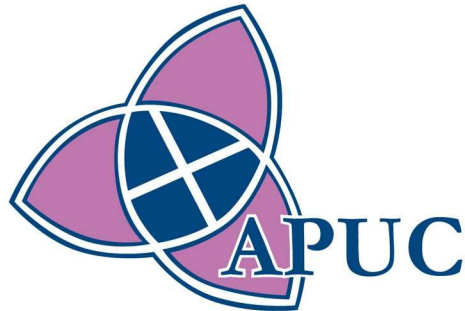


Company Registration Number SC314764



*Advanced Procurement  
for Universities & Colleges*

**APUC LIMITED  
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE  
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 JULY 2021**

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

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**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**OFFICERS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

The Board of Directors      J McGeorge (Sector) – Director and Chairman  
D Beattie (Sector) (resigned 20 October 2021)  
M Cook (Sector)  
F Gavine (Non-Sector)  
M McCreath (Non-sector)  
P McNaull (Non-sector)  
P Smith (Sector)  
S Stewart (Sector) (resigned 18 December 2020)  
V Strachan (Sector)  
J Thomson (Sector)  
A J Warren (Chief Executive)

Non-Sector directors and the Chief Executive receive remuneration which is detailed in Note 5 on Page 16.

Company Secretary      M Caithness

Registered Office      Unit 27  
Stirling Business Centre  
Wellgreen  
STIRLING  
FK8 2DZ

Auditor      Chiene + Tait LLP  
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor  
61 Dublin Street  
EDINBURGH  
EH3 6NL

Bankers      Bank of Scotland  
PO Box 17235  
EDINBURGH  
EH11 1YH

Solicitors      Thorntons Solicitors  
33 Yeaman Shore  
DUNDEE  
DD1 4BJ

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**THE DIRECTORS' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

The directors present their report and the financial statements of the company and the group for the year ended 31 July 2021.

**Principal activities**

APUC Limited is the Procurement and Supply Centre of Expertise for all of Scotland's Universities and Colleges. It aims to maximise the value of Scotland's investment in further and higher education by working in partnership with institutions to support and enable sustainable innovation in procurement, effective compliance and shared service optimisation. It provides a core team for delivery of collaborative activity for all member institutions and focussed specific shared service resources for delivery of services within institutions. In addition to this report, APUC issues a corporate Annual Report on activities each year which can be found on-line at <http://www.apuc-scot.ac.uk/#!/corpinfo>

**Covid-19 – Impacts and Opportunities**

The Covid-19 situation has meant that APUC were homeworking for the whole of the 2020/21 financial year, while maintaining full service levels to the sector. APUC has ensured that the opportunities for economies that this has presented (from rescheduled resourcing, cancellation of planned conferences / events and the large reduction in travel and expenses) have been retained and savings achieved from this, to enable use for enhanced services and initiatives for members, or deferred into the 2021/22 financial year for use in strategically important projects that will bring collaborative benefit to the HE/FE sectors.

**Directors**

The directors who served the company during the year are shown on page 2.

**Directors' responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and the group and the surplus or deficit of the group for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**THE DIRECTORS' REPORT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (cont)**

company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

In so far as the directors are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the company and the group's auditor are unaware; and
- each director has taken all steps that he/she ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

**Small company provisions**

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



Signed on behalf of the directors

J McGeorge, Chairman

Approved by the directors on 17 November 2021

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF APUC LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of APUC Limited (the 'parent company') and its subsidiary (the 'group') for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the consolidated statement of income and retained earnings, the consolidated balance sheet, the company balance sheet and notes to the financial statements, 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 FRS 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 group and of the parent company's affairs as at 31 July 2021, and of the group's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**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 group 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 directors' 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 on the group's or the parent company'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF APUC LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (cont)**

**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 directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

**Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the group and the parent company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent company, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies exemptions in preparing the directors report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF APUC LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (cont)**

**Responsibilities of directors**

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 3, the directors 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 directors 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 directors are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent company'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 directors either intend to liquidate the group or the parent company or to cease operations, or have 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the industry in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the company which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Companies Act 2006.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to risks of material misstatement in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery, misrepresentations or through collusion.

We focused on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the group's financial statements. Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiries of the management of the parent entity and the directors;
- review of minutes of board meetings throughout the period;
- review of legal correspondence or invoices, and
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations.



**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF APUC LIMITED  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (cont)**

There are inherent limitations in an audit of financial statements and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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](http://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 company's members, as a body, in accordance with chapter 3 of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company'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 company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Malcolm Beveridge (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of  
Chiene + Tait LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor  
61 Dublin Street  
Edinburgh  
EH3 6NL

18 November 2021

**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

|   |      | 2021           | 2020           |
|---|------|----------------|----------------|
|   | Note | £              | £              |
| Turnover  | 1    | 3,729,263      | 3,924,471      |
| Administrative expenses   | 3    | 3,704,846      | 3,708,174      |
| <b>Operating surplus</b>  | 4    | <u>24,417</u>  | <u>216,297</u> |
| Interest receivable   |      | 1,139          | 4,445          |
| <b>Surplus on ordinary activities before taxation</b>                             |      | <u>25,556</u>  | <u>220,742</u> |
| Tax on surplus on ordinary activities   | 6    | 6,774          | 7,070          |
| <b>Surplus for the year and total comprehensive income</b>                        |      | <u>18,782</u>  | <u>213,672</u> |
| Retained earnings at the start of the year  |      | 608,754        | 395,082        |
| <b>Retained earnings at the end of the year</b>                                   |      | <u>627,536</u> | <u>608,754</u> |
| Effect on the accounts of the change in the provision for the USS pension deficit |      |                |                |
| Surplus for the year and total comprehensive income as above                      |      | 18,782         | 213,672        |
| Increase / (Decrease) in provision for USS pension deficit                        | 12   | 26,617         | (203,072)      |
| <b>Underlying surplus</b>   |      | <u>45,399</u>  | <u>10,600</u>  |

All activities of the group are from continuing operations.

The notes on pages 11 to 20 form part of these financial statements.

**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 JULY 2021**

|   | Note | £                | 2021<br>£             | £                | 2020<br>£             |
|---|------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Fixed assets  |      |                  |                       |                  |                       |
| Tangible assets   | 7    |                  | 23,396                |                  | 37,570                |
| Current assets  |      |                  |                       |                  |                       |
| Debtors   | 9    | 153,654          |                       | 373,159          |                       |
| Cash at bank  | 10   |                  |                       |                  |                       |
| - Unrestricted  |      | 1,736,077        |                       | 1,337,987        |                       |
| - Pension guarantee   |      | 641,270          |                       | 641,206          |                       |
|   |      | <u>2,531,001</u> |                       | <u>2,352,352</u> |                       |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year                      | 11   | 914,883          |                       | 917,253          |                       |
| Net current assets  |      |                  | <u>1,616,118</u>      |                  | <u>1,435,099</u>      |
| Total assets less current liabilities                               |      |                  | <u>1,639,514</u>      |                  | <u>1,472,669</u>      |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year             | 12   |                  | 1,011,978             |                  | 863,915               |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>   |      |                  | <u><b>627,536</b></u> |                  | <u><b>608,754</b></u> |
| Reserves  |      |                  |                       |                  |                       |
| Income and expenditure account                                      |      |                  | 627,536               |                  | 608,754               |
|   |      |                  | <u>627,536</u>        |                  | <u>608,754</u>        |
| Effect on the accounts of the provision for the USS pension deficit |      |                  |                       |                  |                       |
| Reserves as above   |      |                  | 627,536               |                  | 608,754               |
| USS pension deficit   | 12   |                  | 222,216               |                  | 195,598               |
| <b>Underlying reserves</b>  |      |                  | <u><b>849,752</b></u> |                  | <u><b>804,352</b></u> |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 17 November 2021, and are signed on their behalf:

A Warren  
 Chief Executive



J McGeorge  
 Chairman



**Company No: SC314764**

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**COMPANY BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 JULY 2021**

|   | Note | £                | 2021<br>£        | £                | 2020<br>£        |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Fixed assets  |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Tangible assets   | 7    |                  | 23,396           |                  | 37,570           |
| Investments   | 8    |                  | <u>1</u>         |                  | <u>1</u>         |
|   |      |                  | 23,397           |                  | 37,571           |
| Current assets  |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Debtors   | 9    | 152,059          |                  | 371,576          |                  |
| Cash at bank  | 10   |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| - Unrestricted  |      | 1,735,947        |                  | 1,337,859        |                  |
| - Pension guarantee   |      | <u>641,270</u>   |                  | <u>641,206</u>   |                  |
|   |      | 2,529,276        |                  | 2,350,641        |                  |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year                      | 11   | <u>1,094,909</u> |                  | <u>1,095,073</u> |                  |
| Net current assets  |      |                  | 1,434,367        |                  | 1,255,568        |
| Total assets less current liabilities                               |      |                  | <u>1,457,764</u> |                  | <u>1,293,139</u> |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year             | 12   |                  | 1,011,978        |                  | 863,915          |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>   |      |                  | <u>445,786</u>   |                  | <u>429,224</u>   |
| Reserves  |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Income and expenditure account                                      |      |                  | 445,786          |                  | 429,224          |
|   |      |                  | <u>445,786</u>   |                  | <u>429,224</u>   |
| Effect on the accounts of the provision for the USS pension deficit |      |                  |                  |                  |                  |
| Reserves as above   |      |                  | 445,786          |                  | 429,224          |
| USS pension deficit   | 12   |                  | 222,216          |                  | 195,598          |
| <b>Underlying reserves</b>  |      |                  | <u>668,002</u>   |                  | <u>624,822</u>   |

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

These financial statements were approved by the directors and authorised for issue on 17 November 2021, and are signed on their behalf:

A Warrer  
 Chief Executive

**Company No: SC314764**

J McGeorge  
 Chairman

The notes on pages 12 to 21 form part of these financial statements.

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021**

**1. Accounting policies**

**Statement of compliance and basis of preparation**

APUC Limited is a company limited by guarantee. The address of the registered office is Unit 27, Stirling Business Centre, Wellgreen, STIRLING, FK8 2DZ. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council. The principal activities of the group are disclosed on page 3.

**Going concern**

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

The company has secured funding from the Universities and Colleges in Scotland of £2.342m for 2021-2022. They have prepared budgets and cashflow projections which indicate that they will be able to operate within the agreed funding level.

**Basis of consolidation**

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 July 2021 and of its subsidiary company, UCSS Limited.

The company meets the definition of a qualifying entity under FRS102 and has taken advantage of the exemptions under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare an individual income and expenditure account for the parent company. The surplus for the year dealt with in the financial statements of the company was £16,563 (2020: £211,169). The underlying surplus for the year taking into account the change in the provision for the USS pension deficit was £43,180 (2020: £8,097).

**Investments**

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less provision for any permanent diminution in value.

**Cash flow statement**

The company is the parent of a small group and has voluntarily prepared consolidated financial statements. The company is exempt under the requirements of the FRS102 from publishing a consolidated cash flow statement.

**Turnover**

The turnover shown in the income and expenditure accounts represents income and grants received and receivable during the year.

**Fixed assets**

All fixed assets are initially recorded at cost. Assets costing less than £5,000, unless the costs when grouped are greater than £5,000, are written off to the income and expenditure account in the year of purchase.

**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (Cont)**

**Accounting policies (cont)**

**Depreciation**

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

|                     |   |         |
|---------------------|---|---------|
| Fixtures & Fittings | - | 7 years |
| Computer equipment  | - | 3 years |

**Income and grants**

Income and grants of a revenue nature are credited to the income and expenditure account in the year which they accrue. Grants for the purchase of fixed assets are treated as deferred income and credited to the income and expenditure account over the estimated useful life of the relevant assets.

**Pensions**

APUC Limited participates in the Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. APUC Limited is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", APUC Limited therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since APUC Limited has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, APUC Limited recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the income and expenditure accounts. In addition, APUC Limited have set aside a cash amount of £641,270 to cover any potential section 75 debt due to the Universities Superannuation Scheme in the event of an employment cessation event occurring. The initial cash amount of £600k was set aside in 2011.

UCSS Limited offers its employees the benefits of Group Stakeholder Pension Schemes with Scottish Widows and Friends Life. Employers contributions to the scheme match the employees contribution up to a maximum of 5% of gross pay. In addition, employees have the option to forego 1% of their salary for an additional 1% employer contribution. The amount charged to the income and expenditure account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

**Operating lease charges**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

**Debtors**

Short term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are

**APUC LIMITED**  
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**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (Cont)**

**Accounting policies (cont)**

measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

**Reserves**

APUC Group's Reserves Policy is to maintain a suitable financial reserve that could be used for appropriate investment, operational contingency funding or for the orderly winding up of the company. The policy defines that the level of underlying reserves should be equivalent to the level in actual cash terms that is required to operate the core part of the business for between circa 3-6 months, which currently would equate to a reserve range of £585k to £1,171k. The underlying reserves figure excludes the USS pension deficit liability. As indicated from the figures on page 10, the underlying reserves figure is at an appropriate level within this range.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions.

**Creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price.

**Financial instruments**

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

**APUC LIMITED  
(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (Cont)**

**Accounting policies (cont)**

**Taxation**

The taxation expense represents the aggregate amount of current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case, tax is recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, respectively.

Current tax is recognised on taxable profit for the current and past periods. Current tax is measured at the amounts of tax expected to pay or recover using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference

**2. Critical accounting judgements**

FRS102 makes the distinction between a group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control, typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme, where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit, results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in income or expenditure in accordance with section 28 of FRS102. The directors are satisfied that the scheme provided by Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.



**APUC LIMITED**  
**(COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2021 (Cont)**

|                                    |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>3. Administration expenses</b>  | 2021             | 2020             |
|                                    | £                | £                |
| Staff                              | 3,298,963        | 3,185,768        |
| Non-executive directors' honoraria | 10,450           | 10,109           |
| Premises                           | 105,534          | 121,043          |
| Consultants & contractors          | -                | 506              |
| eSolutions                         | 30,541           | 30,117           |
| Administration                     | 259,358          | 360,631          |
|                                    | <u>3,704,846</u> | <u>3,708,174</u> |

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| <b>4. Operating surplus</b>                 | 2021   | 2020   |
|   | £      | £      |
| Operating surplus is stated after charging: |        |        |
| Depreciation of owned fixed assets          | 13,258 | 6,704  |
| Operating lease payments                    | 52,172 | 64,124 |
| Auditor's fees                              | 6,871  | 6,706  |

|                                |                  |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>5. Staff costs</b>          | 2021             | 2020             |
|                                | £                | £                |
| Salaries                       | 2,770,322        | 2,870,831        |
| Social security costs          | 290,673          | 302,943          |
| Employer pension contributions | 216,416          | 221,365          |
| USS Pension deficit            | 21,552           | (209,371)        |
|                                | <u>3,298,963</u> | <u>3,185,768</u> |

|   |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| The average monthly number of employees (headcount) | <u>76</u> | <u>78</u> |
|---|-----------|-----------|

The directors' aggregate emoluments in respect of qualifying services were:

|   |                |                |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Aggregate emoluments  |                |                |
| Executive director  | 114,126        | 121,538        |
| Non-Sector directors' honorarium                                    | 10,450         | 10,109         |
| Value of company pension contributions under defined benefit scheme | 23,336         | 22,961         |
|   | <u>147,912</u> | <u>154,608</u> |

The number of directors at the year end who accrued benefits under the company pension schemes was:

|                        |          |          |
|------------------------|----------|----------|
| Defined benefit scheme | <u>1</u> | <u>1</u> |
|------------------------|----------|----------|

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**NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**6. Taxation**

|   | 2021<br>£    | 2020<br>£    |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Analysis of tax charge for the period</b>    |              |              |
| <i>Current tax</i>                              |              |              |
| UK Corporation tax at 19% (2020: 19%)           | 6,786        | 7,176        |
| <i>Deferred tax</i>                             |              |              |
| Origination and reversal of timing differences  | (12)         | (106)        |
| Tax on profit on ordinary activities            | <u>6,774</u> | <u>7,070</u> |
| <b>Deferred tax debtor</b>                      |              |              |
| Asset at start of period                        | 1,583        | 1,477        |
| Charge to profit and loss account in the period | 12           | 106          |
| Asset at end of period                          | <u>1,595</u> | <u>1,583</u> |
| Short term timing differences                   | <u>1,595</u> | <u>1,583</u> |

**7. Tangible fixed assets – group and company**

|                        | <b>Fixtures &amp;<br/>Fittings</b><br>£ | <b>Computer<br/>Equipment</b><br>£ | <b>Total</b><br>£ |
|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Cost</b>            |   |                                    |                   |
| As at 1 Aug 2020       | 37,044                                  | 43,112                             | 80,156            |
| Additions              | -                                       | -                                  | -                 |
| Disposals              | (6,409)                                 | (11,040)                           | (17,449)          |
| As at 31 Jul 2021      | <u>30,635</u>                           | <u>32,072</u>                      | <u>62,707</u>     |
| <b>Depreciation</b>    |   |                                    |                   |
| As at 1 Aug 2020       | 23,505                                  | 19,081                             | 42,586            |
| Charge for the year    | 4,519                                   | 8,739                              | 13,258            |
| Disposals              | (5,493)                                 | (11,040)                           | (16,533)          |
| As at 31 Jul 2021      | <u>22,531</u>                           | <u>16,780</u>                      | <u>39,311</u>     |
| Opening net book value | <u>13,539</u>                           | <u>24,031</u>                      | <u>37,570</u>     |
| Closing net book value | <u>8,104</u>                            | <u>15,292</u>                      | <u>23,396</u>     |

**8. Investments – company**

|                          | 2021<br>£ | 2020<br>£ |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Investment in subsidiary | <u>1</u>  | <u>1</u>  |

The investment represents the cost of the parent undertaking's shareholding (1 ordinary £1 share) in its wholly owned subsidiary, UCSS Limited, a company registered in Scotland. The principal activity of UCSS Limited is the provision of procurement services.

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**9. Debtors**

|                                | Group<br>£     | 2021<br>Company<br>£ | Group<br>£     | 2020<br>Company<br>£ |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Other debtors                  | 95,123         | 93,528               | 296,282        | 294,699              |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 58,531         | 58,531               | 76,877         | 76,877               |
|                                | <u>153,654</u> | <u>152,059</u>       | <u>373,159</u> | <u>371,576</u>       |

**10. Cash at bank**

|                   | Group<br>£       | 2021<br>Company<br>£ | Group<br>£       | 2020<br>Company<br>£ |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Unrestricted      | 1,736,077        | 1,735,947            | 1,337,987        | 1,337,859            |
| Pension guarantee | 641,270          | 641,270              | 641,206          | 641,206              |
|                   | <u>2,377,347</u> | <u>2,377,217</u>     | <u>1,979,193</u> | <u>1,979,065</u>     |

The funds held for the pension guarantee are held in a bank account in the name of APUC Limited but controlled by the University guarantors of the pension guarantee fund. In January 2011 APUC Limited signed a guarantee in favour of the University of Aberdeen to cover a potential section 75 debt due to the Universities Superannuation Scheme from APUC Limited in the event of an employment cessation event occurring.

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**11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

|                                    | 2021           |                  | 2020           |                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
|                                    | Group          | Company          | Group          | Company          |
|                                    | £              | £                | £              | £                |
| Amounts owed to group undertakings | -              | 343,977          | -              | 334,550          |
| Trade creditors                    | 9,612          | 9,612            | 15,878         | 15,878           |
| Corporation tax                    | 6,747          | 6,205            | 7,176          | 6,745            |
| PAYE & social security             | 72,977         | 17,889           | 72,794         | 17,516           |
| Superannuation                     | 14,194         | 14,194           | 14,139         | 14,139           |
| Scottish Widows Pension            | 4,575          | -                | 4,259          | -                |
| UCRSS Pension                      | 13,506         | -                | 13,518         | -                |
| Deferred income                    | 437,490        | 437,490          | 266,603        | 266,603          |
| VAT                                | 6,416          | 6,416            | 56,218         | 56,218           |
| Supplier rebates                   | 203,603        | 203,603          | 255,542        | 255,542          |
| Accruals and other creditors       | 56,866         | 34,903           | 125,308        | 107,848          |
| Holiday pay                        | 88,897         | 20,620           | 85,818         | 20,034           |
|                                    | <u>914,883</u> | <u>1,094,909</u> | <u>917,253</u> | <u>1,095,073</u> |

**12. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year – group and company**

|                                   | 2021             | 2020           |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
|                                   | £                | £              |
| Deferred income                   | 148,492          | 27,111         |
| Pension guarantee                 | 641,270          | 641,206        |
| Provision for USS pension deficit | 222,216          | 195,598        |
|                                   | <u>1,011,978</u> | <u>863,915</u> |

**13. Operating lease commitments**

|  |               |               |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Land & buildings - annual commitments: |               |               |
| Less than one year                     | 23,282        | 27,531        |
| Two to five years                      | <u>20,000</u> | <u>46,922</u> |

APUC Limited has rental commitments for premises at Stirling Business Centre, STIRLING, 101 George Street, EDINBURGH, Edinburgh College EDINBURGH and Glasgow Caledonian University, GLASGOW. The rental commitment for 101 George Street, Edinburgh expires on 31 August 2021.

**14. Ultimate controlling party**

The company has no ultimate controlling party.

**15. Related party transactions**

During the year recharged expenses and management charges paid to UCSS Limited amounted to £2,570,886 (2020: £2,598,633). At the year end an amount of £343,977 (2020: £334,550) due to UCSS Limited is included in creditors.

During the year the company invoiced, on a commercial basis, a number of universities and colleges of which the directors of the company are also senior executives.

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**16. Company limited by guarantee**

The company is limited by guarantee of members and does not have a share capital. The liability of members is limited to £1. On winding up of the company, any surplus assets that exist must be transferred to another body or bodies having objects similar to those of the company.

**17. Pensions**

**Defined Benefit Scheme**

The total cost charged to the income and expenditure account is £114,003 (2020: £117,095).

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (“the valuation date”), which was carried out using the projected unit method. A valuation as at 31 March 2020 is underway but not yet complete.

Since APUC Limited cannot identify its share of Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme’s technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The Key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Pension increases (CPI)       | Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the Fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.                                  |
| Discount rate (forward rates) | Years 1-10: CPI +0.14% reducing linearly to CPI – 0.73%<br>Years 11-20: CPI + 2.52% reducing linearly to CPI + 1.55% by year 21<br>Years 21 +: CPI + 1.55% |

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The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

|                                   | <b>2018 valuation</b>  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Mortality base table <sup>1</sup> | <p><u>Pre-retirement:</u></p> <p>71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AF00 (duration 0) for females</p> <p><u>Post retirement</u></p> <p>97.6% of Self-Administered Pension Schemes S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females</p> |
| Future improvements to mortality  | Continuous Mortality Investigations_2017 with a smoothing parameter of 8.5 and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females   |

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

|                                   | 2021 | 2020 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Males currently aged 65 (years)   | 24.6 | 24.4 |
| Females currently aged 65 (years) | 26.1 | 25.9 |
| Males currently aged 45 (years)   | 26.6 | 26.3 |
| Females currently aged 45 (years) | 27.9 | 27.7 |

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2021 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

|                           | 2021  | 2020  |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| Discount rate             | 0.87% | 2.59% |
| Pensionable salary growth | n/a   | n/a   |
| Pension increases (CPI)   | 2.00% | 4.20% |

<sup>1</sup> For further information on Continuous Mortality Investigation tables visit [www.actuaries.org.uk/learn-and-develop/continuous-mortality-investigation](http://www.actuaries.org.uk/learn-and-develop/continuous-mortality-investigation)

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**Defined Contribution Schemes**

UCSS Limited offers its employees the benefits of Group Stakeholder Pension Schemes with Scottish Widows and with Friends Life. Employers contributions to the schemes match the employees contribution up to a maximum of 5% of gross pay. In addition, employees have the option to forego 1% of their salary for an additional 1% employer contribution. The number of employees active in the Scottish Widows scheme as at 31 July 2021 was 11 (2020:11) and the value of contributions during the year was £23,772 (2020: £23,030). An amount of £4,575 (2020: £4,259) remains outstanding at the year end. The number of employees active in the Friends Life scheme as at 31 July 2021 was 52 (2020: 49) and the value of contributions during the year was £78,641 (2020: £81,240). An amount of £13,506 (2020: £13,518) remains outstanding at the year end.