



Ark Housing Association Limited

**ANNUAL REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the Year Ended

31 March 2024

(Co-operative & Community Benefit Society No. 1899RS)
(Scottish Housing Regulator Registration No. 66)
(Scottish Charity No. SC015694)

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BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, DIRECTORS, AND ADVISORS

Board of Management

Ian Logan (Chair)
Lucy Robertson*
Catriona Clarke#
Oliver Saint
Dr Darcy Black*
Craig Unsworth
Kayleigh Bryan (resigned 28 September 2023)

Graham Mitchell (resigned 29 February 2024)
David Proudfoot#
Joanna Mansell*
Donna Downie#
David Belfall (resigned 5 August 2024)
Neil McKnight (resigned 28 September 2023)

* Audit sub committee member

Finance sub committee member

Chief Executive and Directors

Bobby Duffy
Victoria Knox
Stuart Green
Mark Hall
Caryn Innes

Chief Executive
Director of People and Organisational Development
Director of Finance & Digital Improvement
Director of Care & Support
Director of Development & Customer Experience

External Auditor

Chiene + Tait LLP (trading as CT)
Chartered Accountants and
Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh EH3 6NL

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Corstorphine Branch
239 St Johns Road
Edinburgh EH12 7XA

Internal Auditor

TIAA Ltd
Business Support Centre
53-55 Gosport Business Centre
Aerodrome Road
Gosport
Hampshire
PO13 0FQ

Solicitors

T C Young
Melrose House
69a George Street
Edinburgh EH2 2JG

Registered Office

Lochside House
Ground Floor West Suite
3 Lochside Way
Edinburgh
EH12 9DT

Contact Details

Website: www.arkha.org.uk
Email: admin@arkha.org.uk
Phone: 0131 447 9027

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The Board of Management presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Purpose, Vision, Mission, Values, Objectives

Purpose

As a not-for-profit charity and registered social landlord, Ark is driven by its social purpose which is to “provide for the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage through the provision, construction, improvement and management of land and accommodation and the provision of care”.

Vision

Our vision is of “inclusive communities where quality of housing and care enable people to thrive and live a good life”. Ark works every day to break down barriers for the people we serve, our tenants and supported people.

Through our housing teams, we work to ensure our tenants are not financially excluded by mitigating the impact of welfare reforms, keeping rents affordable, and alleviate the impact of rising fuel costs by ensuring our housing is energy efficient.

We provide care and support to one of the most marginalised and vulnerable group of people in society. Our vision is that through our work and the work of others, this group will be enabled to become active citizens in the communities in which they live.

Mission

Our mission is to “create the best possible customer outcomes through our highly skilled people, the provision of high quality affordable homes and excellent care”. Good quality housing and high quality care are therefore essential to enable Ark to achieve its vision.

Values

Arks' Values are true to the core purpose of the organisation and the services we deliver. They determine our behaviours, and what we should expect in our relationships with one another. Working within the following values will guide and help us deliver our vision and mission of Ark being an organisation where everyone is equal:

- **Trust:** We have confidence in our people to deliver excellent services and trust in them to do so. We will develop trusting and honest relationships and our customers will feel assured that they can rely on us to deliver;
- **Respect:** We treat everyone fairly and we listen. We are respectful of each person with whom we come into contact and expect our people to respond professionally and treat others as they would wish to be treated;
- **Understanding:** We will operate with empathy and compassion and approach each situation with an open mind. We will question and challenge to ensure we achieve the right outcomes for customers and our people;
- **Equality:** We believe everyone is equal and expect our people to create positive experiences where everyone feels valued and included; and
- **Integrity:** We will do the right thing and take responsibility for our actions. We will work together to uphold the highest standards of behaviour and practice.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

Objectives

Ark's 5-year Business Plan, 2020-25 set out four overarching strategic aims, which were developed in response to the feedback we have received, through a significant piece of customer and employee engagement work in 2019 which we believe will deliver for the communities we serve in Ark. Our strategic aims are to:

- Have a reputation for excellence and be recognised as a high-quality provider of housing and care;
- Be known as an excellent employer where employees will enjoy rewarding careers;
- Build our technological and digital capability to support a successful business;
- Have in place Leadership to create a culture of excellence throughout the business.

We implemented our new Strategy 2023-26 in April 2023, and we retained the strategic aims we set out in the original business plan as we believe they remain the correct overarching guiding strategic aims for Ark. The key focus of the new strategy is to build on the work already begun through the original business plan, which seeks to respond to the emerging priorities of the past few years.

We made good progress in year one of the strategy, notably delivering the following corporate objectives:

- Completed the building of 20 new properties in Livingston, which has a mix of general and specialist house types, for people with additional support needs.
- Implemented our Employee Wellbeing Strategy that aims to ensure our employees physical and mental health needs are a priority for Ark.
- Implemented our new Autism Strategy, that aims to ensure high quality support provision for people living with autism.
- Implemented our Positive Behaviour Support Strategy, that aim to shift Ark's care and practice delivery model to ensure all support is tailored to each individual's needs.
- Agreed a new strategy for our Care and Support business and are already working on delivering year one of this strategy.

We have been engaged in a significant amount of planning over the last few years, as we seek to put the building blocks in place for our future, our focus moving forward will be on delivering those plans for the benefit of our customers and our employees

Structure, Governance and Management

Ark is incorporated under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and is registered by the Financial Conduct Authority. Ark, a Registered Social Landlord and a registered charity, was established in 1977 under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the Association.

Ark is governed by a voluntary Board of Management (the Board) and the management of Ark is delegated by the Board to the Executive Officers. Governance, management policies and procedures that set the parameters for those matters to be dealt with by the Board, and those which can be dealt with by the Executive Officers, have been approved by the Board. Meetings of both parties are held on a regular basis throughout the year and are conducted in accordance with Arks' reporting procedures.

The Board has two sub-committees, Finance and Audit. We have also created a new Housing and Property Working Group to gain the benefit of the professional expertise of those Board members who have an interest in that area. Each sub-committee and the working group have specific terms of reference

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

and functions delegated by the Board and with a member of the Board as their Chair. The Board also established an Executive Committee with delegated authority for decision-making in particular circumstances. The Board and Executive Officers of Ark serving during the year are listed on page 1.

Each member of the Board holds one fully paid share of £1 in Ark. The Executive Officers of Ark hold no interest in Arks' share capital and, although not having the legal status of Directors, act as Executives within the authority delegated by the Board.

Ark has a documented policy for recruitment to the Board and the recruitment process is structured in such a way as to ensure that those appointed to the Board have the required diversity of skills, interests and experience. Ark has established twice-yearly induction days and is creating additional learning days for Board members to ensure they maintain and enhance their contribution to Board Governance. Continuous learning requirements will be captured through a Board Effectiveness Survey.

Ark has two fully controlled subsidiaries in Ark Services Limited and Ark Commercial Investment Limited.

Ark Services Limited was set up to develop housing for those who are aged, infirm or disabled and in need of housing and associated amenities. As a registered charity, it was able to access Special Needs Capital Grant funding which was not available to Housing Associations.

Ark Commercial Investment Limited was set up as a vehicle to provide student accommodation in a former care home. As a commercial entity it leased the building from Ark and established a management contract to ensure high levels of occupancy throughout the year.

Ark has in place a management service contract with Ark Services Limited and Ark Commercial Investment Limited to provide management and professional services to these organisations.

The financial statements of Ark Services Limited and Ark Commercial Investment Limited are consolidated in the Ark Group financial statements.

Financial Review

The Group's turnover for the year ended 31 March 2024 totalled £24,793k (2023: £23,839k). The main source of income for the Group includes the provision of care and support services of £20,518k (2023: £19,671k). The remainder of the Group's income is primarily derived from the social rental of housing property, with net rental income of £4,275k (2023: £4,168k).

Operating costs for the Group in the year totalled £24,592k (2023: £23,831k), largely comprising of the following:

- Care and support activity costs of £20,899k (2023: £20,331k), which are primarily employee costs;
- Management and maintenance administration costs associated with affordable letting activities totalling £1,531k (2023: £1,495k);
- Planned and reactive maintenance costs of £1,014k to our social letting properties (2023: £940k); and
- Depreciation expenditure for social housing assets of £844k (2023: £748k).

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

The Group generated an operating surplus of £201k or 0.8% (2023: £8k surplus or 0.1%). Other expenditure in the year includes £88k of interest due on loan funding (2023: £81k).

Total comprehensive loss for the year of £1,434k (2023: £762k) includes a net £1,702k decrease (2023: £641k decrease) in respect of the annual actuarial valuation of the Scottish Housing Associations' Pension Scheme ("SHAPS").

Cashflows

The cash flow statement of the Group is shown on page 25. Ark generated £1,133k on operating activities (2023: £1,444k), a decrease of £311k on the prior year. Cash and cash equivalents in the year increased by £318k (2023: increased by £681k), to £8,211k (2023: £7,893k).

Treasury Management

The Board reviews Ark's treasury management arrangements annually. During the year Ark divested out of an investment portfolio with Brewin Dolphin in preparation of further new build developments. Cash funds are held in instant access and a range of longer-term notice or deposit accounts.

Readily liquefiable assets are held at a balance of at least an amount equivalent to two months cashflow expenditure (approximately £3,700k), which is considered sufficient to cover operational working capital requirements.

Borrowings are secured based on a mix of fixed and variable rate finance. Approximately 42% of Group funds are secured on a fixed borrowing rate and 58% on a variable rate.

Fixed Assets

The cost of Ark's housing properties after depreciation is £25,464k (2023: £23,324k). These have been funded principally through a combination of Housing Association Grant and other grants, private finance, and internal resources. The market value of Ark's housing properties is substantially higher than the net book value and is sufficient to meet all asset value related loan covenants.

Reserves Policy

The Association operates with three principle reserves; a revenue reserve, designated reserve, and a restricted reserve.

Revenue reserve

The revenue reserve includes amortised historic grant received in respect of new build housing properties, and specific projects for which subsidy has been received. These grants have been invested for the specific purposes prescribed in the related grant conditions. The Association has no ability to realise new cash from this element of reserves, since selling the related assets which were constructed or improved with the grant funds would trigger clawback conditions and require repayment of grant to the Scottish Government or other grant providers.

The residual amount of revenue reserves, not represented by grant, may be invested by the Association in line with its 30-year financial plan. Such investment is subject to the Association maintaining a viable financial profile over the life of its financial plan, as well as approval by the Board of Management. In

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

approving the financial plan annually, the Board will take into account projected compliance with loan covenants, as well as the impact of sensitivity analysis and other risk factors which may apply.

At 31 March 2024 revenue reserves stood at £16,061k (2023: £17,496k), a £1,436k decrease on prior year.

Designated reserve

Designated reserves are funds which have been set aside to meet future spending. Details of which are set out in note 12. At 31 March designated reserves stood at £331k (2023: £nil).

Restricted reserve

Restricted reserves are funds that have been donated to the Association for specific purposes. Details of which are set out in note 13. At 31 March restricted reserves stood at £44k (2023: £44k).

Business Review

This review refers to Ark Housing Association only. Equivalent material for its subsidiaries, Ark Services Ltd and Ark Commercial Investment Ltd, is included in their separate Annual Reports and Financial Statements.

Housing Services

The 2023/24 financial year was another busy year for the Housing Team. In addition to carrying out the routine day to day housing management tasks, we implemented a new housing management system and undertook a considerable amount of associated training and learning. We are confident that it will allow better record keeping and support our on-going commitment to quality improvement.

Stock turnover in the year increased from the pandemic levels of 3.9% to 5.07%. We were able to relet the properties on average within 24 days, with a void loss equivalent to 0.7% of the total rent debit. The cost of living crisis and the eviction ban had an impact on rent collected with arrears levels increasing to 1.21% at 31st March 2024. The Housing Officers were able to visit 61% of all tenants throughout the year and following up by awarding welfare assistance packages to 3 households.

The information gathered during these visits formed the basis of a claim to the SFHA's Fuel Poverty Fund, with the successful award of £86k being distributed amongst all our tenants.

Asset Management

During the financial year the asset team delivered over £400k in component replacements across Ark HA's housing stock.

From our results submitted in the Annual Return on the Charter criteria our repairs service delivered over 265 Emergency repairs and 1,120 non-emergency repairs throughout the year. We also completed void repairs to 14 properties which became vacant and were relet within the year.

Over the past year we also completed 18 Stage-3 adaptations totalling £69,346 which was funded by Scottish Government grant funding. We currently have 11 applications at the year-end awaiting works.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

Year-end results also contained within our annual returns to the Scottish Housing Regulator include:

Average time to complete emergency repairs	9.95 hrs
Average time to complete non-emergency repairs	7.4 days
% of reactive repairs completed right first time	64.82%
% of tenants who have had repairs or maintenance carried out in last 12 months satisfied with the repairs and maintenance service	81.90%

New Build Development

The approved five-year financial plan includes capacity to build 101 units over the next five years. Our first development in over 10 years, delivering 20 new net-zero social homes in Livingston, is due to be completed in Summer 2024.

During the year the Board also approved delivery of a further 12 properties at our site in Penicuik. Work commenced on this in Summer 2024, and we expect practical completion and occupancy to occur near the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

Care & Support

Although the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has now significantly reduced, our priority continues to be the safety and wellbeing of the people we support and our staff.

Staff recruitment challenges, and the associated high cost of agency use, continues to put a significant pressure across the Adult Social Care sector. During the year we put measures in place to improve recruitment and retention, which will support Ark in continuing to deliver high quality support.

Five of our ten registered services were inspected during the year. The services inspected were Ark Borders, Ark Forth Valley, Ark Moray, Ark Fife West and Ark Grangemouth Care Home.

For quality indicator 'How well do we support people's wellbeing?' the services were graded 5 (Very Good) and 4 (Good). For quality indicator 'How good is our leadership?' the services were graded 5 (Very Good) and 4 (Good). Three services were inspected on quality indicator 'How good is our staff team?' Ark Moray, Ark Forth Valley and Ark Fife West, and they were graded 4 (Good). Ark Forth Valley and Ark Fife West were inspected on quality indicator 'How well is our care planned?' and were graded 4 (Good).

We offer regular opportunities for the people we support to provide feedback regarding the quality of our service. The optional 'How Are We Doing' form is included in all 6 monthly Support Plan Reviews. This year we received 603 forms which provide valuable information that our services can use to direct continuous improvement initiatives. Organisational-wide feedback provided via this method includes:

- 95% of respondents said they were always happy with the support they get
- 97% of respondents said they were always treated with respect during their support time
- 96% of respondents said they knew who to speak to if they wanted to make changes to their support

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

Participation

Opportunities for tenants and supported people to participate in the work of Ark have steadily increased since the Covid-19 pandemic. This has taken a little longer to return to pre-pandemic levels as a result of the vulnerabilities of some of our supported people.

Our long-serving Tenant Participation Officer moved on from Ark at the end of 2023 and we were delighted to appoint a new colleague to take up the post. We will continue to build communication and engagement opportunities for our customers as we work to finalise our engagement strategy during 2024/25.

Learning & Development

Ark is committed to investing in all staff, ensuring they feel confident and competent to deliver a high-quality service to customers. We have a dedicated Learning and Development (“L&D”) function to support an on-going delivery programme, aligned with the needs of the business. We operate a blended approach of classroom based, e-learning, and digital classroom solutions to improve our range of offering and accessibility.

We also continue to deliver high quality SVQ qualifications and are audited regularly by the SQA to ensure our internal accredited centre operates at a high standard. We support our staff to meet their regulatory SSSC registration target within the required timescales, to allow them to deliver essential services in the Social Care Sector.

Employee Engagement

We operate an Employee Forum, the Employee Voices Group, to work in partnership with our people to understand how we can improve the working experience. The Group’s aim is to improve engagement and communication to ensure that our teams are part of decision-making processes and shape the future of the organisation.

Ark recognises Unite the Union and have a longstanding Recognition Agreement in place. Consultation with staff representatives and a full-time Union Official takes place on a regular basis through meaningful discussions on all staff related matters. We work in partnership on issues affecting the sector and have carried on the excellent relationship we have enjoyed over the years.

New Head Office

In Spring 2024 Ark’s Housing Services, Asset Management, and back-office support staff moved to a new head office at 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park. The modern office environment supports post-pandemic working practices, and provides a range of public transport options for staff and stakeholders. Ark’s previous head office, the Priory, has served the organisation well but was no longer deemed suitable. Working is progressing to market and sell the building over the latter half of 2024, with proceeds expected to be used to invest in Ark’s existing housing stock and new build development programme.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others

During the year we held 142 (2023: 138) bank accounts in trust on behalf of people we support. These accounts are kept separate from funds held by the Association and controls monitored by the Care Inspectorate are in place to ensure the safe custody of said funds.

Risk and Control Framework

The Association recognises the importance of effective identification, evaluation and management of all key strategic and operational risks. This is a requirement set out by the Scottish Housing Regulator's Regulatory Standards:

"The governing body bases its decisions on good quality information and advice and identifies and mitigates risks to the organisation's purpose".

Risk management is a key element of the Association's overarching governance arrangements and it demonstrates that the Association has considered those areas which put the achievement of its strategic objectives under threat, that it has analysed the consequences of things going wrong and identified the actions and controls needed to prevent or limit these consequences.

The Audit Sub-Committee advises the Board on its risk management processes, along with issues of control and governance and has a remit from the Board to monitor and review internal and external audit functions, compliance with relevant statutory regulations, compliance with our policies and procedures and health and safety management.

We also have in place a system of exception reporting to the Executive Officers and Audit Sub-Committee. This includes remedial risk assessment and action reports, ensures that learning and improvement from Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations and serious incidents is identified and acted upon. We maintain a Strategic Risk Register to ensure that, once they are identified, risks are monitored, managed and reported. This is reported to the Board twice per year.

We also operate an organisational regulatory checklist that is reviewed each month by officers. In respect of Health and Safety, the checklist is supported by our Health and Safety checks and audit system.

The services provided by us, in particular to those with learning difficulties, are inherently risky; however, we have in place policies, procedures, and guidelines to manage these risks. Risk assessments are carried out for each supported person and are regularly reviewed.

Within Care and Support, a regular system of reviews is in place, which is carried out at various management levels to ensure that risks to supported people and our employees are properly managed and to support best practice.

Principal strategic risks facing the Association, and mitigations, are noted below:

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to meet regulatory standards	The Board and Executive Team have in place a robust Governance framework to ensure compliance with regulatory standards and effective systems to monitor and accurately report delivery of objectives and financial performance across the business.
Failure to maintain financial sustainability	Ark have developed a financial strategy that provides the framework and guidance for all key financial and investment decisions. Five-year financial plans are reviewed on an annual basis by the Board, with regular management account updates presented throughout the year.
Failure to prevent significant cyber security event creating major disruption to all Ark systems.	Annual Penetration testing to ensure that all external facing systems are secure Bi-monthly reminders to highlight awareness around phishing attacks. Daily/weekly checks in place and periodic restore tests carried out and updated BC tests carried out twice a year by external supplier. Full test restores from backup are scheduled bi-annually. Full ICT disaster recovery tested annually and lessons learned documented.

Our Strategic Priorities for 2023-2026

Our 2023-26 Corporate Plan sets out four strategic aims we identified as part of the last business plan as we strongly believe they will inspire our work over the next three years; they are clear aspirations for everyone in Ark to aim for and they describe explicitly, the organisation we are striving to become.

- **Delivering High Quality Housing and Care**

Ark aims to build a reputation for excellence and be recognised as a high-quality provider of housing and care; we have already made good progress in improving both our care and our housing offering and we have now identified several key strategic priorities to continue the improvements we have made to ensure we realise this strategic aim.

We have created a new vision for Care and Support that will see the development of a bespoke care and support delivery model; we have launched the Care and support Strategy which aims to create the structure and resources to delivery high quality care to our supported people; we launched our Housing Development Strategy in April 2023 with a target to build or acquire 101 new homes and our Asset Management Strategy, launched in June 2023 sets out the long term plans for the improvement in the quality of our existing stock.

- **Ark as an Excellent Employer**

Our people are essential to any ambitions and success we have as an organisation and it is incumbent upon us to create an organisation where people can flourish and enjoy a rewarding career; where people feel valued and recognised for the difference they make every day; where we have in place a set of people policies that supports our teams and where we ensure the health and well-being of our people by offering appropriate and effective support.

- **Build our Technological and Digital Capability**

At Ark we aim to build our technological and digital capability to a level where it will support the business to be successful. We will improve our technological and digital capability by providing our people with well-designed software and technology that in turn results in an excellent customer experience. Our ability to get more from our systems, data and technology will provide our people with better insight and intelligence to allow them to identify and proactively address operational issues and deliver excellent customer service.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT (continued)

- **Creating a culture of Excellence**

Ark aspires to achieve excellence, however this outcome is only possible if achieving excellence is embedded within the culture of the organisation. We wish to create plans for improved communication and engagement across the organisation and in the external environment. This requires the Leadership of Ark to be proactive with all our people across the organisation and deliver a consistent message that excellence is what we should all be aspiring to.

Creation of this focus and culture is ultimately to the benefit of Ark's customers who would be in receipt of services that our people will be proud to be part of, as they will deliver the positive outcomes that are important to our customers.

This approach is underpinned by robust and compliant Governance systems and processes, and we will create a framework where Governance becomes tangible within Ark and all of our people, including the Board understand the role they play in delivering good governance for Ark.

Going Concern

The Board of Management has reviewed the results for this year and has also reviewed the projections for the next five years. The Board, therefore, has a reasonable expectation that we have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis has been adopted in these financial statements.

More details on the Board's assessment of the use of the going concern basis is provided in Note 2.

Auditors

A resolution to re-appoint CT as auditors for the ensuing year will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

By order of the Board of Management



Ian Logan (Chair)
29 August 2024

Lochside House
Ground Floor West Suite
3 Lochside Way
Edinburgh
EH12 9DT

STATEMENT OF BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Board is responsible for preparing the Board's Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Co-operative and Community Benefit Society law requires the Board to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the Board has elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the association and of the income and expenditure of the association for that period.

In preparing the associations financial statements, the Board is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the association will continue in business; and
- prepare a Statement on Internal Financial Control.

The Board is responsible for keeping proper accounting records of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the association and to enable it to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and Registered Social Landlords Determination of Accounting Requirements 2019. The Board is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Association and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the association's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Information for the Auditors

The Board members have confirmed, as far as they are aware, that there is no relevant audit information of which the auditors are unaware. Each of the Board members has confirmed that they have taken all the steps they ought to take as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that it has been communicated to the auditor.

By order of the Board of Management



Ian Logan (Chair)
29 August 2024

Lochside House
Ground Floor West Suite
3 Lochside Way
Edinburgh
EH12 9DT

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT STATEMENT OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROLS

The Board of Management acknowledges their responsibility for ensuring that the Group has in place systems of control that are appropriate to the various business environments in which it operates. These controls are designed to give reasonable assurance with respect to:

- The reliability of financial information used within the Group or for publication;
- The maintenance of proper accounting records; and
- The safeguarding of assets (against unauthorised use or disposition).

It is the Board of Management's responsibility to establish and maintain systems of internal financial control. Such systems can only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance against material mis-statement or loss.

The key elements of the Group's systems of internal financial control are set out below:

- Formal policies and procedures are in place, including the documentation of key systems and rules relating to the delegation of authorities, which allow the monitoring of controls and restrict the unauthorised use of the Association's assets.
- Experienced and suitably qualified staff take responsibility for important business functions.
- Forecasts and budgets are prepared regularly which allow the Board and staff to monitor the key business risks and financial objectives as well as the progress towards the financial plans set for the year and the medium term.
- Management accounts are prepared promptly, providing relevant, reliable and up-to-date financial and other information and significant variances from budgets are investigated as appropriate.
- All significant new initiatives, major commitments and investment projects are subject to formal authorisation procedures.

The Board reviews reports from management and from the Audit Sub-Committee, which scrutinises reports from both internal and external auditors, to obtain reasonable assurance that control procedures are in place and are being followed. The Group has a rolling programme of internal audit reviews which cover the key activities of the Group. Formal procedures have been established for instituting appropriate action to correct weaknesses identified from the above reports. These arrangements are considered appropriate to the scale and range of the Association's activities and comply with the requirements contained in the Scottish Housing Regulator's Guidance.

Significant risks are identified, evaluated and managed as outlined on page 10 and 11 of this document.

The Board of Management has reviewed the system of internal financial control in the Group during the year ended 31 March 2024 and up to the approval date of the financial statements. No weaknesses were found in internal financial controls which could result in material losses, contingencies, or uncertainties which require disclosure in the financial statements or in the auditor's report on the financial statements.

By order of the Board of Management



Ian Logan (Chair)
29 August 2024

Lochside House
Ground Floor West Suite
3 Lochside Way
Edinburgh
EH12 9DT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Ark Housing Association Limited (the ‘association’) and its subsidiaries (the ‘group’) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Group and Association Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Group and Association Statement of Financial Position, Group Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Group and Association Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Association’s and the Group’s affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the Association’s and the Group’s income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, Part 6 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010, and the Determination of Accounting Requirements – 2024.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC’s Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Board’s use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt about the Association’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Board with respect of going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor’s report thereon. The Board is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED (CONTINUED)

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- proper books of account have not been kept by the Association in accordance with the requirements of the legislation;
- a satisfactory system of control over transactions has not been maintained by the Association in accordance with the requirements of the legislation;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the books of account of the Association; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Board

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Board's Responsibilities set out on page 14, the Board members (who are also the Trustees of the association for the purposes of charity law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the board determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board is responsible for assessing the group's and the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED (CONTINUED)

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Association operates in and how the Association is complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud; and
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

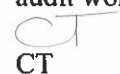
As a result of these procedures, we consider that the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements were, but not limited to, FRS 102, Housing SORP 2018, the Scottish Housing Regulator's Determination of Accounting Requirements 2019, the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and the Housing (Scotland Act) 2010. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures against the requirements of the relevant financial reporting standards.

We also performed audit procedures to inquire of management, and those charged with governance whether the Association is in compliance with these laws and regulations, inspected correspondence with regulatory authorities including mandatory submissions to the Regulator, reviewed minutes of meetings of the Board and relevant sub-committees, and reviewed available online information.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Association's members as a body, in accordance with Part 7 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Association's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Association and the Association's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

The logo for Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors (CT) consists of the letters 'CT' in a stylized, bold font. The 'C' is a thick, rounded shape, and the 'T' is a thick vertical bar with a horizontal top bar.

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

4 September 2024

REPORT BY THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF ARK HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED ON CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MATTERS

In addition to our audit of the Group Financial Statements, we have reviewed your statement on page 17 concerning the Association's compliance with the information required by the Regulatory Standards in respect of internal financial controls contained within the publication "Our Regulatory Framework" and associated Regulatory Advisory Notes which are issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Basis of Opinion

We carried out our review having regard to the requirements to corporate governance matters within Bulletin 2006/5 issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The Bulletin does not require us to review the effectiveness of the Association's procedures for ensuring compliance with the guidance notes, nor to investigate the appropriateness of the reason given for non-compliance.

Opinion

In our opinion the Statement on Internal Financial Control on page 17 has provided the disclosures required by the relevant Regulatory Standards within the publication "Our Regulatory Framework" and associated Regulatory Advisory Notes issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator in respect of internal financial controls and is consistent with the information which came to our attention as a result of our audit work on the Group Financial Statements.

Through enquiry of certain members of the Board of Management and Officers of the Association and examination of relevant documents, we have satisfied ourselves that the Board of Management's Statement on Internal Financial Control appropriately reflects the association's compliance with the information required by the relevant Regulatory Standards in respect of internal financial controls contained within the publication "Our Regulatory Framework" and associated Regulatory Advisory Notes issued by the Scottish Housing Regulator in respect of internal financial controls.



CT
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

4 September 2024

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 – GROUP

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Turnover	3	24,793	23,839
Less: Operating costs	3	(24,592)	(23,831)
Operating surplus		<u>201</u>	<u>8</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	9	148	67
Interest payable and similar charges	10	(88)	(81)
Surplus / (deficit) for the financial year		<u>261</u>	<u>(6)</u>
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	17	7	(115)
Actuarial gain on investments	23	-	-
Amendment to pension recovery plan	23	(1,639)	(1,476)
		<u>(1,371)</u>	<u>(1,597)</u>
Other Comprehensive Income			
Initial recognition of multi-employer defined benefit scheme	22	-	-
Actuarial (loss) / gain in respect of pension scheme	22	(63)	835
Total comprehensive (loss) for the financial year		<u>(1,434)</u>	<u>(762)</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

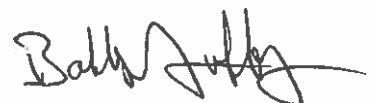
These financial statements were approved by the Board of Management and authorised for issue on 29 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ian Logan (Chair)



Catriona Clarke (Board Member)



Bobby Duffy (Secretary)

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 – ASSOCIATION

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Turnover	3	23,932	23,638
Less: Operating costs	3	(24,167)	(23,395)
Operating surplus		(235)	243
Interest receivable and similar income	9	98	56
Interest payable and similar charges	10	(31)	(25)
(Deficit) / surplus for the financial year		(168)	274
Unrealised gain / (loss) on investments	17	7	(115)
Actuarial gain on investments	23	-	-
Amendment to pension recovery plan	23	(1,639)	(1,476)
		(1,800)	(1,317)
Other Comprehensive Income			
Initial recognition of multi-employer defined benefit scheme	22	-	-
Actuarial (loss) / gain in respect of pension scheme	22	(63)	835
		(63)	835
Total comprehensive (loss) for the financial year		(1,863)	(482)

All amounts relate to continuing operations.


These financial statements were approved by the Board of Management and authorised for issue on 29 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ian Logan (Chair)



Catriona Clarke (Board Member)



Bobby Duffy (Secretary)

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 – GROUP

	Income & Expenditure Reserve £'000	Designated Reserve £'000	Restricted Reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2022	18,257	-	44	18,301
Total comprehensive income	(762)	-	-	3,652
Balance at 1 April 2023	<u>17,495</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>17,539</u>
Total comprehensive income	(1,434)	331	-	(1,103)
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>16,061</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>16,436</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023 – ASSOCIATION

	Income & Expenditure Reserve £'000	Designated Reserve £'000	Restricted Reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 April 2022	15,790	-	44	15,834
Total comprehensive income	(482)	-	-	(482)
Balance at 1 April 2023	<u>15,308</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>15,353</u>
Total comprehensive income	(1,863)	331	-	(1,533)
Balance at 31 March 2024	<u>163,445</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>13,819</u>

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 - GROUP

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets			
Housing properties	15	25,464	23,324
Other tangible fixed assets	16	2,731	2,699
Investment property	17	475	475
Investments	17	-	1,476
		28,670	27,974
Current assets			
Debtors	18	2,193	3,031
Cash at bank		8,211	7,893
		10,404	10,924
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(5,088)	(4,590)
Net current assets		5,316	6,334
Total assets less current liabilities		33,986	34,308
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	20	(14,565)	(15,486)
Provisions for liabilities			
Pension – defined benefit liability	23	(2,985)	(1,283)
Total net assets		16,436	17,539
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	21	-	-
Designated reserves	12	331	-
Restricted reserves	13	44	44
Revenue reserve		16,061	17,495
Total reserves		16,436	17,539

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Management and authorised for issue on 29 August 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Ian Logan (Chair)



Catriona Clarke (Board Member)



Bobby Duffy (Secretary)

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2024 - ASSOCIATION

	<i>Notes</i>	2024	2023
		£'000	£'000
Fixed assets			
Housing properties	<i>15</i>	22,022	19,901
Other tangible fixed assets	<i>16</i>	2,731	2,699
Investment property	<i>17</i>	475	475
Investments	<i>17</i>	-	1,476
		<u>25,228</u>	<u>24,551</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	<i>18</i>	2,192	3,046
Cast at bank		6,095	5,894
		<u>8,287</u>	<u>8,940</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<i>19</i>	<u>(3,633)</u>	<u>(3,972)</u>
Net current assets		<u>4,654</u>	<u>4,968</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		29,882	29,519
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	<i>20</i>	(13,077)	(12,884)
Provisions for liabilities			
Pension – defined benefit liability	<i>23</i>	<u>(2,985)</u>	<u>(1,283)</u>
Total net assets		<u>13,820</u>	<u>15,352</u>
Capital and reserves			
Share capital	<i>21</i>	-	-
Designated reserves	<i>12</i>	331	-
Restricted reserves	<i>13</i>	44	44
Revenue reserve		13,445	15,308
Total reserves		<u>13,820</u>	<u>15,352</u>

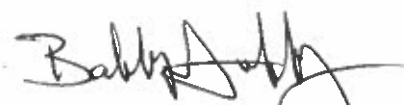
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Ian Logan (Chair)



Catriona Clarke (Board Member)



Bobby Duffy (Secretary)

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 - GROUP

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net cash generated from operating activities	<i>25</i>	<u>1,133</u>	<u>1,444</u>
Cash flow from investing activities			
Improvement of properties – housing stock	<i>15</i>	(842)	(256)
New build	<i>15</i>	(2,332)	(1,533)
Purchase of other fixed assets	<i>16</i>	(144)	(131)
Sale of housing properties	<i>15</i>	298	-
Grants received	<i>19</i>	492	1,358
Finance income	<i>9</i>	153	77
Donations received	<i>12</i>	331	-
Purchase of investments	<i>17</i>	-	(233)
		<u>(2,044)</u>	<u>(718)</u>
Cash flow from financing activities			
Finance charges	<i>10</i>	(88)	(81)
Disposal of investments	<i>17</i>	1,471	205
Reinvested dividends	<i>17</i>	-	(13)
Repayment of housing loans		(155)	(156)
		<u>1,228</u>	<u>(45)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		317	681
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		7,894	7,213
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		<u>8,211</u>	<u>7,894</u>

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 - ASSOCIATION

	<i>Notes</i>	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net cash generated from operating activities	<i>25</i>	815	2,131
Cash flow from investing activities			
Improvement of properties – housing stock	<i>15</i>	(728)	(103)
New build	<i>15</i>	(2,332)	(1,533)
Purchase of other fixed assets	<i>16</i>	(144)	(131)
Sale of housing properties	<i>15</i>	298	-
Grants received	<i>19</i>	490	1,358
Finance income	<i>9</i>	110	77
Donations received	<i>12</i>	331	-
Purchase of investments	<i>17</i>	-	(233)
		(1,975)	(718)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Finance charges	<i>10</i>	(31)	(25)
Disposal of investments	<i>17</i>	1,471	205
Reinvested dividends	<i>17</i>	-	(12)
Repayment of housing loans		(78)	(77)
		1,362	91
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		201	1,646
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April		5,894	4,248
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March		6,095	5,894

The notes on pages 25 to 51 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Legal status

Ark Housing Association (“Ark HA”) is registered under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 No. 1899RS and is a registered Scottish Charity No. SC015694. Ark is registered as a housing association with the Scottish Housing Regulator under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014. The principal activity of Ark HA is the provision of social housing and associated housing management and care services.

The Company and its subsidiaries (Ark Services Limited and Ark Commercial Investment Limited) are referred to as “Ark Group”. The registered office is Lochside House, Ground Floor West Suite, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh EH12 9DT.

Ark HA is a public benefit entity.

2. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements of Ark Group and the Company are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards and in accordance with the accounting requirements included within the Determination of Accounting Requirements 2019, and under the historical cost accounting rules. The financial statements have also been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for social housing providers 2018 (“SORP 2018”), issued by the National Housing Federation and under FRS 102. The presentational currency of these financial statements is Sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1,000. The results of Ark Services are prepared under the Charities SORP 2015.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Board considers to be appropriate for the following reasons:

The Association prepares a 30-year financial plan which is updated and approved on an annual basis. The most recent financial plan was approved in March 2024 by the Board. This included considering the impact of a number of scenarios on the financial plan, measured against funding levels, with potential mitigating actions identified to reduce expenditure.

The Board, after reviewing the Association budgets for 2024/25 and the Association’s financial position as forecast in the 30-year financial plan, is of the opinion that, taking account of plausible downsides, the Association has adequate resources to continue to meet their liabilities over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period). In reaching this conclusion, the Board has considered the following factors:

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

- The delivery of contracted Care and support income, which accounts for over 80% of total income, is spread across a number of Local Authority areas and any reduction in income will be offset by reduced staffing costs. The Board is mindful of on-going pricing pressures, the short-term nature of contract income, and the on-going public sector funding challenges. The ongoing process of care contract renewal, margin monitoring and securing future funding is actively managed ensuring the needs of all stakeholders are taken into account;
- Arrears and bad debts from rent and service charge income has not materially increased in the previous year, and there is no indication of a significant change in the near future. The financial plan takes account of potential future increases;
- Financial plan scenarios have taken account of delays in new build development activity;
- Significant price inflation across repairs and maintenance in recent years have been factored into our financial plan, with a range of scenarios modelled to take account of increasing prices, and revised profiles of repairs and maintenance expenditure, with major works being phased into future years;
- Current available cash of £6.1m and minimal external borrowings gives significant liquidity headroom for forecast cash flows over the going concern assessment period.

The Board believe the Group and Association have sufficient funding in place and expect the Association to be in compliance with its debt covenants even in severe but plausible downside scenarios.

Consequently, the Board is confident that the Group and Association will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Accounting judgements and estimations

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience, advice from qualified experts and other factors.

Judgements have been made in:

- Component accounting and the assessment of useful lives;
- The assessment of the fair value of financial instruments;
- Allocation of share of assets and liabilities for multi-employer pension schemes. Judgements in respect of the assets and liabilities to be recognised are based upon source information provided by administrators of the multi-employer pension schemes and estimations performed by their actuarial advisors.
- The provision for legal settlement has been estimated based on advice from the Group's solicitor.

Basis of consolidation

The Ark Group Financial Statements incorporate the financial statements of the Group's parent Ark Housing Association Limited and its subsidiaries Ark Services Limited and Ark Commercial Investment Limited. Profits or losses on intra-group transactions are eliminated in full in accordance with FRS 102.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Ark Services Limited is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. It is a registered charity and per its articles it is to be treated as a subsidiary of the Housing Association. Ark Commercial Investment Limited is incorporated as a company limited by share capital and is also a subsidiary of the Housing Association. Consolidation has been carried out using the equity method.

Turnover

Turnover, which is stated net of value added tax, represents income receivable from lettings and service charges, fees receivable from Local Authorities less amounts carried forward as deferred income, revenue grants and other income. Turnover is recognised when there is entitlement, any performance conditions attached have been met, it is probable income will be received and the amount can be realised reliability. Income received in advance is treated as deferred income.

Grant income

Where a grant is paid as a contribution towards revenue expenditure, it is included in turnover. Where a grant is received from government and other bodies as a contribution towards the capital cost of housing schemes, which are held at cost, the grant is recognised in turnover over the expected useful life of the housing property structure. Grants received specifically for components of a housing property are included in turnover over the expected useful life of the component under the accruals model.

Bad and doubtful debts

Provision is made against rent arrears of current and former tenants as well as other miscellaneous debts to the extent that they are considered potentially irrecoverable. Debts are classed as uncollectable after an assessment of the legislative options available to recover and consideration of specific circumstances.

Supported housing

Expenditure on housing accommodation and supported housing is allocated on the basis of the number of units for each type of accommodation.

Financial instruments

The Association has only basic financial assets and liabilities comprising debtors, cash and cash equivalents and trade creditors and accruals. These assets and liabilities are initially recorded at cost and subsequently at the amounts expected to be received or paid.

Deposits and liquid resources

Cash, for the purpose of the cash flow statement, comprises cash in hand and deposits repayable on demand, less overdrafts repayable on demand. Liquid resources are current asset investments that are disposable without curtailing or disrupting the business and are readily convertible into known amounts of cash at or close to their carrying values.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Pensions

Ark HA previously participated in the Pensions Trust Scottish Housing Association Pension Scheme ("SHAPS") Defined Benefit Pension Scheme. The scheme is now closed. Retirement benefits to employees are funded by contributions from all participating employers and employees in the Scheme. Payments are made in accordance with periodic calculations by consulting actuaries and are based on pension costs applicable across the various participating Associations taken as a whole.

In accordance with FRS 102, the Association's share of the scheme assets and liabilities have been separately identified and are included in the Association's Statement of Financial Position and measured using a projected unit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liability. The Association's share of the deficit is recognised in full and the movement is split between operating costs, finance items and in the statement of comprehensive income as actuarial gain or loss on pension schemes.

Capitalisation Policy

The fixed asset register consists of items purchased within an accounting period valued at £1,000 or more that are considered to have a useful economic life of more than one year.

This threshold applies to single items only with the exception of computer equipment which should be grouped. Items that meet the definition of a fixed asset but are below this capitalisation threshold are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the appropriate period the expense was incurred.

Fixed assets – housing properties

In accordance with SORP 2018, the Ark Group operates a full component accounting policy in relation to the capitalisation and depreciation of its completed housing stock.

(i) Initial recognition

Social Housing properties are stated at cost. Cost includes purchase price together with the cost of capitalised improvement works and repairs that result in enhancement of the economic benefits of the asset.

(ii) Depreciation and impairment

Housing properties are split between land, structure and major components which require periodic replacement. Replacement or refurbishment of such major components is capitalised and depreciated over the estimated useful life which has been set taking into account professional advice, the Association's asset management strategy and the requirement of the Scottish Housing Quality Standard. In determining the remaining useful lives for the housing stock, Ark HA has taken account of views provided by both internal and external professional sources. Freehold land is not subject to depreciation.

Major components are treated as separable assets and depreciated over their expected useful economic lives or the lives of the structure to which they relate, if shorter at the following annual rates:

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

	Economic life (years)
Bathrooms	20
Kitchens	15
Windows & Doors	30
Heating Systems	15
Structure & Roofs	80
Mechanical, Electrical, & Plumbing	30
Internal Works & Common Areas	30
External Environment	30

Housing assets are depreciated in the month of acquisition or in the case of a larger project, from the month of completion.

Where there is evidence of impairment, the fixed assets are written down to the recoverable amount and any write down would be charged to operating surplus.

(iii) New build

Housing properties in the course of construction are held at cost and are not depreciated. They are transferred to completed properties when ready for letting or sale.

The Group's policy is to capitalise the following:

- Cost of acquiring land and buildings;
- Interest costs directly attributable;
- Development expenditure, including staff costs attributable to the delivery of the capital investment programme; and
- Other directly attributable internal and external costs.

Expenditure on schemes which are subsequently aborted will be written off in the year in which it is recognised that the schemes will not be developed to completion.

Investment properties

Investment properties are held at fair value with revaluation movements recorded in the income statement for the period.

Sale of housing properties

Properties are disposed of under the appropriate legislation and guidance. All costs and grants relating to the share of property sold are removed from the financial statements at the date of sale, except for first tranche sales. Any grants received that cannot be repaid from the proceeds of sale are abated and the grants removed from the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Grants

Housing association grants ("HAG") and other capital grants are accounted for using the Accrual Method as outlined in Section 24 of FRS 102. Grants are treated as deferred income and recognised as income on a systematic basis over the expected useful life of the property and assets to which it relates.

Grants received in respect of revenue expenditure is credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period as the expenditure to which it relates.

Other tangible fixed assets

Expenditure incurred on the Association's office buildings is split into components and depreciated at the housing property rates detailed above. Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis over the expected useful economic lives of fixed assets to write-off the cost, less estimated residual values over the following expected lives. Assets are depreciated in the month of acquisition, or in the case of a larger project, from the month of completion, at the following rates:

	Economic life (years)
Office furniture and equipment	7
Computer equipment	5
Ark Information Management System ("AIMS")	10

Provisions

Ark Group only provides for liabilities at the date of the Statement of Financial Position where there is a legal or constructive obligation incurred which will probably result in the outflow of resources.

Taxation

The Group is considered to pass the tests as set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Group is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part II Corporation Tax Act 1992 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Subsidiary companies are not exempt from taxation except where they meet similar tests as above and taxation is based on the taxable profit or loss for the year after adjusting for the effect of any gift aid payments to Ark.

Equipment Replacement Creditor

The equipment replacement creditor represents the Association's liability to replace service equipment for mainstream properties in accordance with a planned programme of work.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

2. Accounting policies (continued)

Restricted Reserves

This reflects revenue grants and donations / legacies received for restricted purposes / projects and related expenditure in these projects.

Credit Payment Policy

Purchases are paid within 30 days of invoice or in accordance with creditor payment terms.

Operating Leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

Investments

Investment income is brought into account when due and receivable. Investments are stated at market value. Unrealised gains or losses on valuation are reflected through the Statement of Comprehensive Income and disclosed in Revenue Reserve in the Statement of Financial Position. Realised gains or losses are recognised through the Statement of Comprehensive Income as they occur.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

3. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus

Group

	<i>Notes</i>	Turnover £'000	Operating Costs £'000	2024 Operating Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	2023 Operating Surplus / (Deficit) £'000
Affordable letting activities	4	4,275	(3,693)	582	668
Other activities	5	20,518	(20,899)	(381)	(660)
Total		24,793	(24,592)	201	8
Total for previous reporting period		23,839	(23,831)	8	

Association

	<i>Notes</i>	Turnover £'000	Operating Costs £'000	2024 Operating Surplus / (Deficit) £'000	2023 Operating Surplus / (Deficit) £'000
Affordable letting activities	4	3,522	(3,367)	155	240
Other activities	5	20,410	(20,799)	(389)	3
Total		23,932	(24,166)	(234)	243
Total for previous reporting period		23,638	(23,395)	243	

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

4. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus from social letting activities

Group

	General Needs £'000	Supported Housing Accommodation £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Rent receivable net of service charges	3,700	45	3,745	3,599
Service charges	336	2	338	342
Gross income from rents and service charges	4,036	47	4,083	3,941
Less rent losses from voids	(49)	-	(49)	(17)
Net income from rents and service charges	3,987	47	4,034	3,924
Grants released from deferred income	218	5	223	244
Other revenue grants	18	-	18	-
Total turnover from affordable letting activities	4,223	52	4,275	4,168
Management & administration costs	1,485	11	1,496	1,495
Service costs	336	2	338	310
Planned & cyclical maintenance including major repairs costs	320	4	324	225
Reactive maintenance costs	680	10	690	715
Bad debts – rents and service charges	1	-	1	7
Depreciation of affordable let properties	835	9	844	748
Operating costs from affordable letting activities	3,657	36	3,693	3,500
Operating surplus from affordable lettings	566	16	582	668
Operating surplus from affordable lettings for the previous reporting period	665	3	668	

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

4. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus from social letting activities (continued)

Association

	General Needs £'000	Supported Housing Accommodation £'000	2024 Total £'000	2023 Total £'000
Rent receivable net of service charges	3,005	45	3,050	2,889
Service charges	294	2	296	300
Gross income from rents and service charges	3,299	47	3,346	3,189
Less rent losses from voids	(44)	-	(44)	(17)
Net income from rents and service charges	3,255	47	3,302	3,172
Grants released from deferred income	197	5	202	219
Other revenue grants	18	-	18	-
Total turnover from affordable letting activities	3,470	52	3,522	3,391
Management & administration costs	1,384	11	1,395	1,378
Service costs	294	2	296	268
Planned & cyclical maintenance including major repairs costs	301	4	305	216
Reactive maintenance costs	610	10	620	623
Bad debts – rents and service charges	1	-	1	7
Depreciation of affordable let properties	741	9	750	659
Operating costs from affordable letting activities	3,331	36	3,367	3,151
Operating surplus from affordable lettings	139	16	155	240
Operating surplus from affordable lettings for the previous reporting period	237	3	240	

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

5. Particulars of turnover, operating costs and operating surplus from other activities

Group	Grants from Scottish Ministers			Supporting People		Other Income	Total Turnover	Operating Costs	Operating Surplus	
	£'000	Revenue Grants	Income	£'000	£'000				(Deficit)	£'000
Care activities	-	-	19,832	571	(20,799)	20,403	240	(396)		
Other activities	-	7	-	108	(100)	115	(900)	15		
Total from other activities	-	7	19,832	678	(20,899)	20,517	(660)	(381)	(660)	
Total from other activities for the previous reporting period										
	-	72	18,901	698	(20,331)	19,671	(660)			
Association										
Care activities	-	-	19,832	571	(20,799)	20,403	240	(396)		
Other activities	-	7	-	-	-	7	(237)	7		
Total from other activities	-	7	19,832	570	(20,799)	20,410	3	(389)	3	
Total from other activities for the previous reporting period										
	-	72	18,901	1,274	(20,244)	20,247	3			

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

6. Board members' emoluments – Group and Association

No Board members received remuneration with £995 (2023: £995) paid for reimbursed expenses.

7. Key management personnel – Group and Association

Under FRS 102 Ark Group has defined “key management personnel” as the members of the Executive Team whose posts are set out on page 1 of the Report and Financial Statements.

The total emoluments of the key management personnel over £60,000, including the Chief Executive were as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Emoluments (excluding pension contributions)	420	403

The Directors whose emoluments exceed £60,000 fall within the following bandings:

	2024 No.	2023 No.
£60,000 - £69,999	-	-
£70,000 - £79,000	4	4
£80,000 - £89,000	-	-
£90,000 - £99,000	-	1
£100,000 - £110,000	1	-
	5	5

8. Employees – Group and Association

	2024 No.	2023 No.
The average monthly number of full time equivalent persons employed during the year was	518	519
The average total number of employees employed during the year was	608	591

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Staff costs (for the above persons)		
Wages and salaries	16,315	15,132
Social security costs	1,395	1,326
Pension costs	515	1,385
Temporary agency staff	1,622	1,646
	19,847	19,489

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

9. Finance income

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Bank interest receivable on deposits in the year	145	36	95	25
Dividend income	3	31	3	31
	<u>148</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>56</u>

10. Finance charges

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Loans	88	81	31	25
	<u>88</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>25</u>

11. Auditors remuneration

The remuneration of the auditor (excluding VAT) is as follows:

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
In their capacity as auditors	22	22	17	19
In another capacity	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

12. Designated reserves – Group and Association

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
Designated				
Frank Loxton	-	331	-	331
Total	<u>-</u>	<u>331</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>331</u>

13. Restricted reserves – Group and Association

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Outgoing Resources £'000	Balance at 31 March 2024 £'000
Rotary Rymonth Hobbies	7	-	-	7
Rymonth Donations	28	-	-	28
Ark Care & Support	7	-	-	7
Southhouse Care & Support	2	-	-	2
Total	<u>44</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>44</u>

Rotary Rymonth Hobbies

This was created out of a donation received by Rymonth Housing Society from St Andrews Rotary Club for the purpose of promoting the leisure activities of the residents of Rymonth, including the provision of equipment and materials for the said purpose. Interest shall be credited annually and any expenditure exceeding £250 shall be notified to the Rotary Club in advance.

Rymonth Donations

This was created out of donations received by Rymonth Housing Society and by Ark for the residents of Rymonth.

Ark Care and Support

This is intended to be used to support one-off purchases such as furniture, or one-off activities such as trips, for Care and Support customers across Ark's services.

Southhouse Care & Support

This fund relates to a legacy received from the father of a supported person at Southhouse to be used for the benefit of staff at Southhouse service in Edinburgh.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

14. Financial commitments

Capital commitments – Group and Association

Capital commitments in relation to new build development at the end of the financial year are as follows:

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure				
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	-	1,334	-	1,334
Expenditure approved by the board, but not contracted	2,549	-	2,549	-
	<u>2,549</u>	<u>3,607</u>	<u>2,549</u>	<u>3,607</u>

Operating leases

At the end of the financial year the Association had total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Equipment				
In one year or less	3	3	3	3
In two to five years	-	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Land and buildings				
In one year or less	-	-	-	-
Between one and two years	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

15. Social housing properties

Group	Social Housing Properties £'000	Housing Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	35,698	2,273	37,970
Additions	841	2,332	3,173
Disposals	(402)	-	(402)
Transfer	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	35,698	4,605	40,742
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	14,646	-	14,646
Charge for year	735	-	735
Disposals	(103)	-	(103)
At 31 March 2024	14,646	-	15,279
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	20,858	4,605	25,463
At 31 March 2023	21,051	2,273	23,324

All land and property is owned by the Group. None is held under a lease.

Major Repairs costs amounted to £560k (2023: £262k) of which £560k (2023: £256k) was capitalised in the year.

Association	Social Housing Properties £'000	Housing Under Construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	30,683	2,273	32,955
Additions	728	2,332	3,060
Disposals	(402)	-	(402)
Transfer	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	31,009	4,605	35,614
Accumulated Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	13,054	-	13,054
Charge for year	641	-	641
Disposals	(103)	-	(103)
At 31 March 2024	13,592	-	13,592
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	17,417	4,605	22,022
At 31 March 2023	17,629	2,273	19,902

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

15. Social housing properties (continued)

All land and property is owned by the Association. None is held under a lease. Major Repairs costs amounted to £446k (2023: £204k) of which £446k (2023: £192k) was capitalised in the year.

The number of units of accommodation (excluding unlettable voids) held by the Ark Group at 31 March is shown below:

	Owned No.	Not Owned No.	2024 Total No.	2023 Total No.
General needs	179	-	179	183
Supported accommodation	365	43	408	404
	<u>544</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>587</u>	<u>587</u>

The Association and Group leases a number of properties to other providers (local authorities, RSLs or charitable bodies) who manage the properties on their behalf. No funding is payable by the Association or Group to the other providers in respect of these units.

16. Other tangible fixed assets – Group and Association

	Heritable Buildings £'000	Land £'000	Computer Equipment £'000	Office Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	1,606	1,250	955	81	3,892
Additions	4	-	141	-	145
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,610</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>1,096</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>4,037</u>
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	566	-	547	81	1,194
Charge for year	32	-	80	-	112
At 31 March 2024	<u>598</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>627</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>1,306</u>
Net Book Value					
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,012</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>469</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,731</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,040</u>	<u>1,250</u>	<u>409</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,699</u>

The original cost of the office premises at The Priory was £1,043,000. We are in the process of selling at more than the current net book value.

As allowed under FRS transitional rules, as the valuation was carried out prior to the introduction of the FRS, the Association has chosen to retain that valuation as deemed cost in the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

17. Investments

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening value	1,476	1,561	1,476	1,561
Additions	-	232	-	232
Disposals	(1,476)	(205)	(1,476)	(205)
Re-invested dividends		13		13
Investment management fees	-	(10)	-	(10)
Closing value before unrealised gain	-	1,591	-	1,591
Movement in unrealised gain	-	(115)	-	(115)
Closing market value	-	1,476	-	1,476

During the year, Ark withdrew all funds from our investment holdings to support our long-term strategic plans for new build development.

Investment Property – West Adam Street

Opening balance	475	475	475	475
Additions	-	-	-	-
Closing balance	475	475	475	475

18. Debtors

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Rent arrears	114	78	102	73
Less: Provision for bad debts	(18)	(14)	(18)	(14)
	96	64	84	59
Prepayments and accrued income	375	1,061	375	1,061
Other debtors	64	48	54	38
Local authorities	1,648	1,858	1,648	1,858
Due from other group companies	-	-	32	30
	2,183	3,031	2,193	3,046

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

19. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Trade creditors	447	912	434	909
Local authorities	141	190	141	190
Other creditors	440	277	440	265
Rent and service charges received in advance	134	74	115	74
Due to other group companies	-	-	-	-
Tax and social security	619	571	619	571
Accruals	790	920	742	727
Deferred income	69	115	66	110
Equipment replacement	1,009	1,124	770	826
HAG	205	201	205	201
Other grants	43	43	18	18
Housing Loans (note 20)	1,184	163	84	81
	<u>5,081</u>	<u>4,590</u>	<u>3,634</u>	<u>3,972</u>

Analysis of deferred HAG / other grants – Group

	Housing Association Grants £'000	Other Grants £'000	Total £'000
Deferred income as at 31 March 2023	11,714	2,463	14,177
Additional income received	492	-	1,358
Released to Statement of Comprehensive Income	(197)	(39)	(244)
Deferred income as at 31 March 2024	<u>12,009</u>	<u>2,424</u>	<u>14,433</u>

Grants to be released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

2023 – all due within one year	201	43	244
2024 – all due within one year	201	43	244

Analysis of deferred HAG / other grants – Association

	Housing Association Grants £'000	Other Grants £'000	Total £'000
Deferred income as at 31 March 2023	11,714	929	12,643
Additional income received	492	-	492
Released to Statement of Comprehensive Income	(197)	(18)	(215)
Deferred income as at 31 March 2024	<u>12,009</u>	<u>911</u>	<u>12,920</u>

Grants to be released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

2023 – all due within one year	201	19	220
2024 – all due within one year	201	18	219

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

20. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
HAG	11,804	11,511	11,804	11,511
Other grants	2,381	2,420	893	911
Housing loans	380	1,555	380	462
	<u>14,565</u>	<u>15,486</u>	<u>13,077</u>	<u>12,884</u>

Loans are secured by specific charges on the Group's properties. Loans are repayable at current rates of interest ranging from 1.41% to 6.52% (2023: 1.41% to 6.52%) in instalments due as follows:

	Group		Association	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
In one year or less (note 19)	1,184	163	84	81
In one to two years	83	168	83	83
Between two to five years	265	545	265	265
In five years or more	32	841	32	113
	<u>1,564</u>	<u>1,717</u>	<u>464</u>	<u>542</u>

Housing loans will be fully repaid between 2029 and 2031.

21. Share capital – Group and Association

	2024	2023
	£	£
Shares of £1 fully paid and issued at beginning of year	45	41
Shares issued during year	-	4
Shares cancelled during year	-	-
	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>

Each member of the Association holds one share of £1 in the Association. These shares carry no rights to dividend or distributions on a winding up. When a shareholder ceases to be a member, that person's share is cancelled and the amount paid thereon becomes the property of the Association. Each member has a right to vote at members' meetings.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

22. Related party transactions

Ark Services Limited & Ark Commercial Investment Limited are wholly owned subsidiaries of Ark Housing Association.

During the year Ark HA charged Ark Services £78,900 for professional and administrative support (2023: £77,500) and £19,849 (2023: £14,113) for insurance. At 31 March 2024 there was a total balance of £26,773 (2023: £17,722) owed to Ark HA and a balance of £nil (2023: £nil) due from Ark HA in respect of rental and other income received on behalf of Ark Services Limited.

In addition Ark HA charged Ark Commercial Investment Limited £44,000 (2023: £47,400) during the year for rental of the property at West Adam Street. At 31 March 2024 there was a total of £12,584 (2023: £12,411) owed to Ark HA by Ark Commercial Investment Limited.

During the year Ark held 142 bank accounts (2023: 138) in trust on behalf of supported people. These accounts are kept separate from funds held by the Association and controls monitored by the Care Commission are in place to ensure the safe custody of said funds. The total amount held in these accounts as at 31 March 2024 was £1,561,783 (2023: £1,255,869).

23. Pensions – Group and Association

General

Ark Housing Association Limited participates in the Scottish Housing Associations' Pension Scheme ('the Scheme'), a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 150 non-associated employers. The Scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK.

The Scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The last triennial valuation of the Scheme for funding purposes was carried out as at 30 September 2021. This valuation revealed a deficit of £27m, down from a deficit of £121m in the previous valuation. A Recovery Plan, in place to eliminate the deficit, ended in September 2022.

The Scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the Association is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the Scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the Scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the Scheme.

For accounting purposes, a valuation of the scheme is carried out with an effective date of 30 September each year. The liability figures from this valuation are rolled forward for accounting year-ends from the following 31 March to 28 February inclusive.

The latest accounting valuation was carried out with an effective date of 30 September 2023. The liability figures from this valuation were rolled forward for accounting year-ends from the following 31 March 2024 to 28 February 2025 inclusive.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

23. Pensions – Group and Association (continued)

The liabilities are compared, at the relevant accounting date, with the Association's fair share of the Scheme's total assets to calculate the Association's net deficit or surplus.

A defined benefit liability of £2,985,000 is recognised within the provisions for this contractual obligation.

Ark Housing Association continues to offer defined contribution membership of the Scheme to its employees.

Present values of defined benefit obligation, fair value of assets and defined benefit asset (liability)

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets	22,835	24,855
Present value of defined benefit obligation	(25,820)	(26,138)
Net defined liability to be recognised	(2,985)	(1,283)

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances of the defined benefit obligation:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Defined benefit obligation at start of period	26,138	36,798
Expenses	37	34
Interest expense	1,248	1,011
Actuarial gains	(306)	(10,605)
Benefits paid and expenses	(1,297)	(1,100)
Defined benefit obligation at end of period	25,820	26,138

Reconciliation of opening and closing balances of the fair value of plan assets:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	24,855	36,156
Interest income	1,185	1,005
Experience on plan assets	(1,945)	(12,081)
Contributions by the employer	37	875
Benefits paid and expenses	(1,297)	(1,100)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	22,835	24,885

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

23. Pensions – Group and Association (continued)

The actual return on the plan assets (including any changes in share of assets) over the period from 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 was (£760k) (2023: (£11,076k)).

Defined benefit costs recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income (SOCl):

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Expenses	37	34
Net interest expense	63	6
Defined benefit costs recognised in Statement of Comprehensive Income	100	40

Defined benefit costs recognised in other comprehensive income:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Experience of plan assets	(1,945)	(12,081)
Experience gains and losses arising on plan liabilities – gain	126	379
Effects of changes in the demographic assumptions underlying the present value of the defined benefit obligation – gain	173	661
Effects of changes in the financial assumptions underlying the present value of the defined benefit obligation – gain	7	9,565
Total amount recognised in other comprehensive income	(1,639)	(1,476)

In May 2021 the Scheme Trustee (TPT Retirement Solutions) notified employers of a review of historic scheme benefit changes, and the result of this is that there is uncertainty surrounding some of these changes. The Trustee is seeking clarification from the Court on these items, and this process is ongoing with it being unlikely to be resolved before the end of 2024 at the earliest. It is estimated that this could potentially increase the value of the full Scheme liabilities by £27m. We note that this estimate has been calculated as at 30 September 2022 on the Scheme's Technical Provisions basis. Until the Court direction is received, it is unknown whether the full (or any) increase in liabilities will apply and therefore, in line with the prior year, no adjustment has been made in these financial statements in respect of this.

Growth Plan

Ark Housing Association participates in the scheme, a multi-employer scheme which provides benefits to some 638 non-associated participating employers. The scheme is a defined benefit scheme in the UK. It is not possible for the company to obtain sufficient information to enable it to account for the scheme as a defined benefit scheme. Therefore it accounts for the scheme as a defined contribution scheme.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

23. Pensions – Group and Association (continued)

The scheme is subject to the funding legislation outlined in the Pensions Act 2004 which came into force on 30 December 2005. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator and Technical Actuarial Standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension schemes in the UK.

The scheme is classified as a 'last-man standing arrangement'. Therefore the company is potentially liable for other participating employers' obligations if those employers are unable to meet their share of the scheme deficit following withdrawal from the scheme. Participating employers are legally required to meet their share of the scheme deficit on an annuity purchase basis on withdrawal from the scheme.

Present value of provision – reconciliation of opening and closing provisions:

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Provision at start of period	1	2
Unwinding of the discount factor (interest expense)	-	-
Deficit contribution paid	(1)	(1)
Remeasurements – impact of any change in assumptions	-	-
Remeasurements – amendments to the contribution schedule	-	-
Provision at end of period	-	1

Following a change in legislation in September 2005 there is a potential debt on the employer that could be levied by the Trustee of the Plan and The Pensions Act 2011 has more recently altered the definition of Series 3 of the Plan so that a liability arises to employers from membership of any Series except Series 4. The debt is due in the event of the employer ceasing to participate in the Plan or the Plan winding up.

The debt for the Plan as a whole is calculated by comparing the liabilities for the plan (calculated on a buyout basis i.e. the cost of securing benefits by purchasing annuity policies from an insurer, plus an allowance for expenses) with the assets of the Plan. If the liabilities exceed assets there is a buy-out debt.

The leaving employer's share of the buy-out debt is the proportion of the Plan's liability attributable to employment with the leaving employer compared to the total amount of the Plan's liabilities (relating to employment with all the currently participating employers). The leaving employer's debt therefore includes a share of any 'orphan' liabilities in respect of previously participating employers. The amount of the debt therefore depends on many factors including total Plan liabilities, Plan investment performance, the liabilities in respect of current and former employees of the employer, financial conditions at the time of the cessation event and the insurance buy-out market. The amounts of debt can therefore be volatile over time.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

23. Pensions – Group and Association (continued)

When an employer withdraws from a multi-employer defined benefit pension scheme which is in deficit, the employer is required by law to pay its share of the deficit, calculated on a statutory basis (known as the buy-out basis). The calculation basis that applies to the Plan was amended due to a change in the definition of money purchase contained in the Pensions Act 2011 but the regulations that will determine exactly how the change will apply in practice are still awaited. As the law stands, it is not yet clear whether the statutory calculation should include or exclude Series 3 liabilities. However, based upon current advice, the most likely interpretation is that Series 3 liabilities will have to be included in the calculation of an employer's debt on withdrawal.

The Plan is a "last man standing" multi-employer scheme. This means that if a withdrawing employer is unable to pay its debt on withdrawal the liability is shared amongst the remaining employers. The participating employers are therefore, jointly and severally liable for the deficit in the Plan.

The Association has been notified by The Pensions Trust that the amount to be paid in 2024/25 is £1,648. Subject to certain conditions, this amount is payable annually and is anticipated to increase by 3% per annum.

24. Contingent liability

Pensions

Ark Housing Association has been notified by the Pensions Trust of the estimated employer debt on withdrawal from the SHAPS Scheme based on the financial position of the Scheme as at 30 September 2023. As of this date the estimated employer debt for Ark Housing Association was £8,127,328.

Ark Housing Association has been notified by the Pensions Trust of the estimated employer debt on withdrawal from the Growth Plan based on the financial position of the Plan as at 30 September 2023. As of this date the estimated employer debt for Ark was £5,185 including Series 3 liabilities in the calculation.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

25. Cash flow analysis

Cash flow from operating activities – Group

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Operating surplus / (deficit) for the year	201	8
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	847	877
Decrease / (increase) in trade and other debtors	848	306
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other creditors	(763)	253
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities	1,133	1,444

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds / (debt):

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Increase / (decrease) in cash in the period	318	680
Cash inflow from movement in debt	153	156
	471	836
Net funds at 1 April	6,176	5,340
Net funds at 31 March	6,647	6,176

Analysis of changes in net funds:

	At 31 March 2023	Cash Flows	At 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash in bank and in hand	7,893	318	8,211
Debt due within 1 year	(163)	(1,021)	(1,184)
Debt due after 1 year	(1,554)	1,174	(380)
Net funds	6,176	471	6,647

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 (continued)

25. Cash flow analysis (continued)

Cash flow from operating activities – Association

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Operating surplus / (deficit) for the year	(235)	243
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	753	788
Decrease / (increase) in trade and other debtors	854	925
Increase / (decrease) in trade and other creditors	(557)	175
Net cash inflow / (outflow) from operating activities	815	2,131

Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds / (debt):

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Increase / (decrease) in cash in the period	201	1,646
Cash inflow from movement in debt	78	78
	279	1,724
Net funds at 1 April	5,352	3,628
Net funds at 31 March	5,631	5,352

Analysis of changes in net funds:

	At 31	Cash	At 31
	March	Flows	March
	2023	£'000	2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash in bank and in hand	5,894	201	6,095
Debt due within 1 year	(81)	(3)	(84)
Debt due after 1 year	(461)	81	(380)
Net funds	5,352	279	5,631

