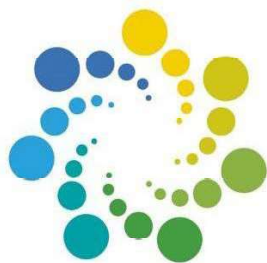


**The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

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**

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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](http://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	Techniquet (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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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**

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

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

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

- (a) Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which 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 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  
Stephen Breslin (Oct 8, 2024 15:49 GMT+1)

08/10/24

Trustee – Stephen Breslin

Tudor Gwynn

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**

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	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2023</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>17,539</b>	<b>31,463</b>
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	172,446	113,029
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
	<b>7,250</b>	<b>535,871</b>	<b>543,121</b>	<b>437,962</b>

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.

**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
	<b>119,664</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>119,959</b>	<b>105,414</b>

**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
	<b>382,828</b>	<b>262,713</b>	<b>645,541</b>	<b>511,913</b>

**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.

**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 number	2023 number
Management	1	1
Administration	3	4
	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Full time equivalent	3.6	3.6

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

**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
	<b>89,957</b>	<b>64,296</b>

**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

**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)	-	-
	50,775	536,166	(583,193)	147	3,895
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>172,099</b>	<b>663,080</b>	<b>(645,541)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>189,638</b>

*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 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
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>140,636</b>	<b>543,376</b>	<b>(511,913)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>172,099</b>

**13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities**

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

**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.