

The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Report and Unaudited Financial Statements

Year Ended

31 March 2019



Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Report of the Trustees	2 - 12
Report of the independent examiner	13
Statement of financial activities	14
Balance sheet	15
Notes forming part of the financial statements	16 - 23

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2019

The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019. These have been subject to independent examination.

Charity name: The Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Charity registration number: 1129312

Company registration number: 6798106 (England and Wales)

Registered Office and operational address: Suite 101 QC30
30 Queen Charlotte Street
Bristol BS1 4HJ

Bankers: Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Skelmersdale
Lancashire WN8 6WT

Barclays Bank
Bristol Queens Square RMS 2
Leicester LE87 2BB

Accountant: Blenheim, Chartered Accountants
Elm House, 10 Fountain Court
New Leaze, Bradley Stoke
Bristol BS32 4LA

ASDC Website - www.sciencecentres.org.uk

Trustees and Directors

Charles Bishop (Chair)	National Space Centre
Stephen Breslin	Glasgow Science Centre (appointed 9 October 2018)
Hermione Cockburn	Dynamic Earth (appointed 9 October 2018)
Linda Conlon	Centre For Life
Bryan Davies	Catalyst Science Discovery Centre
Karen Davies	Science Museum Group
Lauren Deere	Thinktank Birmingham Museums Trust (appointed 9 October 2018)
Tudor Gwynn	Eureka! (appointed 9 October 2018)
Elizabeth Hodge (Treasurer)	Aberdeen Science Centre
Bridget Holligan	Science Oxford
Gillian Lang	Glasgow Science Centre (resigned 9 October 2018)
Linda Leuchars	Dundee Science Centre (resigned 31 May 2019)
Adrian Lutton	W5 (resigned 9 October 2018)
Terence O'Connor	STFC (resigned 25 July 2019)
Scot Owen	Techniquest Glyndwr
Alison Sternberg	NERC (appointed 9 October 2018)
Leigh-Anne Stradeski	Eureka! (resigned 9 October 2018)
Ben Ward	Winchester Science Centre

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.

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 and Articles of Association (which includes the objects of the Charity); Charities Commission guidelines on becoming a Trustee; and forms for signature.

Management

The board of trustees delegate day to day decisions to the senior management team who report back to the board when the board meets on a quarterly basis. The board of trustees are responsible for setting the pay for the Chief Executive taking into account the responsibilities of the role.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives of the organisation

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, 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 ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

The ASDC network engages over 20 million people each year with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through their science centres, community outreach programmes and in school workshops. This includes over ten million girls and women, making it a powerful national infrastructure to inspire more girls into science and engineering, Public visitors, including a large number of children and families from under-represented communities, 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 investigate the sciences through hands-on curriculum-linked science education programmes.

ASDC has had a busy and effective tenth 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 of Science Engagement in the UK.

A key achievement for ASDC has been the awarding of Round 2 of the £30 million 'Inspiring Science Fund'. This programme was proposed and initiated by ASDC and funding secured by ASDC from BEIS (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy) with later investment by The Wellcome Trust. The Grant Programme represents a major capital investment in the UK Science and Discovery Centre Sector and will also help the 12 selected centres undertake new programmes to engage a more diverse range of families and communities.

Within the current year, ASDC has also provided a range of national meetings to share best practice, network members, advance the field and help centres play a strategic role in the nation's engagement with science. These included a high-profile National Conference in October 2018 in Manchester, sector-wide training academies, leadership calls, events at the international science centre meeting in Geneva, celebrations for the International Year of the Periodic Table, events for the UN International Science Centre Day and co-ordinating UK events for the 50th Anniversary of the first Moon Landing. This year, ASDC has advocated on behalf of the sector, delivered environmental activities across the nation and at Number 10 for ministers, represented the sector on The National Forum for Public Engagement with STEM, and advised on a wide range of national science engagement initiatives. ASDC also ran programmes to inspire more girls into science, and champion climate science, sustainability and social equity across all we do.

As a major part of ASDC's work to nationally and collectively advance the field, ASDC creates and seeks funding for and then delivers UK-wide leading-edge STEM learning and engagement programmes. Each programme aims to make specific and strategic improvements across the UK informal learning sector and involves 100,000 to two million participants. ASDC has created a robust model which has received international acclaim to deliver these programmes in communities across the country using local providers. For each national programme ASDC have created the programme and resources with national and international experts, then trained, equipped and supported UK Science and Discovery Centres to deliver the programme with their local communities, tailored by them using their local knowledge for a more inclusive approach.

Through these innovative STEM programmes, ASDC has also pioneered low-cost ways to achieve major large-scale multi-centre evaluations of informal science learning of thousands of school children looking at their interest and enthusiasm in STEM following an intervention. We have also undertaken postcode data analysis which shows we are reaching all areas of society through our schools programmes and have undertaken two of the world's largest evaluations of schoolchildren's learning at science centres.

ASDC has a central office in Bristol and has an executive team of 4.6 FTE staff namely the CEO, the deputy CEO (0.6), and two special projects managers and a projects associate.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

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

ASDC Project Activities (Description of Restricted Funds)

In this financial year, The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres (ASDC) successfully created, secured the funding and delivered ten National STEM Programmes. For each, ASDC secures the funds, develops the content and resources then selects, trains, equips, gives grants and supports 10 - 20 science centres across the UK to engage schools, teachers and families around specific areas of STEM. The ten national STEM Programmes are as follows:

1. Destination Space: Phase 2 Level 1 (2A)
2. Destination Space: Phase 2 Level 2 (2B)
3. Explore Your Universe: Phase 3
4. Explore Your Universe: Phase 4
5. Operation Earth: A National Environment Programme
6. The Secret World of Gases: A National Chemistry Programme
7. Science Capital in Practice (Science Academy)
8. Earth: An Artist-led science project
9. HYPATIA: An EU Horizon 20:20 Programme on gender equity in STEM
10. CIMULACT: An EU Horizon 20:20 Programme on the public's priorities for science funding.

For all ASDC programmes we make a strategic step-change in the way a large number of organisations can engage the public with that field of STEM, and then to measure the impact of the programme and share best practice. For the majority of programmes, there is a strong component of social equity, promoting inclusion and diversity and reaching new communities as well as highlighting climate issues and the role science centres can play in this area.

Destination Space: Phase 2 Level 1 (2A)

Destination Space Phase 2A is a national STEM engagement programme led by ASDC and funded by the UK Space Agency. This programme developed content around the new Mars mission, the James Webb Space Telescope, the proposed UK Spaceports and the latest satellite applications. ASDC created the resources and trained five UK science centres to run the programme. The majority of this programme (previously called Destination Space 2) was completed in the last financial year, with a small transaction in this year.

Destination Space: Phase 2 Level 2 (2B)

We are delighted to be working in partnership again with the UK Space Agency to run Phase 2B of Destination Space, with 13 Science Centres. This phase focusses on creating new updated space resources and sharing with families and children the latest developments in UK Spaceports in Scotland, Cornwall and North Wales, new satellites and their applications on earth, the ExoMars mission searching for life on Mars, and the UK role in The James Webb Space Telescope.

In addition, in partnership with the UK Space Agency we trained and equipped the 13 Science Centres to run a big celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Moon Landing in their communities, with tens of thousands of people involved. As part of this we created and operated the UK-wide collaborative Moon Portal www.Moon50.uk to collate UK events, so STEM, arts and other providers could share events and resources through this national resource, and reuse for future landings. Over a hundred big events were listed and the Moon50 website was linked from the BBC website, the Guardian and other sites for the public.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

Destination Space 2A and 2B follow on from ASDC's national programme Destination Space 1, which celebrated British Astronaut Tim Peake's mission into space. This programme engaged 914,646 people (children, young people, adults and the wider family group) in space workshops, family shows and meet the expert events. Of these 152,348 were schoolchildren brought by teachers to learn about the latest space science and STEM careers in curriculum-linked hands-on space workshops.

In addition, 1,135,786 people also visited the space exhibits and exhibitions made possible by this ASDC programme, bringing the overall total for Destination Space to well over 2 million people.

An independent academic evaluation of over 12,000 school children in Destination Space workshops showed not only did it reach widely, but that girls and boys were equally inspired on all measures of interest and engagement across the programme. Further, the postcode analysis showed there was no difference in engagement and interest between children from schools in the most deprived areas of the UK as compared to the most privileged on the indices of multiple deprivation.

The evaluation of these 12,000 school students also showed that 23% of the children taking part were from the top 20% of the indices of multiple deprivation. This is particularly interesting as this programme was not specifically targeting schools in areas of deprivation and is a proxy for school visits in general to science centres. This is the first time the postcodes of such a large schoolchildren cohort has been assessed.

Explore your Universe: Phase 3

Another of ASDC's flagship STEM programmes is the highly successful 'Explore Your Universe', grant-funded by The Science and Facilities Research Council (STFC). Now in its seventh year, ASDC created the programme and resources for this high-end practical physics and engineering programme in partnership with the National Space Centre and others. ASDC then selected, trained and equipped 23 UK Science Centres and universities to run the programme nationally. In Phases 1 and 2, 347,008 people (families and school children) took part in physics and engineering workshops and shows. In just 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 also no difference in interest and enjoyment between boys and girls across the range of our physics workshops.

The academic evaluation of Explore Your Universe found that:

- 77% of boys and 80% of girls were more interested in studying science following our one-hour workshop.
- 91% of girls who participated in the family show said the experience had made them more interested in science.

In Phase 3, ASDC focussed on reaching disadvantaged families, schools and communities in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland with this excellent hands-on science. 39,273 children and adults took part, from a range of communities in the top 25% on the indices of multiple deprivation including remote areas, a prison and children excluded from school.

Within this ASDC programme, postcode data analysis shows that 97% of the outreach schools taking part were in the top 25% of the indices of multiple deprivation or geographically very remote from STEM opportunities.

Explore your Universe (Phase 4)

We are delighted to be working again in our strategic partnership with STFC, for Explore Your Universe 4. In this programme, ASDC has selected eight Science Centres and their community partners to pioneer new approaches to make their organisations and learning programmes more inclusive, and to build relationships and share approaches that last. ASDC has also pioneered new and innovative

evaluation tools for community groups as part of this national programme, that will likely be used more widely across the science engagement sector.

Over its 7 years, Explore Your Universe has created a major step-change in the way science centres engage schools and the public with the latest physics, engineering and astronomy across the UK.

Operation Earth: A National Environmental Science Programme with NERC

Working in partnership with The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), ASDC has successfully created and delivered a major new National Environmental Science Programme for families called 'Operation Earth'. ASDC, in partnership with The Natural History Museum in London, Eden Project in Cornwall and Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh have created a family programme, with a host of equipment and resources (including The Earthy Suit), and trained, equipped and awarded grants to eleven selected Science Centres to run the entire programme. Alongside this, ASDC trained 40 scientists to share their science and NERC's world-leading environmental research.

The programme ran throughout 2018 at science centres including the Natural History Museum and Eden Project, engaging families with contentious areas of environmental science. ASDC were invited by The Prime Minister's Office to Number 10 to present Operation Earth and it was also presented in the Scottish Parliament.

Operation Earth considerably exceeded its target of engaging 100,000 people and the eleven science centres together reached 201,442 people in the first 10 months with the very latest in environmental science. A large proportion of the public also met and spoke personally with an environmental scientist.

The Secret World of Gases

The Secret World of Gases is an exciting national chemistry and environment programme created by ASDC looking at the future uses of gases and how they will be used for a greener more sustainable future. The programme was funded by the Royal Society of Chemistry and BOC and, in partnership with nine selected UK Science Centres, and engaged, inspired and involved school-age children and their families across the UK. Following a year of resource creation and planning with centres, the programme activities began at the Science Centres in the February 2018 half-term and ran across the weekends and holidays until the end of October 2018. The programme was a great success, and 106,261 children and adults in family groups took part, almost double the target. The experiments and activities continue in Centres nationally.

Science Capital in Practice (Science Academy)

ASDC is delighted to be partnering with the Science Museum Group (SMG) to deliver a national training programme for Science Centre professionals that focuses on how to use the concept of science capital in their day to day science engagement practice. For this national programme, ASDC selected 15 Science and Discovery centres to explore and pilot new approaches working with Science Capital, a concept which gives valuable insight into why some people engage with STEM, and why some do not. It also helps us to frame and shape experiences in more equitable ways to support STEM engagement.

Earth: An artist-led science project

ASDC have also worked with NERC and artist Luke Jerram to create a seven metre 'Earth' artwork to celebrate our precious planet and highlight its fragility. After considerable planning and development, the earth was presented at the Natural History Museum in London in November 2018 to international acclaim and press interest. It was also presented at Bluedot, the environment and music festival at Jodrell Bank. The Earth Artwork is now touring the world and multiple copies have been made. The response has been enormous from across the arts and science world. Our previous collaborative artwork with the same artist 'Museum of the Moon' has been all round the world and over 2.5 million people have come to see it.

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. We have run programmes and given talks widely on unconscious bias and gender inclusion and encouraged science centres and partners to focus on this through everything they do. We have participated in European partner meetings, created resources and engaged teachers and schools on the subject. ASDC has also convened a group of key actors and leaders across European Science Centres to create a European group striving to make improvements in the area of gender equity as well as improving social inclusion more generally.

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 the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation should focus its future investment in research and innovation funding. ASDC ran consultations with the public and school children for the programme and participated in European partner meetings. Academics also compared what citizens say they want, and what academic futurologists predict people will want in the future. The major finding was that citizens in 30 European countries independently said almost the same thing. They want their research funding spent on creating better and healthier environments in which to live, more vibrant local communities, cleaner air and a better connection to nature.

Core Activities

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

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

ASDC convened a variety of professional development and knowledge exchange events, meetings and conference calls for science engagement practitioners across the UK including the National Conference and AGM. The new ASDC website and greater activity on social media increased the sharing of programmes details, sector-wide resources, best practice and the latest news.

The 2018 ASDC National Conference

The 2018 ASDC National Conference was held in Manchester in October with speakers including Lord David Puttnam, Lord David Willetts, Professor Louise Archer, and the CEO of the Social Mobility Foundation. It was one and a half days and included a pre-conference of expert discussion sessions, knowledge exchange sessions and a conference dinner with guest speaker Lord Puttnam.

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 with a national and international reputation as leaders in informal science learning. ASDC is frequently approached by European and National organisations, Government and learned societies for advice. This includes working with Government and Parliament and others to secure £30 million funding for 'The Inspiring Science Capital Fund' for science centres, as well as attending and participating in parliamentary and other events, including within Government and at Number 10.

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 includes 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 and adapt 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, funding and sector developments via a regular newsletter. We also share the latest items through 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. ASDC also undertook significant work to create an entirely new contacts database using more up-to-date software in addition to a number of improvements across our systems to ensure ASDC was fully compliant with the new data protection regulations (GDPR) and could communicate effectively with members and stakeholders for many years into the future.

Supporting members

Across the year, ASDC also continued to support members running our former ASDC national programmes such as The Crunch: our communities, food and sustainability programme; Hands-on DNA: our national molecular biology programme; and Museum of the Moon: Luke Jerram's powerful and beautiful touring artwork created in partnership with ASDC which over 2 million people have visited and others projects. In addition, ASDC shared reports and best practice including the report 'UK Science and Discovery Centres: Effectively Engaging Under-Represented Groups' commissioned by the UK Government and written by ASDC.

In this year, ASDC has strongly championed climate science and the need to use our collective influence and voice to highlight the science and the need to use an evidence-based approach to action and policymaking in this area. We have also championed the role of Science Centres in engaging more widely, building science capital and addressing unconscious bias to work towards creating a more equal and inclusive society and STEM workforce.

ASDC Membership Fees

The 2018 - 2019 ASDC membership fees were:

- Small centres: £540 per year
- Larger centres: £975 per year
- University departments: £360 per year

In April 2018 the Board of Trustees reviewed the ASDC membership categories and agreed there would now be the two categories of membership given below:

1. **Full ASDC membership:**
 - a. Science-based visitor attractions
 - b. National partners which include research councils and learned societies
2. **Supporting Partners** (for other commercial partners)

Financial Overview

Overview

The total income for the period was £441,774 (2018: £585,824). Total expenditure for the year was £444,304 (2018: £630,308) giving a deficit of £2,530 (2018: deficit of £44,484).

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 £312,253 (2017: £310,917) 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, championing sustainability and using the science in policymaking for our future. ASDC will also champion inclusion and diversity in STEM, ensuring all children and families across the UK have access to great, interesting, relevant and cutting-edge science, and knowledge of the variety of future-focussed careers available.

Within the UK we also have the more immediate effects of Brexit on the charitable science centres, their visitors, international relationships and their funding streams to consider and navigate. ASDC has been the UK partner on three European programmes in the past years. Following the Brexit announcement in 2016, approaches for future EU programmes all but disappeared, considerably affecting our potential income stream.

ASDC will continue to apply for national STEM programmes that enable us to deliver our mission, and to 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 STEM learning, celebrating the importance of addressing unconscious bias, building family science capital and striving to increase diversity and participation in science at all levels. ASDC will also strive to increase the quality and quantity of excellent hands-on, creative and practical science experiences that schoolchildren have access to, particularly in informal settings.

The National and International network of Science Centres have a huge potential to create change across social equity and sustainability and striving for a lower carbon society. ASDC is Europe's largest network of science centres and the UK's largest network dedicated to out-of-school science learning and family science learning. ASDC will continue to work with national and international stakeholders from Government, Parliament, charitable trusts, school science initiatives, university groups and public bodies to celebrate the achievements and unique potential of the ASDC national network and infrastructure.

ASDC will submit funding applications for both core functions and new major science programmes to pursue the stated vision and mission in furtherance of the charity's objectives. For the coming year programmes will focus on our funded programmes of Destination Space, Explore Your Universe and UK Spaceports in Communities in Scotland, Cornwall and North Wales. We will bring the sector together to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the moon landing in communities across the nation.

We are also discussing other potential national programmes around environmental science, AI and machine learning, greater advocacy in relation to the successes and impact of science centres and maths skills. ASDC is also a founding partner for a beautiful and thought-provoking artworks 'Earth' by Luke Jerram, engaging wide audiences with the beauty of the Earth from Space and the fragility of our planet, and we will promote and celebrate this as it tours the UK along with the continued presentation of 'Moon' around the world.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

The 2019 ASDC National Conference will this year be in London, hosted by the Science Museum on November 20th and 21st featuring a host of high-level speakers including Professor Sir Mark Walport, CEO of UKRI and a host of other speakers, lightning talks and discussion tables, our AGM and a conference dinner.

ASDC will continue to bring together the UK science centres and museums, facilitating knowledge exchange, sharing best practice and delivering training to advance the field, so together we can play a strategic role in the nation's engagement and involvement with science.

ASDC's Strategic objectives for the coming year are:

- To champion the work of science centres and museums and their potential for STEM learning and engagement.
- To provide leadership for the sector.
- To enable knowledge exchange across the informal learning sector and between members.
- To promote and champion greater equity, diversity and social and inclusion across STEM.
- To support our membership.
- To advocate for the sector.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2015 (FRS102);
- 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:

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 2019 which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am member of The ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Stuart Crisp FCA
Corrigan Accountants Limited
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 2019

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Income from					
Charitable activities	3	-	357,678	357,678	529,161
Other trading activities	4	84,096	-	84,096	56,663
Total income		84,096	357,678	441,774	585,824
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities		84,732	359,572	444,304	630,308
Total expenditure	5	84,732	359,572	444,304	630,308
Net expenditure		(636)	(1,894)	(2,530)	(44,484)
Transfers between funds		1,972	(1,972)	-	-
Net movement in funds		1,336	(3,866)	(2,530)	(44,484)
Total funds at 1 April 2018		310,917	3,866	314,783	359,267
Total funds at 31 March 2019	14	312,253	-	312,253	314,783

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 16 to 23 form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

	Note	2019 £	2018 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	167,584	79,614
Cash and bank balances		219,843	323,026
		<u>387,427</u>	<u>402,640</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	10	(75,174)	(87,857)
Net current assets		<u>312,253</u>	<u>314,783</u>
Net assets		<u>312,253</u>	<u>314,783</u>
Funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	12	-	3,866
Unrestricted funds			
General funds	12	312,253	310,917
Total charity funds		<u>312,253</u>	<u>314,783</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2019.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- Ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Section 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees, and authorised for issue, on 20 November 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

Trustee – Charles Bishop

Trustee – Elizabeth Hodge

The notes on pages 16 to 23 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.

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

Income comprises

- (a) Revenue grants in respect of the science and discovery centre projects;
- (b) Membership and conference delegate fees.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy when any performance criteria or conditions attached to the income have been met or are fully within the control of the charity, and when receipt of the income is considered to be probable.

Income received in advance for contracts and where criteria or conditions are attached to the income is deferred until the conditions or criteria for recognition are met.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted General Funds are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

Restricted funds are funds which have been given for a specific purpose by the donor or statutory body. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis. Descriptions of the restricted funds are contained in the trustees' report.

Resources expended

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

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is charged directly to the projects where possible. Irrecoverable VAT is treated as a cost to the charity and analysed between appropriate expenditure headings.

Governance costs are those costs incurred in connection with compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements and have been allocated against Charitable Activities.

All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs on an employee basis.

Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

Debtors

Grant and contract debtors are recognised at the settlement amounts due after any discounts. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid after taking account of any discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash or short term deposits with maturity date less than 3 months from the opening of the deposit.

Creditors

Creditors and provision are recognised when the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in a transfer to a third part in settlement of the obligation and when it can be measured reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after any discounts due.

Pension scheme

The charity pays contributions into a group personal pension scheme on behalf of the employees. Contributions payable are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the SOFA over the period in which the cost is incurred.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Details of the charity's registered office and registered number are given in the Report of the Trustees. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability on respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

3 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Grants	-	357,678	357,678	529,161
	<u>-</u>	<u>357,678</u>	<u>357,678</u>	<u>529,161</u>

During the year income was received towards running the charity and certain activities the charity undertakes. Of the £357,678 received in 2019, £Nil is included within unrestricted funds (2018: £5,000) and £357,678 has been received that is restricted to certain projects (2017: £524,161). Funds are claimed and recognised as contractual obligations are met.

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Membership income	32,580	-	32,580	28,200
Annual conference	29,219	-	29,219	24,738
Other income	22,297	-	22,297	3,725
	<u>84,096</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,096</u>	<u>56,663</u>

5 Expenditure

	External cost of projects £	Support costs £	2019 £	2018 £
Purchases	138,206	-	138,206	224,230
Salaries	-	184,450	184,450	204,617
Pension contribution	-	8,314	8,314	8,986
Recruitment	2,069	4,177	6,246	2,280
Staff training and welfare	-	96	96	-
Travel and subsistence	12,945	7,046	19,991	31,576
Entertaining	98	822	920	1,842
Premises costs	232	19,416	19,648	19,146
Telephone and fax	23	5,417	5,440	6,320
Postage and stationery	903	1,445	2,348	4,549
Subscriptions	82	345	427	1,110
Bank charges	270	227	497	387
Irrecoverable VAT	12,252	8,339	20,591	36,611
Insurance	28	3,820	3,848	4,086
Computer costs	1,066	6,935	8,001	7,423
Repairs and maintenance	-	-	-	363
Sundry expenses	-	205	205	360
Accountancy fees	4,369	10,830	15,199	14,304
Consultancy fees	-	1,200	1,200	2,595
Advertising and PR	-	-	-	140
Other marketing costs	3,225	5,073	8,298	59,348
Legal and professional fees	-	379	379	35
	<u>175,768</u>	<u>268,536</u>	<u>444,304</u>	<u>630,308</u>

THE ASSOCIATION FOR SCIENCE AND DISCOVERY CENTRES

Notes forming part of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 (continued)

5 Expenditure (continued)

Of the £444,304 expenditure, £84,732 has been charged to unrestricted funds (2018: £69,347 charged to unrestricted funds) and £359,572 has been charged to restricted funds (2018: £560,961 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:-	2019	2018
	£	£
Cost of independent examination	1,200	1,200
Directors' remuneration	-	-
Operating leases	10,840	10,840
	<u>10,840</u>	<u>10,840</u>

8 Salaries

	2019	2018
	£	£
Salaries	170,647	189,394
Social security costs	13,803	15,223
Pension contributions	8,314	8,986
	<u>192,764</u>	<u>213,603</u>

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

	2019	2018
	number	number
Management	2	2
Administration	3	3
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Number of employees with emoluments (excluding Employers' pension)	2019	2018
	number	number

Between £60,000 and £70,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
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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 £91,736 (2018: £89,239).

9 Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade debtors	161,808	73,875
Other debtors and prepayments	5,776	5,739
	<u>167,584</u>	<u>79,614</u>

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2019	2018
	£	£
Trade creditors	65,032	73,148
Tax and social security	4,486	5,140
Other creditors	4,456	8,369
Accruals and deferred income	1,200	1,200
	<u>75,174</u>	<u>87,857</u>

11 Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2019 the charity had annual commitments under operating leases as set out below:

	2019	2018
	£	£
Operating lease commitments	<u>10,840</u>	<u>21,680</u>

12 Statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 18 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 19 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	310,917	84,096	(84,732)	1,972	312,253
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Earth	-	27,488	(27,488)	-	-
Cimulact	-	18,635	(18,635)	-	-
Hypatia	-	11,164	(8,911)	(2,253)	-
Explore Your Universe 3	2,404	-	(2,404)	-	-
Explore Your Universe 4	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-
EYU 4 Capital	-	33,000	(33,000)	-	-
Secret World of Gases	-	32,631	(32,631)	-	-
Operation Earth	-	53,760	(53,760)	-	-
Science Academy	-	-	(281)	281	-
Destination Space 2A	1,462	-	(1,462)	-	-
Destination Space 2B	-	131,000	(131,000)	-	-
	3,866	357,678	(359,572)	(1,972)	-
Total funds	314,783	441,774	(444,304)	-	312,253

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 pages 5 - 8.

Comparative statement of funds

	At 1 Apr 17 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers £	At 31 Mar 18 £
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
General funds	321,936	60,747	(69,347)	(2,419)	310,917
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Astronaut	752	-	(790)	38	-
Cimulact	17,125	-	(17,125)	-	-
Explore Your Universe 3	-	60,355	(57,951)	-	2,404
Secret World of Gases	6,808	115,231	(122,039)	-	-
Hypatia	-	-	(2,381)	2,381	-
Operation Earth	12,646	229,971	(242,617)	-	-
Destination Space 2	-	119,520	(118,058)	-	1,462
	37,331	525,077	(560,961)	2,419	3,866
Total funds	359,267	585,824	(630,308)	-	314,783

13 Analysis of prior year statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2018 £
Income from			
Charitable activities	5,000	524,161	529,161
Other trading activities	55,747	916	56,663
	<u>60,747</u>	<u>525,077</u>	<u>585,824</u>
Total income			
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities	69,347	560,961	630,308
	<u>69,347</u>	<u>560,961</u>	<u>630,308</u>
Total expenditure			
	<u>69,347</u>	<u>560,961</u>	<u>630,308</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	(8,600)	(35,884)	(44,484)
Transfers between funds	(2,419)	2,419	-
	<u>(2,419)</u>	<u>2,419</u>	<u>-</u>
Net movement in funds	(11,019)	(33,465)	(44,484)
Total funds at 1 April 2017	321,936	37,331	359,267
	<u>321,936</u>	<u>37,331</u>	<u>359,267</u>
Total funds at 31 March 2018	310,917	3,866	314,783
	<u><u>310,917</u></u>	<u><u>3,866</u></u>	<u><u>314,783</u></u>

14 Funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £
Fund balances are represented by:				
Current assets	387,427	-	387,427	402,640
Current liabilities	(75,174)	-	(75,174)	(87,857)
	<u>312,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>312,253</u>	<u>314,783</u>
	<u><u>312,253</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>312,253</u></u>	<u><u>314,783</u></u>

15 Pensions

The pension charge amounted to £8,314 (2018: £8,986). At the year-end £995 (2018: £1,332) was outstanding.

16 Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There was no trustees' remuneration, benefits or expenses for the year ended 31 March 2019, nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year ended 31 March 2019, nor for the year ended 31 March 2018.