



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 | Techniquet |
| 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 Techniquet'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 |
| | | <u>311,108</u> | | <u>279,595</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES: | | | | |
| Creditors: falling due within one year | | <u>(71,269)</u> | | <u>(89,957)</u> |
| Net current assets | | | 239,839 | 189,638 |
| NET ASSETS: | | | <u>240,374</u> | <u>189,638</u> |
| FUNDS | | | | |
| General funds | | 233,430 | | 184,896 |
| Restricted funds | | <u>6,945</u> | | <u>4,742</u> |
| | | | <u>240,374</u> | <u>189,638</u> |

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 |

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 |
| | <u>669</u> | <u>669</u> |
| At 31 March 2025 | | |

| DEPRECIATION: | | |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| At 1 April 2024 | - | - |
| Charge for the year | 134 | 134 |
| | <u>134</u> | <u>134</u> |
| At 31 March 2025 | | |

| 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.