLETED March 2023)
- **Delivery partners:** TBC
- **Summary:** NERC funding resourced the research and development phase of the programme. Themed on the value of space for the sustainability of planet earth, this project offers a modular approach for up to 23 participating science centres and museums across the UK, with in depth and bespoke evaluation support and a high-level evaluation and communication strategy across the wider 'Inspiration Programme' to be supported by the UK Space Agency.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Content charrette during research and development
 - A new suite of equipment and training resources with a budget of £1,500 per centre
 - Development of a two-year project (delivery flexible, playing to strengths of individual partners) with content areas include Climate, Biodiversity, Clean Air/Atmosphere and Oceans with a 'From global to Local' narrative
 - Large scale evaluation programme

IMPACT "Valuing Inclusion"

- **Funded by:** STFC
- **Timeline:** December 2022 – March 2023
- **Delivery partners:** Aberdeen Science Centre, Cambridge Science Centre, Dundee Science Centre, Dynamic Earth, Exeter Science Centre, Glasgow Science Centre, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre, Life Science Centre, National Space Centre, Royal Museums Greenwich, Science Oxford, Techniquet, W5, We The Curious, Wonderseekers /Winchester Science Centre, Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
- **Summary:** A rapid turn-around project with extended legacy that supported community engagement programmes to continue activity building on existing equitable partnerships and established best practice for inclusive STEM engagement.
- **Key Deliverables:**
 - Sixteen grants provided to organisations working across STFC science engagement and represented within the DEIA advocacy group
 - Professional report and dissemination assets
 - Mini social media campaign highlighting national impact

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £543,376 (2022: £448,087). Total expenditure for the year was £511,913 (2022: £525,897) giving a surplus of £31,463 (2022: deficit of £77,810). The previous year's deficit was a result of the additional costs incurred during the change of CEO and a reduced number of projects running during 2021-2022.

Reserves and Investment Policies

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. At year end we had £121,324 (2022: £140,636) in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

Future Plans

ASDC will continue to run national programmes of work that align with its vision, mission and values. These programmes deliver sector-wide inspiration, encourage shared practice, demonstrate collective impact and support professional development, while keeping ASDC sustainable. ASDC will also deliver a National Conference for members and the wider sector, with the 2023 ASDC conference to be held at W5 in Belfast, and plans being established for conference venues in 2024 and 2025.

Seeking suitable core funding remains a priority with collaborations and new relationships providing some opportunities, alongside enhanced membership offers such as provision of professional development courses, an emphasis on sector-wide benchmarking and data and growth in the number of national partners and associate members of ASDC.

Future diversification of the membership includes discussions on the inclusion of wider museums, botanical gardens, STEM outreach organisations, university departments (etc). Projects running with the MA also provides opportunities for partnership work and shared resources.

Advocacy for the sector prioritises raising the profile and evidence for the national impact of science and discovery centres and museums to reach diverse audiences and for wider participation with STEM, championing the cultural and social impact of the national ASDC membership.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019);
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee – Stephen Breslin

Date: 28/9/23.

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Stuart Crisp BSc FCA
Corrigan Accountants Limited
First Floor
25 King Street
Bristol BS1 4PB

Date: 28 September 2023

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income from					
Charitable activities	3	-	437,962	437,962	374,212
Other trading activities	4	105,291	123	105,414	73,875
Total income		105,291	438,085	543,376	448,087
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities		118,203	393,710	511,913	525,897
Total expenditure	5	118,203	393,710	511,913	525,897
Net expenditure		(12,912)	44,375	31,463	(77,810)
Transfers between funds		(6,400)	6,400	-	-
Net movement in funds		(19,312)	50,775	31,463	(77,810)
Total funds at 1 April 2022		140,636	-	140,636	218,446
Total funds at 31 March 2023	14	121,324	50,775	172,099	140,636

All income and expenditure is derived from the charity's continuing activities.
All gains and losses recognised during the year are included above.

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	63,949	113,457
Cash and bank balances		172,446	113,029
		<u>236,395</u>	<u>226,486</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(64,296)	(85,850)
Net current assets		<u>172,099</u>	<u>140,636</u>
Net assets		<u>172,099</u>	<u>140,636</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	50,775	-
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	121,324	140,636
Total charity funds	12	<u>172,099</u>	<u>140,636</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 28/9/23 and were signed on its behalf by:



Trustee – Stephen Breslin



Trustee – Scot Owen

The notes on pages 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds	31,463	(77,810)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	49,507	85,701
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(21,553)	(126,923)
Net cash provided by operating activities	59,417	(119,032)
Cash at the beginning of the year	113,029	232,061
Cash at the end of the year	172,446	113,029

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Ireland (FRS102) (Effective January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy, which in turn did affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. As with previous years, much of the charity's income for the next 12 months is agreed and the charity held unrestricted reserves of £121,324 at 31 March 2023. Whilst there is a reserve level at which the trustees will trigger a meeting of the ASDC Board Finance Group to review the going concern of the organisation, they have already taken action to increase income through new membership categories that will bring in recurring revenue alongside the opportunity to source and accept additional project income. The Trustees, therefore, consider that the charity has sufficient reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

Income

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

Resources expended

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

Creditors

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

Pension scheme

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Grants	-	437,962	437,962	374,212
	<u>-</u>	<u>437,962</u>	<u>437,962</u>	<u>374,212</u>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £437,962 received in 2023, £Nil is included within unrestricted funds (2022: £Nil) and £437,962 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2022: £374,212). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Membership income	52,705	-	52,705	34,395
Annual conference	38,422	-	38,422	14,082
Job retention scheme grants	-	-	-	1,247
Other income	14,164	123	14,287	24,151
	<u>105,291</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>105,414</u>	<u>73,875</u>

5 Expenditure

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2023 £	2022 £
Purchases	212,783	35,302	248,085	273,578
Salaries (incl. employer's NI)	-	164,769	164,769	154,112
Pension contribution	-	7,609	7,609	6,110
Recruitment and temporary staff	-	21	21	5,751
Staff training and welfare	325	1,790	2,115	746
Travel and subsistence	11,094	4,909	16,003	5,349
Entertaining	-	373	373	483
Premises costs	-	19,210	19,210	18,834
Telephone and fax	-	3,658	3,658	4,100
Postage and stationery	25	68	93	34
Subscriptions	1,479	2,508	3,987	4,167
Bank charges	-	605	605	529
Irrecoverable VAT	6,674	5,754	12,428	15,982
Insurance	-	4,543	4,543	4,608
Computer costs	961	4,507	5,468	7,352
Sundry expenses	85	610	695	172
Accountancy fees	5,110	8,549	13,659	13,804
Other marketing costs	2,336	3,731	6,067	7,692
Governance costs	-	130	130	-
Legal and professional fees	1,000	1,395	2,395	2,494
	<u>241,872</u>	<u>270,041</u>	<u>511,913</u>	<u>525,897</u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

5 Expenditure (continued)

Of the £511,913 expenditure, £118,203 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2022: £86,562) charged to unrestricted funds) and £393,710 has been charged to restricted funds (2022: £439,335 charged to restricted funds).

6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects

7 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-	2023	2022
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,400	1,300
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	11,000	11,000
	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

8 Salaries

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries	154,758	142,215
Social security costs	10,011	11,897
Pension contributions	7,609	6,110
	<u>172,378</u>	<u>160,222</u>

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of employees (and full time equivalents) in the year was:

	2023	2022
	number	number
Management	1	2
Administration	4	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Full time equivalent	3.6	3.6

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2023	2022
	number	number
Between £30,000 and £40,000	1	-
Between £40,000 and £50,000	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees and the Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £38,906 (2022: £77,929).

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	56,638	105,642
Other debtors and prepayments	7,311	7,815
	<u>63,949</u>	<u>113,457</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	48,862	78,870
Tax and social security	8,324	4,168
Other creditors	2,116	1,485
Accruals and deferred income	4,994	1,327
	<u>64,296</u>	<u>85,850</u>

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023 the charity had total commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2023 £	2022 £
Operating lease commitments	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 22 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 23 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	<u>140,636</u>	<u>105,291</u>	<u>(118,203)</u>	<u>(6,400)</u>	<u>121,324</u>
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Destination Earth	-	51,040	(36,014)	-	15,026
EYU4 Legacy	-	59,020	(56,910)	-	2,110
STFC Phase 4 EYU	-	-	(284)	284	-
Bold Futures	-	25,000	(15,830)	-	9,170
ISEN	-	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Project Lightyear	-	42,273	(48,007)	5,734	-
Mindsets and Missions	-	6,752	(9,463)	-	(2,711)
NERC 2.5	-	-	(572)	572	-
Destination Space Phase 3	-	-	(1,810)	1,810	-
Destination Space Phase 4	-	52,000	(42,304)	-	9,696
STFC Impact	-	200,000	(182,516)	-	17,484
	<u>-</u>	<u>438,085</u>	<u>(393,710)</u>	<u>6,400</u>	<u>50,775</u>
Total funds	<u><u>140,636</u></u>	<u><u>543,376</u></u>	<u><u>(511,913)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>172,099</u></u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

Transfers between funds

Expenditure in excess of restricted funding received has been transferred from unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Details of the larger restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on pages 6 to 8.

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 21 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 22 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	156,232	73,875	(86,562)	(2,909)	140,636
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Explore Your Universe 4	-	94,990	(94,990)	-	-
Inspire	58,471	74,949	(133,420)	-	-
ISEN	-	-	(2,000)	2,000	-
Project Lightyear	-	-	(350)	350	-
NERC 2	-	1,983	(1,983)	-	-
NERC 2.5	-	122,370	(122,370)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	-	-	(283)	283	-
Destination Space 2C	-	-	198	(198)	-
Destination Space 3	-	79,920	(79,637)	(283)	-
STFC 2020	3,743	-	(4,500)	757	-
	62,214	374,212	(439,335)	2,909	-
Total funds	218,446	448,087	(525,897)	-	140,636

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	-	374,212	374,212
Other trading activities	73,875	-	73,875
Total income	73,875	374,212	448,087
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities	86,562	439,335	525,897
Total expenditure	86,562	439,335	525,897
Net expenditure			
Transfers between funds	(2,909)	2,909	-
Net movement in funds	(15,596)	(62,214)	(77,810)
Total funds at 1 April 2021	156,232	62,214	218,446
Total funds at 31 March 2022	140,636	-	140,636

14 Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	185,620	50,775	236,395	226,486
Current liabilities	(64,296)	-	(64,296)	(85,850)
	121,324	50,775	172,099	140,636

15 Pensions

The pension charge amounted to £7,609 (2022: £6,110). At the year-end £1,371 (2022: £1,089) was outstanding.

16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2023, nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2023, nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129312

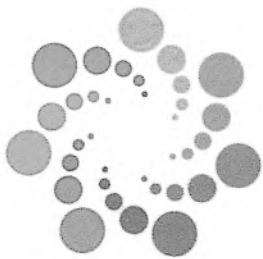
Accounts

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2022



Association for
**Science and
Discovery Centres**

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THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)

Registered Office and operational address: Suite 101 QC30
30 Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2
Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountant: Blenheim, Chartered Accountants
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4LA

ASDC Website – www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Trustees and Directors

Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
Scot Owen (Treasurer)	Xplore! Science Discovery Centre
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre
Dr Jennifer Chambers	STFC (appointed 1 September 2021)
Dr Hermione Cockburn	Dynamic Earth
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
Victoria Denoon	W5 (appointed 1 September 2021)
Tudor Gwynn	Eureka!
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Joanne Quinton-Tullock	National Science & Media Museum
Alison Robinson	NERC (Resigned 1 September 2021)
Bryan Snelling	Aberdeen Science Centre (Appointed 1 September 2021)
Donna Speed-Grenfell	We The Curious

Secretary

Dr Penny Fidler (resigned 21 April 2021)
Dr Hermione Cockburn (appointed 21 April 2021)

Executive Team

Dr Penny Fidler, CEO (resigned 24 April 2021)
Shaaron Leverment, Acting CEO (from 26 April 2021), CEO (from 1 April 2022)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

Management

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the organisation

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) exists to serve and support the ASDC membership by fostering learning, innovation and shared practice within the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and engagement for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

- *ASDC Vision* - A society where science is accessible, inclusive and valued by all as a fundamental part of everyday life.
- *ASDC Mission* - To champion our members, bringing them together to achieve collective impact and reach through connection, advocacy and insight.
- *ASDC Values* – These provide a values screen that lens the work taking place and working practices:
Inclusion – Connection - Collaboration - Innovation - Sustainability

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are addressed on a case-by-case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board"). The major risks to which the charity is exposed are:

- The lack of sustainable core funding and reliance on project delivery.
- Small team and high workloads increase risk of long working hours, stress and high staff turnover in recent years.
- The impact of Covid-19 and the current economic climate on membership and ASDC funding sources.

Operational Report

Overview

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK's leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. The ASDC membership includes independent and non-independent UK science centres, science museums, environment centres (e.g. eco-attractions), learned societies and research councils. In recent years, together the ASDC network has engaged over 25 million people each year, with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science exhibitions and activities via school, public and community engagement programmes.

From 2021-2022, ASDC has worked to our mission of bringing together the ASDC membership by creating and running regular knowledge exchange and professional development events, leading national STEM projects, and facilitating ongoing opportunities for collaboration, connection and innovation via a number of digital platforms. The majority of our events and programming took place online during this year, including the 2021 national conference. These events promote professional development and networking within the membership, alongside opportunities to work with funders, research councils, wider networks and government advocates. Together we aim to raise the profile of our sector and to promote a culture of accessible science for all.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol and has experienced a great deal of change within the executive team. A focus of activity and resource has been on internal staff restructure and wellbeing due to the loss of 2 key full-time members of the team:

- Dr Penny Fidler (CEO) who resigned in March 2021, working until April 2021
- Abi Ashton (Project Manager) who resigned March 2021, working until June 2021

The remaining executive team for the year under review comprised of:

- Acting CEO (promoted April 2021) (0.8 FTE).
- Executive Assistant, promoted to project manager (August 2021) (1.0 FTE)
- Destination Space Project manager appointed September 2021 (0.4 FTE)
- Communication and digital manager (0.6 FTE increased to 0.8 FTE in July 2021)
- Office and projects administrator (appointed 0.83 FTE in October 2021)

Bringing the membership together

Our core values commit ASDC to promoting connection, collaboration, inclusion, sustainability and innovation across the sector. We continue to grow opportunities for members to share inspiring practice, ideas and experiences across our national network (and wider). Between April 2021 and March 2022, ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events, meetings and forums for science engagement practitioners across the UK. For example:

- Bringing together strategically placed individuals from each member organisation into an Ambassadors network to share aims, priorities and work collectively towards common goals.
- Individual CPD and support events such as:
 - In depth discussion on best practice and technology useful for delivering highly professional, interactive digital school engagements
 - Staff wellbeing and working practices sessions across the sector
 - CEO and senior leaders breakfast meetings
- Monthly members-only meetings on a variety of topics for professionals working at different levels and within breadth of different departments within the membership
- Supporting benchmarking requests across the sector (for example, pay scales and benefits for the recruitment and retention of staff)

ASDC also has a continued, increasing commitment to regular communications with members across a number digital platforms such as the [ASDC newsletter](#) and social media channels [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Websites and shared resource spaces also include:

- The [ASDC Website](#) and [Futures Website](#): updated to enable a more efficient UX for members to access up-to-date resources, funds, jobs, information and to re-energise our brand and what we stand for visitors from outside our sector.
- [Accessibility Hub](#): set up supported by STFC in 2020. “Small changes, big impact” this resource supports science centres and museums on their journey to becoming fully accessible social spaces.
- [The Inclusion Portal](#): A resource to share evidence and learning from EYU4 (STFC) and the wider sector. Consulted on by research and practice leaders in the field of equity and inclusion.
- [The Climate Hub](#): A hub for science engagement professionals to share activities, resources, carbon-cutting-measures and external events on climate and COP26 for a collective approach. Funded by Scottish Government and updated with support from NERC.
- The Equity@Ecsite collective: funded by a collaborative grant from Ecsite, maintained a growing Basecamp resource, a draft website known as the ‘Diversci’ framework – due for future finalisation and launch - and an associated bi-monthly informal/drop-in [Community of Practice](#).

The ASDC 2021 National Conference ran virtually (online) with the theme ‘Sustainable Futures’ on 24th & 25th November. Three key strands were highlighted from the theme, with parallel session and keynotes driven from membership interests:

- Sustainable Futures: Resilience.
- Sustainable Futures: Diversity.
- Sustainable Futures: Environment.

Listening to the membership

A listening project took place to uncover the value of ASDC for current and potential members, including member successes, ambitions and challenges, and to identify how ASDC could better serve its members in the future. A survey was sent across the members, alongside a number of informal interviews with CEOs and senior managers. ASDC uncovered that the most valued benefits of ASDC membership were:

1. Networking opportunities (87.7%).
2. Being part of ASDC Projects (75.6%).
3. Opportunities for CPD (56.1%).

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

Wider opportunities that ASDC could provide the following, and lensed this year's activities accordingly:

1. Supporting funding to reach diverse audiences.
2. Support to write better applications using the experience of members.
3. Support to share ideas and navigate the sustainability of operations in an increasingly digital world.
4. Benchmarking against other science centres for activities and knowledge sharing.

National and International STEM Programmes

ASDC continues to run National Programmes that align with our vision, mission and values. Projects enable us to deliver sector-wide support, share knowledge, bring together communities of practice, and contribute to the sustainability of the charity.

- **Explore Your Universe, Phase 4 (EYU4)**
Funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC), this programme worked with 8 science centres and places participation, equity and inclusion at the heart of engagement with STFC science. The methodology works with a multiple engagement model, allowing the time for science centres to build equitable partnerships with local communities and pushing the boundaries of their participatory practice. Outcomes for participants included increased pride, ownership, skills, science learning, belonging, confidence, agency and connection to science. Case studies, evaluation methods and learning from this programme can be found at: <https://inclusion.sciencecentres.org.uk>
- **Project Inspire**
In collaboration with the Inspiring Science Fund, a partnership between UKRI and Wellcome, this programme launched in September 2020 and closed in October 2021. It has 2 distinct strands of work:
 - ASDC Emerging Leaders Programme - an investment into the professional development, providing skills, approaches and practices to nurture and support the inclusive and innovative science centre leaders of our future.
 - A Digital Engagement and Innovation Programme – ASDC selected eight science centres to deliver innovative digital projects that open-up new participatory ways of engaging and involving their underserved audiences. Each centre was awarded a grant of £15,000 to fund their work, and were further supported by ASDC with ideation sessions, masterclasses and informal drop-in sessions to assist them as they pilot new digital methods and work to engage their communities with science.
- **Destination Space**
Funded by the UK Space Agency, Destination Space 3 launched in October 2021, working across nine science and discovery centres and museums in a 6 month programme, this programme focussed on schools and family engagement, playing to the current strengths within individual science centre delivery partners and focussing on the content areas of the James Webb Space Telescope, UK Spaceports and Climate from space. Over 67,000 people (93% in-person) took part in Destination Space 3, with 82% of participants strongly agreeing/agreeing that space science is relevant to their own lives.

- **Operation Earth**

Funded by NERC, Operation Earth 2.5 launched in September 2021, working across 10 science centres and reaching over 67,000 people with a significant impact on participant interest in climate and environmental science, with 92% strongly agreeing/agreeing that climate and environmental science has a strong connection to their own lives. Staff development, relationships-building and confidence for science centre staff were also key outputs for this programme.

Equity@Ecsite

ASDC has been an integral part of this core advocacy group since 2016 and wrote a successful Collaborative Grant application to Ecsite for 2020 to enable the development of the 'Diversci' framework (chosen to emphasise Diversity, Inclusion, Values, Equity & Responsibility in Science Communication). Led by ASDC, this framework was piloted across 17 European organisations during 2020 and into 2021, with workload during 2021 focussed on the finalising of the framework due to be launched May 2022.

Advocacy for science and discovery centres

Lobbying continues, following the Parliamentary debate held on 24th March 2021, further meetings were held such as:

- 28th June, Shaaron Leverment and Chas Bishop virtually met with Michelle Donelan MP (Minister for Universities), Caroline Dinenage MP (Minister for Digital and Culture) and Amanda Solloway MP (Minister for Science, Research and Innovation) and Ben Spencer MP.
- 17th August, Shaaron Leverment, Chas Bishop and Bridget Holligan met again with Dr Ben Spencer MP with a view to bringing together a lobbying policy document.

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £448,087 (2021: £571,994). Total expenditure for the year was £525,897 (2021: £647,388) giving a deficit of £77,810 (2021: deficit of £75,394). The increased deficit is a result of the additional costs incurred during the change of CEO and a reduced number of projects running during 2021-2022.

Reserves and Investment Policies

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. At year end we had £140,636 (2021: £156,232) in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

Future Plans

The founding CEO Dr Penny Fidler left the organisation on 24th April 2021. With the extended period of Science and Discovery Centre closures and change of the executive team, the acting CEO was in post for the remainder of the financial year to deliver committed projects and support the staff. Shaaron Leverment was then recruited into the permanent role in April 2022.

Future plans include:

1. Definition and progression of strategic goals to be outlined in full at the AGM (2022) .
2. Supporting the resilience and wellbeing of the flourishing network of member.
3. Promoting greater connection and collaboration within and across our sector of science centres and science museums.
4. Launch of the 'Diversci' framework and associated LinkedIN groups for European EDI collective practice.
5. Diversification of the membership, including increasing associate membership, national partnership and conference sponsorship as sources of core funding.
6. Successful delivery of an in-person conference at Glasgow Science Centre.
7. Constitutional updates, acceptance of refreshed articles of association and diversification of the board of trustees.
8. Securing additional sources of project funding and forging new relationships with funders that align our mission and values.
9. Raising the profile of the sector for reaching diverse audiences and promoting wider participation with science.
10. Continuing to champion the cultural and social impact of the national ASDC membership, for wider recognition for the sector.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019);
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee – Stephen Breslin

Date: 9th November 2022

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 11 to 20.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.


Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: 

Stuart Crisp BSc FCA
Corrigan Accountants Limited
First Floor
25 King Street
Bristol BS1 4PB

Date: 9 November 2022

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Income from					
Charitable activities	3	-	374,212	374,212	527,732
Other trading activities	4	73,875	-	73,875	44,262
Total income		73,875	374,212	448,087	571,994
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities		86,562	439,335	525,897	647,388
Total expenditure	5	86,562	439,335	525,897	647,388
Net expenditure		(12,687)	(65,123)	(77,810)	(75,394)
Transfers between funds		(2,909)	2,909	-	-
Net movement in funds		(15,596)	(62,214)	(77,810)	(75,394)
Total funds at 1 April 2021		156,232	62,214	218,446	293,840
Total funds at 31 March 2022	14	140,636	-	140,636	218,446

All income and expenditure is derived from the charity's continuing activities.
All gains and losses recognised during the year are included above.

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	113,457	199,158
Cash and bank balances		113,029	232,061
		<u>226,486</u>	<u>431,219</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(85,850)	(212,773)
Net current assets		<u>140,636</u>	<u>218,446</u>
Net assets		<u>140,636</u>	<u>218,446</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	-	62,214
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	140,636	156,232
Total charity funds	12	<u>140,636</u>	<u>218,446</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue, on and were signed on its behalf by:



Trustee – Stephen Breslin



Trustee – Scot Owen

9 November 2022

The notes on pages 14 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(77,810)	(75,394)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	85,701	(50,121)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(126,923)	140,582
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>(119,032)</u>	<u>15,067</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year	<u>232,061</u>	<u>216,994</u>
Cash at the end of the year	<u><u>113,029</u></u>	<u><u>232,061</u></u>

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Ireland (FRS102) (Effective January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy, which in turn did affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. As with previous years, much of the charity's income for the next 12 months is agreed and the charity held unrestricted reserves of £140,636 at 31 March 2022. Whilst there is a reserve level at which the trustees will trigger a meeting of the ASDC Board Finance Group to review the going concern of the organisation, they have already taken action to increase income through new membership categories that will bring in recurring revenue alongside the opportunity to source and accept additional project income. The Trustees, therefore, consider that the charity has sufficient reserves to continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

Income

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

Resources expended

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

Creditors

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

Pension scheme

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Grants	-	374,212	374,212	527,732
	<u>-</u>	<u>374,212</u>	<u>374,212</u>	<u>527,732</u>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £374,212 received in 2022, £Nil is included within unrestricted funds (2021: £Nil) and £374,212 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2021: £527,732). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Membership income	34,395	-	34,395	31,990
Annual conference	14,082	-	14,082	-
Job retention scheme grants	1,247	-	1,247	11,561
Other income	24,151	-	24,151	711
	<u>73,875</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>73,875</u>	<u>44,262</u>

5 Expenditure

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2022 £	2021 £
Purchases	266,647	6,931	273,578	248,570
Salaries (incl. employer's NI)	-	154,112	154,112	258,455
Pension contribution	-	6,110	6,110	9,234
Recruitment and temporary staff	3,225	2,526	5,751	400
Staff training and welfare	700	46	746	1,519
Travel and subsistence	3,506	1,843	5,349	(413)
Entertaining	-	483	483	222
Premises costs	-	18,834	18,834	18,359
Telephone and fax	-	4,100	4,100	4,829
Postage and stationery	25	9	34	189
Subscriptions	1,687	2,480	4,167	2,439
Bank charges	-	529	529	99
Irrecoverable VAT	10,012	5,970	15,982	22,996
Insurance	-	4,608	4,608	4,443
Computer costs	1,365	5,987	7,352	6,316
Sundry expenses	-	172	172	192
Accountancy fees	8,024	5,780	13,804	17,221
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	1,965
Advertising and PR	-	-	-	440
Other marketing costs	6,172	1,520	7,692	34,096
Legal and professional fees	-	2,494	2,494	15,817
	<u>301,363</u>	<u>224,534</u>	<u>525,897</u>	<u>647,388</u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

5 Expenditure (continued)

Of the £525,897 expenditure, £86,562 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2021: £149,322) charged to unrestricted funds) and £439,335 has been charged to restricted funds (2021: £498,066 charged to restricted funds).

6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects

7 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-	2022 £	2021 £
Cost of independent examination	1,300	1,300
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

8 Salaries

	2022 £	2021 £
Salaries	142,215	240,944
Social security costs	11,897	17,511
Pension contributions	6,110	9,234
	<u>160,222</u>	<u>267,689</u>

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of employees (and full time equivalents) in the year was:

	2022 number	2021 number
Management	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
Full time equivalent	3.6	4.2

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2022 number	2021 number
Between £40,000 and £50,000	1	-
Between £110,000 and £120,000	-	1
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Acting Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £77,929 (2021: £146,684).

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	105,642	191,695
Other debtors and prepayments	7,815	7,463
	<u>113,457</u>	<u>199,158</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	78,870	146,009
Tax and social security	4,168	6,399
Other creditors	1,485	2,102
Accruals and deferred income	1,327	58,263
	<u>85,850</u>	<u>212,773</u>

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2022 the charity had total commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2022 £	2021 £
Operating lease commitments	<u>11,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 21 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 22 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	<u>156,232</u>	<u>73,875</u>	<u>(86,562)</u>	<u>(2,909)</u>	<u>140,636</u>
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Explore Your Universe 4	-	94,990	(94,990)	-	-
Inspire	58,471	74,949	(133,420)	-	-
ISEN	-	-	(2,000)	2,000	-
Project Lightyear	-	-	(350)	350	-
NERC 2	-	1,983	(1,983)	-	-
NERC 2.5	-	122,370	(122,370)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	-	-	(283)	283	-
Destination Space 2C	-	-	198	(198)	-
Destination Space 3	-	79,920	(79,637)	(283)	-
STFC 2020	3,743	-	(4,500)	757	-
	<u>62,214</u>	<u>374,212</u>	<u>(439,335)</u>	<u>2,909</u>	<u>-</u>
Total funds	<u><u>218,446</u></u>	<u><u>448,087</u></u>	<u><u>(525,897)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>140,636</u></u>

Transfers between funds

Expenditure in excess of restricted funding received has been transferred from unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Details of the larger restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on pages 6 and 7.

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 20 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 21 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	261,307	44,312	(149,322)	(65)	156,232
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Climate Hub	8,560	-	(8,560)	-	-
Engaging Environments	-	(50)	(15)	65	-
Explore Your Universe 4	1,295	99,995	(101,290)	-	-
Forum: Impact Survey	(2,695)	8,050	(5,355)	-	-
Inclusion	-	2,558	(2,558)	-	-
Inspire	-	174,881	(116,410)	-	58,471
ISEN	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Mars	-	990	(990)	-	-
NERC 2	9,514	68,593	(78,107)	-	-
Science Museum Group Acad	18,666	5,000	(23,666)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	(42,358)	99,997	(57,639)	-	-
Destination Space 2C	8,883	36,264	(45,147)	-	-
STFC 2020	30,668	-	(26,925)	-	3,743
STFC 2021	-	29,404	(29,404)	-	-
	32,533	527,682	(498,066)	65	62,214
Total funds	293,840	571,994	(647,388)	-	218,446

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 (continued)

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	-	527,732	527,732
Other trading activities	44,312	(50)	44,262
	<u>44,312</u>	<u>527,682</u>	<u>571,994</u>
Total income			
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities	149,322	498,066	647,388
	<u>149,322</u>	<u>498,066</u>	<u>647,388</u>
Total expenditure			
	<u>149,322</u>	<u>498,066</u>	<u>647,388</u>
Net expenditure	(105,010)	29,616	(75,394)
Transfers between funds	(65)	65	-
	<u>(65)</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	(108,075)	29,681	(75,394)
Total funds at 1 April 2020	261,307	32,533	293,840
	<u>261,307</u>	<u>32,533</u>	<u>293,840</u>
Total funds at 31 March 2021	156,232	62,214	218,446
	<u>156,232</u>	<u>62,214</u>	<u>218,446</u>

14 Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	226,486	-	226,486	431,219
Current liabilities	(85,850)	-	(85,850)	(212,773)
	<u>140,636</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>140,636</u>	<u>218,446</u>

15 Pensions

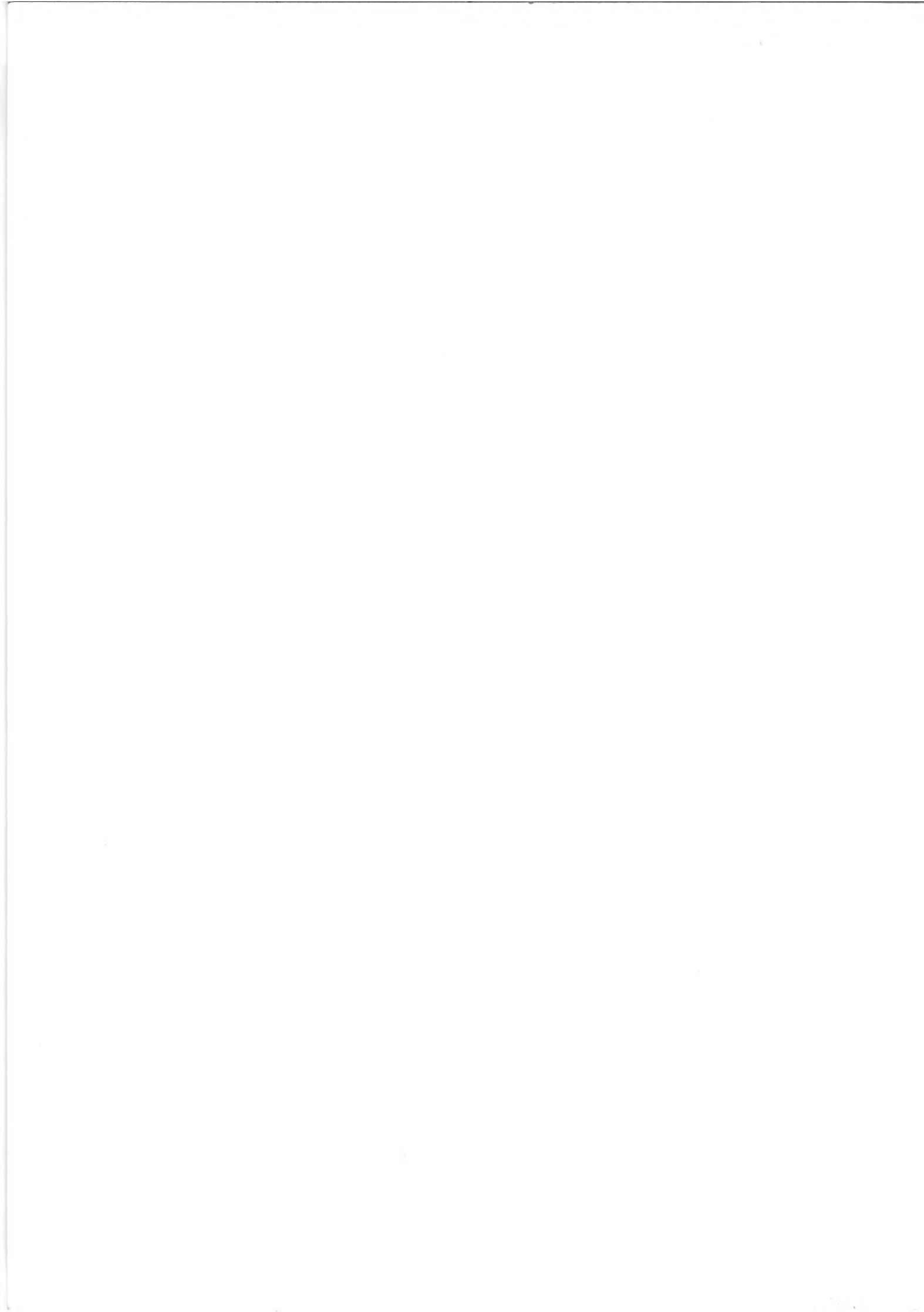
The pension charge amounted to £6,110 (2021: £9,234). At the year-end £1,089 (2021: £1,420) was outstanding.

16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2022, nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2022, nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.



THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

England & Wales - Charity number 1129312

Accounts

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2021



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THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)

Registered Office and operational address: Suite 101 QC30
30 Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2
Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountant: Blenheim, Chartered Accountants
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4LA

ASDC Website - www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Trustees and Directors

Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
Scot Owen (Treasurer)	Techniquet Glyndwr
Charles Bishop	National Space Centre,
Dr Hermione Cockburn	Dynamic Earth
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
Karen Davies	Science Museum Group (resigned 23 October 2020)
Lauren Deere	Thinktank Birmingham Museums Trust (resigned 31 May 2020)
Tudor Gwynn	Eureka!
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Joanne Quinton-Tulloch	National Science & Media Museum (appointed 23 October 2020)
Alison Robinson	NERC
Donna Speed-Grenfell	We The Curious
Ben Ward	Winchester Science Centre (resigned 22 February 2021)

Secretary

Dr Penny Fidler (resigned 21 April 2021)
Dr Hermione Cockburn (appointed 21 April 2021)

Executive Team

Dr Penny Fidler, CEO (resigned 24 April 2021)
Shaaron Leverment, Acting CEO (from 26 April 2021)

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated and registered as a charity on 21 January 2009. It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the requirements of ASDC's Memorandum and Articles of Association there shall be no fewer than eight and not more than sixteen Trustees in office.

One third of the Trustees retire from office each year, being those who have been longest in office since their appointment. A retiring Trustee is eligible for re-election.

Induction of Trustees

Trustees are invited to meet the executive team and familiarise themselves with the aims of the organisation. They are given an induction pack which includes the Memorandum and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

Management

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the organisation

To serve and support Science and Discovery Centres and related organisations, fostering learning and engagement in the field of science, technology, engineering and mathematics for the public benefit.

The trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit and report on these activities below.

Vision - A society where people of all backgrounds in all parts of the UK are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

Mission - To bring together the ASDC membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risks are addressed on a case-by-case basis and any relevant changes to systems or procedures are made to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board").

The major risks to which the charity is exposed are:

- The lack of sustainable core funding and reliance on project delivery.
- The impact of Covid-19 on funding sources and on the national network of Science Centres.
- Human resources - a small team of 4.2 FTE in the year under review with a high turnover of staff in recent years.

Operational Report

Overview

The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) is the vibrant national charity that brings together the UK's leading science engagement organisations to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science, a mission that has never been more important as we - as a sector, a nation and a global society - face global challenges such as climate and sustainability, growing social inequity and the ongoing impact of the global pandemic. The ASDC membership includes UK Science and Discovery centres, science museums, environment centres, learned societies and research councils. In recent years, the ASDC network has engaged over 25 million people each year, with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science exhibitions and activities via school, public and community engagement programmes.

ASDC has an office in central Bristol and, in the year under review, had an executive team of 4.2 FTE staff, namely the CEO, the deputy CEO (0.6), an executive assistant, a projects manager and a communications manager (0.6).

From 2020-2021, we have worked to our mission of bringing together the ASDC membership by creating and running knowledge exchange programmes and national STEM projects, information sharing via digital platforms and providing opportunities for regular connection, support, sharing ideas and good practice throughout the pandemic. Our events and programming promote professional development and collaboration between centres, facilitating the connection between the latest STEM, education and communication practices and the families, schools and communities across the UK. Together we work with funders, research councils, wider networks and government advocates to raise the profile of our sector and to promote a culture of accessible science for all.

Coronavirus Resilience Support

Throughout this year, ASDC has played a central leadership and support role for UK Science and Discovery centres, by re-focusing significant resource running weekly and bi-weekly National Coronavirus Resilience Meetings. These meetings were open to CEOs and senior staff of Science and Discovery centres, museums and eco-attractions. ASDC also collated hundreds of resources such as re-opening guidelines, latest information on announcements of funding, and strategies to support staff at all levels on the ASDC website, alongside collating UK-wide data and providing it to senior government officials to lobby for funding to support the sector.

As part of the lobbying, ASDC launched the campaign 'Science Centres For Our Future' (<https://future.sciencecentres.org.uk/>) with an open letter signed by over 150 leading scientists and business leaders to Boris Johnson, Rishi Sunak and Alok Sharma. Lobbying continues with a Parliamentary debate held on 24th March 2021 secured by Dr Ben Spencer MP celebrating the importance of Science and Discovery Centres in supporting education in science, and broadening access to future careers in STEM. Following the debate, a further meeting has been secured to take this to the next stage and ASDC continues to champion the national impact of the work of Science and Discovery Centres as they share the latest research and innovation with a diverse public.

National and International STEM Programmes

Despite the closure of the network of Science and Discovery centres, the ASDC team has continued to work closely with centres to deliver 12 national and international projects, the most significant of these programmes includes:

Operation Earth, (<https://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/projects/operation-earth/operation-earth-phase-2/>) funded by NERC, during the pandemic, seven Science Centres involved in Operation Earth 2 worked with 28 community groups, running 98 activities. Together they engaged with 5,239 people, many of whom had never visited a Science Centre before. A further 334,525 people engaged with Operation Earth phase 2 through digital platforms.

Destination Space, (<https://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/projects/destination-space/destination-space-2-level2/>) funded by the UK Space Agency, Destination Space 2, has reached over 450,000 people across the UK. Science Centre teams worked hard to continue delivering the project, pivoting to online and remote engagement when face-to-face interactions were not possible.

Explore Your Universe, (<https://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/projects/explore-your-universe/phase-4/>) funded by the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and extended for an additional year to enable this community-focussed programme to further develop partnerships, EYU Phase 4 focussed funding on practitioner learning, reflective practice and embedded participation for organisation-wide impact during this financial year.

Project Inspire, (<https://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/projects/project-inspire-digital-innovation-and-leadership-programme/>) in collaboration with the Inspiring Science Fund, a partnership between UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Wellcome. This programme launched in September 2020 and has 2 strands of work:

- A Digital Engagement and Innovation Programme working with eight of the UK's Science Centres to develop new and creative digital ways to engage and involve underserved communities and audiences with STEM.
- A new ASDC Emerging Leaders Programme, an investment into the professional development of our emerging leaders, providing skills, approaches and practices that can nurture and support the participants to become the inclusive and dynamic Science Centre leaders for our future.

The Climate Hub, (<https://climatehub.uk/>) supported by The Scottish Government. A hub for science engagement professionals to share activities, shows, resources and digital materials to engage children and families with climate change.

The national impact of these programmes is a huge testament to the ingenuity, adaptability and perseverance of the staff within science centres this year. A full list of all successfully delivered national and international STEM programmes 2020-2021 follows:

- 1) Destination Space 2B: A national space exploration programme funded by the UK Space Agency
- 2) Destination Space 2C: A Spaceports programme for remote communities
- 3) Explore Your Universe: Phase 4, funded by STFC
- 4) Operation Earth: A National Environment Programme funded by NERC
- 5) Project Inspire, the Digital Engagement and Leadership Programme,.
- 6) Equity@Ecsite international inclusion framework, funded by Ecsite
- 7) The Climate Hub, supported by The Scottish Government
- 8) The Audience and Impact Research Programme, funded by UKRI
- 9) Science Museum Group Academy (Science Capital in Practice)
- 10) Mars – Artwork by Luke Jerram
- 11) The STFC 2020 Programme (Community Partnerships and best practice)
- 12) The STFC 2021 Programme (Supporting the Digital Divide)

Bringing staff together to share knowledge and best practice

ASDC also convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events, meetings and conference calls for science engagement practitioners across the UK, bringing together the Education practitioners, a wellbeing session for staff in centres or on furlough, and masterclasses in professional digital engagement with schools.

Our main conferences were cancelled this year, but knowledge and information share continued with our weekly coronavirus resilience calls, and newly created web resources, such as the [accessibility website](#), supported by volunteers on furlough from Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium. This resource, following the cancellation of a conference, was developed with support from the STFC 2020 programme to raise awareness and share best practice to improve the accessibility of Science and Discovery centre spaces for children and adults with disabilities, special or additional needs.

ASDC is committed to increasing its regular communications with members across digital platforms such as the [ASDC newsletter](#) and social media channels [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £571,994 (2020: £512,268). Total expenditure for the year was £647,388 (2020: £530,681) giving a deficit of £75,394 (2020: deficit of £18,413). The increased deficit is a result of the additional costs incurred during the change of CEO and to cover funds utilised from unrestricted reserves to support a PR campaign for the sector during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Reserves and Investment Policies

In order to provide on-going financial stability, the organisation aims to hold reserves at a level that will provide funds to cover a minimum of twelve months of costs in the event of a failure to secure funding. Currently we have £156,232 (2020: £261,307) in unrestricted reserves which, along with expected income during the current year, we consider sufficient.

The organisation does not currently have a formal investment policy.

Future Plans

The founding CEO Dr Penny Fidler left the organisation on 24th April 2021. With the extended period of Science and Discovery Centre closures and change of the executive team, ASDC is planning to refresh its strategy and direction as we look to recruit a new CEO in the Autumn 2021.

During this interim period, the acting CEO and ASDC team is committed to:

- Supporting the resilience and wellbeing of the sector.
- Listening to the membership to explore the value of ASDC for members, remaining open to explore options of team restructure for the benefit of best serving the membership.
- Facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange by bringing the ASDC membership together into communities of practice to share ideas, approaches and practice around key themes of importance or urgency.
- Running two national ongoing projects: Explore Your Universe (Phase 4) and Project Inspire.
- Applying for funding for the sustainability of the charity that aligns with our vision and mission and focusses on the team values of Inclusion, Collaboration & Connection, Environmental Sustainability, Curiosity and Innovation.
- Committing resource to exploring more opportunities for core funding and a more sustainable business model.
- Championing the role of Science and Discovery Centres for wider inclusion, equity and diversity in science, aligning with key government agendas (skills, education, levelling up) and supporting ongoing lobbying activities led by the ASDC strategy working group of trustees.
- Bringing together the national sector at a conference on 24th & 25th November 2021.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP FRS102 (effective 1 January 2019) ;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable 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 charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee – Stephen Breslin

Date: 26.8.21

Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 19.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Stuart Crisp BSc FCA
Corrigan Accountants Limited
The Tramshed
25 Lower Park Row
Bristol BS1 5BN

Date: 26 August 2021

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Income from					
Charitable activities	3	-	527,732	527,732	425,140
Other trading activities	4	44,312	(50)	44,262	87,128
Total income		44,312	527,682	571,994	512,268
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities		149,322	498,066	647,388	530,681
Total expenditure	5	149,322	498,066	647,388	530,681
Net expenditure		(105,010)	29,616	(75,394)	(18,413)
Transfers between funds		(65)	65	-	-
Net movement in funds		(105,075)	29,681	(75,394)	(18,413)
Total funds at 1 April 2020		261,307	32,533	293,840	312,253
Total funds at 31 March 2021	14	156,232	62,214	218,446	293,840

All income and expenditure is derived from the charity's continuing activities.
All gains and losses recognised during the year are included above.

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	199,158	149,037
Cash and bank balances		232,061	216,994
		<u>431,219</u>	<u>366,031</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	10	(212,773)	(72,191)
Net current assets		<u>218,446</u>	<u>293,840</u>
Net assets		<u><u>218,446</u></u>	<u><u>293,840</u></u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	62,214	32,533
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	156,232	261,307
Total charity funds	12	<u><u>218,446</u></u>	<u><u>293,840</u></u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2021.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue, on and were signed on its behalf by:

26 August 2021



Trustee – Stephen Breslin



Trustee – Scot Owen

The notes on pages 12 to 19 form part of these financial statements.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds	(75,394)	(18,413)
Adjustments for:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(50,121)	18,547
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	140,582	(2,983)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>15,067</u>	<u>(2,849)</u>
Cash at the beginning of the year	216,994	219,843
Cash at the end of the year	<u><u>232,061</u></u>	<u><u>216,994</u></u>

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard applicable in UK and Ireland (FRS102) (Effective January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policies.

Going concern

The accounts have been prepared on the assumption that the charity is able to continue as a going concern, which the trustees consider appropriate having regard to the current level of unrestricted reserves. The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have a significant impact on the economy, which may in turn affect the charity. The trustees have considered the impact of this issue on the charity's current and future financial position. Much of the charity's income for the next 12 months is agreed and the charity currently holds reserves of £218,446 of which only £62,214 is restricted. The trustees consider that the charity has sufficient reserves to mitigate any adverse impacts of Covid and continue as a going concern for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which these financial statements are approved.

Income

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

Resources expended

External costs of projects are those costs directly incurred in connection with the various projects carried out by the Charity.

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

Creditors

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

Pension scheme

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grants	-	527,732	527,732	425,140
	<u>-</u>	<u>527,732</u>	<u>527,732</u>	<u>425,140</u>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £527,732 received in 2021, £Nil is included within unrestricted funds (2020: £Nil) and £527,732 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2020: £425,140). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Membership income	31,990	-	31,990	30,880
Annual conference	-	-	-	31,555
Job retention scheme grants	11,561	-	11,561	-
Other income	761	(50)	711	24,693
	<u>44,312</u>	<u>(50)</u>	<u>44,262</u>	<u>87,128</u>

5 Expenditure

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2021 £	2020 £
Purchases	248,570	-	248,570	230,222
Salaries (incl. employers NI)	-	258,455	258,455	160,738
Pension contribution	-	9,234	9,234	6,295
Recruitment and temporary staff	-	400	400	20,317
Staff training and welfare	-	1,519	1,519	181
Travel and subsistence	25	(438)	(413)	18,417
Entertaining	-	222	222	1,160
Premises costs	-	18,359	18,359	19,356
Telephone and fax	-	4,829	4,829	5,260
Postage and stationery	79	110	189	6,186
Subscriptions	38	2,401	2,439	1,522
Bank charges	-	99	99	486
Irrecoverable VAT	8,640	14,356	22,996	24,713
Insurance	-	4,443	4,443	3,170
Computer costs	1,710	4,606	6,316	7,862
Sundry expenses	-	192	192	320
Accountancy fees	7,677	9,544	17,221	17,158
Consultancy fees	-	1,965	1,965	2,460
Advertising and PR	310	130	440	73
Other marketing costs	10,623	23,473	34,096	4,521
Legal and professional fees	-	15,817	15,817	264
	<u>277,672</u>	<u>369,716</u>	<u>647,388</u>	<u>530,681</u>

5 Expenditure (continued)

Of the £647,388 expenditure, £149,322 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2020: £137,584 charged to unrestricted funds) and £498,066 has been charged to restricted funds (2020: £393,097 charged to restricted funds).

6 Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on income falling within section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or section 252 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects

7 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-	2021	2020
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,300	1,300
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	11,000	10,840
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

8 Salaries

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries	240,944	148,825
Social security costs	17,511	11,913
Pension contributions	9,234	6,295
	<u>267,689</u>	<u>167,033</u>

The staff costs of the charity are shown above. The average number of employees (and full time equivalents) in the year was:

	2021	2020
	number	number
Management	2	2
Administration	3	2
	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2021	2020
	number	number
Between £60,000 and £70,000		1
Between £110,000 and £120,000	1	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

The key management personnel of the charity are the trustees, the Chief Executive Officer and the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. The total employee benefits paid to the key management personnel were £146,684 (2020: £93,424).

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	191,695	144,312
Other debtors and prepayments	7,463	4,725
	<u>199,158</u>	<u>149,037</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	146,009	63,061
Tax and social security	6,399	6,302
Other creditors	2,102	1,528
Accruals and deferred income	58,263	1,300
	<u>212,773</u>	<u>72,191</u>

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2021 the charity had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Operating lease commitments	<u>11,000</u>	<u>-</u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 (continued)

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 20 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 21 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	261,307	44,312	(149,322)	(65)	156,232
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Climate Hub	8,560	-	(8,560)	-	-
Engaging Environments	-	(50)	(15)	65	-
Explore Your Universe 4	1,295	99,995	(101,290)	-	-
Forum: Impact Survey	(2,695)	8,050	(5,355)	-	-
Inclusion	-	2,558	(2,558)	-	-
Inspire	-	174,881	(116,410)	-	58,471
ISEN	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Mars	-	990	(990)	-	-
NERC 2	9,514	68,593	(78,107)	-	-
Science Museum Group Acad	18,666	5,000	(23,666)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	(42,358)	99,997	(57,639)	-	-
Destination Space 2C	8,883	36,264	(45,147)	-	-
STFC 2020	30,668	-	(26,925)	-	3,743
STFC 2021	-	29,404	(29,404)	-	-
	32,533	527,682	(498,066)	65	62,214
Total funds	293,840	571,994	(647,388)	-	218,446

Transfers between funds

Expenditure in excess of restricted funding received has been transferred from unrestricted funds.

Restricted funds

Details of the larger restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on pages 4 - 5.

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 19 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 20 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	312,253	86,779	(137,584)	(141)	261,307
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Climate Hub	-	10,000	(1,440)	-	8,560
Engaging Environments	-	50	(51)	1	-
Explore Your Universe 4	-	100,000	(98,705)	-	1,295
Forum: Impact Survey	-	-	(2,695)	-	(2,695)
Mars	-	18,810	(18,950)	140	-
NERC 2	-	42,000	(32,486)	-	9,514
Science Museum Group Academy	-	50,299	(31,633)	-	18,666
Destination Space 2B	-	100,000	(142,358)	-	(42,358)
Destination Space 2C	-	63,140	(54,257)	-	8,883
STFC 2020	-	41,190	(10,522)	-	30,668
		425,489	(393,097)	141	32,533
Total funds	312,253	512,268	(530,681)	-	293,840

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	-	425,140	425,140
Other trading activities	86,779	349	87,128
Total income	86,779	425,489	512,268
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities	137,584	396,097	560,681
Total expenditure	137,584	393,097	530,681
Net expenditure	(50,805)	32,392	(18,413)
Transfers between funds	(141)	141	-
Net movement in funds	(50,946)	32,533	(18,413)
Total funds at 1 April 2019	312,253	-	312,253
Total funds at 31 March 2020	261,307	32,533	293,840

14 Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	369,005	62,214	431,219	366,031
Current liabilities	(212,773)	-	(212,773)	(72,191)
	<u>156,232</u>	<u>62,214</u>	<u>218,446</u>	<u>293,840</u>

15 Pensions

The pension charge amounted to £9,234 (2020: £6,295). At the year-end £1,420 (2020: £973) was outstanding.

16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2021, nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2021, nor for the year ended 31 March 2020.