The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2026

Association for
Science and
Discovery Centres

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026. 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:	Barclays Bank Bristol Queens Square RMS 2 Leicester LE87 2BB
Accountants:	Linden Accountants (appointed September 2024) Scrapstore House, 21 Sevier Street, St Werburgh's, Bristol BS2 9LB

Trustees and Directors:

Bipon Bhakri	Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Dr. Stephen Breslin (Chair)	Glasgow Science Centre
John Bull	Dadu Children's Museum of Qatar
Laurence Butler (Hon Secretary)	Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum
Victoria Denoon	W5
Abi Fafolu	Lit Laboratory
Jill Farrell	Dundee Science Centre (appointed 09 Sep 2025)
Tudor Gwynn (Treasurer)	Eureka! The National Children's Museum
Bridget Holligan	University of Oxford
Hassan Joudi	Statera Energy
Dr. Sheila Pearson (nee Kanani)	Her Place for Space
Gareth McTiffin	Techniquest
Joanne Quinton-Tulloch (OBE)	National Science & Media Museum
Steve Scott	UKRI
Bryan Snelling	Aberdeen Science Centre
Donna Speed-Grenfell (Dep. Chair)	We The Curious
Savita Willmott	Natural History Consortium (retired 09 Sep 2025)

Hon 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 offer of induction 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 outputs and workloads
- 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 2025-2026, 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. 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. The roles within the ASDC team have expanded due to the recruitment of a new membership and operations officer in October 2025. As of 31

March 2026, the ASDC team is as follows:

- Chief Executive (0.8 FTE)
- Project Director (1.0 FTE)
- Head of Communications (0.8 FTE)
- Business and Project Manager (0.8 FTE)
- Communications and Project Associate (0.6 FTE)
- Membership and Operations Officer (0.6 FTE)

Membership 2025-2026

During the membership year 2025-2026, ASDC increased membership fees by 3% (and below-inflation rate of 2% for the smallest of our centres), recognising increasing cost pressures for ASDC and our members. ASDC continues to have three tiers of membership, with the number of core members 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 59 core members and national partners, and 11 associate members. During this financial year, income from subscriptions was over £60,000 for the second year running.

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 2025 and March 2026, ASDC convened twenty-three separate professional development and knowledge exchange events for our membership across the UK. These included:

- Monthly members-only 'forum' meetings on a variety of topics, focused for professionals working at different levels and in different departments within membership centres.
- Focused online CPD events on topical areas for projects and wider engagement, e.g.:
    - 'Navigating eco-anxiety together' - sharing questions, challenges and concerns for sector professionals and the audiences they reach.
    - 'Demystifying AI' and 'Responsible AI' – exploring how AI is advancing science and research alongside social and ethical implications of AI when engaging the public with AI
    - Space Engagement Community calls
- In-person 1-day or 2-day conferences, notably:
    - 'Next Gen Earth' - a networking event promoting practice from sector and community ambassadors platforming youth voice in climate and environment engagement
    - 'Accessibility Unlocked - Small changes; big impact' - a full day in-person and parallel online conference to share inspiring practice for accessible science

centres and museums, with excellent legacy of resources
    - ASDC CEO Awayday – discussing strategy, financial challenges, sustainability and new ways of working with CEOs across the network
    - ASDC National Conference – taking place in Bradford City of Culture 2025

The ASDC 2025 National Conference was hosted by the National Science and Media Museum in Bradford on 9th and 10th September 2025, with the theme 'The next 25 years', celebrating the national impact and aspirations for the sector, with many of the 'Millenium science centres' celebrating their 25 year anniversary. The conference included in-depth workshops, activities, the AGM, a networking dinner and 1.5 days of inspiring keynotes, discussion tables and lightning talks.

- 146 delegates (25 CEOs/Directors of our institutions)
- 22 sessions
- 5 sponsors and 3 exhibitors
- 54 speakers and session leaders

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 monthly newsletter and social media channels Bluesky, 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. Now including evidence for inclusion work and the ASDC 'Valuing Inclusion' Theory of Change.
- The Climate Hub: Carbon-cutting measures and engagement resources for climate action for a collective approach.

Period of CEO Absence

The ASDC CEO took extended leave of 5 weeks with reduced hours to support family between Monday 7th July and Monday 11th August. During this time and compliant with the Articles of Association, Bridget Holligan (ASDC Trustee) stepped into the role of Deputy CEO following unanimous approval stated in the minutes of the ASDC Board meeting Thursday 24th April 2025. Providing seven days of support work, Bridget Holligan supported the team across areas such as HR, governance and finance, project direction, ASDC conference and recruitment.

The ASDC Board of Trustees

Following a review of the skills existing within the current Board and acknowledging the representation of our membership essential for the ASDC Board of Trustees as individuals retired and/or moved careers away from representing membership organisations, the ASDC committee supported an internal recruitment for one new trustee at the September AGM 2025. Following the membership vote, ASDC welcomed Jill Farrell to the Board of Trustees.

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 calendar year has brought a focus to the re-ignition of the campaign '*Science Centres for our Future*'. Campaign outputs this year include:

- Re-development of the dedicated microsite: https://future.sciencecentres.org.uk/
- Coordination and support for constituency MP visits over the summer recess (2025)
- Public launch of our open letter, gathering 3100 signatures from leading scientists, academics, business leaders and members of the public. Delivered in November to the Prime Minister, Science and Technology Secretary and Minister for Science alongside multiple news articles in November 2025.
- House of Commons round table event (4th September 2025)
- Submitted budget representation detailing our policy asks for a fairer funding settlement for Science and Discovery Centres (SDCs) in the 2025 budget
- Ongoing Parliamentary Questions tabled to maintain pressure
- Delivery of paper to DSIT on the strategic value of SDCs to UK national priorities
- Delivery of a national portfolio of SDCs' most urgent repair and upgrade projects for consideration within DSIT underspend funds
- Secured Westminster Hall debate on the impact of Science and Discovery Centres on national science and technology priorities (14th January 2026)
- ASDC representatives meet with Minister Kanishka Narayan, supported by Steve Witherden MP and Chi Onwurah MP (Despite their clear message that DSIT was unable to agree to our campaign asks, in part due to constraints over how the Department budget can be used, they were willing to support our next steps of further engagements with HM Treasury and the National Lottery & DCMS.)
- Regular updates of stakeholders (SDC CEOs, engaged MPs, third parties)
- Additional coordinated advocacy to devolved governments and regional mayors

ASDC has worked alongside an external policy strategist, the cost for which has been supported by ASDC reserves and enhanced membership fees for those specific organisations who fall between the stools of science, culture and education.

Beyond the campaign work, which supports the value of science engagement, online and in-person advocacy from the executive team at ASDC and the ASDC Trustees continues to celebrate the work of the full network at high-profile events, with key politicians, with the Government Office for Science (GO-Science), and in sector-relevant third party reports such as the Public Attitudes to Science 2025 and the Royal Society 'Science for Society' steering groups. Our aim is to continue to raise the visibility and recognition of value of our network.

Evidencing impact for science and discovery centres

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 continued to be evidenced as part of a final project working with STFC, part of UKRI. This project completed in March 2026.

To support advocacy efforts, benchmarking and ASDC goal setting, ASDC ran the sector survey for a third year, collecting data in February 2026 relating to organisational structure, audiences workforce, finances and ambitions for the year ahead. The resulting Power BI report provides 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. This year additional sections offering 3-year trends on financial modelling and audiences were worked into the survey. The survey also re-affirms ASDC mission goals and the value held by members in the ASDC offer for future goal setting.

National STEM Programmes

During 2025-2026, 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 project funds with descriptors delivered in 2025 - 2026 follows:

Explore Your Universe, Valuing Inclusion

- Funded by: STFC, part of UKRI
- Timeline: December 2023 – July 2024, extended October 2024 – March 2026
- External evaluation and research partners: Dr Sophie Bartlett and Dr Jen DeWitt, Professor Emily Dawson & Professor Louise Archer
- 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. This project implemented this Theory of Change, 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:
    - 18-month project (delivery flexible, playing to strengths of individual partners)
    - Up to £9,500 x 10 delivery grants and £4000 x 10 delivery grants developed to test the Theory of Change, from one-off engagements that ignite curiosity, to longer term, multiple engagements that grow confidence and open up opportunities in STEM

- Key themes: Co-development with target audiences (Wonder demographic) with content focus on STFC science (including STFC scientists and researchers)
- Opportunity for new or refreshed equipment budget
- Staff swap scheme
- Qualitative and quantitative external evaluation
- Final project reporting (evaluation report, assets, visual report)
- Dissemination of assets via Inclusion website, conference attendance, dedicated webinars and work alongside STFC evaluation strategy throughout project.
- Final overview of STFC / ASDC partnership 'Explore Your Universe'

Our World From Space (Phase 2)

- Funded by: UK Space Agency
- Timeline: 01 September 2025 – 31 March 2026
- External evaluation partners: Engagement with Impact (Dr Sophie Morris)
- Summary: This programme leverages the resources and community partnerships of the ASDC network to deliver the 2nd phase of Our World From Space. Building on the same content areas as phase 1 (the value and relevance of space science for everyday life and for the sustainable future of our planet), this phase has a priority focus on reaching diverse audiences. Phase 2 includes resource to continue the impactful 'inspire-the-inspirers' workstream with a community of practice for space engagement professionals.
  ASDC also produced a feasibility study in January 2026 for the UK Space Agency that explored renewing, upgrading and future-proofing exhibition and space infrastructure in centres across the UK.
- Key Deliverables:
  - Seven-month project period (September 2025 - March 2026)
  - £9000 delivery grants for up to 15 science and discovery centres and museums playing to individual strengths
  - Equipment grants of £1000 for organisations to refresh or purchase new Our World From Space relevant engagement equipment
  - To support relevance of space for everyday life and value of space for the future sustainability of planet Earth, promoting a personalised and localised approach. Key content areas include Climate, Atmospheres, Oceans and Biodiversity.
  - Provide professional development and capacity building opportunities for space engagement professionals and organisations across the UK through a space community of practice
  - To understand the possibilities and resource requirements of refreshing and renewing exhibition spaces across the network, to enable cutting-edge, future-proofed and high- quality engagement spaces for the next 25 years of UK space research and development
  - Final evaluation report

Next Gen Earth

- Funded by: NERC, part of UKRI
- Timeline: 29 April 2025 – 31 March 2026
- External evaluation partners: OnData Ltd (Laura Thomas, working in partnership with Charlotte Thorley)
- Summary: This programme is supported by NERC departments of EDI and Public Engagement. The evaluation of the project focused on the youth panel involved with an aim to promote the connection and interaction between NERC science and society by ensuring young people have a voice in contemporary environmental issues that directly affect their lives, their regions and their futures.
  Adhering to the ASDC Theory of Change, we aim to explore what works to support agency and ownership, promote relevance and belonging through place based engagements, and to broaden horizons for young people from different and diverse regions across the UK. The findings support NERC to identify and understand the barriers that prevent young people considering a future career in NERC research and innovation.
- Key Deliverables:
  - One-year project Delivery period Summer 2025 – Winter 2025
  - £9000 delivery grants for up to nine science and discovery centres and museums playing to individual strengths
  - Equipment grants of £1000 for organisations to refresh or purchase new NERC engagement equipment (e.g. equipment shared in Operation Earth, Our World From Space)
  - Content areas include Climate, Biodiversity, Clean Air and Oceans. May include navigating climate crisis psychology (eco-anxiety and grief)
  - Three ASDC training modules delivered July 2025, to share inspiring practice in youth-led methodologies and the promotion of equity in project development and delivery, to support engagement with NERC science and research, and to ensure practitioners feel supported in the evaluation of Next Gen Earth
  - Evaluation report capturing data on inclusive participant outcomes alongside the equitable approach put in place to share practice
  - A final 'insights' report to share understanding of the views, perspectives and aspirations of young people aimed at communicating with higher stakeholders who hold the power to follow recommendations and take further steps to build capacity for a wider participation in NERC science, research and innovation

Demystifying AI: from algorithms to everyday life

- Funded by: UKRI, working in partnership with STFC
- Timeline: 15 October 2025 – 31 March 2026
- External evaluation partners: Dr Elizabeth Cunningham
- Summary: A rapid response project supporting up to 15 science and discovery centres and museums to engage the public with AI through programming that reaches up to 50,000 children and adults across the UK.
- Key Deliverables:
  - Six-month project period (October 2025 – March 2026)

- A collective reach of AI engagements of over 70,000 children and adults
- £10,000 delivery grants for up to 15 science and discovery centres and museums playing to individual strengths
- Selecting a national spread of projects with close consideration of geographic reach
- Content areas include:
    - AI and its applications in everyday life
    - AI skills and careers
    - AI engagement that platform regional diversity
- Three ASDC training modules delivered online in October and November 2025, to share inspiring practice in AI engagement, explore ethical and sustainability concerns, hear from AI scientists and technologist within UKRI research councils, and support a greater understanding of how AI and machine learning works for the practitioners across the sector
- An additional cohort meeting for networking alongside as-and-when training modules
- Evaluation report capturing metrics data (numbers of events and participants, types of activities, postcode data of events and engagements) alongside data on inclusive participant outcomes: agency an ownership with AI technologies, building confidence, broadening horizons, understanding AI and nurturing critical thinking skills, and perceived relevant of AI for the public benefit and for everyday life
- A final vibrant, high-level report to share the data and insights gathered from this national programme
- An online AI engagement resource hub' hosted online by ASDC for members, based on the format of previous handbook pages, to support shared learning and legacy of the 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.
- Reserves have been built during this financial year. Therefore, ASDC is able to continue to invest in its membership offer. For example, ASDC is investing time in effective project outcomes dissemination and celebration with a focus on strategic agendas such as sustainability, inclusion, AI and emerging technologies and youth voice. ASDC is developing a resource hub to share activities and ideas across the network, working to maintain more regular communications with every member to ensure we align with membership priorities and support requests for connection and collaboration, and will also continue to seek new national STEM programmes that support our strategic goals and raise the visibility of the network as playing a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. ASDC will continue to support the '*Science Centres for our Future*' campaign from reserves, including engaging with HM Treasury and the National Lottery for our short and longer-term financial asks.
- ASDC Events will continue to be prioritised for network connection, including discussion of future marketing-focussed events, opportunities for content

development around IS8 strategic agendas for STEM engagement and collective action around key membership priorities.

- ASDC will deliver the 2026 ASDC National Conference at Techniquest on 14th and 15th October 2026 for members and the wider sector. 2026 takes our national event to Wales for Techniquest's 40th year celebrations. By this conference, firm plans will be in place with the 2027 conference hosts.

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 2026;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Small Company Exemptions

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

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

Stephen Breslin
Stephen Breslin (Oct 6, 2026 15:55:25 GMT+1)

Trustee and Chairperson – Dr Stephen Breslin

Date: 06/10/26

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 2026 which are set out on pages 2 to 9

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: D J Wright
D J Wright (Oct 8, 2026 14:19:11 GMT+1)

David Wright BSc FCA

Corrigan Accountants Limited

First Floor

25 King Street

Bristol

BS1 4PB

Date 08/10/26

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2026	Total Funds 2025
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Charitable activities	2	-	817,839	817,839	521,610
Other trading activities	3	159,348	-	159,348	135,354
TOTAL INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		159,348	817,839	977,187	656,964
EXPENDITURE					
Charitable activities	4	124,933	811,133	936,066	606,228
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		124,933	811,133	936,066	606,228
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	12	34,415	6,706	41,121	50,736
Balances brought forward		235,005	5,369	240,374	189,638
Gross transfers between funds	12	(122)	122	-	-
Balances carried forward		269,420	12,075	281,495	240,374

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 18 to 23 form part of these financial statements

BALANCE SHEET

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

	Note	2026 £	£	2025 £
FIXED ASSETS:	**8**			
Tangible assets			1,605	535
CURRENT ASSETS:				
Debtors	**9**	154,329		106,391
Cash at bank and in hand		280,616		204,718
		434,944		311,108
CURRENT LIABILITIES:				
Creditors: falling due within one year	**10**	(155,055)		(71,269)
Net current assets			279,889	239,839
NET ASSETS:			281,495	240,374
FUNDS				
General funds	**12**	267,723		233,430
Restricted funds	**12**	13,773		6,945
			281,495	240,374

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended **31st March 2026**.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2026 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 ..06/10/2026... and were signed on its behalf by:

Stephen Breslin
Stephen Breslin (Oct 6, 2026 15:55:25 GMT+1)
Trustee - Stephen Breslin

Trustee - Tudor Gwynn

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

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

	2026	2025
	£	£
Statement of Financial Activities: Net movement in funds	41,121	50,736
Depreciation	435	134
Increase / (decrease) in operational creditors: current liabilities	83,701	(18,688)
Decrease / (increase) in operational debtors	(47,938)	11,262
Net cash (outflow) / inflow from operating activities	77,318	43,444

Statement of Financial Activities: Non-operational movements in funds	2025	2025
	£	£
Net cash inflow from operating activities	**77,318**	**43,444**
Non-operational cash flows:		
Investing activities		
Payments for tangible fixed assets	(1,505)	(669)
Net cash (outflow)/inflow for the year	**75,813**	**42,775**

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH DURING THE YEAR

	2026	2025	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	280,616	204,718	75,898

	2025	2024	Change
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	204,718	161,943	42,775

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.

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:

	2026	2025
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.

2 INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Grant Income				
AI UKRI	-	210,000	210,000	-
EYU Valuing Inclusion	-	-	-	34,980
EYU Valuing Inclusion (2024-2026)	-	148,919	148,919	180,676
Go Science	-	-	-	8,811
Josh Award	-	-	-	2,500
Mindsets and Missions	-	-	-	14,360
Our World from Space	-	-	-	243,297
Our World from Space 2026	-	254,923	254,923	-
Our World from Space (NERC)	-	-	-	30,000
STFC Masterclass	-	-	-	6,986
Youth Voice (NERC)		203,997	203,997	-
Other grants	-	-	-	-
	-	817,839	817,839	521,610

3 INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Total Funds 2025 £
Subscription income	77,913	-	77,913	66,527
Other income	81,435	-	81,435	68,827
	159,348	-	159,348	135,354

4 TOTAL EXPENDITURE

	Raising funds £	Charitable activities £	Support and governance costs £	Total Funds 2026 £
External project costs	-	53,646	-	53,646
External contractors	-	87,519	-	87,519
Project catering	-	1,662	-	1,662
Science Centres grant-making	-	436,298	-	436,298
Accountancy fees	-	5,891	2,371	8,262
Bank charges	-	1,596	399	1,995
Computer costs	-	2,883	5,512	8,395
Consultancy fees	-	3,750	31,063	34,813
Entertaining	-	-	612	612
Governance costs	-	27	3,244	3,271
Insurance	-	3,167	792	3,959
Irrecoverable VAT	-	-	1,879	1,879
Office consumables	-	886	12	899
Office equipment depreciation charge	-	-	435	435
Office equipment hire and maintenance	-	-	283	283
Other marketing costs	-	2,920	1,701	4,620
Postage and stationery	-	105	214	320
Premises costs	-	16,724	5,825	22,549
Salaries (incl. Employers' NI and Pension)	-	227,909	10,187	238,095
Staff training and welfare	-	-	2,160	2,160
Subscriptions	-	407	1,426	1,832
Telephone and fax	-	2,094	1,047	3,141
Temporary staff	-	-	3,349	3,349
Travel and subsistence	-	10,093	5,980	16,073
	-	857,576	78,489	936,066
Allocation of support & governance costs	23,547	54,943	(78,489)	-
	23,547	912,519	-	936,066

Prior period comparison

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

5 NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

This is stated following these charges:

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation	435	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 (2025: £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.

7 STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2026 £	2025 £
Salaries and wages	212,466	164,649
Social security costs	15,957	10,749
Pension contributions	9,673	8,165
	238,095	183,562

Management	1	1
Administration	5	4
	6	5

	2026	2025
Full time equivalent	4.4	3.6

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2026	2025
Between £30,000 and £40,000	3	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 £63,857 (2025: £47,323).

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Office Equipment £	Totals £
COST:		
At 1 April 2025	669	669
Additions	1,505	1,505
At 31 March 2026	2,174	2,174
DEPRECIATION:		
At 1 April 2025	134	134
Charge for the year	435	435
At 31 March 2026	569	569
NET BOOK VALUE:		
At 31 March 2026	**1,605**	**1,605**
At 31 March 2025	535	535

9 DEBTORS

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade debtors	145,404	103,290
Other debtors and prepayments	8,925	3,100
	154,329	106,391

10 CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	141,080	42,636
Accruals and deferred income	2,460	22,375
Tax and social security	6,243	5,836
Pensions payable	3,620	-
Other creditors	1,652	422
	155,055	71,269

11 COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASES

At 31 March 2026, the charity had total commitments under operating leases as set out below:	2026 £	2025 £
Rent of registered office	12,500	11,000

Within one year: £12,500 (2025: £11,000); between one and five years: £9,375 (2025: £Nil).

12 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Restricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	General Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £
Fixed Assets	-	-	1,605	1,605
Current Assets	13,773	-	421,172	434,944
Current Liabilities	-	-	(155,055)	(155,055)
	13,773	-	267,722	281,495

Prior period comparison	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)
	6,945	-	233,429	240,374

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Analysis of Fund movements	Balance b/fwd £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Fund c/fwd £
Restricted funds					
AIUKRI	-	210,000	(205,648)	-	4,352
EYU Valuing Inclusion (2024-2026)	2,294	148,919	(145,149)	(200)	5,864
Go Science	2,486	-	(2,486)	-	-
Josh Award	1,793	-	(1,793)	-	-
Mindsets and Missions	372	-	(894)	522	-
Our World from Space 2026	-	254,923	(254,923)	-	-
Youth Voice (NERC)	-	203,997	(200,240)	(200)	3,557
Total restricted funds	6,945	817,839	(811,133)	122	13,773
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	233,430	159,348	(124,933)	(122)	267,723
Total unrestricted funds	233,430	159,348	(124,933)	(122)	267,723
Total funds	**240,374**	**977,187**	**(936,066)**	**-**	**281,495**

Description of Restricted Funds

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

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.

Youth Voice (NERC)

This programme is supported by NERC departments of EDI and Public Engagement. The evaluation of the project focused on the youth panel involved with an aim to promote the connection and interaction between NERC science and society by ensuring young people have a voice in contemporary environmental issues that directly affect their lives, their regions and their futures.
Adhering to the ASDC Theory of Change, we aim to explore what works to support agency and ownership, promote relevance and belonging through place based engagements, and to broaden horizons for young people from different and diverse regions across the UK. The findings support NERC to identify and understand the barriers that prevent young people considering a future career in NERC research and innovation.

AIUKRI

A rapid response project supporting up to 15 science and discovery centres and museums to engage the public with AI through programming that reaches up to 50,000 children and adults across the UK.

Prior period - 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	4,742	520,910	(520,282)	1,575	6,945
Unrestricted funds					
General funds	184,896	136,054	(85,945)	(1,575)	233,430
Total unrestricted funds	184,896	136,054	(85,945)	(1,575)	233,430
Total funds	**189,638**	**656,964**	**(606,227)**	**-**	**240,375**

13 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31st March 2026, nor for the year ended 31st March 2025.