Registered number: 03538255

# MARSTON VALE SERVICES TRADING AS THE FOREST CENTRE LIMITED

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## INFORMATION FOR FILING WITH THE REGISTRAR

## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

**MARSTON VALE SERVICES TRADING AS THE FOREST CENTRE LIMITED**
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 03538255**

# BALANCE SHEET
## AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

| | Note | | 2023 £ | | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Current assets** | | | | | |
| Stocks | 4 | **27,683** | | *24,707* | |
| Debtors: amounts falling due within one year | 5 | **37,626** | | *47,151* | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | 6 | **34,522** | | *45,349* | |
| | | **99,831** | | *117,207* | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 7 | **(324,704)** | | *(266,327)* | |
| **Net current liabilities** | | | **(224,873)** | | *(149,120)* |
| **Total assets less current liabilities** | | | **(224,873)** | | *(149,120)* |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 8 | | **(1,895)** | | *(1,855)* |
| Pension liability/asset | | | - | | *(85,000)* |
| **Net liabilities** | | | **(226,768)** | | *(235,975)* |
| **Capital and reserves** | | | | | |
| Called up share capital | | | **1** | | *1* |
| Profit and loss account | | | **(226,769)** | | *(235,976)* |
| | | | **(226,768)** | | *(235,975)* |

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities.

The financial statements have been delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The Company has opted not to file the statement of comprehensive income in accordance with provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf by:

**D J Hassall**
Director

**G Sorrell**
Director

Date: 30/11/2023

The notes on pages 3 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
# FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

| | Called up share capital | Profit and loss account | Total equity |
|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| **At 1 April 2021** | 1 | (108,313) | (108,312) |
| **Comprehensive income for the year** | | | |
| Loss for the year | - | (63,913) | (63,913) |
| Actuarial losses on pension scheme | - | (63,750) | (63,750) |
| **Other comprehensive income for the year** | - | (63,750) | (63,750) |
| **Total comprehensive income for the year** | - | (127,663) | (127,663) |
| **Total transactions with owners** | - | - | - |
| **At 1 April 2022** | 1 | (235,976) | (235,975) |
| **Comprehensive income for the year** | | | |
| Loss for the year | - | (54,543) | (54,543) |
| Actuarial gains on pension scheme | - | 63,750 | 63,750 |
| **Other comprehensive income for the year** | - | 63,750 | 63,750 |
| **Total comprehensive income for the year** | - | 9,207 | 9,207 |
| **Total transactions with owners** | - | - | - |
| **At 31 March 2023** | 1 | (226,769) | (226,768) |

The notes on pages 3 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

## 1. General information

Marston Vale Services Limited trading as The Forest Centre Limited, is a private company, incorporated in England & Wales and limited by shares.

The principle activity of the company during the financial year was; the commercial operation of a visitor centre and conference centre ("The Forest Centre") in Marston Moretaine, Bedforshire. The business comprises conferencing, catering, a gift shop and a cafe bar. All profits form these activities are donated to the parent company, The Forest of Marston Vale Trust.

Marston Vale Services trading as The Forest Centre Limited is a wholly owned trading subsidiary of The Forest of Marston Vale Trust, a registered charity and company limited by guarentee.

## 2. Accounting policies

### 2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

### 2.2 Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as it has the full support of it's parent company, The Forest of Marston Vale Trust. The directors considered relevant information, including the reserves available and the impact of subsequent events in making their assessment.

### 2.3 Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

**Sale of goods**

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the Company has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer;
- the Company retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Company will receive the consideration due under the transaction; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

**Rendering of services**

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised in the period in which the services are provided in accordance with the stage of completion of the contract when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the amount of revenue can be measured reliably;

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.3 Revenue (continued)

- it is probable that the Company will receive the consideration due under the contract;
- the stage of completion of the contract at the end of the reporting period can be measured reliably; and
- the costs incurred and the costs to complete the contract can be measured reliably.

### 2.4 Operating leases: the Company as lessor

Rental income from operating leases is credited to profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Amounts paid and payable as an incentive to sign an operating lease are recognised as a reduction to income over the lease term on a straight-line basis, unless another systematic basis is representative of the time pattern over which the lessor's benefit from the leased asset is diminished.

### 2.5 Current and deferred taxation

The tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in profit or loss except that a charge attributable to an item of income and expense recognised as other comprehensive income or to an item recognised directly in equity is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date in the countries where the Company operates and generates income.

Deferred tax balances are recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed by the balance sheet date, except that:

- The recognition of deferred tax assets is limited to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits; and
- Any deferred tax balances are reversed if and when all conditions for retaining associated tax allowances have been met.

Deferred tax balances are not recognised in respect of permanent differences except in respect of business combinations, when deferred tax is recognised on the differences between the fair values of assets acquired and the future tax deductions available for them and the differences between the fair values of liabilities acquired and the amount that will be assessed for tax. Deferred tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

### 2.6 Donation under Deed of Covenant

At the Board meeting prior to the end of the year a decision is taken regarding the donation under Deed of Covenant payable to the parent undertaking which is charged in full to the profit and loss account.

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.7 Interest income

Interest income is recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method.

### 2.8 Government grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to profit or loss at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a revenue nature are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the same period as the related expenditure.

### 2.9 Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, being the estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is based on the cost of purchase on a first in, first out basis. Work in progress and finished goods include labour and attributable overheads.

At each balance sheet date, stocks are assessed for impairment. If stock is impaired, the carrying amount is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell. The impairment loss is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

### 2.10 Pensions

**Defined contribution pension plan**

The Company operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Company has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in profit or loss when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Company in independently administered funds.

**Defined benefit pension plan**

The Company operates a defined benefit plan for certain employees. A defined benefit plan defines the pension benefit that the employee will receive on retirement, usually dependent upon several factors including but not limited to age, length of service and remuneration. A defined benefit plan is a pension plan that is not a defined contribution plan.

The liability recognised in the Balance Sheet in respect of the defined benefit plan is the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the balance sheet date less the fair value of plan assets at the balance sheet date (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled.

The defined benefit obligation is calculated using the projected unit credit method. Annually the company engages independent actuaries to calculate the obligation. The present value is determined by discounting the estimated future payments using market yields on high quality corporate bonds that are denominated in sterling and that have terms approximating to the estimated period of the future payments ('discount rate').

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.10 Pensions (continued)

The fair value of plan assets is measured in accordance with the FRS 102 fair value hierarchy and in accordance with the Company's policy for similarly held assets. This includes the use of appropriate valuation techniques.

Actuarial gains and losses arising from experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are charged or credited to other comprehensive income. These amounts together with the return on plan assets, less amounts included in net interest, are disclosed as 'Remeasurement of net defined benefit liability'.

The cost of the defined benefit plan, recognised in profit or loss as employee costs, except where included in the cost of an asset, comprises:

a) the increase in net pension benefit liability arising from employee service during the period; and

b) the cost of plan introductions, benefit changes, curtailments and settlements.

The net interest cost is calculated by applying the discount rate to the net balance of the defined benefit obligation and the fair value of plan assets. This cost is recognised in profit or loss as a 'finance expense'.

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

### 2.12 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

### 2.13 Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

### 2.14 Provisions for liabilities

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Company a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefit, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to profit or loss in the year that the Company becomes aware of the obligation, and are measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet.

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.15 Financial instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 "Basic Financial Instruments" of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

The Company has elected to apply the recognition and measurement provisions of IFRS 9 Financial Instruments (as adopted by the UK Endorsement Board) with the disclosure requirements of Sections 11 and 12 and the other presentation requirements of FRS 102.

Financial instruments are recognised in the Company's Balance Sheet when the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

**Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include trade and other receivables, cash and bank balances, are initially measured at their transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at their amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest.

Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The Company's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables due with the operating cycle fall into this category of financial instruments.

**Impairment of financial assets**

Financial assets are assessed for indicators of impairment at each reporting date.

Financial assets are impaired when events, subsequent to their initial recognition, indicate the estimated future cash flows derived from the financial asset(s) have been adversely impacted. The impairment loss will be the difference between the current carrying amount and the present value of the future cash flows at the asset(s) original effective interest rate.

If there is a favourable change in relation to the events surrounding the impairment loss then the impairment can be reviewed for possible reversal. The reversal will not cause the current carrying amount to exceed the original carrying amount had the impairment not been recognised. The impairment reversal is recognised in the profit or loss.

**Financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instruments any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Company after the deduction of all its liabilities.

Basic financial liabilities, which include trade and other payables, bank loans and other loans are initially measured at their transaction price after transaction costs. When this constitutes a financing transaction, whereby the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

## 2. Accounting policies (continued)

### 2.15 Financial instruments (continued)

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at their amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods and services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are classified as current liabilities if the payment is due within one year. If not, they represent non-current liabilities. Trade payables are initially recognised at their transaction price and subsequently are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial.

**Derecognition of financial instruments**

**Derecognition of financial assets**

Financial assets are derecognised when their contractual right to future cash flow expire, or are settled, or when the Company transfers the asset and substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to another party. If significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained after the transfer to another party, then the Company will continue to recognise the value of the portion of the risks and rewards retained.

**Derecognition of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the Company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

## 3. Employees

During the year, no director received any emoluments (2022 - £nil). G Sorrell (Director) received his salary and pension through the parent charity, The Forest of Marston Vale Trust.

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the year was 55 *(2022 - 53)*.

## 4. Stocks

| | **2023** | *2022* |
|---|---|---|
| | **£** | *£* |
| Finished goods and goods for resale | **27,683** | *24,707* |

## 5. Debtors

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade debtors | **22,343** | *13,889* |
| Amounts owed by group undertakings | **3,252** | - |
| Prepayments and accrued income | **12,031** | *12,012* |
| Deferred taxation | - | *21,250* |
| | **37,626** | *47,151* |

## 6. Cash and cash equivalents

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Cash at bank and in hand | **34,522** | *45,349* |

## 7. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Trade creditors | **34,366** | *42,688* |
| Amounts owed to group undertakings | **194,557** | *130,915* |
| Other taxation and social security | **41,306** | *26,981* |
| Other creditors | **12,898** | *8,612* |
| Accruals and deferred income | **41,577** | *57,131* |
| | **324,704** | *266,327* |

## 8. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Accruals and deferred income | **1,895** | *1,855* |

## 9. Deferred taxation

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| At beginning of year | **21,250** | - |
| Charged to other comprehensive income | **(21,250)** | 21,250 |
| **At end of year** | - | 21,250 |

The deferred tax asset is made up as follows:

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Pension deficit | - | 21,250 |

The company has tax losses of £293,447 (2022 - £142,516) available for offset against future taxable profits. As the timing of the offset is uncertain, no deferred tax asset has been provided of £73,36 (2022 - £27,078).

## 10. Pension commitments

The Company operates a Defined contribution scheme.

The company operates a defined contributions scheme on behalf of the employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The contributions paid by the company in the year to the defined contribution scheme were £11,607 (2022 - £6,894). There were outstanding contributions at the balance sheet date of £4,445 (2022 - £3,609).

The Company operates a Defined benefit pension scheme.

Day to day management of the pension fund, is delegated to the investment managers under the guidance of the trustees. The assets of the scheme are held in separate funds administered by the trustees.

A formal actuarial valuation is carried out once every three years by an independent professionally qualified actuary, in order to assess the amount of assets that need to be set aside to meet the pension obligations, and to determine the future level of funding that the company should put into the scheme.

The last formal valuation was carried out on 5 April 2022 and finalised in June 2023. The market value of the assets of the fund was £1,193,000 at that date. The actuarial valuation of these assets showed they were sufficient to cover 97% of the benefits which had accrued to members.

The contribution made for the year ended 31 March 2023 was £nil (2022 - £nil). The agreed contribution rate for future years is either 28.3% or 28.8% depending on the employee contribution rates.

The scheme was in deficit and the company had entered into an agreement to make deficit payments from April 2014 at £2,083 per month for 10 years. This has now ceased due to the additional deficit payments that have been paid during the previous years, and the 2022 valuation does not recommend tihat these commence in the future. The scheme closed to new entrants during the year.

## 10. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions at the Balance sheet date (expressed as weighted averages) :

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|---|---|
| Discount rate at 31 March | 3.5% | 3.5% |

**Value of scheme assets and liabilities**

| | Value at 2023 £ | Value at 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Market value of assets | 1,193,000 | 1,194,000 |
| Present value of scheme liabilities | (1,193,000) | (1,279,000) |
| Deficit in the scheme | - | (85,000) |
| Related deferred tax asset | - | 21,250 |
| Net pension liability | - | (63,750) |

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Movements in deficit during the year: | | |
| Deficit in scheme at beginning of year | (85,000) | - |
| Contributions | - | - |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) | 85,000 | (85,000) |
| Deficit in scheme at end of year | - | (85,000) |

| | **2023 £** | *2022 £* |
|---|---|---|
| Fair value of plan assets | **1,193,000** | *1,194,000* |
| Present value of plan liabilities | **(1,193,000)** | *(1,279,000)* |
| **Net pension scheme liability** | **-** | *(85,000)* |

## 10. Pension commitments (continued)

## 11. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 March 2023 the Company had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

| | 2023 £ | 2022 £ |
|---|---|---|
| Not later than 1 year | **864** | *600* |
| Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years | - | *662* |
| | **864** | *1,262* |

## 12. Controlling party

The directors regard The Forest of Marston Vale Trust, a registered charity (number 1069229) and a company limited by guarentee (number 03462405) as the ultimate parent undertaking and the ultimate controlling party. Group accounts are prepared and can be requested from:

The Forest Centre
Station Road, Marston Moretaine
Bedford
Bedfordshire
MK43 0PR

## 13. Auditors' information

The auditors' report on the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 was unqualified.

The audit report was signed on 04/12/2023 by Grant Franklin ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor) on behalf of Hillier Hopkins LLP.