The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2011



Annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011

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Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106

Registered Office and operational address:

UWE Offices The Watershed 1 Canons Road Harbourside Bristol BS1 5TX

Trustees and Directors

Dr Nick Winterbotham (Chair), Thinktank Peter Trevitt (Treasurer), Techniquest Ian Griffin (Chair Elect), Science Oxford Vicky Brightman, The Horniman Museum Dr Goery Delacote, At-Bristol Dr Anne Hunt, Independent Consultant

Dr Robin Hoyle, Glasgow Science Centre

Dr Robin Holgate, MOSI

Heather Mayfield, Science Museum

Leigh-Anne Stradeski, Eureka! The National Children's Museum

Phil Winfield, Intech Judith Harvey, W5

Sean Gaffaney, Independent (Resigned 9 May 2010)

Teresa Anderson, Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre (Appointed 16 September 2010)

Ian Simmons, Centre for Life (Appointed 16 September 2010)

Louise Smith, Dundee Science Centre (Appointed 16 September 2010)

Secretary

Dr Penny Fidler

Executive Team

Dr Penny Fidler, Chief Executive Officer Michaela Livingstone, Special Projects Manager Sam Yates, Administrative Officer

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.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

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.

Risk management

The major risks to which the organisation is exposed, as identified by the Trustees, have been reviewed and systems or procedures have been established to manage those risks. The Charity's risk register is reviewed at every meeting of the Board.

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.

ASDC Website - www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Operational Report

Overview

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) had a busy and effective second year in operation, achieving a broad UK-wide membership, delivering a host of national projects and establishing its reputation with relevant national organisations and government departments.

The membership of ASDC is made up of fifty or so of the nation's science centres, discovery centres, science museums and other educational organisations who share the vision of a society where people are intrigued, inspired and involved with the sciences. ASDC member organisations together engage over 20 million people every year through visits to their centres and via their outreach programmes. Their public visitors explore and discover science and nature in their leisure time with family and friends, and many millions of school children explore the sciences through hands-on curriculum-linked education programmes.

Within the current year, ASDC provided a range of activities that brought together the membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. These activities helped members to share best practice, ideas, resources and knowledge, enhancing quality, value for money and to stimulate innovation for the public benefit. During the year ASDC also ran a number of collaborative funded projects and programmes to further its objectives.

ASDC became an independent registered charity in 2009 having grown out of an informal organisation known as Ecsite-UK which was supported by the British Science Association. ASDC has an executive team of 3 staff (CEO, Special Projects manager and administrative officer) and a central office in Bristol.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

Core Activities

All Government core funding for ASDC was cut in March 2010. The income for ASDC is now achieved through competitively bidding for projects that advance the ASDC vision and mission, combined with the £19,260 achieved in membership subscriptions.

ASDC core activities include the following:

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

ASDC convened a variety of events for members including:

- An annual meeting in Sept 2010 at the British Science Festival in Birmingham, bringing together staff from 50 UK member science and discovery centres, science festivals and science museums.
- A meeting in Dortmund for 40 UK ASDC members in June 2010 during the European Science Centre meeting.
- A national meeting for the network representatives from 30 organisations held in November 2010
- A special interest meeting for Marketing and PR Managers in December 2010 bringing together 30 marketing professionals from across the UK's science centres and museums to create joint marketing initiatives.
- Four trustee meetings bringing together the CEOs and senior managers of 14 UK centres.
- A 'Sustainability Conference' in September 2010 in collaboration with one of our members.

Acting as a single point of contact for the UK science and discovery centres

ASDC is well established as the representative body for the UK science centre sector and is frequently approached by national organisations and government departments who wish to work with the sector. For example, ASDC worked with:

- The BIS 'Science for all' Expert Panel reporting to the Science Minister and representing the UK science and discovery centres
- The Select Committee for Science and Technology and civil servants offering advice and data to brief MPs and ministers on science education and the value of informal science learning.
- The BBC to facilitate partnerships with many member centres for the BBC 'Bang goes the Theory' UK Road show and the 'Wallace and Grommit World of Invention' national tour.

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, and via the regularly updated news and events pages of the ASDC website. This informed members of marketing and funding opportunities, national and international conferences, the latest government initiates, programmes and consultations and international and national research and developments.

Increasing the financial sustainability of our members by facilitating collaborations

Activities included brokering meetings of consortia of science centres with funding bodies, encouraging centres to apply for collaborative grants, and bringing together professionals with a shared interest (e.g. small centres, marketing managers).

Raising the profile of UK centres here and abroad.

Over the year, ASDC celebrated and shared the work of member organisations by promoting their activities and potential as a national science learning resource including speaking at numerous national and international conferences and events. ASDC also liaised with other major national

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

initiatives for example the BIS 'Science for All' Panel to ensure science centres were included from the outset.

Project Activities

European Commission-funded Nanotechnology dialogue Project

ASDC was one of 13 European partners awarded a collaborative EU grant to engage the public in dialogue around the latest discoveries in nanotechnology. This 30-month project began in February 2009 and is on target to complete in September 2011. For the first phase of the project, ASDC and European partners co-created 1000 hands-on 'Nano-kits' in 8 languages with associated teacher training and student resources, and an online competition.

In the second phase, ASDC ran a national tender to select five UK science and discovery centres to deliver these inspirational nanoscience activities and events to students, teachers and the public across the UK. ASDC distributed 100 Nano-kits to the selected centres (based in Dundee, Bolton, Bristol, Sheffield and Oxford), trained staff on the latest issues in nanoscience and how to use the Nano-kits with students and teachers. Centres then trained local teachers who each took a 'nanokit' back to use at their school. Over 4,200 students took part in 28 nanodays and a variety of other events including the Europe-wide nano-video contest. In addition 82 teachers were trained and are continuing to nanoscience activities in their schools.

Wellcome Trust-funded Hands on DNA

ASDC were delighted to secure major funding from The Wellcome Trust for a National Hands on DNA project to celebrate molecular biology and evolution with students across the UK. The project began in February 2011 and will complete in April 2012. It is led by ASDC in collaboration with ASDC members in Manchester, Newcastle and Bristol. The project will train, equip and embed high-quality molecular biology workshops in fifteen centres across the UK, giving school students aged 14-19 across the nation regional access to the latest techniques and equipment used in biomedical research laboratories.

Embedding dialogue and debate

The Embedding Dialogue and Debate Project (EDD) ran between January 2009 and March 2010 led by the At-Bristol science centre in partnership with ASDC and four ASDC members. The project provided high-quality training and professional development to science engagement specialists across the UK with the goal of embedding dialogue and debate activities in a variety of organisations. The project's four 'dialogue academies' were attended by 130 science engagement staff from 78 UK science and discovery centres, universities and related organisations (For details: www.dialogueacademy.org.uk).

Inside DNA: Training and Support for a UK travelling exhibition

The travelling exhibition 'Inside DNA' was created and built by the At-Bristol science centre in collaboration with ASDC, The Wellcome Trust, and The Sanger Institute, with the aim of engaging people throughout the UK with the latest issues in genomics. ASDC created a series of DNA and genomics-based educational workshops and public dialogue activities to accompany the exhibition and now trains staff in member centres across the UK how to use these activities to engage local school students and public visitors.

EPSRC-funded Solar Energy Project

ASDC is assisting scientists within the University of Edinburgh (Chemistry Department) to engage the public with their latest research into a new type of solar panel. ASDC has helped the University team create hands-on activities and arranged for them to engage large public audiences at ASDC member science and discovery centres and museums from Glasgow to Bristol and London to Dundee.

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

School Science and Engineering clubs (STEMNET)

As part of a large consortium, ASDC has supported the development of The Department for Education's five hundred STEMclubs. The clubs celebrate science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) with school students, and ASDC have created web resources to support teachers in running their after-school clubs.

EU-funded EuroStemCell Project

Edinburgh University is running an international project to collate the very latest discoveries in stem cell science, and to make this accessible to the public via a web-based resource. ASDC is assisting with this project to develop resources and to set up opportunities to engage the public with stem cell science at ASDC member science and discovery centres and museums.

Science on the Street project

ASDC worked with The New Economics Foundation to celebrate and disseminate their 'science on the streets' project funded by The Wellcome Trust. The project aimed to encourage public conversation about key scientific issues in public spaces using discussion stalls.

Sciencewise pilot project

ASDC worked with the BIS-funded Sciencewise team to create and manage a pilot project exploring the potential of harnessing the views of public participants who were already engaging in the numerous dialogue events happening across the UK at science and discovery centres and museums.

Details of all the above projects can be found at www.sciencecentres.org.uk/projects/

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £90,436 (2010: £394,309). Total expenditure for the year was £170,254 (2010: £174,338) giving a deficit of £79,818 (2010: surplus of £220,244).

Reserves and Investment Policies

In order to provide ongoing 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 £140,426 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.

We work towards this by bringing together the fifty or so educational charities and other not-for-profit organisations within the ASDC membership to play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science.

Our strategic objectives for the coming year are:

- To serve and support our membership and to champion their activities
- 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

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

To be financially secure

Over the coming year, ASDC will run collaborative national projects, programmes and events and one-day specialist meetings to share knowledge, ideas and best practice between the many thousands of staff within the ASDC membership.

Together, ASDC members make up the UK's largest network dedicated to out-of-school science learning and family science learning. ASDC will continue to work with national stakeholders from industry, charitable trusts, government departments, school science initiatives, university groups and public bodies to celebrate the unique achievements of the ASDC membership.

In addition, ASDC will deliver a number of national projects to bring the nation's science and discovery centres and science museums together to play a strategic role in the public's and school student's engagement with science. These include:

- A national project to make molecular biology and hands-on DNA techniques accessible to school students across the UK by training and equipping 15 UK centres.
- An EU-funded nanoscience project in 5 regions of the UK with 13 international partners
- A training programme to engage school students with the latest discoveries in genomics.
- A public engagement project for an EU-funded stem cell project
- Working with Edinburgh University on an EPSRC-funded solar energy project

ASDC will also submit new funding applications to bring together our members for collaborative projects to help the public and school students explore science, technology, engineering and maths, and to drive innovation in public engagement practices.

Description of Restricted Funds

Inside DNA

The travelling 'Inside DNA exhibition' was created by At-Bristol science centre in collaboration with The Wellcome Trust, ASDC and The Sanger Institute to engage people throughout the UK with the latest issues in genomics.

Responsibilities of the Trustees in relation to the financial statements

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

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

- state whether United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

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

Small Company Exemptions

In preparing this report, advantage has been taken of the small companies' exemption. The repor
follows the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended
Practice 2005.

follows the recommendations in Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommende Practice 2005.
Approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:
Trustee –
Date:

Independent Examiners report for the year ended 31 March 2011

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 2011 which are set out on pages 10 to 15.

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 than an audit is not required for this period under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 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 43 of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiners statement

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 statement below.

Independent examiners 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;
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and 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 Venturers House King Street Bristol BS1 4PB

Date:

Statement of financial activities including Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2011

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2011 £	Total 2010 £
Incoming resources					
Investment income		302	-	302	273
Grants and contracts	_			68,192	157,636
Other income	2	21,942		21,942	19,053
Transfer from British Science Association	3	-	-	-	217,620
Total incoming resources				90,436	394,582
Resources expended				0.240	4.4.244
External costs of projects				9,319	14,211
Cost of provision of services Governance costs		2,117		158,818 2,117	158,143 1,984
dovernance costs		2,117	_	2,117	1,304
Total resources expended	4			170,254	174,338
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before transfers				(79,818)	220,244
Transfers between funds				-	-
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources and movement in funds	net 5			(79,818)	220,244
Balance brought forward 21 January 200	9	220,244	-	220,244	-
Balance carried forward 31 March 2010				140,426	220,244

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

All gains and losses recognised during the period are included above.

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2011

	Nata		2011	2010
Current assets	Note		£	£
Debtors Cash and bank balances	7	46,960 111,214		39,758 208,446
			158,174	248,204
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8		(17,748)	(27,960)
Net current assets			140,426	220,244
Net assets			140,426	220,244
Financed by:				
Funds of the charity Restricted funds Unrestricted funds	9			-
General funds	9			220,244
	9		140,426	220,244

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2011.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 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 16 September 2010 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee – Trustee –

The notes on pages 12 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP), Accounting and reporting by Charities (SORP 2005) published in March 2005 and applicable accounting standards and Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Enterprises (effective April 2008).

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.

General funds

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.

Resources expended

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

Expenditure is included in the financial statements on an accruals basis. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

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.

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.

2 Other incoming resources

	2011 £	2010 £
Membership income	19,260	18,789
Other income	2,682	264
	21,942	19,053

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

3 Transfer from the British Science Association

The organisation previously traded as part of the British Science Association under the name of Ecsite-uk. The transfer of £217,620 in the previous accounts relates to the surplus from earlier activities when part of The British Science Association.

4 Expenditure

	External	Cost of			
	cost of	provision			
	projects		Governance	2011	2010
	£	£	£	£	£
Purchases	9,319	-	-	9,319	14,211
Salaries	-	118,298	-	118,298	104,029
Pension contribution	-	2,975	-	2,975	4,068
Temporary staff and recruitment	-	69	-	69	-
Staff training and welfare	-	-	-	-	179
Travel and subsistence	-	8,282	-	8,282	6,074
Motor expenses	-	-	-	-	421
Entertaining	-	353	-	353	171
Rent	-	13,276	-	13,276	16,800
Other premises costs	-	-	-	-	524
Telephone and fax	-	676	-	676	879
Postage and stationery	-	1,778	-	1,778	2,488
Subscriptions	-	460	-	460	226
Bank charges	-	34	-	34	(7)
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	-	-	1,742
Insurance	-	1,091	-	1,091	630
Computer costs	-	2,207	-	2,207	5,858
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	-	212
Board costs	-	-	917	917	784
Sundry expenses	-	301	-	301	17
Accountancy fees	-	7,048	1,200	8,248	7,746
Consultancy fees	-	600	-	600	3,983
Advertising and PR	-	718	-	718	1,460
Other marketing costs	-	622	-	622	1,307
Legal and professional fees	-	30	-	30	536
-	9,319	158,818	2,117	170,254	174,338
-					

5 Net incoming resources

Net incoming resources are stated after charging:-

	2011 £	2010 £
Cost of independent examination	1,200	1,200

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

_			
6	Salaries	2011	2010
		£	£
	Conses Calaritae	100.000	02.727
	Gross Salaries	106,899 11,399	93,737
	Employers National Insurance Pension contributions	2,975	10,292 4,068
	Directors' and trustees remuneration and expenses	2,973	4,006
	Directors and trustees remaineration and expenses		
		121,273	108,097
	The staff costs of the charity are show above. The average n employees in the year was:	umber of full t	ime equivalent
		2011	2010
		number	number
	Management	1	1
	Administration	2	2
	Administration	_	_
		3	3
7	Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
	·	2011	2010
		£	£
	Trade debtors	43,237	39,449
	Prepayments	3,723	309
		46,960	39,758
8	Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
		2011	2010
		£	£
	Trade creditors	10,013	7,699
	Tax and social security	6,065	4,873
	Other creditors	470	1,665
	Accruals	1,200	13,723
		17,748	27,960

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2011 (continued)

Statement of funds					
	B/fwd £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	C/fwd £
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	220,244	-	-	-	-
Restricted funds Inside DNA BIS	-		- -	- -	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Total funds	220,244	90,436	(170,254)	-	140,426
					-

Transfers have been made, in line with our reserves policy, to cover excess staff costs incurred in completing the projects.

10 Funds

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	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	2011	2010
	£	£	£	£
Fund balances at 31 March				
2010 are represented by:				
Current assets	-	-	158,174	248,204
Current liabilities	-	-	(17,748)	(27,960)
	-	-	140,426	220,244

11 Pensions

The pension charge amounted to £2,975 (2010: £4,068). At the year end £Nil (2010 £501) was outstanding and is included in other creditors and accruals.

12 Related parties

There is a balance owing to Penny Fidler, the Chief Executive Officer, of £Nil (2010: £1,428) at the balance sheet date that relates to expenses incurred in the performance of her duties.