

Annual report and financial statements for the year ended
31 March 2024

Aster Treasury Plc

Company registration number 8749672

Aster Treasury Plc

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Aster Treasury Plc

Legal and administrative details

Registered office:	Sarsen Court, Horton Avenue, Cannings Hill, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2AZ								
Legal status:	<p>Aster Treasury Plc ("the company") is incorporated in England, United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 as a public limited company, limited by shares.</p> <p>Company registration number 8749672</p> <p>Aster Treasury Plc is a subsidiary of Aster Group Limited and a member of the Aster Group ("the group").</p>								
Members of the board:	<p>The directors of the company who were in office during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements, unless otherwise indicated, are set out below.</p> <table><tr><td colspan="2">Directors</td></tr><tr><td>Bjorn Howard</td><td>Group Chief Executive Officer</td></tr><tr><td>Chris Benn</td><td>Chief Financial Officer</td></tr><tr><td>Paul Morgan</td><td>Treasury Projects Executive</td></tr></table>	Directors		Bjorn Howard	Group Chief Executive Officer	Chris Benn	Chief Financial Officer	Paul Morgan	Treasury Projects Executive
Directors									
Bjorn Howard	Group Chief Executive Officer								
Chris Benn	Chief Financial Officer								
Paul Morgan	Treasury Projects Executive								
Company Secretary:	David Betteridge								
Independent Auditor:	KPMG LLP Gateway House Tollgate Chandler's Ford Eastleigh SO53 3TG								
Principal Banker:	Bank of New York Mellon, London Branch One Canada Square London E14 5AL								
Principal Solicitor:	Trowers and Hamblins 3 Bunhill Row London EC1Y 8YZ								
Financial Adviser:	Chatham Financial Europe Ltd 12 St. James Square London SW1Y 4LB								

Aster Treasury Plc

Strategic Report

Activities and performance

The principal activity of Aster Treasury Plc (the "company") is to raise external debt to finance the growth and development activities of the group and its subsidiaries. During the year ended 31 March 2024 the company's activities were the issuance of £250 million of Medium Term Notes, the creation of a further £100 million of retained Medium Term Notes, the payment of interest on its current debt and the receipt of interest on its on-lending to group companies Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited.

Aster Treasury Plc is a subsidiary of Aster Group Limited and has authorised and issued share capital of 50,000 ordinary £1 shares.

Aster Group Limited is rated by Standard & Poor's who assigned a credit rating of A (stable outlook) in December 2023.

Historical debt raised

On 31 March 2024, the company held £410 million of guaranteed secured bonds, which it sold in several tranches since the first tranche was issued on 18 December 2013. The bonds mature on 18 December 2043 at a fixed coupon rate at 4.5% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

On 31 March 2024, the company held £200 million of guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes, which were issued on 27 January 2021. The notes mature on 27 January 2036 at a fixed interest rate of 1.4% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

On 31 March 2024, the company held £250 million of guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes, which were issued on 20 June 2023. The notes mature on 20 December 2032 at a fixed interest rate of 5.4% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

On 31 March 2024, the company held £40 million of retained guaranteed secured bonds and £150 million of retained guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes.

In summary the debt in place at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

Issue date	Nominal value £m	Fixed rate	Effective rate*	
2043 Bonds				
18 December 2013	200	4.5%	4.7%	
31 October 2014	17	4.5%	4.3%	
11 March 2015	33	4.5%	3.8%	
16 May 2018	50	4.5%	3.4%	
18 November 2018	20	4.5%	3.5%	
08 May 2019	20	4.5%	2.9%	
15 January 2020	20	4.5%	2.2%	
22 July 2022	50	4.5%	4.2%	
Total	<u>410</u>	<u>4.5%</u>	<u>4.1%</u>	weighted average
2036 Medium Term Notes				
27 January 2021	<u>200</u>	<u>1.4%</u>	<u>1.5%</u>	
2032 Medium Term Notes				
20 June 2023	<u>250</u>	<u>5.4%</u>	<u>5.6%</u>	
Total	<u><u>860</u></u>			

* The effective interest rate includes the issue costs incurred.

The proceeds of £860 million were on-lent to Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited. Aster Group Limited guarantees the timely payment of principal and interest by the company.

Under the terms of the intercompany loan agreements Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited are required to reimburse the company for all expenditure incurred in respect of any individual external debt instrument agreement.

Aster Treasury Plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Historical debt raised (continued)

The main risk to the company is the non-timely payment of interest and principal to investors under the external debt documentation. Interest and principal received is mainly derived from interest and principal payments from Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited. The Company monitors Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited to ensure they have sufficient cash to meet the timely payment of interest and principal.

Given the nature of the company, the directors are of the opinion that no additional key performance indicators are necessary to understand the development, performance and position of the company. As the company provides on-lending to other members of the group, its performance is dependent on that of the group. The group's key performance indicators are outlined in the group's consolidated financial statements.

The principal assets and liabilities of the company represent the proceeds of external debt, net of repayments made at maturity, of £860 million, matched by the on-lending to Aster Group Limited, Aster Communities, Aster 3 Limited, Synergy Housing Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited. Accrued interest payable of £9.5 million (2023: £5.7 million) is matched by accrued interest receivable from those subsidiaries.

The company does not have any business or activities other than those incidental to the financing of the group.

The directors do not anticipate any changes in the company's activities in the foreseeable future.

Future plans of the business

Further proceeds from the sale of the company's retained bonds and retained notes will be on-lent to the group's registered providers of social housing (Aster Communities, Synergy Housing Limited, Aster Group Limited, Aster 3 Limited, East Boro Housing Trust and Central and Cecil Housing Trust) as required.

The directors intend to keep the business as a vehicle to raise external capital markets debt to finance the growth and development activities of the group and its subsidiaries.

Analysis of employees

There are no direct employees of the company. The board directors are listed on page 1.

Directors' remuneration

None of the directors received remuneration from the company. Full details for the group's directors and executive management team are disclosed in the directors' remuneration report included in the group's consolidated financial statements.

Value for Money (VfM) Statement - Aster group

Value for Money is recorded, and accordingly disclosures, are on a group basis of which Aster Treasury Plc is part of.

Our operating environment remains a highly challenging one, as the effects of multiple economic shocks continue to impact our long-term financial planning. With the wars in Ukraine and Gaza ongoing, and the UK economy having fallen into recession at the end of 2023, economic uncertainty will likely persist throughout the year ahead. Meanwhile, some of the specific challenges our sector faces are set to continue, not least the need to invest more in our existing homes to improve quality and comfort, deliver new homes to help meet ever-increasing housing need and make further advances in decarbonisation.

The need to deliver value for money in all that we do has never been greater. The 2023/24 rent cap, imposed as a direct response to spiralling inflation and an acute cost of living crisis, removed approximately £500 million of income from our long-term financial plan, over and above the £670 million eradicated by four consecutive years of rent reduction that ended in 2019/20. Similar to the wider sector, the rent cap, coupled with the increased need to invest in our existing homes, has led to a deterioration in our financial strength and reduced headroom against our key financial covenants.

It is imperative that we seek ways to drive increased value for money as we continue to prioritise quality, safety and delivering good customer service. We believe value for money is about delivering social, financial, and environmental value across everything we do, underpinned by being effective in how we plan, manage and operate our business. The coming financial year will see us continue to take positive action to increase our effectiveness.

Corporate Strategy

Value for money forms a central part of our business and organisational culture. We believe our Corporate Strategy reflects this and continues to be fit for purpose. We have continued to refine the long-term Strategic Priorities that will guide delivery of our strategy over the coming years, ensuring that we prioritise those activities that deliver against a central principle of our strategy: to provide safety and security through a range of housing and services. With our resources more stretched than ever, value for money considerations are baked into each priority – not just in terms of delivering our services more efficiently, but also delivering better outcomes for our customers and communities.

Aster Treasury Plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Value for Money (VfM) Statement - Aster group (continued)

Corporate Strategy (continued)

Through our treasury and business planning processes we understand our future funding requirements, ensuring funding can be effectively put in place to allow us to deliver our Corporate Strategy and Strategic Priorities. The Group looks to make best use of its capacity – analysing risks through scenario testing – by maximising borrowing and effectively utilising security whilst also maintaining credit strength. Achieving value for money is embedded in our capital and treasury structure, augmented by appropriate funding structures such as the Group's bond, to achieve interest cost savings which are re-invested in maintenance and new developments.

Progress against our Strategic Priorities will be monitored through a rolling programme of deep dive reports, with at least one being brought into each meeting of the Overlap Boards. Meanwhile, our Corporate Performance Framework will continue to provide a complementary view of the business's financial health and performance against our health and safety obligations, legal, contractual and regulatory requirements. This is also where we monitor the delivery of our efficiency targets, property investment, and the Regulator's Value for Money metrics. We will continue to benchmark our performance against a limited number of peer organisations that, collectively, we believe provide us with the most suitable barometer against which to assess and challenge how we are doing.

In the year ahead, we will continue to deliver a significant change programme that will drive increased value for money across all areas of our business. In addition to enabling the delivery of our Strategic Priorities and underpinning our customer service modernisation, this programme will include the roll out of Dynamics in HR, Finance and Payroll – enabling increased automation and unlocking long-term savings in the provision of our central services. We're also building new data and technology strategies, following detailed reviews of our existing landscape, which will be vital in transforming how we deliver our services in the future.

Governance

Our G1 rating (reaffirmed following our In-Depth Assessment in July 2023) indicates that our governance processes are sound and we are getting value for money from the investment we make in our governance, risk and assurance frameworks. Our internal governance framework provides assurance through various mechanisms:

- Our value for money measures and targets are monitored and scrutinised by our Operational Scrutiny and Assurance Panel (OSAP), and are also presented regularly to the Aster Group Overlap Boards;
- OSAP also monitors and tracks projects and initiatives which deliver savings, efficiency improvements and additional benefits;
- Our Group Investment and Assets Panel (GIAP) considers value for money in all decisions relating to our strategic asset, investment and development programmes. We recognise the challenging economic environment, and ensure that contractor performance and viability are key considerations in that decision making; and
- We track our social value through the work of the Aster Foundation, and through our wider activity across Aster Group, including through OSAP.

During 2022/23 we conducted an organisation wide governance review to ensure our structures and processes remain appropriate for our enlarged Group. The review concluded that strong governance arrangements are in place, working effectively, and demonstrating a strong focus on social value and customer focus. Areas for further refinement included balancing good governance with agility and pace and ensuring continued connectivity between all elements of the governance structure. Throughout 2023/24 we have begun to implement the outcomes from this review in a phased and considered programme, with changes to our internal panel and committee structure. We will continue to refine our approach to hearing and listening to our customer voice. We will also conclude our review of our corporate structure to ensure it remains fit for the future and offers the right balance between flexibility and value for money.

Financial risk management

The group's treasury function is responsible for the management of funds and the control of the associated risks. Its activities are governed by the Group Treasury and Finance Committee which is responsible for the treasury matters of all group legal entities and reports to the Board of Aster Group Limited. The following financial risks have been identified:

a) Interest rate risk

The company has no exposure to interest rate risk as all amounts owed to external debt holders are at a fixed rate of interest, as is the interest receivable due from fellow group companies on amounts on-lent to them.

b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the company might be unable to meet its interest payment obligations to external debt holders. The company is dependent on the receipt of interest from the fellow group companies who were on-lent the debt proceeds. The directors consider the liquidity risk to be very low given the fellow group companies are Registered Providers of social housing, have a good cash generative ability and a strong asset base. Liquidity risk is mitigated by the monitoring of the cash held by Aster Communities, Aster 3, Synergy Housing Limited, Aster Group Limited and East Boro Housing Trust Limited to ensure they hold sufficient cash to meet the timely payments of interest and principal.

Aster Treasury Plc

Strategic Report (continued)

Financial risk management (continued)

c) Credit risk

In December 2032, January 2036 and December 2043 the company is dependent on the repayment of the original principal amount of funds on-lent to fellow group undertakings in order to meet its contractual obligations under the EMTN and bond agreements respectively. The funds on-lent are secured by fixed charges over specified charged assets of the relevant on-lending parties. In addition, and as explained above, the fellow group companies are Registered Providers of housing, have a good cash generative ability and a strong asset base.

Risk Management and Internal Control

The board is ultimately responsible for maintaining sound risk management and internal control systems (including financial controls, controls in respect of the financial reporting process and controls of an operational and compliance nature).

The group's internal control systems are implemented and reviewed for effectiveness on a group-wide basis, covering the group and its subsidiaries. The risk management systems and internal control systems are designed to meet the group's needs and to manage the risks to which it is exposed. This system of internal control is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can only provide reasonable but not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

Risk oversight is the Board's responsibility, with the Group Risk & Compliance Committee undertaking a more detailed review of risks that might adversely affect the business' strategy, operations and legislative compliance. The Group Treasury Committee ensures that risks to the financial viability of the group are managed in accordance with the Treasury Management Policy.

Managing risk is fundamental if the group is to protect its viability and deliver its strategic ambitions. It has embedded a risk management culture that identifies and mitigates current and emerging risks whilst exploring potential opportunities arising from new events. The board confirms that there is an on-going process in place for identifying, evaluating and managing the principal risks faced by the group.

Corporate and social responsibility

Aster Treasury Plc is acutely aware of the corporate and social responsibility it has to work in a conscious way and have a positive impact on the surrounding community, and is committed to the group's CSR approach where applicable.

Full details of the group's Corporate and social responsibility reporting are disclosed within the group's consolidated financial statements.

Signed on behalf of the board



Paul Morgan
Director
6 August 2024

Aster Treasury Plc

Directors' Report

The directors submit their Report and Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The directors' report comprises pages 6 to 8 of this report. Some of the matters required by legislation have been included in the Strategic Report (pages 2 to 5) as the directors consider them to be of strategic importance. In particular these are:

- future business developments; and
- financial risks.

Directors

The directors, who served during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements are set out on page 1. None of the directors held, at any time during the year, any beneficial interest in the shares of the company.

Directors' indemnities

Aster Treasury Plc is a subsidiary of the Aster Group Limited which has made qualifying third party indemnity provisions for the benefits of its directors and officers (which extend to the performance of any duties as a director or officer of an associated company or subsidiary). The provisions have been in place throughout the year and remain in force at the date of this report.

Results and dividends

The result for the financial year to 31 March 2024 was £nil (2023: £nil). The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The directors have prepared cash flow forecasts covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements (the going concern period) which indicate that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the Company will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period.

In order to settle its own financial obligations and meet the compliance requirements of its external borrowings the Company is dependent on the fellow group entities, Aster Communities, Synergy Housing Limited, Aster 3 Limited, East Boro Housing Trust Limited and Aster Group Limited generating sufficient cashflows to settle the payments of principal and interest on the onward loan of the funding which the Company raised. Those forecasts are dependent on the fellow group entities having adequate resources to continue in business over the going concern assessment period.

The directors, after reviewing the group and company budgets for 2024/25 and the group's medium term financial position as detailed in the 30-year business plan, are of the opinion that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the company will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due over the going concern period. In reaching this conclusion, the directors have considered the following factors:

- The property market – budget and business plan scenarios have taken account of delays in handovers, lower numbers of property sales, reductions in sales values and potential conversion of market sale to social homes;
- Maintenance costs – budget and business plan scenarios have been modelled to take account of cost increases and delays in
- Maintenance expenditure, with major works being phased into future years;
- Rent and service charge receivable – arrears and bad debts have been increased to allow for customer difficulties in making payments and
- Budget and business plan scenarios to take account of potential future reductions in rents;
- Liquidity – current available cash and unutilised loan facilities across the group of £341 million which gives significant headroom for committed expenditure and other forecast cash flows over the going concern assessment period;
- The Group's ability to withstand other adverse scenarios such as higher interest rates and increases in the number of void properties.

The directors believe the group has sufficient funding in place and expect the group to be in compliance with its debt covenants even in severe but plausible downside scenarios.

Consequently, the directors are confident that the company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its 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.

Aster Treasury Plc

Directors' Report (continued)

Viability Statement

The directors have assessed the viability of Aster Treasury Plc and have selected a period of seven years for the assessment.

Aster Treasury Plc was set up to hold a long term bond and on-lend within the group to finance the growth and development activities of the group and its subsidiaries. The bond matures in 20 years; the first issue of guaranteed medium term notes mature in 12 years ; and the second issue of notes mature in 9 years.

The group has a development programme that runs for a rolling seven-year period. This programme forms the basis of the group's financial plan that covers the seven year period and is then extrapolated over a further 23 years, resulting in a 30 year plan. For these reasons the group uses a seven-year strategic planning cycle and the directors have determined that seven years is also an appropriate period over which to provide its viability statement.

The financial plan considers the group's future financial stability, property development strategy and the viability of future expense reduction programmes by measuring the operating margin, exposure to the property market, asset cover, interest cover and net worth ratios over the seven-year period.

The interest cover and net worth ratios are the prominent covenants the group has in its bank loan agreements. These ratios are used as the basis for a full suite of multi-variate stress testing over the life of the plan on a number of realistic, market relevant scenarios.

Based on the results of this analysis, the directors confirm that they have a reasonable expectation that the group will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due over the next seven years.

Reduced reporting disclosures

Section 1.12 of FRS 102 allows subsidiaries to take advantage of certain disclosure exemptions in their financial statements. The following exemptions have been taken:

- a) A Statement of Cash Flows as outlined in section 7 of FRS 102;
- b) The detailed disclosures of financial instruments, carrying values, terms and conditions and hedging relationships outlined in paragraph 11.41, 11.42, 11.44, 11.45, 11.48, 12.27, 12.29 and 12.29A of FRS 102;
- c) The requirement to disclose key management personnel compensation outlined in paragraph 33.7 of FRS 102; and
- d) The requirement to disclose related party transactions outlined in paragraph 33.11 of FRS 102.

Aster Treasury Plc has taken advantage of the above exemptions this year. A full set of disclosures are included in the group's consolidated financial statements.

Independent Auditor

Aster Treasury Plc has delegated the responsibility for appointing external auditor to the group, and as such a resolution to reappoint KPMG LLP as external auditor. will be proposed at the forthcoming annual general meeting.

Attendance at board meetings

Aster Treasury Plc

Bjorn Howard
Chris Benn
Paul Morgan

	Total	Possible*	%
Bjorn Howard	1	1	100
Chris Benn	1	1	100
Paul Morgan	1	1	100

Aster Treasury Plc

Directors' Report (continued)

Statement of Directors' responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the 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 they have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

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 of the profit or loss of the Company 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;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Company and to prevent and detect 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

Responsibility statement of the directors in respect of the annual financial report

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- the financial statements, prepared in accordance with the applicable set of accounting standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company; and
- the strategic report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the issuer, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face.

Disclosure of information to the auditor

So far as the board is aware, there is no relevant information of which the group's auditor is unaware. The board has taken all reasonable steps that ought to have been taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information, and to establish that the group's auditor is aware of that information.

The Directors' Report was approved by the board and signed on its behalf by:



Paul Morgan
Director
6 August 2024

Independent Auditor's report to the members of Aster Treasury Plc

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Aster Treasury Plc ("the Company") for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings, Statement of Financial Position and the related notes, including the accounting policies in note 3.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its result for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; and
- 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 are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

We were first appointed as auditor by the directors on 6 March 2018. The period of total uninterrupted engagement is for the 7 financial years ended 31 March 2024. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and we remain independent of the Company in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard as applied to listed public interest entities. No non-audit services prohibited by that standard were provided.

Key audit matters: our assessment of risks of material misstatement

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by us, including those which had the greatest effect on: the overall audit strategy; the allocation of resources in the audit; and directing the efforts of the engagement team. We summarise below the key audit matter (unchanged from 2023) in arriving at our audit opinion above, together with our key audit procedures to address that matter and, as required for public interest entities, our results from those procedures. This matter was addressed, and our results are based on procedures undertaken, in the context of, and solely for the purpose of, our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and consequently are incidental to that opinion, and we do not provide a separate opinion on this matter.

Recoverability of Long-Term Debtors

Debtors (amounts falling due after more than one year) £883m (2023: £635m)

Refer to page 16 (accounting policy) and page 17 (financial disclosures).

The risk – low risk high value

The Company's primary activity is to issue bonds, source investor financing and on-lend to the Parent and fellow subsidiaries. It therefore has long term liabilities which relate to the bonds issued and long-term intercompany debtors which relate to the loans provided to the Parent and fellow subsidiaries.

The carrying amount of the long-term intercompany debtor balance represents 99% of the Company's total assets. Their recoverability is not at a high risk of significant misstatement or subject to significant judgement. However, due to their materiality in the context of the Company financial statements, this is considered to be the area that had the greatest effect on our overall Company audit.

Whilst financial income and financial expenses are recognised during the loan period, the risk mainly stems from the expectation of the ability of the Parent to repay the loans in 8-20 years.

Our response

We performed the tests below rather than seeking to rely on any of the Company's controls because the nature of the balance is such that we would expect to obtain audit evidence primarily through the detailed procedures described.

Our procedures included:

I. Tests of detail: Assessing 100% of intercompany long-term debtors owed by the Parent and fellow subsidiaries (2023: 100%) to identify, with reference to the Parent and fellow subsidiaries financial draft balance sheet, whether they had a positive net asset value and therefore coverage of the debt owed.

II. Assessment of Parent and fellow subsidiaries: Assessing the work performed by the Group audit team, and considering the results of that work, on those net assets. This included assessment of the fair value headroom available on those net assets, and therefore the ability of the Parent and fellow subsidiaries to fund repayment of the receivable. We critically assessed the directors' going concern assessment, including the reasonableness of the key assumptions used by the Group in its cash flow forecasts and the level of downside sensitivities applied.

Independent Auditor's report to the members of Aster Treasury Plc

Our results:

We found the Company's assessment of the recoverability of the long-term debtor balance to be acceptable (2023 result: acceptable).

Our application of materiality and an overview of the scope of our audit

Materiality for the financial statements as a whole was set at £9m (2023: £6.4m), determined with reference to a benchmark of total assets, of which it represents 1% (2023: 1%).

In line with our audit methodology, our procedures on individual account balances and disclosures were performed to a lower threshold, performance materiality, so as to reduce to an acceptable level the risk that individually immaterial misstatements in individual account balances add up to a material amount across the financial statements as a whole.

Performance materiality was set at 75% (2023: 75%) of materiality for the financial statements as a whole, which equates to £6.7m (2023: £4.8m).

We applied this percentage in our determination of performance materiality because we did not identify any factors indicating an elevated level of risk.

We agreed to report to the Audit Committee any corrected or uncorrected identified misstatements exceeding £0.45m (2023: £0.32m), in addition to other identified misstatements that warranted reporting on qualitative grounds.

Our audit of the Company was undertaken to the materiality level specified above and was performed by a single audit team.

Going concern

The directors have prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they do not intend to liquidate the Company or to cease its operations, and as they have concluded that the Company's financial position means that this is realistic. They have also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over its ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the directors' conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the Company's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the Company's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

The risk that we considered most likely to adversely affect the Company's available financial resources over this period was:

- Recoverability of long-term debtors

We considered whether these risks could plausibly affect the liquidity in the going concern period by assessing the Directors' sensitivities over the level of available financial resources indicated by the Company's financial forecasts taking account of severe, but plausible adverse effects that could arise from this risk.

Our procedures are also inherently linked with our key audit matter in relation to the recoverability of the long-term debtor; as the parent and fellow subsidiaries inability to meet their obligation to the Company would result in the inability of the Company to meet its own obligations as they fall due. Consequently, our procedures noted above took into account the financial forecasts of the Group.

We assessed the completeness of the going concern disclosure.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the directors' assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period; and
- we found the going concern disclosure in note 2 to be acceptable.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the Company will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of board, the audit committee and internal audit as to the Company's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the Company's channel for "whistleblowing, as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.

Independent Auditor's report to the members of Aster Treasury Plc

- Reading Board and audit committee minutes.
- Using analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, and taking into account our overall knowledge of the control environment, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries.

On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because there are no revenue transactions.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- analysing all the journals posted in the year within the entity to identify high risk journals. We did not identify any high risk journals and therefore selected one journal to test.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to non-compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, and through discussion with the directors and other management (as required by auditing standards) and from inspection of the Company's regulatory and legal correspondence; and discussed with the directors and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

As the Company is regulated, our assessment of risks involved gaining an understanding of the control environment including the entity's procedures for complying with regulatory requirements.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit.

The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

The Company is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies legislation), distributable profits legislation and taxation legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Whilst the Company is subject to many other laws and regulations, we did not identify any others where the consequences of non-compliance alone could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Strategic report and directors' report

The directors are responsible for the strategic report and the directors' report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover those reports and we do not express an audit opinion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the strategic report and the directors' report and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge. Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report;
- in our opinion the information given in those reports for the financial year is consistent with the financial statements; and
- in our opinion those reports have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Independent Auditor's report to the members of Aster Treasury Plc

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the 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

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Directors' responsibilities

As explained more fully in their statement set out on page 8, the directors are responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the 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 they either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

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.



Harry Mears (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants
Gateway House
Tollgate
Chandlers Ford
Eastleigh
SO53 3TG

Date: 12 August 2024

Aster Treasury Plc

Statement of Income and Retained Earnings

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Turnover		-	-
Operating expenditure		-	-
Operating profit	5	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Interest receivable and similar income	7	31,112	19,714
Interest payable and similar charges	7	<u>(31,112)</u>	<u>(19,714)</u>
Net finance expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Profit before taxation		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Tax on profit	8	-	-
Profit for the year and Total Comprehensive Income		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>
Profit and loss account as at 1 April		-	-
Total profit for the financial year		-	-
Profit and loss account as at 31 March		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>

All activities in the current year and prior year are continuing.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Aster Treasury Plc

Statement of Financial Position

as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Non-current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year	9	882,588	634,759
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	9	9,507	5,710
Cash and cash equivalents	10	29	27
		<u>9,536</u>	<u>5,737</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(9,505)	(5,706)
Net current assets		<u>31</u>	<u>31</u>
Non current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12	(882,569)	(634,740)
Net assets		<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	14	50	50
Profit and loss account		-	-
Total equity		<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

The financial statements on pages 13 to 21 were approved and authorised for issue by the board on 6 August 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



Paul Morgan
Director

Company registration number 8749672

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 Legal status

Aster Treasury Plc is incorporated in England, United Kingdom under the Companies Act 2006 as a public limited company, limited by shares. The address of its registered office is Sarsen Court, Horton Avenue, Cannings Hill, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2AZ.

2 Basis of preparation

The company is incorporated under the Companies Act 2006 as a public limited company. The financial statements of the company have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 - "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland" (FRS102).

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£).

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the directors consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The directors have prepared cash flow forecasts covering a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements (the going concern period) which indicate that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the Company will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period.

In order to settle its own financial obligations and meet the compliance requirements of its external borrowings the Company is dependent on the fellow group entities, Aster Communities, Synergy Housing Limited, Aster 3 Limited, East Boro Housing Trust Limited and Aster Group Limited generating sufficient cashflows to settle the payments of principal and interest on the onward loan of the funding which the Company raised. Those forecasts are dependent on the fellow group entities having adequate resources to continue in business over the going concern assessment period.

The directors, after reviewing the group and company budgets for 2023/24 and the group's medium term financial position as detailed in the 30-year business plan are of the opinion that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the company will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due over the going concern period. In reaching this conclusion, the directors have considered the following factors:

- The property market – budget and business plan scenarios have taken account of delays in handovers, lower numbers of property sales, reductions in sales values and potential conversion of market sale to social homes;
- Maintenance costs – budget and business plan scenarios have been modelled to take account of cost increases and delays in
- Maintenance expenditure, with major works being phased into future years;
- Rent and service charge receivable – arrears and bad debts have been increased to allow for customer difficulties in making payments and
- Budget and business plan scenarios to take account of potential future reductions in rents;
- Liquidity – current available cash and unutilised loan facilities across the group of £341 million which gives significant headroom for committed expenditure and other forecast cash flows over the going concern assessment period;
- The Group's ability to withstand other adverse scenarios such as higher interest rates and increases in the number of void properties.

The directors believe the group has sufficient funding in place and expect the group to be in compliance with its debt covenants even in severe but plausible downside scenarios.

Consequently, the directors are confident that the company will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its 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.

Presentation

The company has elected not to produce a statement of cash flows, detailed disclosures of financial instruments, disclosure relating to key management compensation and related party transactions within the individual subsidiary financial statements in line with exemptions available within FRS 102.

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements

3 Accounting policies

Interest receivable and payable

Interest is recognised on an accruals basis, using the effective interest rate method recognised in the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings over the life of the financial instrument.

Taxation

The company is liable to taxation on its profit on ordinary activities. Current tax is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the statement of financial position date.

Financial Instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the financial instrument. The company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' along with reduced disclosures under exemptions available.

a) Financial assets

i) Loans advanced to other members of the group are classified as loans and receivables under section 11 of FRS 102 'Basic Financial Instruments' and are held at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method to allocate cost of issue (including the discount on issue). The loans advanced are included as long term debtors on the company's statement of financial position.

ii) Accrued interest receivable on loans advanced to the other members of the group is also classified as loans and receivables and held at amortised cost with debtors due within one year.

b) Financial liabilities

i) Bonds, medium term notes and commercial paper are classified as other financial liabilities under section 11 of FRS 102 and held at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method to allocate costs of issue (including the discount on issue).

ii) Accrued interest payable on the external debt is classified as other financial liabilities and held at amortised cost.

4 Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Preparation of the financial statements requires management to make significant judgements and estimates.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

There are no critical accounting judgements or estimations applied in the year which involve a higher degree of judgement or complexity.

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Operating profit

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Auditor's remuneration (excluding irrecoverable VAT)		
In their capacity as auditor:		
Financial statements audit	15	11

Fees in respect of services provided by the auditor for the statutory audit were paid on behalf of the company by Aster Group Limited, the ultimate parent company.

6 Directors' emoluments and employee information

Aster Treasury Plc did not directly employ any members of the group executive board or the group executive management team during the year. No charge for their services was made via the group overheads recharge and none of the directors received any remuneration during the financial year in respect of their services as directors of the company.

The company did not employ any staff during the year.

The headcount and the employee cost disclosures are included in the financial statements of the companies that directly employ the staff and members of the group executive board and management team. Refer to the consolidated group financial statements for the full head count and staff cost for the group as a whole.

7 Finance income and expense

Under the terms of the bond loan agreements Aster Communities, Synergy Housing Limited, Aster 3 Limited, East Boro Housing Trust Limited and Aster Group Limited are required to reimburse the company for all expenditure incurred in respect of the bond.

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Interest receivable and similar income		
Interest receivable from other group companies	31,112	19,714
	<u>31,112</u>	<u>19,714</u>
Interest payable and similar charges		
Interest due on bond finance	(30,844)	(19,535)
Amortisation of issue costs	(268)	(179)
	<u>(31,112)</u>	<u>(19,714)</u>
Net finance expense	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
(a) Tax income / expense included in profit or loss		
The tax (credit)/charge on the profit on ordinary activities was as follows:	-	-
Current tax		
UK corporation tax expense	-	-
Over/under provision in prior year	-	-
Total current tax	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The tax assessed for the year is the same as the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK as explained below.

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
(b) Factors affecting tax charge/(credit) for the year		
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Result before taxation multiplied by standard rate of Corporation Tax in the UK of 25% (2023: 19%)	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The headline rate of corporation tax was increased from 19% to 25% from 1 April 2023 inline with the Spring Budget 2021.

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9 Debtors

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Debtors: amounts falling due after more than one year		
Amounts owing by group undertakings	<u>882,588</u>	<u>634,759</u>
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year		
Amounts owing by group undertakings	-	-
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>9,507</u>	<u>5,710</u>
	<u>9,507</u>	<u>5,710</u>

Amounts owed by group undertakings represent transactions with companies within the group, with which the company has a long-term financing relationship. These financing relationships are expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

As the loans have been made to fellow group undertakings, which have sufficient net assets and facilities in place to meet their obligations to the company as they fall due, the directors consider the credit risk to be low and no provision is made against amounts due.

Amounts owed by group undertakings are carried at amortised cost and secured on certain housing property assets. The amounts are non-installment debts.

10 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>29</u>	<u>27</u>

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Accruals and deferred income	<u>9,505</u>	<u>5,706</u>
	<u>9,505</u>	<u>5,706</u>

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £000	2023 £000
External borrowings:		
Amounts owed to bond holders	410,000	410,000
Amounts owed to 2036 medium term note holders	200,000	200,000
Amounts owed to 2032 medium term note holders	250,000	-
Plus unamortised premium on issue	30,641	31,743
Less unamortised cost of issue	(5,585)	(4,436)
Less unamortised discount on issue	(2,487)	(2,567)
	<u>882,569</u>	<u>634,740</u>

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (continued)

Fixed rate secured bonds

On 31 March 2024, the company held £410 million of guaranteed secured bonds, which it sold in several tranches since the first tranche was issued on 18 December 2013. The bonds mature on 18 December 2043 at a fixed coupon rate at 4.5% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

As at 31 March 2024, the company held £40 million of retained guaranteed secured bonds.

Euro Medium Term Note (EMTN)

On 31 March 2024, the company held £200 million of guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes, which were issued on 27 January 2021. The notes mature on 27 January 2036 at a fixed interest rate of 1.4% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

On 31 March 2024, the company held £250 million of guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes, which were issued on 20 June 2023. The notes mature on 20 December 2032 at a fixed interest rate of 5.4% payable half-yearly in arrears. The company has on-lent the proceeds to other fully owned subsidiaries of Aster Group Limited.

As at 31 March 2024, the company held £150 million of retained guaranteed secured Euro Medium Term Notes.

The amount raised from the issue of each tranche of debt is as follows:

Issue date:	Nominal value £000	Discount on issue £000	Premium on issue £000	Proceeds £000	Fixed rate	Effective rate*
2043 Bonds						
18 December 2013	200,000	(3,108)	-	196,892	4.5%	4.7%
31 October 2014	17,000	-	855	17,855	4.5%	4.3%
11 March 2015	33,000	-	4,522	37,522	4.5%	3.8%
16 May 2018	50,000	-	10,244	60,244	4.5%	3.4%
18 November 2018	20,000	-	3,647	23,647	4.5%	3.5%
08 May 2019	20,000	-	5,650	25,650	4.5%	2.9%
15 January 2020	20,000	-	8,568	28,568	4.5%	2.2%
22 July 2022	50,000	-	2,647	52,647	4.5%	4.2%
2043 Bonds total	410,000	(3,108)	36,133	443,025	4.5%	4.1%
Medium Term Notes:						
27 January 2021	200,000	-	-	200,000	1.4%	1.5%
	200,000	-	-	200,000	1.4%	1.5%
2032 Medium Term Notes:						
20 June 2023	250,000	-	-	250,000	5.4%	5.6%
	250,000	-	-	250,000	5.4%	5.6%
Total	860,000	(3,108)	36,133	893,025		

* The effective interest rate includes the issue costs incurred.

Amounts due to external debt holders are secured on certain housing property assets owned by those group undertakings to which proceeds have been lent.

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13 Financial instruments

The company's financial instruments comprise borrowings and loans receivable. The sole purpose of these financial instruments is to finance the growth and development activities of the group.

The company does not actively engage in the trading of financial assets for speculative purposes. The main risk to the company arising from its financial instruments is credit risk, which is addressed on page 4 and in note 8.

The financial assets and liabilities have fixed interest rates, which result in interest receivable matching interest payable. As such the company has managed its interest rate risk (page 4). In addition, as the underlying instruments are denominated in sterling, they carry no foreign exchange risk. The company's finances are managed actively in conjunction with the activities of the group, to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet liabilities as they fall due which, together with the credit facility and guarantees over certain assets of subsidiary undertakings, mitigate any liquidity risk that the company may face (page 4).

13a Interest rate risk profile of financial assets and liabilities

The interest rate risk profile of the financial assets was as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Fixed rate financial assets (dated subordinate loans)	<u>860,000</u>	<u>610,000</u>

	2024 Weighted average interest rate %	2024 Weighted average for which rate is fixed Years	2023 Weighted average interest rate %	2023 Weighted average for which rate is fixed Years
At 31 March:				
Fixed rate 4.50% guaranteed fixed rate secured bonds	4.50	19.70	4.50	20.70
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 1 issuance)	1.41	11.84	1.41	12.84
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 2 issuance)	<u>5.41</u>	<u>8.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The interest rate risk profile of the financial liabilities was as follows:

	2024 £000	2023 £000
Guaranteed fixed rate secured bonds	410,000	410,000
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 1 issuance)	200,000	200,000
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 2 issuance)	<u>250,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>860,000</u>	<u>610,000</u>

	2024 Weighted average interest rate %	2024 Weighted average for which rate is fixed Years	2023 Weighted average interest rate %	2023 Weighted average for which rate is fixed Years
At 31 March:				
Guaranteed fixed rate secured bonds	4.50	19.70	4.50	20.70
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 1 issuance)	1.41	11.84	1.41	12.84
Guaranteed medium term notes (Series 2 issuance)	<u>5.41</u>	<u>8.73</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The fair value of debt is £904.5 million (2023: £645.7 million).

Aster Treasury Plc

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13 Financial instruments (continued)

13b Maturity analysis of financial liabilities

The maturity of funding is managed in conjunction with the profile of the entire group. The group's objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility through the use of borrowings. The company's secured bonds mature in 19.7 years (2023: 20.7 years); the first issue of guaranteed medium term notes mature in 11.8 years (2023: 12.8 years); and the second issue of notes mature in 8.7 years (2023: n/a).

The maturity profile of the financial liabilities, based on the expected maturity date was as follows:

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
0 - 1 years	-	-
1 - 5 years	-	-
Over 5 years	<u>860,000</u>	610,000
	<u>860,000</u>	<u>610,000</u>

14 Called up share capital

	2024	2023
	£000	£000
Ordinary shares allotted, issued and fully paid of £1 each	<u>50</u>	<u>50</u>

The 50,000 ordinary shares issued to Aster Group Limited, the ultimate parent company, are fully paid. The shares provide a right to vote at general meetings.

15 Related party transactions

The company receives management and other services from its holding company, Aster Group Limited, and interest relating to the on-lending of funds from other group members.

There were no other related party transactions during the year (2023: nil).

The company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under FRS 102 Section 33 'Related Party Disclosures' not to disclose related party transactions within the group. This exemption is available providing the transactions are entered into between two or more members of a group, so long as any subsidiary which is party to the transaction is wholly owned.

16 Ultimate parent company

Aster Treasury Plc is a wholly owned subsidiary of Aster Group Limited, the ultimate parent entity and controlling party, and whose consolidated financial statements may be obtained from the following address:

The Company Secretary, Sarsen Court, Horton Avenue, Cannings Hill, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2AZ.

Aster Group Limited is the only group entity to consolidate the association's financial statements.