

**The Association for Science and Discovery Centres**

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2017



**Contents**

	<u>Page</u>
Report of the Trustees	2 - 11
Report of the independent examiner	12
Statement of financial activities	13
Balance sheet	14
Notes forming part of the financial statements	15 - 21

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

### Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017. 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

**Accountant:** Blenheim, Chartered Accountants  
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**

Charles Bishop (Chair)	National Space Centre
Phil Winfield (Treasurer)	At-Bristol
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Verena Cornwall	Winchester Science Centre (resigned 27 September 2016)
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
Karen Davies	Science Museum
Cindy Forde	Cambridge Science Centre (resigned 13 February 2017)
Elizabeth Hodge	Aberdeen Science Centre
Dr Gillian Lang	Glasgow Science Centre
Linda Leuchars	Dundee Science Centre (appointed 27 September 2016)
Adrian Lutton	W5 (appointed 27 September 2016)
Terence O'Connor	STFC
Scot Owen	Techniquet Glyndwr
Dr Anita Shaw	Techniquet (resigned 27 September 2016)
Louise Smith	Dundee Science Centre (resigned 8 August 2016)
Leigh-Anne Stradeski	Eureka! The National Children's Museum

#### **Secretary**

Dr Penny Fidler

#### **Executive Team**

Dr Penny Fidler, Chief Executive Officer  
Shaaron Leverment, Deputy 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.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)**

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*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 & 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, in the UK and beyond, 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 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**

The major risks to which the organisation is exposed are the lack of sustainable core funding, IT failures, human resources and large fluctuations in income and expenditure. They 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").

**Operational Report**

*Overview*

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) brings together the nation's leading science centres, discovery centres, science museums, learned societies and other educational and science organisations. Together they share the ASDC vision of a society where people from all backgrounds are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

The ASDC network engages over 20 million people each year with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), both at their science centres and through their community and schools outreach programmes. This includes over ten million girls and women, making it a powerful national infrastructure to inspire more females into science and engineering. Public visitors to science centres can explore and discover the sciences in their leisure time with family and friends (building family science capital), whilst the many millions of participating school students have the opportunity to investigate the sciences through hands-on curriculum-linked science education programmes.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)**

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ASDC has had a busy and effective eighth year in operation, delivering national strategic STEM learning programmes, working with Government, Parliament, research councils, trusts and others, and bringing together the UK-wide membership to advance the field.

A key achievement for ASDC this year has been the creation and launch of the £30 million 'Inspiring Science Fund' offering capital investment in UK Science Centres. This programme was proposed and initiated by ASDC with Government and Ministerial support, and is now funded by the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and The Wellcome Trust. The Grant Programme has two rounds and is a key step forward for capital investment in the UK Science and Discovery Centre Sector.

Within the current year, ASDC has also provided a range of national meetings to share best practice, advance the field and play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. These include a high-profile National Conference in September 2016, specialist professional meetings, sector-wide training academies and a range of other activities to bring staff within the ASDC membership together. ASDC has acted on behalf of the sector, for example speaking on a Parliamentary Select Committee panel, advising on the boards of national science engagement initiatives and leading programmes to inspire more girls to take up physics and engineering.

As a major part of ASDC's work to advance the field, we creatively conceive UK-wide leading-edge STEM learning and engagement programmes to deliver specific strategic needs. ASDC seeks funding to deliver these programmes, then creates a leading-edge programme and trains, equips and supports UK science and discovery centres to deliver them. ASDC has pioneered these programmes as well as their evaluation and has now undertaken the world's largest evaluations of the impact of science centre programmes on school children's learning.

In this financial year, ASDC has successfully created and delivered 'Destination Space' with grant funding from the UK Space Agency. This national STEM programme celebrated British Astronaut Tim Peake's mission into space, engaging 733,017 children and adults across the UK. Over 100,000 of these children were on school visits and over 75,000 met a space scientist or engineer. For this programme, ASDC selected, trained, fully equipped and supported 20 UK Science Centres and Museums to run 'Destination Space'. The programme completed in March 2017.

This year, ASDC has also delivered 'The Crunch' a year of activities focusing on our food, our health, and our planet. ASDC was commissioned to deliver this by The Wellcome Trust and ASDC, in partnership with the science centres, delivered this programme to 189,464 people in underserved communities across the UK over the summer of 2016.

One of ASDC's flagship programmes is the highly successful 'Explore Your Universe' Programme, grant-funded by The Science and Facilities Research Council (STFC). Now in its fifth year, ASDC created the programme and resources, and selected, trained and equipped a host of UK science centres and universities to run these high-end practical physics and engineering workshops. In Phase 1 and 2, 347,008 people (families and school children) took part in physics and engineering workshops and shows. Within this current year, ASDC has secured a further grant from STFC for Phase 3 of 'Explore Your Universe' which offers grants to science centres for bursaries to run schools and outreach workshops with schools and communities high on the indices of multiple deprivation.

ASDC has also secured grant funding and begun delivery of two new national STEM programmes for families. The first is funded by NERC (The Natural Environment Research Council) and is a strategic programme to share their world-leading environmental research with 100,000 children and adults visiting science centres across the UK. The second is working with the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC to run a national science engagement programme for families that will inspire them with the secret world of gases, and how gases will be used for a greener future.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

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ASDC is the UK leading partner for two major European Horizon 20:20 Programmes. The first, Hypatia, aims to encourage more gender equity in science, and the second, CIMULACT, is a unique international programme asking citizens in 30 nations where they think the EU science research funding should be spent and how they would like society to develop. Both Programmes have been active in this year.

ASDC also continued some support to centres involved in former ASDC national programmes such as our national molecular biology programme 'Hands-on DNA'. In addition, ASDC shared reports and best practice including the ASDC report, commissioned by Government entitled 'UK Science and Discovery Centres: Effectively Engaging Under-Represented Groups'. ASDC also has strongly championed the role of science centres in engaging more widely, building science capital, addressing unconscious bias and the need for science centres to work towards creating a more equal society through wider learning opportunities for all.

ASDC has a central office in Bristol and has an executive team of 4.2 staff namely the CEO, a new deputy CEO (0.6), and 3 special projects managers (2.6).

Further information about ASDC and its activities and projects can be found on the charity's website [www.sciencecentres.org.uk](http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk) and regular updates are via twitter @sciencecentres.

*Core Activities*

The majority of income for ASDC is achieved through creating and then competitively bidding for national strategic science learning programmes that advance the ASDC vision and mission. This is combined with a small proportion of funding achieved from membership subscriptions and the conference.

*ASDC Membership Fees*

The 2016-17 ASDC membership fees were:

- Small centres: £525 per year
- Larger centres: £950 per year
- University departments: £350 per year

*Strengthening the sector by bringing staff together to share knowledge and best practice*

ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events and meetings for science engagement practitioners across the UK including the 2016 ASDC National Conference and AGM. This was held in September 2016, and was ASDC's sixth highly successful National Annual Conference. The conference was hosted by The Royal Society, London and attracted high profile speakers from the BBC, The Wellcome Trust, The Princes Trust, The UK Space Agency, and a special video message from astronaut Tim Peake. Over 100 of the UK's leading science engagement professionals and stakeholders took part, including a high proportion of CEO's and senior managers. The ASDC AGM took place the day before the conference, where ASDC members could hear the latest update from ASDC CEO and Chair and ask any questions and be part of the members discussion. ASDC also held a black-tie conference dinner at the Royal Society the evening before the conference.

*Acting as the sector body for UK Science and Discovery Centres*

ASDC is well established as the representative body for the UK science and discovery centre sector and is gaining a national and international reputation as the leading UK body for informal science learning. ASDC is frequently approached by European and national organisations, government departments and learned bodies who wish to seek advice and to work with the sector. This has included:

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)**

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*Working with Government and Parliament*

For example:

- Working with government, Parliament, Ministers and science centre CEOs to establish a £20 million fund from the UK Government called 'The Inspiring Science Capital Fund' for capital investment in science centres to enable them to inspire more children and families with STEM.
- Working with Wellcome Trust who then added £10 million to this fund, making the full fund for science centres up to £30 million. The Wellcome Trust now administer this fund as 'The Inspiring Science' fund.
- Representing the sector as an expert witness for the Parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into Science Communication.
- Writing submissions on behalf of the sector for the Parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee inquiry into Science Communication, and another inquiry into STEM skills, and sharing the information and guidance with the sector to help them submit individual evidence.

*ASDC national tour by Sir Mark Walport: Government Chief Scientific Adviser*

ASDC arranged a national tour for the Government Chief Science Adviser Sir Mark Walport to speak directly with the public about Energy in 2016 - 17. Venues included ASDC members Natural History Museum London, W5 in Belfast, At-Bristol, and centres in Leicester, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

*Raising the profile of UK centres here and abroad.*

Over the year, ASDC raised the profile of the work of UK science and discovery centres and museums by promoting their strategic capabilities as a major infrastructure for science learning. This included sitting on boards of national and international initiatives and giving talks across the UK and Europe about the work of the UK science centres and how they innovate to engage the public and schools with STEM.

*Acting as a central source of information for our members*

ASDC shared with its members the latest opportunities and sector developments via a regular newsletter sent to several thousand science engagement professionals across the UK and world. The latest items are also shared via targeted emails, twitter and the ASDC website. These include funding and other opportunities, conferences, Government initiatives, Parliamentary consultations, and international and national research on the impact of science centres.

***Project Activities***

The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) has the vision of a society where people are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences. Our mission is to bring together the ASDC membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. To this end, ASDC is currently running the following national strategic STEM engagement programmes for Families and Schools. For all of these, ASDC, secures the funds, develops the content and resources then selects, trains, equips, and supports science centres to engage schools, teachers and families around specific areas of STEM to share knowledge, best practice and to advance the field. ASDC also run evaluation programmes alongside these national programmes.

*ASDC is running the following National STEM Programmes:*

*The National Astronaut programme*

Destination Space is a national STEM engagement programme led by ASDC and funded by the UK Space Agency. It has the vision of engaging, inspiring and involving families with school-age children, school groups and communities across the UK with the amazing stories, science and achievements of human spaceflight, as part of a national celebration of astronaut Tim Peake's Principia Mission into space.

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)**

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733,017 children and adults have now participated in schools workshops and family activities for Destination Space. An independent academic evaluation of 12,000 participants showed that girls and boys were equally inspired on all measures across the programme, as were children from schools from the most deprived and least deprived 20% on the Indices of multiple deprivation.

ASDC created and developed Destination Space in partnership with the National Space Centre, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and the Science Museum. ASDC then selected, trained and equipped 20 UK Science Centres to run the full programme, including an interactive hands-on family show, three curriculum-linked schools STEM workshops, a series of 'meet the expert' activities, a bespoke website, [www.DestinationSpace.uk](http://www.DestinationSpace.uk), and a host of special events to inspire people across the nation with Tim Peake's mission.

*Explore your Universe (Phase 3)*

ASDC has a strategic partnership with STFC which brings together some of the most fascinating and diverse science in the country with the talents and infrastructure of the nation's largest network of science engagement organisations.

Phase 1 of 'Explore your Universe; from atoms to astrophysics' ran from January 2012 – January 2014 and Phase 2 from 2014 – 2016. Both were highly successful in inspiring young people and families across the UK with the wonders of the physical sciences by sharing the amazing stories and technologies of STFC.

To date over 347,008 people have taken part in this national Physics and Engineering programme for schools and families and just in the first phase, 45,852 met and spoke with a scientist or engineer. Evaluation of the first 4,500 students showed both boys and girls said it inspired them equally - there was no difference between boys and girls.

Funding has been secured from STFC this year for Phase 3 of this programme. For this Phase, ASDC has selected, trained and supported 14 science centres to deliver schools workshops and family shows to schools and communities high on the indices of multiple deprivation in 14 parts of the UK. This has been through outreach grants, schools bursaries and community grants to centres.

The academic evaluation of Phase 2 of this programme (by science education experts at Bristol University) considered the responses of 1,400 school students and found that:

- 77% of boys and 80% of girls were more interested in studying science following our one hour workshop.
- 58% of boys and 63% of girls said they were more interested in a career in science after one of our workshops.
- 91% of girls who went to the family show said the experience had made them more interested in science.

*The Crunch: A National Food and Drink Programme (unrestricted)*

This year, ASDC successfully delivered 'The Crunch' a major national programme of activities, experiences and discussions about our food, our health and our planet, commissioned by Wellcome Trust. Across the summer of 2016, 189,464 people took part in this ASDC programme with 62,150 people taking part from areas of the UK on the top 25% on the indices of deprivation for each country.



Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

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To create the families programme, ASDC worked with a host of expert partners, including Eden Project, At-Bristol and Aardman Animations to develop exceptional content and engaging experiences for families from all backgrounds around the latest research in food and drink. ASDC then trained, equipped and supported nine UK Science Centres to engage families in their communities to explore these global stories and the need for change.

\*\*Please note this is the only ASDC project that was a commission, not a grant, and the funds are unrestricted.

*Hypatia: an EU Programme inspiring girls into science*

ASDC has worked extensively in the area of gender equity and was selected as the UK lead partner for this pan-European programme. This year we have attended European partner meetings, created resources, engaged teachers on the subject, given talks widely on unconscious bias and gender inclusion and encouraged science centres and partners to focus on this through everything they do. This culminated in ASDC convening a group of key actors and leaders in this arena on International woman's day to work towards creating a new national strategy in this area.

*CIMULACT: An EU dialogue programme*

CIMULACT has been called one of the most ambitious public participation projects ever funded by the European Commission, and ASDC are the UK leading partner for it. CIMULACT (an abbreviation for 'Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020) aims to redefine the European research and innovation agenda by engaging 1000 citizens in 30 countries to say where Horizon 2020, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, should focus its investment in research and innovation funding. ASDC ran consultations at the European Open Science Forum (ESOF) in Manchester in July 2016, attended European partner meetings and undertook a large consultation with a UK school. Academics are also comparing what citizens say they want, and what academic futurologists predict people will want in the future.

*Moon*

ASDC are also a founding partner for an innovative new art installation 'Moon by Luke Jerram showcasing the beauty of Space and the Moon to communities across the UK. ASDC was funded for the project by a UK Space Agency grant to work with the artist to create the moon artwork, and tour it nationally and internationally.

*A National Environmental Science Programme with NERC*

ASDC have secured funding and begun an exciting new national STEM programme funded by NERC to engage, inspire and involve families with school-age children across the UK with the amazing stories, science and people of NERC's world-leading environmental research, highlighting the relevance of contemporary environmental science issues to their daily lives and to society's future. At least 100,000 people will participate, and the project is being developed in partnership with The Natural History Museum, Eden and Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh.

*The Secret of Gases*

ASDC have also this year begun development of an exciting new national chemistry programme looking at the future uses of gases, funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC. This programme will engage, inspire and involve school-age children and their families with the amazing stories and science of Gases, investigating the latest innovations and exploring how gases will be used for a greener future. 56,000 people will take part at 9 selected UK science centres.

## Financial Overview

### *Overview*

The total income for the period was £797,893 (2016: £995,063). Total expenditure for the year was £811,264 (2015: £783,779) giving a deficit of £13,371 (2015: surplus of £211,284).

### *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 £321,936 (2015: £374,599) 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 Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) strives to create a society where people of all ages and backgrounds, in all parts of the UK are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences.

As a nation and as a global society we have some major challenges ahead, especially around climate and carbon. It will take a combination of technological innovation and societal change to address these. Science centres have a huge opportunity to be forward-thinking actors in this space, and many of the future ASDC programmes will relate to these areas.

ASDC will continue to apply for national programmes that allow us to deliver our mission, and provide funds to innovate, advance the field, bring the sector together, train staff and maintain our voice for the sector. ASDC will champion the drive towards a more equal society through learning, celebrating the importance of addressing unconscious bias, building family science capital and striving to increase diversity and participation in science at all levels.

The National and international network of science centres have a huge potential to create change. ASDC is the UK's largest network dedicated to out-of-school science learning and family science learning and ASDC will continue to work with national stakeholders from Government, Parliament, charitable trusts, school science initiatives, university groups and public bodies to celebrate the unique achievements and potential of the ASDC national network and infrastructure.

ASDC will also strive to increase the quantity and quality of excellent hands-on, creative and practical science experiences that school children have access to, particularly in informal settings.

The charity will continue to achieve many of its strategic aims through its national STEM programmes, including delivering CPD and training, and bringing together the membership, who together engage 20 million people (10 million girls and women) to play a more strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

ASDC will submit funding applications for both membership support and core functions, and new major science programmes to pursue the stated vision and mission in furtherance of the charity's objectives.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

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Strategic objectives for the coming year are:

- To provide leadership to the sector.
- To serve and support our membership and champion the unique role of the sector.
- To be relevant and important to the work of our members and other national stakeholders.
- To add value to the UK's national science learning and science engagement agendas by fostering collaboration.
- To be financially secure.

**Description of Restricted Funds**

*The National Astronaut programme Level 2 ("Astronaut")*

The UK Space Agency has partnered with ASDC to train, equip and support 20 science centres to deliver a season of astronauts and adventure for families and schools at Science Centres across the UK to share Tim Peake's mission to the International Space Station.

*Cimulact*

A Horizon 2020 Programme for which ASDC is the UK Partner, aims to explore what citizens want the European Horizon 2020 research Funding to be spent on, and to feed this back to the policy makers. ASDC is engaging citizens in Bristol, school children in Bristol and policy makers and others at ESOF in Manchester across 2016. The grant is for approximately Euros 120,000 over 2.5 years.

*Explore Your Universe Phase 3*

A strategic partnership with STFC which brings together some of the most fascinating and diverse science in the country with the talents and infrastructure of the nation's largest network of science engagement organisation.

*Gases*

A new national chemistry programme looking at the future uses of gases, funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC.

*Hypatia*

A Horizon 2020 Programme for which ASDC is the UK Partner, aiming to get more girls into science. The funding for ASDC is for approximately Euro 50,000 over 2 years.

*Moon*

Art installation 'Moon' by Luke Jerram showcasing the beauty of space and the moon to communities across the UK.

*NERC*

STEM programme funded by NERC to engage, inspire and involve families with school age children across the UK. It highlights the relevance of contemporary environmental science issues to their daily lives and to society's future.

**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).

**Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)**

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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;
- 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 – Charles Bishop**

Date: 19 September 2017

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

I report on the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2017 which are set out on pages 13 to 21.

*Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner*

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

*Basis of independent examiner's report*

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the next statement.

*Independent examiner's statement*

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to our attention:

1. Which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
  - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

E J Corrigan FCA  
Corrigan Associates Bristol LLP  
The Tramshed  
25 Lower Park Row  
Bristol BS1 5BN

Date:

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Statement of Financial Activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2017

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
<b>Income from</b>					
Charitable activities	3	335,772	412,553	748,325	947,704
Other trading activities	4	48,850	228	49,078	46,961
Investments		490	-	490	398
<b>Total income</b>		<b>385,112</b>	<b>412,781</b>	<b>797,893</b>	<b>995,063</b>
<b>Expenditure on</b>					
Charitable activities		431,282	379,982	811,264	783,779
<b>Total expenditure</b>	5	<b>431,282</b>	<b>379,982</b>	<b>811,264</b>	<b>783,779</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>(46,170)</b>	<b>32,799</b>	<b>(13,371)</b>	<b>211,284</b>
Transfers between funds		(6,493)	6,493	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(52,663)</b>	<b>39,292</b>	<b>(13,371)</b>	<b>211,284</b>
Total funds at 1 April 2016		374,599	(1,961)	372,638	161,354
<b>Total funds at 31 March 2017</b>	11	<b>321,936</b>	<b>37,331</b>	<b>359,267</b>	<b>372,638</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 15 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

	Note	2017 £	2016 £
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	9	93,893	416,644
Cash and bank balances		329,130	293,830
		<u>423,023</u>	<u>710,474</u>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	10	(63,756)	(337,836)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>359,267</u>	<u>372,638</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>359,267</u>	<u>372,638</u>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>			
Restricted funds	12	37,331	(1,961)
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	321,936	374,599
<b>Total charity funds</b>	12	<u>359,267</u>	<u>372,638</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 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 on 19 September 2017 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee – Charles Bishop

Trustee – Phil Winfield

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

## 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 2015) – (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.

The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 are the first financial statements for The Association for Science and Discovery Centres to be 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 2015) – (Charities SORP (FRS102)). The financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 were prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (FRSSE) (Effective January 2015). The date of transition to FRS 102 was 1 April 2015.

Some of the FRS102 recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure requirements and accounting policy choices differ from FRSSE. Consequently, the directors have amended certain accounting policies to comply with the Charities SORP FRS102 and FRS102. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous year are not affected by the transition and therefore a reconciliation of funds and surplus/(deficit) is not presented.

### *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. There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

### *Income*

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.

*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 party 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.

*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.

*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.

*Finance and operating leases*

Rental payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred. The charity has no finance leases.

## **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 2017 £	Total Funds 2016 £
Grants	-	412,553	412,553	630,004
Contracts for services	335,772	-	335,772	317,700
	<b>335,772</b>	<b>412,553</b>	<b>748,325</b>	<b>947,704</b>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £748,325 received in 2017, £335,772 is included within unrestricted funds (2016: £317,700) and £412,553 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2016: £630,004). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

**4 Other trading activities**

	2017 £	2016 £
Membership income	26,450	28,486
Annual conference	20,094	16,138
Other income	2,534	2,337
	<b>49,078</b>	<b>46,961</b>

**5 Expenditure**

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2017 £	2016 £
Purchases	506,112	(325)	505,787	520,134
Salaries	-	180,911	180,911	147,383
Pension contribution	-	6,509	6,509	3,097
Staff training and welfare	-	-	-	39
Recruitment	-	281	281	3,400
Travel and subsistence	29,663	2,785	32,448	19,700
Entertaining	195	354	549	563
Premises costs	-	19,164	19,164	26,035
Telephone and fax	-	3,670	3,670	3,704
Postage and stationery	2,126	703	2,829	4,908
Subscriptions	10	884	894	525
Bank charges	232	119	351	264
Irrecoverable VAT	11,279	2,666	13,945	33,636
Insurance	329	1,793	2,122	1,314
Computer costs	1,336	2,767	4,103	2,136
Repairs and maintenance	-	9	9	6
Sundry expenses	88	228	316	140
Accountancy fees	8,727	4,198	12,925	8,724
Consultancy fees	-	895	895	725
Advertising and PR	118	214	332	315
Other marketing costs	18,678	4,091	22,769	5,626
Legal and professional fees	-	455	455	1,405
	<b>578,893</b>	<b>232,371</b>	<b>811,264</b>	<b>783,779</b>

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

Of the £811,264 expenditure, £431,282 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2016: £151,814 charged to unrestricted funds) and £379,982 has been charged to restricted funds (2016: £631,965 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:-	2017	2016
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,200	1,200
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	10,840	10,840
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

**8 Salaries**

	2017	2016
	£	£
Salaries	167,231	135,122
Social security costs	13,680	12,261
Pension contributions	6,509	3,097
	<u>187,420</u>	<u>150,480</u>

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

	2017	2016
	number	number
Management	2	1
Administration	3	3
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding)	2017	2016
Employers' pension	number	number
Between £60,000 and £70,000	1	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 £87,131 (2016: £61,930).

## Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017 (continued)

<b>9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade debtors	71,300	413,621
Other debtors and prepayments	22,593	3,023
	<u>93,893</u>	<u>416,644</u>
<b>10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>		
	2017	2016
	£	£
Trade creditors	51,095	265,824
Tax and social security	4,532	36,382
Other creditors	6,492	2,630
Accruals and deferred income	1,637	33,000
	<u>63,756</u>	<u>337,836</u>

Deferred income in 2016 comprised funds received in advance of work being carried out on projects. This has been fully released during the current financial year (2016: increase of £31,800).

**11 Commitments under operating leases**

At 31 March 2017 the charity had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2017	2016
	£	£
Payable within one year	10,840	10,840
Payable between 2 and 5 years	21,680	32,520
	<u>32,520</u>	<u>43,360</u>

**12 Statement of funds**

	At 1 Apr 16 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 17 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	374,599	385,112	(431,282)	(6,493)	321,936
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Astronaut	(3,852)	158,000	(153,396)	-	752
Cern visit	-	2,282	(2,282)	-	-
Cimulact	1,449	46,684	(31,008)	-	17,125
EYU Phase 3	-	84,645	(86,400)	1,755	-
Gases	-	44,877	(38,069)	-	6,808
Hypatia	442	25,015	(25,457)	-	-
Moon	-	7,740	(10,887)	3,147	-
NERC	-	43,538	(30,892)	-	12,646
Space Agency Capital	-	-	(1,591)	1,591	-
	(1,961)	412,781	(379,982)	6,493	37,331
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>372,638</b>	<b>797,893</b>	<b>(811,264)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>359,267</b>

*Transfers between funds*

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

*Restricted funds*

Details of the restricted funds are included in the Report of the Trustees on page 10.

**13 Funds**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £
Fund balances at 31 March 2016 are represented by:				
Current assets	385,692	37,331	423,023	710,474
Current liabilities	(63,756)	-	(63,756)	(337,836)
	<u>321,936</u>	<u>37,331</u>	<u>359,267</u>	<u>372,638</u>

**14 Pensions**

The pension charge amounted to £6,509 (2016: £3,097). At the year-end £nil (2016: £nil) was outstanding.

**15 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits**

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2017, nor for the year ended 31 March 2016.

**16 Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2017, nor for the year ended 31 March 2016.