

Annual Report & Accounts

For the year ended 31 January 2021







"One of the strongest pillars of a trusted brand is its history and heritage. Throughout our 173 years, we have weathered crises, wars, several recessions and now a generationdefining pandemic."

> PAUL DENTON CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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Chairman's Report



"The Society's results reflect its ongoing ability, in extraordinary circumstances, to attract increased membership."

> RAYMOND ABBOTT CHAIRMAN

BUILDING SOCIETIES DURING EXCEPTIONAL TIMES

"Living through history" is how many will remember 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has forever changed societies around the world, and I want to express my heartfelt sympathy to every member who has lost family, friends or experienced financial hardship. I believe we are on the path to, literally, brighter days and feel confident about the year ahead.

In my statement last year, I mentioned that our business plans would adapt as needed. I am very pleased, though not surprised given the quality of Society colleagues, that we responded, adapted and maintained the essential provisions of access to cash and mortgage arrangements during the year. It is to the credit of Paul Denton, our Chief Executive, his leadership team and everyone across the Society, that looking after members' needs went uninterrupted.

I am equally pleased to report a very strong year of performance, which Paul will cover in more detail in his foreword. These results reflect not just the trust and value that existing members place in us, but the inherent strength of the Scottish Building Society brand in attracting new members as well.

These results demonstrate what the Society is capable of, even during extreme conditions, and our plans for the years ahead aim to build on this excellent foundation.

ADAPTING TO CHANGE

One positive aspect of how extreme circumstances can drive change is the rapid adoption of technology to allow us to carry out jobs, provide education and, of course, make financial plans. Digital will play an increasing role in the Society's operations, building on the launch of the SBS Online service, to offer a variety of savings and mortgage products to members no matter where they live in Scotland.

THE BOARD AND OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Despite the challenges of conducting Board business during a pandemic, we met regularly during the year. Often these meetings were done virtually and it was a learning experience for us all to adapt our ways of working whilst ensuring we carried out our respective duties.

We are approaching our Annual General Meeting, which we will again hold as a virtual meeting on 26 May which members are invited to join remotely. We felt as a Board that safety was paramount even as all the signs point to an eventual easing of restrictions as the COVID-19 vaccination programme continues at pace.

Alan Webster retired from the Board at our last AGM and I'd like to thank him for his service. Neil Easson, Finance Director, will stand for election to the Board as an Executive Director. All other members of the Board will stand for re-election. We will not be asking you to vote on our Charity of the Year this time. Given the prolonged lockdowns and restrictions last year, we felt it only fair to extend our relationship with Alzheimer Scotland until 2022.

Full details of how to register and 'attend' the AGM will be in the Notice of Meeting, which will be sent out with your AGM packs at the end of April.

2021 AND BEYOND

The Society is in an excellent position. We have a very strong base from which to progress in 2021, all thanks to the efforts of the entire team. The Board are confident that the business plan will provide the correct blueprint from which to grow the savings and mortgage balances as well as grow our membership. I believe mutual societies continue to play a vital role in financial service and, importantly, in the communities where they operate. Thank you for your continued support.

RAYMOND ABBOTT CHAIRMAN 25 March 2021

Chief Executive's Review



"My thanks go to the entire team for their hard work and dedication in helping us continue to be 'Scotland's Building Society'."

> PAUL DENTON CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AN EXTRAORDINARY YEAR

There is no doubt that 2020 will forever be remembered for COVID-19 and I join Raymond in expressing my own sympathies for members who have lost loved ones or experienced financial difficulties over the past year. As a member-based Society, I believe we have done everything possible to support our members during these unprecedented times. Accordingly, I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues in the Society for their resilience and dedication throughout 2020.

As an essential service – providing access to cash from savings accounts and helping members with their mortgage arrangements – we faced uncertainty in March last year when the first COVID-19 lockdown was announced. However, our branches remained open, our telephone lines staffed and we adapted our operations speedily, safely and securely.

I am also very pleased to report that, because of the careful management of our costs and resources, we had no need to participate in any of the Government support schemes and that we kept all our colleagues fully employed throughout. We have learned quickly from our collective experience and I believe we are now a more efficient business as a result.

BUSINESS PERFORMANCE

When I joined the Society in June 2019, I was hugely encouraged by the potential of our brand and the opportunity for the business to grow. With the support of the Board, I initiated a change programme focused on our



leadership capability, brand awareness and operational effectiveness. I am now pleased to report that, even against the extraordinary events of 2020, we have seen a record year for growth in both mortgages and savings balances.

The reduction in the Bank of England Bank Rate created pressure on our margins. However, due to strong mortgage growth and tight control of costs, our Operating Profit for the year increased by 120% to £971k. With an uncertain economic outlook we prudently increased our impairment provisions, however, despite these our Profit before tax for the year increased by 34% to £840k.

I am particularly proud of the fact that the growth in profits is a direct result of increased mortgage lending and that our savings members still benefit from market leading rates, particularly on our Loyalty ISA.

MORTGAGES

Over the past year, we have repositioned our mortgage proposition away from 'niche and bespoke' to 'personal and flexible'. This has enabled us to increase net lending, particularly within the mainstream market, without increasing our risk appetite or extending our product range.

We are also proud that this business growth has been achieved within the boundaries of the 'local' building society as we only lend in Scotland on residential property. For me, this is a very strong message and positive characteristic of being a mutual – staying true to your heritage and serving the communities within which you operate. Of course, the past year has not just been about growth. We acted quickly – as did all lenders – to support existing members impacted financially by COVID-19. We implemented the mortgage payment deferral, so that eligible members could take a 'break' of up to six months, from their monthly mortgage payment.

In line with other lenders, we helped over 500 members in this regard. I'm pleased to confirm that the vast majority are now back on a more stable financial footing. As a Society, we will always be there for members who need assistance through difficult times.

RETAIL SAVINGS

Whilst low interest rates are disappointing for savers, our strategy has rewarded loyalty whilst attracting a record £58m growth in retail savings balances. Over the past 12 months, we reduced our savings rates, on average, by less than the 0.65% reduction of Bank Rate in March. Throughout the year, we have maintained above-market rates on our three main savings products: Instant Access, Loyalty ISA, and Fixed Rate Bonds.

OPERATIONS

As mentioned in my introduction, the challenges presented by COVID-19 were unprecedented. As a business that operates bricks-and-mortar branches and offers face-to-face advice and service, we needed to adapt quickly in order to safely maintain service to members. We operated our branch network on reduced hours, following all Government advice

Chief Executive's Review

on social distancing and hygiene, before flexing our opening hours as and when the local restrictions allowed.

Telephony has played an increasing role in our operations and this became invaluable during the periods of lockdown. We successfully implemented a cloud telephony system at the end of 2020 that allows all colleagues to work more effectively remotely and, importantly, allows us to flex our capability to meet demand from customers and members who cannot easily travel to a branch.

Digital services have also played a bigger part in our distribution mix. We achieved a major milestone in January this year, with the successful launch of our new digital savings and mortgage service – SBS Online. This is significant for us in two ways. First, we are able to offer existing members a convenient, secure way to transact on their savings account and, for mortgages, view their balance and recent payments. Second, we now have an additional channel to attract new savings members from anywhere in Scotland without relying on physical branch or agency location.

Speaking of branches, I am delighted to announce that we are returning to Aberdeen with a new office expected to open in late Spring. We understand the importance of having a presence in key locations around Scotland where transport facilities are readily available so that customers and members can access face-to-face advice and service.

At the same time, we have taken the difficult decision to close our agency distribution channel by June this year. We have seen a marked decline in the use of agencies in recent years across Scotland and have written to all affected members with details of the other ways they can continue to manage their accounts with us. I would like to thank all agency partners who have supported the Society over the years.

COMMUNITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

It has been frustrating, though unavoidable, that our community activities have been restricted during 2020. We announced our national charity – Alzheimer Scotland – at our AGM last year, however, we have not been able to make the most of this valuable partnership. I am pleased to say that we will extend our links with Alzheimer Scotland for an extra year into 2022 and look forward to being able to help raise funds in 2021.

With Glasgow hosting COP26 this year, all eyes are on Scotland. Before COVID-19, there had been real progress in raising awareness of our collective impact on the environment and the potentially irreversible effects of climate change. Although we are a relatively small business, we are acutely aware of our own environmental impact. We are now working with a fantastic organisation – Trees For Life and their goal to "rewild the Scottish Highlands". They do fantastic work to propagate rare and hard to grow trees that are then replanted in the Highlands. Our contribution – which will also help to mitigate our carbon footprint – is especially rewarding as we are helping to restore some of the Highlands' stunning and unique natural beauty.

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE YEAR AHEAD

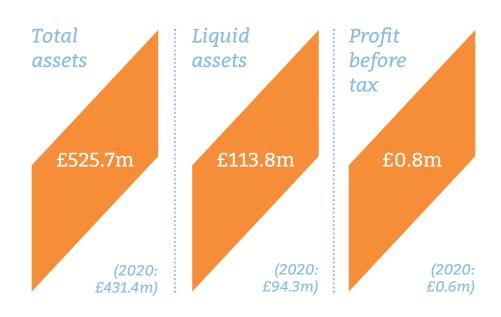
One of the strongest pillars of a trusted brand is its history and heritage. Throughout our 173 years, we have weathered crises, wars, several recessions and now a generation-defining pandemic. In challenging times brands that are trusted, and can repay that trust, are the ones that last. I believe 2021 will be another very challenging year but the progress being made with COVID vaccination programmes very much signals that better days lie ahead.

As a Society, we have adapted quickly whilst staying true to our purpose: to help members 'build for the future'. My thanks go again to the entire team for their hard work, their dedication to providing the personal service we are known for and really living up to being "Scotland's Building Society".

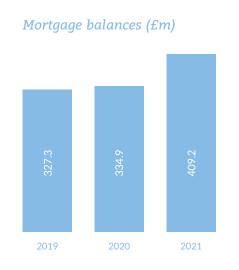
PAUL DENTON CHIEF EXECUTIVE 25 March 2021 "We achieved a major milestone in January this year, with the successful launch of our new digital savings and mortgage service – SBS Online."

To get started on SBS Online, visit www.thesbsonline.co.uk and register your details.

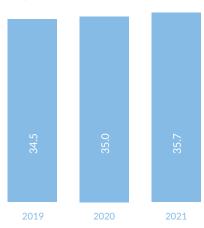
Society Key Results



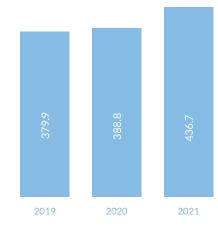
"As a Building Society, our principal purpose is to provide mortgages for homeowners funded by savings raised from our members, whilst ensuring our financial strength is maintained, as evidenced by strong capital and liquidity measures."



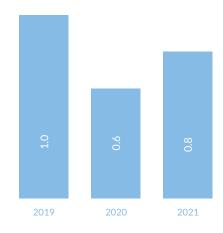
Capital reserves (£m)







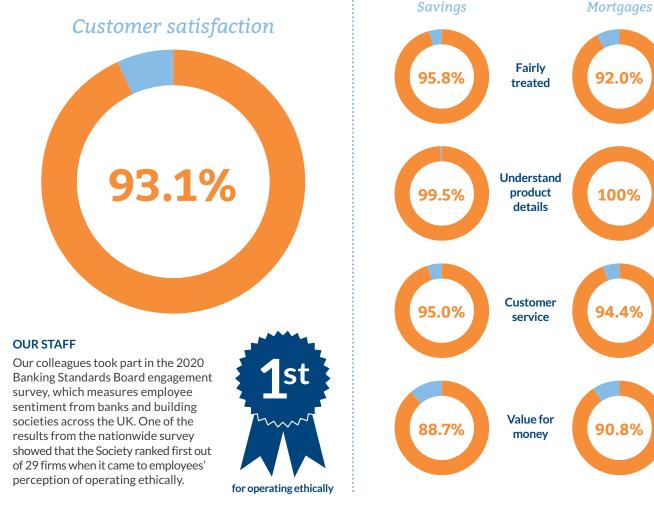




View of the Society

OUR MEMBERS

We're delighted with the fantastic ratings our members gave us on independent financial services review website, Smart Money People.[†] We achieved an overall rating of 93.1% for customer service.



Smart Money People

Here are the most common words our members use when giving their feedback on the Society:



Our Community



OUR BRANCHES

When the first national lockdown was announced on 23 March 2020, all non-essential shops, schools and other services were closed. Access to cash and the need to maintain mortgage payment services were classed as essential, and so we quickly adapted to operating in a lockdown.

This was new territory for our business, however, we followed the Scottish Government guidance on safety and social distancing to help keep our members, and our colleagues, safe.



NEW! SBS ONLINE

We launched our new digital accounts service – SBS Online – in January after a successful pilot with members. You can add existing savings accounts, open a new savings account and view your mortgage balances quickly and easily.

It's now available to all members, just go to **www.thesbsonline.co.uk** and register your details.



SUPPORTING TREES FOR LIFE

Environmental sustainability has always been important to us – from reducing, recycling and re-using resources, to managing our energy wisely. We are also committed to supporting our local communities, and try to give something back to them whenever we can.

With this in mind, we're delighted to be working with a wonderful Scottish charity called Trees for Life. For over 25 years they've been working to restore the ancient Caledonian Forest. Over many centuries of use, this once great woodland has been sadly depleted. Trees for Life are working to restore the forest to its natural glory. They propagate rare and difficult to grow trees, and then replant them in the beautiful Highlands. This new, wild forest is helping to reduce the impacts of climate change by storing carbon, preventing flooding and erosion. The trees aren't the only residents of the revitalised forest – it's also an amazing biodiverse habitat, where wildlife and plants can flourish.

And it's not just the environment that's benefitting from the valuable work of Trees for Life. They're also helping to provide employment, and giving thousands of people the opportunity to experience and be inspired by the beauty of nature, right on our doorstep. To find out more about Trees for Life, visit www.treesforlife.org.uk



SPONSORING EDINBURGH RUGBY

As part of our community work, we became shirt and pitch side sponsors for Edinburgh Rugby. It's a great way to show support for the local community, encourage sport across age groups and create brand awareness as the matches are broadcast online.



SCOTTISH WOMEN'S FOOTBALL

We have been proud sponsors of the Scottish Women's Premier League since August 2017. It's been a fantastic experience supporting all levels of the game, from grassroots to the professional teams. Our Player Of The Month vote helped showcase the outstanding young players across the League teams.

This season will be our last as sponsors and we would like to thank the team at Scottish Women's Football for their support and, of course, every one of the players!



OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR: ALZHEIMER SCOTLAND

Our members voted for Alzheimer Scotland to be our Charity of the Year at our last AGM. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic meant almost all of our planned fundraising couldn't take place in 2020. So we've decided to keep Alzheimer Scotland as our Charity of the Year until 2022.

"It has been frustrating, though unavoidable, that our community activities have been restricted during 2020... I am pleased to say that we will extend our links with Alzheimer Scotland for an extra year into 2022 and look forward to being able to help raise funds in 2021."

PAUL DENTON CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Directors' Report

INTRODUCTION

The Directors present their 172nd Annual Report, together with the audited Annual Accounts and Annual Business Statement, for the year ended 31 January 2021.

OUR PURPOSE

As a Building Society, our principal purpose is to provide mortgages for homeowners funded by savings raised from our members, whilst ensuring our financial strength is maintained, as evidenced by strong capital and liquidity measures.

BUSINESS REVIEW

The Business Review is covered in the Chairman's Report and Chief Executive's Review on pages 2 to 7.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the year, with our key focus being to ensure we continue to support our members' essential mortgage and savings needs while ensuring our colleagues remain safe.

The unprecedented economic contraction and uncertainty surrounding the length of the impact has impacted a large number of our members, many of whom we are pleased to have been able to support by granting mortgage payment deferrals.

More positively, the pent up demand supported by tax incentives and a once in a lifetime reassessment of housing needs increased demand for mortgages in the second half of the year, which has resulted in record mortgage book growth for the Society.

PROFIT AND CAPITAL

Profit for the year before tax amounted to £0.84million (2020: £0.63million) representing an excellent performance in an extremely challenging year. The mortgage book grew by 22.2% (2020: 2.3%) and despite the market-wide reduction in interest rates we have continued to provide an attractive home for savings and increased our reserves to provide scope for further innovation in how we serve members.

The Society is required to set out its capital position, risk exposures, risk assessment processes and Total Capital Requirement in its Pillar 3 disclosures document which is available on the Society's website or from the Society's Finance Director.

LIQUIDITY

Total cash and investments at 31 January 2021 amounted to £113.8million (2020: £94.3million) which represented 23.3% (2020: 23.9%) of total shares and borrowings. The Society's continuing aim is to maintain an appropriate level of liquidity at all times. Funding is invested mainly in mortgage assets with sufficient liquid assets for risk management purposes and in accordance with regulatory requirements. During the year, the Society joined the Bank of England Term Funding Scheme (TFSME) to enhance funding sources and continue to support the mortgage market.

INTEREST RATES

The Bank of England reduced its Bank Rate to 0.10% in March 2020 as an emergency measure in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. As a result, and in line with the market, we reduced interest rates across the majority of our savings accounts from 15 May 2020 as well as reducing our Standard Variable Rate for mortgages.

We remain focused on ensuring products are fair and transparent and that savers receive long-term value throughout their relationship with us.

MORTGAGE ARREARS AND FORBEARANCE

Following the announcement of the financial support package in response to COVID-19 by the Government and set out by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the Society quickly responded to members' requests for mortgage payment deferrals. During the year, payment deferrals for a period of up to 6 months were granted to 509 customers. 20 of these payment deferrals were still in force at 31 January 2021.

Where members can afford to re-start their mortgage payments it is in their best interests to do so, but some may need additional support over a longer period. The FCA has extended the time limit to apply for a payment deferral to the end of March 2021.

The Society also uses a range of forbearance measures to assist those borrowers who are experiencing financial difficulty. As at 31 January 2021 there were 51 cases, excluding COVID-19 related mortgage payment deferrals, benefiting from the Society's forbearance measures (2020: 33) with total outstanding capital balances of £4.1million (2020: £2.3million). The Society makes provisions for any expected loss resulting from accounts in arrears in accordance with the Board-approved policy.

At 31 January 2021 the Society had 15 mortgage accounts in arrears for 12 months or more (2020: seven). The total arrears outstanding on these accounts was £190,678 (2020: £81,555) and the aggregate capital balance was £1,190,731 (2020: £494,598). No properties were taken into possession during the year (2020: none).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Board and management monitor a range of performance indicators to assess the ongoing health of the Society. The financial indicators are shown in the table below – and some are also shown graphically on page 8. Their significance is explained as:

Mortgage Assets: One of the key reasons for the Society's existence is to promote home ownership through mortgage lending. During the past year Mortgage Assets have increased by 22.2%.

Total Assets: Consisting primarily of Mortgage Assets and Liquid Assets, these have increased by 21.9%.

Asset Growth/Mortgage Asset Growth: The annual increase in the Society's Total Assets and Mortgage Assets, shown as a percentage.

Share Balances: Another key reason for the Society's existence: to encourage saving and investment. Savings balances have increased by 12.3% during the past year.

Liquidity: Total cash and investments held by the Society at the year-end, expressed as a percentage of shares and borrowings. This has decreased by 0.6 percentage points in the year but remains at a level well above regulatory requirements.

Net Interest Margin: The income generated by the Society from its operations, expressed as a percentage of mean total assets. This has decreased by 0.08 percentage points in the year due to the impact of the lower Bank of England Bank Rate and a larger balance sheet size.

Profit Before Tax: Ensuring that the Society makes sufficient profit to maintain its financial strength is a key requirement and this has been achieved with Profit Before Tax (PBT) of £0.8m in the current year. The increase in PBT from £0.6m in the prior year reflects strong growth in income driven by increasing mortgage balances, partly offset by higher operational costs to support the increased volumes and increased impairment provisions reflecting the uncertain economic environment.

Reserves: The accumulated profits of the Society over more than 172 years of operation, which provide the capital which helps to maintain the Society's financial strength. These have increased by £0.7million in the year through the addition of the year's profit after tax.

Gross Capital: This ratio is expressed as a percentage of shares and borrowings and demonstrates the relationship between the Society's capital and its liabilities to investors. It reflects the continuing strength of the Society whilst remaining well within prudent guidelines. This has decreased by 1.6 percentage points reflecting the growth in liabilities in the year.

NON-FINANCIAL KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

The Board also monitors a number of other indicators on a regular basis. Amongst these, it is pleasing to report that:

- 82% of mortgage borrowers reaching the end of their initial incentive period have remained with the Society.
- Less than 1.4% of mortgage accounts have arrears greater than 1.5% of their mortgage balance.

Key Financial Performance Indicators 2017-2021

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Mortgage Assets (£m) | 311.3 | 318.4 | 327.3 | 334.9 | 409.2 |
| Mortgage Asset Growth (%) | 8.8 | 2.3 | 2.8 | 2.3 | 22.2 |
| Total Assets (£m) | 409.2 | 420.2 | 425.1 | 431.4 | 525.7 |
| Asset Growth (%) | 5.2 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 1.5 | 21.9 |
| Share Balances (£m) | 365.0 | 373.7 | 379.9 | 388.8 | 436.7 |
| Liquidity (%) | 25.5 | 25.9 | 24.6 | 23.9 | 23.3 |
| Net Interest Margin (%) | 1.57 | 1.62 | 1.64 | 1.65 | 1.57 |
| Profit Before Tax (£m) | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Reserves (£m) | 32.6 | 33.6 | 34.5 | 35.0 | 35.7 |
| Gross Capital (%) | 8.7 | 8.7 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 7.3 |

All figures are unconsolidated on the basis of materiality except 2017 which are Group figures.

Directors' Report

REGULATION AND COMPLIANCE

The Society is committed to maintaining high standards of compliance and continues to implement regulatory changes as required.

2020-21 has seen a lower level of change than recent years, with a number of planned changes delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Similarly, 2021-22 will not require significant regulatory change, however the Society will closely monitor developments arising from Brexit and continue to input to industry discussions on matters such as improving operational resilience within Financial Services and enhancing our approach to managing financial risks from climate change as well as completing the transition from LIBOR to SONIA. The Society has plans in place to ensure it is able to implement any changes required.

The Society is required to have regard to the principles laid down in the UK Corporate Governance Code. This is covered in more detail in the separate Corporate Governance Report on pages 20 to 23.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Society has a risk-aware strategy and maintains a comprehensive Risk Register reflecting the impact and likelihood of adverse events, which is regularly reviewed by the Board and covers all aspects of the business.

The principal business risks to which the Society is exposed are considered to be:

- Credit Risk: This relates to the risk that mortgage borrowers or treasury counterparties, to whom the Society has lent money, default on their obligation to pay. We seek to mitigate credit risk principally through the careful management of our underwriting policy and process, ensuring that all loans meet the criteria laid down in our Lending policy which is reviewed on a rolling basis at least annually and overseen by the Retail Credit Committee. The Society's exposure to treasury counterparties is carefully controlled in accordance with the limits set out in our Liquidity & Funding policy.
- Interest Rate Risk: This is the risk of the Society's financial position deteriorating as interest rates move over time and the failure to preserve interest rate margins arising from an increase in the cost of funds or a decrease in the earning capacity of assets. We seek to manage interest rate risk by matching the characteristics of mortgage and savings products and through the use of financial instruments within defined parameters set out in our Interest Rate Risk Management policy.
- Liquidity Risk: This relates to the Society's ability to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. The Society has policies in place to ensure it maintains sufficient funds in liquid

form at all times and stress tests are carried out regularly to confirm that the Society can withstand normal and abnormal cash outflows.

- Operational Risk: This is the risk of a loss arising from inadequate or failed internal processes or systems, human error or external events, including Cyber risk. Processes and systems are in place to minimise these risks and to maintain our operational resilience.
- **Conduct Risk:** The risk of the Society failing to treat its customers fairly, with resulting detriment to those customers. The Operational Risk Committee oversees the arrangements in place to ensure that the Society continues to keep the needs of its members at the heart of everything we do.
- Strategic and Reputational Risk: The risk of the Society entering unprofitable markets or offering unprofitable products. The Board has a duty to ensure that the Society makes an adequate amount of profit to maintain capital ratios at a sufficient level to provide long-term financial strength and stability for all members. This also includes risk arising from increased regulation by the financial services regulators.
- Climate Change Risk: This is the risk to the Society arising from climate change which is recognised in terms of both Physical and Transition risks. Physical risks include increased risk of flooding, subsidence and coastal erosion arising from extreme weather events or longer term shifts in climate, impacting on the value of, and longer term ability to insure, mortgaged properties. Transition risks arise from factors such as policy and regulation, and changing customer preferences resulting from the adjustment to a lower carbon economy. The Society is increasingly aware of these risks in respect of both credit risk management and strategy, and will continue to develop its risk management approach.

The continuing COVID-19 pandemic presents a significant risk to global and domestic activity. This increases the level of risk and uncertainty in the Society's operating environment. In particular, increased risk is identified in the following areas:

- Business Risk due to macro-economic disruption;
- **Operational Risk** due to the heightened potential for business disruption;
- Financial Risk due to reductions in the Bank of England Base rate which could impact the Society's interest rate margin;
- **Credit Risk** due to the increased potential for borrowers to default on their mortgage, either through individual circumstances or broader economic consequences.

The Society is managing the situation closely, has implemented operational contingency plans where appropriate, and will continue to monitor the broader economic impact of the outbreak on its mortgage customers. A further risk stems from the continuing uncertainty inherent in the current economic environment and the impact of the UK's exit from membership of the European Union. The Society has carried out an initial evaluation of the impact of the exit terms agreed in December 2020 and will continue to monitor developments. The Society will continue to adopt a cautious approach in the coming financial year, seeking sustainable growth in order to maintain financial stability, whilst providing suitable mortgage and savings products to customers.

FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

The Society has a formal policy for the management of financial risk, including the arrangement of appropriate financial instruments to provide a hedge against identified exposures in fixed-rate lending. Particular risks including credit, liquidity and interest rate risk are considered in *Note 27* to the Accounts.

As a key component of the Society's management of financial risk, the Asset & Liability Committee (ALCO) meets at least monthly to make decisions within Board-prescribed parameters on product pricing, margin, hedging strategy and interest rate risk strategy. The ALCO reports to the Board Risk Committee, which in turn reports to the Board.

CAPITAL REQUIREMENTS

The Board has reviewed its risk assessment to meet the requirements of Basel III and the associated Capital Requirements Regulations and Directive (CRR/CRD4). The Society is required to conduct an assessment of the adequacy of its capital and resources, known as the Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP), which is regularly reviewed and revised to reflect the prevailing economic climate.

The Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013 place certain reporting obligations on financial institutions that are within the scope of CRD4. The purpose of the regulations is to provide clarity on the source of the Society's income and the location of its operations. The annual reporting requirements for the Society as at 31 January 2021 are provided on page 73.

GOING CONCERN

As part of the Society's forward planning process, the Directors have considered forecasts showing the Society's capital, liquidity and financial position for the next 12 months under normal operating conditions. They have also considered the potential effect on the Society's business, financial position, capital and liquidity under stressed operating conditions, specifically including a severe but plausible stress scenario incorporating the potential impact of the increased risks and uncertainties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic set out on page 14 of this report. The Directors are satisfied that the Society has adequate resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Accounts continue to be prepared on the going concern basis.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY (CSR)

The Society recognises that CSR is concerned with how businesses take account of the social, environmental and economic impacts of their operations. We seek to be a good corporate citizen in all aspects of our operations and activities and aim to be recognised as a socially responsible business by our members, our staff and the communities in which we operate. This is articulated in our Corporate Social Responsibility policy and regularly monitored by the Board.

Customer Service and Conduct of Business

The Society is committed to treating its members fairly and to acting with honesty and integrity in its relationships with members, regulators and the wider community. Continuous review and improvement is used to build on the high level of service throughout the Society and the many positive aspects already in place.

Donations and Community Support

The Society continues to provide support for local events in areas around its branches, as well as supporting a charity of the year as voted for by members. In 2020, members voted to support Alzheimer Scotland. Alzheimer Scotland challenge misconceptions, tackle inequalities and fight for the rights of those impacted by dementia in Scotland. As the country's leading dementia charity, they aim to empower, educate and enable people living with dementia to live well with the disease, keeping them connected to their own community and networks.

Alzheimer Scotland offer a range of personalised support and choices. They provide a network of specialist Dementia Advisors, NHS Dementia Nurse Consultants, Dementia Research Centres, the 24-hour Freephone Dementia Helpline and numerous local support services, reminiscence programmes and Dementia Resource Centres in communities all across Scotland.

The Society makes charitable donations to reflect and encourage members' participation in the Society's Annual General Meetings each year. £1,381 was donated in 2020 to Breast Cancer Care for postal and online votes received. We plan to hold this year's AGM on 26 May 2021. Given the ongoing restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to conduct the AGM on a virtual basis. Further details will be communicated to members in April. A donation will be made to Alzheimer Scotland for every vote received, including postal and online.

The Society does not make donations for political purposes.

Directors' Report (continued)

Environmental issues

The Society aims to minimise the environmental impacts of all our operations by striving to reduce unnecessary consumption, to re-use and recycle where possible, to manage energy usage wisely and to promote the control of environmental issues at all levels. We continue to use paper from sources approved by the Forestry Stewardship Council wherever possible, to recycle waste paper and other materials and to encourage our staff to be environmentally aware at all times.

Our vehicle replacement policy includes a maximum CO² emissions limit of 120g/km and we have begun the process of converting the Society's vehicle fleet to electric, with 20% of the fleet now consisting of electric vehicles.

During the year, the Society carried out an exercise to measure its carbon footprint for the first time. Following this exercise the Society mitigated its carbon footprint by donating to Trees for Life - a charitable organisation with an objective of rewilding the Scottish Highlands.

Following the successful introduction of online voting facilities, we have reduced our impact on the environment by allowing members to opt to receive future AGM packs electronically.

Employee Policies

The Society aims to create an environment in which all staff feel valued, where discriminatory behaviour is not tolerated and all employees are encouraged to enhance their skills through personal development and training programmes linked closely to their specific role and annual performance review.

DIRECTORS

fallowing individuals t the Cociety during they voor to 21 January 2021

| Non-Executive Directors | |
|--|---|
| Raymond Abbott CA | Appointed June 2013 and Chairman since July 2017 |
| John Ogston FCBI | Appointed July 2013 and Vice-Chairman since July 2017 Senior Independent Director until November 2020 |
| Margaret MacKay MSc DipM FCIPD | Appointed March 2017 and Chair of Nomination & Remuneration Committee since January 202 Appointed Senior Independent Director in November 2020 |
| Alan Webster MSc FCBI | Resigned May 2020 |
| Karyn Lamont CA | Appointed May 2018 and Chair of Audit Committee since November 2018 |
| Andrew Hastings C.Dir FIB | Appointed July 2019 and Chair of Board Risk Committee since October 2019 |
| Sheila Gunn LLB (Hons), Dip LP | Appointed November 2019 |
| Executive Directors | |
| Paul Denton MBA FCBI | Chief Executive Officer from July 2019 Chair of Operational Risk Committee since July 2019 |
| Neil Easson BA CA | Finance Director from April 2020 Chair of Asset and Liability Committee since January 2019 Chair of Retail Credit Committee since June 2019 |

SBS Mortgages Limited, as at the year-end. The Society maintains liability insurance cover for Directors and Officers as permitted by the Building Societies Act 1986.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The following Directors are standing for election/re-election:

- Neil Easson joined the Board in April 2020 and is seeking election in accordance with Rule 25(5).
- All other directors are choosing to retire and stand for re-election under Rule 26(1).

All of the above, being eligible under the Rules, offer themselves for election/re-election at the AGM to be held on 26 May 2021.

Biographies of all current Directors, including those seeking election/re-election, appear on pages 18 & 19.

STAFF

The Directors recognise the contribution that staff at all levels make to the continuing success of the Society and would once again like to record their appreciation for the efforts made by everyone, in what has been an exceptionally challenging year.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

The Directors do not consider that there have been any events since the year-end that have a material effect on the financial position of the Society as at 31 January 2021.

SUPPLIER PAYMENT POLICY

The Society's continuing policy concerning the payment of its trade creditors is to pay within the agreed terms of credit, once the supplier has discharged their contractual obligations. The average number of days' credit taken to pay suppliers during the year ended 31 January 2021 was 21 (2020: 18).

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

Our auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), are willing to continue in office and the Board is happy to recommend their re-appointment as auditors. A resolution to that effect will be proposed for consideration at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 26 May 2021.

By order of the Board

TINA HANKIN SECRETARY 25 March 2021

Board of Directors



A Chartered Accountant by profession, Raymond has worked in private equity and investment for over 30 years. As the former managing director of Alliance Trust Equity Partners he was responsible for strategic development. Previously he founded the UK venture investor Albany Ventures and prior to that was Director of Investment at British Linen Bank. Raymond also serves as Chairman of Foresight plc and Integrated Environmental Solutions Ltd and is a non-executive Director of Schroder UK Public Private plc. Raymond joined the Board in June 2013 and was elected Chairman in July 2017.



Jack is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers in Scotland and spent 36 years in management positions with Clydesdale Bank, latterly as Head of Corporate & Structured Finance in Scotland. He has significant board and lending experience and is currently Chairman of Cancer Support Scotland and a non-executive director of Constant Progress Ltd, Equator Capital Ltd and Toward Technology Ltd. Jack joined the Board in 2015 and was elected Vice Chairman in July 2017.



MARGARET MACKAY

Margaret began her career with HBOS and has over 36 years' experience in PLC, AIM and family-owned businesses. Margaret has held Board level positions for the last 20 years and latterly was Managing Director, Scotland and Ireland Division, with Peel Ports. Margaret has a Masters Degree in Human Resource Management and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development. She also has a Postgraduate Diploma in Marketing. Margaret joined the Board in 2017 and is currently also a Trustee of the John Mather Charitable Trust. Margaret chairs the Nomination & Remuneration Committee and is the Society's Senior Independent Director and Whistleblowing Champion.



Karyn joined the Board in May 2018. Karyn is a Chartered Accountant and former audit partner at PwC. She has over 30 years of experience and has provided audit and other services to a range of clients across the UK's financial services sector including a number of banks and building societies. Her specialist knowledge includes financial reporting, audit and controls, risk management, regulatory compliance and governance. Karyn is a member of the Board Risk Committee and chairs the Audit Committee. She is also a non-executive director at the Scottish Investment Trust plc, the North American Income Trust plc, the Scottish American Investment Trust plc and iomart Group plc.



Andrew is a Chartered Banker, Fellow of the Institute of Bankers in Ireland, a Chartered Director and a Certified Bank Director. He began a 30 year career in banking with RBS and was CEO and Country Manager of BNP Paribas Ireland before becoming CEO of Barclays Bank Ireland plc. Andrew is currently a Board Member of the Electricity Supply Board, the Irish State-owned energy business. He is also an Independent non-executive director of Pepper Finance Corporation (Ireland) DAC and an Independent non-executive director of Elavon Financial Services DAC. Andrew chairs the Board Risk Committee.



Sheila began her career as a lawyer and was a partner at Shepherd & Wedderburn for 12 years. She moved into financial services on her appointment to Ignis Asset Management and was a non-executive director of Airdrie Savings Bank. She has undertaken a range of other non-executive appointments and is currently Vice Chair of Wheatley Group, Chair of Wheatley Solutions, a member of the Independent Governance Committees of Phoenix Life, Standard Life and ReAssure Life, a member of the Accounts Commission and on the board of, and Chair of the Remuneration Committee of, the Chartered Banker Institute.



Paul was appointed Chief Executive Officer in June 2019. He has more than 30 years' experience in financial services and is a Fellow of the Chartered Banker Institute. Paul began his career with the Royal Bank of Scotland holding various senior positions before moving to the Co-operative Bank as Director for Branch, Mortgages and Business Banking. Most recently he was Managing Director, Operations of the UK's largest funeral business, Co-op Funeralcare.



Neil is a Chartered Accountant with 25 years' experience in financial services, having held a range of senior finance positions in Lloyd's Banking Group. His role as Finance Director also includes responsibility for the Society's Retail Credit and Product Management teams. Neil joined the Society in January 2019 and was appointed to the Board in April 2020. Neil is Chair of the Asset and Liability Committee and Retail Credit Committee.

Corporate Governance Report

The Directors are responsible for the governance of the Society, on behalf of the members, and are committed to best practice in corporate governance. During the year they had regard to the principles of the 2018 UK Corporate Governance Code ('the Code') published by the Financial Reporting Council which applies to listed companies and followed those elements considered appropriate and proportionate to the Society in line with the Building Societies Association Guidance on the Code.

BOARD LEADERSHIP AND COMPANY PURPOSE

The Board is responsible for ensuring the long-term sustainable success of the Society for its members. It sets the Society's strategic objectives, ensures sufficient resources are in place to meet those objectives and monitors performance against them. The Board also ensures the Society operates within an effective risk management framework.

The Board meets regularly with additional meetings as required. In 2020-21 there were ten full formal Board meetings, including a specific meeting to consider future strategy and the Corporate Plan. There were a number of additional, informal meetings in-between full Board meetings in recognition of the management of the global COVID-19 pandemic and related societal lockdowns. A table showing details of Directors' attendance during the year in relation to full formal Board and Committee meetings appears on page 23 of this report.

A terms of reference document for the Board was approved in September 2020, which includes a schedule of matters reserved for Board decisions and the Board has delegated certain responsibilities to the Committees described below, all of which report to the Board. Minutes of each Committee's meetings are distributed to all Board members and the Chair of each Committee provides a report at the next Board meeting. The terms of reference for all Board Committees are available on the Society's website. Membership of Committees is reviewed annually with the aim of leveraging each Director's particular expertise.

Audit Committee: This Committee met on five occasions during the year. The Committee monitors internal controls, financial reporting and regulatory compliance. It also reviews audit reports, monitors the effectiveness of the internal audit function and agrees the annual internal audit plan. It considers and recommends to the Board (for approval by the members) the appointment or re-appointment of the external auditors, and the policy on the engagement of the external auditors for non-audit services and approval of their fees. The Committee monitors the external auditors' independence, objectivity, competence and effectiveness. It also ensures that the systems of accounting, business control and management of information are adequate for the Society's needs.

At least annually the Committee meets with the internal and external auditors without the Executive Directors being present. As required by the Code, the Committee provides advice to the Board confirming that the annual report and accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provides the information necessary for members to assess the Society's performance, business model and strategy.

The Committee comprises three Non-Executive Directors who all have relevant financial experience. Karyn Lamont chairs the Committee. Other members during the year included Raymond Abbott. As such, the Society does not currently comply with the provision in the Code that the Chair of the Board should not be a member of the Committee, however, this is considered appropriate given the current composition and skills across the Board. Executive Directors and members of senior management attend by invitation, together with representatives from the internal and external auditors.

Board Risk Committee: The Board Risk Committee met seven times in the year. Andrew Hastings chairs the Committee. The other members of the Committee are Karyn Lamont, Sheila Gunn and Jack Ogston. Executive Directors and members of senior management attend by invitation. The committee assists the Board in overseeing the Society's risk management and control framework; considers the Board Risk Appetite Statement, supporting metrics and stress testing outputs; and reviews Board policies and key prudential documentation from a risk perspective. The Committee is also responsible for oversight of risk monitoring and assurance, including reviewing the Society's key risk exposures against appetite, trends and concentrations.

In addition, the Committee oversees the Society's corporate insurance cover.

The three first line risk management Committees: Asset & Liability Committee; Retail Credit Committee; and Operational Risk Committee, all report to the Board Risk Committee which in turn reports to the Board through its minutes and summaries of its activities and recommendations.

Nomination & Remuneration Committee: This Committee reviews Board composition, skills, performance, director elections and succession planning for Board and senior management. It is responsible for remuneration policy and for making recommendations to the Board regarding general remuneration and contractual arrangements. The Committee also supervises the process for appointment of new Directors. The Committee focuses separately on nomination and remuneration issues.

Margaret MacKay chairs the Committee and the other members of the Committee are Raymond Abbott and Jack Ogston. The Committee met seven times in the year.

Further information can be found in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 24 & 25.

CULTURE

The Board monitors and assesses culture through a variety of sources including key performance metrics, feedback from internal and external audit, employee surveys and meeting employees from across the Society.

ENGAGEMENT WITH STAKEHOLDERS

As a mutual organisation the Society does not have 'shareholders' as referred to in the Code, and the Society's saving and borrowing customers are also its members. The Society seeks the views of its members through membership surveys, members' forums, the Society newsletter and the AGM, although the latter took a less normal form in 2020 in recognition of the COVID-19 restrictions. Members are given the opportunity to ask questions and voice their opinions.

In relation to employees, opportunities to engage have been limited by the COVID-19 restrictions. In the normal course of business, the Board chooses not to rely on one of the methods of engagement set out in the Code. Instead the Board engages with employees through a combination of attendance of senior management at Board and Committee meetings, Board attendance at employee off-site events, informal employee feedback sessions and employee surveys. Points of focus identified in employee surveys are addressed by employee working groups. Given the Society's size, these arrangements are considered to provide an effective alternative.

WHISTLEBLOWING

The Society has arrangements in place for employees, contractors and temporary workers to raise concerns in confidence (and if they wish anonymously). The Society's Senior Independent Director, Margaret MacKay, is the Society's Whistleblowing Champion. She has responsibility for ensuring and overseeing the integrity, independence and effectiveness of the Society's policies and procedures on whistleblowing, including those to protect whistleblowers from victimisation. The Board reviews the Society's whistleblowing policy and reports at least annually.

DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITIES: CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (CEO)

The offices of CEO and Chairman are distinct and held by different people. The CEO is responsible for managing the Society's business within the parameters set by the Board. The Chairman sets the direction and culture of the Board, facilitating effective contribution from Directors, maintaining constructive relations between Executive and Non-Executive Directors and ensuring that Directors receive accurate, timely and clear advice and information. The current Chairman (Raymond Abbott) was considered independent on his appointment in July 2017, having demonstrated clear commitment, experience, and capability since joining the Board in June 2013.

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Non-Executive Directors are required to have a full understanding of the risks in the business; to show commercial leadership within a framework of prudent and effective risk management controls; to provide an independent perspective, monitoring performance and resources; and to constructively challenge strategic proposals, whilst supporting the Executive management. The Non-Executive Directors meet regularly without the Executives present. The Board has appointed a Senior Independent Director, Margaret MacKay, to provide support for the Chairman, an alternative route for communication from members and Society colleagues, and to carry out the appraisal of the Chairman, taking into account the views of the other Directors.

The Board consists of six Non-Executive Directors plus the CEO and the Finance Director. Information relating to Directors is set out on pages 18 & 19. This demonstrates that the Society's Board has a balance of skills and experience appropriate for the Society and its strategy. Committee membership was refreshed during the year, following Board review and in the interest of managing succession.

The Board is satisfied that in terms of independence of character, judgement and robustness of challenge to the Society's Management, each Non-Executive Director is considered independent. Factors taken into account when assessing independence include length of service, material business relationships and whether the Director has recently been an employee of the Society.

The Society's vehicle advisers are Pike & Bambridge, a firm which is connected with the Society's Vice-Chairman, Jack Ogston. There are no other current business relationships between the Society and firms connected with Directors. No ex-employees are or have been Non-Executive Directors.

Corporate Governance Report

COMMITMENT

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee evaluates the ability of Non-Executive Directors to commit the time required for their role, prior to appointment. The letter of appointment sets out the expected time commitment and Directors undertake that they have sufficient time to meet those expectations. The formal appraisal process carried out by the Chairman each year also assesses whether Directors have demonstrated this ability during the year.

The attendance record of Board and Committee members during the year is set out opposite. This table does not reflect Directors' attendance at additional ad hoc meetings, seminars, conferences and courses during the year or time spent on preparation for meetings etc. Generally each Non-Executive Director spends a minimum of 2-3 days each month on Society business. The time commitment for the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee Chairs is considerably more.

COMPOSITION, SUCCESSION AND EVALUATION: APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee is responsible for succession planning for Executive and Non-Executive Director positions. As part of the annual evaluation process, the Committee considers the balance of skills and experience it requires, the requirements of the business, and recommends change where appropriate.

The Society values all aspects of diversity, including gender, and ensures that Non-Executive Director appointments are made on merit, based on the specific skills and experience required. Members have the right under the Society's Rules to nominate candidates for election to the Board.

The Nomination & Remuneration Committee is leading the recruitment process with the support of a number of recruitment agencies, although the final decision rests with the Board as a whole. This year particular consideration has been given to succession planning for Board and senior management to ensure there is a diverse pipeline to fill current and future requirements. This work will continue in the coming year.

As at the date of this report the percentage of women on the full Board is 37.5% with 50% of the Non-Executive Directors being female. Female representation on the Senior Management Team stands at 29%. All Directors must meet the requirements of fitness and propriety and are subject to the Conduct Rules laid down by the regulators. Directors who are to hold certain roles e.g. Board Chairman, Chair of the Board Risk Committee and Chair of the Audit Committee are subject to formal regulatory approval.

DEVELOPMENT

All new Directors receive induction training, and ongoing training is provided by attendance at courses and seminars organised by outside bodies, in particular the Building Societies Association. Training and development needs are identified as part of the annual appraisal of the Board's and individual Director's performance and effectiveness. The Secretary has specific responsibility for ensuring that Directors are provided with appropriate information and training.

INFORMATION AND SUPPORT

The Chairman ensures that the Board receives sufficient information to enable it to discharge its responsibilities. The quality and content of management information provided to the Board and Committees is constantly reviewed by Directors and management. The Secretary provides support on corporate governance matters and the Board has access to independent professional advice if required.

EVALUATION

A comprehensive, externally facilitated Board and Committee evaluation was carried out in the first half of 2019 by Genius Boards Limited. As a result, a full evaluation was not carried out in 2020 although the findings and actions from the 2019 review have remained an area of focus for the Board and Committees where relevant, including consideration of meeting agendas, committee composition and Board information. There will be an internally facilitated Board evaluation in 2021 in order to monitor progress and maintain sight of effectiveness.

Separately, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman review the performance of the CEO. Non-Executive Directors are evaluated by the Chairman using questions based on the FRC Guidance on Board Effectiveness. The Chairman is evaluated by the Senior Independent Director, taking into account the views of the other Directors.

DIRECTORS' ATTENDANCE 2020-21

The table below shows the number of full, formal Board meetings attended by each Director and, for each of the Board Committees, the number of full, formal meetings and attendance by individuals as members of those Committees. The figures in brackets denote the number of meetings each Director was eligible to attend. The total number of meetings does not include the Annual General Meeting.

| | Board | Audit Committee | Board Risk Committee | Nomination & Remuneration Committee |
|------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------|---|
| R J Abbott | 10(10) | 5(5) | | 7(7) |
| J C Ogston | 10(10) | | 4(5) | 7(7) |
| M MacKay | 10(10) | | | 7(7) |
| A Webster | 4(4) | | 2(2) | |
| K Lamont | 10(10) | 5(5) | 7(7) | |
| A Hastings | 10(10) | 5(5) | 7(7) | |
| S Gunn | 10(10) | | 7(7) | |
| P Denton | 10(10) | | | |
| N Easson | 8(8) | | | |

RE-ELECTION

The Society's Rules require that Directors are submitted for election at the AGM following their appointment to the Board. All Directors are required by the Society's Rules to seek re-election if they have not been elected at either of the two previous AGMs. Directors may also submit themselves for re-election voluntarily. In the interests of good governance and having regard to the provisions of the Code, it is expected that, where appropriate, a combination of these rules will result in the Directors standing for election or re-election at each AGM. The Nomination & Remuneration Committee considers and makes a recommendation to the Board whether each Non-Executive Director should be submitted for re-election, bearing in mind that Director's continued independence and contribution to Board deliberations.

AUDIT, RISK AND INTERNAL CONTROL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board is collectively responsible for determining strategies for risk management and control. The Society's risk management framework adopts a "three lines of defence" model which is regularly reviewed by the Board Risk Committee and Audit Committee. This comprises:

- first line (day-to-day risk taking and management) including day-to-day focus such as policies, procedures, delegated mandates, and management risk committees.
- second line (advice, oversight and challenge) consisting of the Board Risk Committee, the Chief Risk Officer and the Risk and Compliance Team.

• third line (independent assurance) comprising the Audit Committee and the external and internal auditors.

The role, membership and work of the Audit Committee is set out earlier in this report.

The Society has a strong compliance culture and the Board is satisfied that the Society's systems are effective and appropriate to the scale and complexity of the Society's business.

FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS REPORTING

The Statement of Directors' Responsibilities on page 26 sets out the Board's responsibilities in relation to the Society's Annual Report and Accounts and the Directors' Report includes a statement regarding the Society's position as a going concern on page 15.

REMUNERATION

The Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 24 & 25 sets out the remuneration policies for Executive and Non-Executive Directors and explains how this meets the requirements of the Code.

RAYMOND ABBOTT CHAIRMAN 25 March 2021

Directors' Remuneration Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Society, in line with the relevant provisions of the Code, of the policy for determining the remuneration of Executive and Non-Executive Directors. The Society has adopted a Remuneration Policy which meets the applicable requirements of the Remuneration Code issued by the financial services regulators.

A statement of all Directors' Remuneration is included within this report and also appears in the Annual Review & Summary Financial Statement, issued annually to all members. An advisory vote on Directors' Remuneration is included in the AGM agenda.

As a mutual organisation, the Society has no share option scheme and none of the Directors has any beneficial interest in, or any rights to subscribe for, shares in or debentures of any connected undertaking of the Society.

PROCEDURE FOR DEVELOPING POLICY ON EXECUTIVE & INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REMUNERATION

The Board has overall responsibility for overseeing arrangements for remuneration. This is done through the Nomination & Remuneration Committee.

The Committee reviews remuneration for Directors and staff annually, using data from comparable organisations and taking advice from external consultants when appropriate.

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The level of fees payable to Non-Executive Directors is assessed annually using market information and data from comparable organisations. The fees payable to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman reflect the additional responsibilities of these positions.

Fees for Non-Executive Directors are non-pensionable and Non-Executive Directors do not participate in any bonus or incentive schemes or receive any other benefits apart from reimbursement of expenses incurred in the execution of their duties as Directors.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The basic salaries of the CEO and Finance Director are reviewed annually by reference to jobs carrying similar responsibilities in comparable organisations and by reference to market conditions and personal performance.

Their contracts with the Society include a non-pensionable executive bonus scheme which is payable dependent on the Society's performance and the individual's personal performance measured against a number of specific objectives, including strategy, business performance, risk management and corporate governance. No single factor can therefore unduly influence the amount of bonus payable. Bonus payments are not guaranteed and are reviewed each year.

Executive Directors in office as at 31 January 2021 are entitled to receive pension contributions to their private pension arrangements, although depending on their individual circumstances they may be paid a pension replacement amount. Pension contribution rates are aligned with those available to the workforce. Executive Directors also receive a further taxable benefit comprising a Society car, or car allowance.

SERVICE CONTRACTS

Executive Directors have service contracts with the Society which can be terminated by either side giving six months' notice.

Non-Executive Directors do not have service contracts but serve under letters of appointment subject to election by the Society's members.

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Fees only

| | To 31 January 2021 | To 31 January 2020 |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| R J Abbott | £40,750 | £40,000 |
| J C Ogston | £32,600 | £32,000 |
| М МасКау | £28,718 | £24,500 |
| K Lamont | £28,525 | £28,000 |
| A Hastings (appointed July 2019) | £28,525 | £15,346 |
| S Gunn (appointed November 2019) | £24,959 | £6,125 |
| A Webster (retired May 2020) | £7,915 | £24,500 |
| S M Pashby (retired November 2019) | - | £23,333 |
| Total | £191,992 | £193,804 |

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

To 31 January 2021

| | Salary | Bonus | Pension Contributions | Taxable Benefits | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------|---------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| P Denton | £196,825 | £38,000 | £5,811 | £7,319 | £247,955 |
| N Easson (appointed April 2020) | £110,583 | - | £3,250 | £4,533 | £118,366 |
| Total | £307,408 | £38,000 | £9,061 | £11,852 | £366,321 |

To 31 January 2020

| | Salary | Bonus | Pension Contributions | Taxable Benefits | Total |
|--|----------|---------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------|
| P Denton (appointed July 2019) | £118,141 | - | £3,544 | £4,394 | £126,079 |
| M L Thomson (retired July 2019) | £78,409 | £31,364 | £15,682 | £3,883 | £129,338 |
| A Brown (retired December 2019) ⁻ | £76,647 | £12,444 | £21,799 | £5,884 | £116,774 |
| Total | £273,197 | £43,808 | £41,025 | £14,161 | £372,191 |

*Aileen Brown also received a final payment on her resignation as Finance Director amounting to £109,530.

Pension contributions paid by the Society were in respect of money-purchase pension schemes or cash allowances in lieu of pension.

MARGARET MACKAY

CHAIR, NOMINATION & REMUNERATION COMMITTEE 25 March 2021

Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT, THE ANNUAL BUSINESS STATEMENT, THE DIRECTORS' REPORT AND THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report, Annual Business Statement, Directors' Report and the Annual Accounts in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Building Societies Act 1986 ("the Act") requires the Directors to prepare Society Annual Accounts for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare the Society Annual Accounts in accordance with UK Accounting Standards including FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

The Society Annual Accounts are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Society as at the end of the financial year and of the income and expenditure of the Society for the financial year.

In preparing these Annual Accounts, 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 Annual Accounts;
- assess the Society'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 Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

In addition to the Annual Accounts, the Act requires the Directors to prepare, for each financial year, an Annual Business Statement and a Directors' Report, each containing prescribed information relating to the business of the Society.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ACCOUNTING RECORDS AND INTERNAL CONTROLS

The Directors are responsible for ensuring that the Society:

- keeps proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Society, in accordance with the Act;
- takes reasonable care to establish, maintain, document and review such systems and controls as are appropriate to its business in accordance with the rules made by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

The Directors are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of Annual Accounts 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 Society and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Society's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of Annual Accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION TO THE COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORTING (CBCR) INFORMATION

The CBCR information comprises the information discussed below.

The Directors of the Society are responsible for preparing the CBCR information for the year ended 31 January 2021 in accordance with the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013. In preparing the CBCR information, the Directors are responsible for:

- interpreting the requirements of the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013;
- determining the acceptability of the basis of preparation of the CBCR information set out on page 73;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- establishing such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of CBCR information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

OPINION

In our opinion:

- Scottish Building Society's annual accounts (the "annual accounts") give a true and fair view of the state of the society's affairs as at 31 January 2021 and of the society's income and expenditure and cash flows for the year then ended;
- the annual accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland", and applicable law); and
- the annual accounts have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Building Societies Act 1986.

We have audited the annual accounts, included within the Annual Report & Accounts (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 January 2021; the Income Statement and Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, the Cash Flow Statement, and the Statement of Changes in Members' Interests for the year then ended; and the notes to the annual accounts, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Our opinion is consistent with our reporting to the Audit Committee.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the annual accounts in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard applicable to public interest entities and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, we declare that non-audit services prohibited by the FRC's Ethical Standard were not provided to the society.

Other than those disclosed in *Note 5* to the annual accounts, we have provided no non-audit services to the Society in the period from 1 February 2020 to 31 January 2021.

OUR AUDIT APPROACH

Overview

Materiality

• Overall materiality: £356,550 (2020: £350,000), based on 1% of net assets.

Scoping

- We tailored the scope of our audit to ensure that we performed sufficient work to be able to give an opinion on the annual accounts as a whole, taking into account the accounting processes and controls in place.
- Audit procedures were performed over all material account balances and financial information of the Society by a single audit team.
- All audit procedures were conducted remotely by a UK audit team as a result of lockdown restrictions and government advice on social distancing.
- We tested and examined information using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to form our own judgements.

Key audit matters

- Impairment of loans and advances to customers
- Revenue recognition
- Impact of COVID-19

The scope of our audit

As part of designing our audit, we determined materiality and assessed the risks of material misstatement in the annual accounts. In particular, we looked at where the directors made subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates that involved making assumptions and considering future events that are inherently uncertain. As in all of our audits we also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the directors that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud

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.

Based on our understanding of the Society and its industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to, but are not limited to, breaches of regulations of the Prudential Regulation Authority ('PRA') and the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') and UK tax legislation, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the annual accounts. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the annual accounts such as the Building Societies Act 1986. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the annual accounts (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions. Audit procedures performed included:

- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance including consideration of known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reading key correspondence with the PRA and the FCA in relation to compliance with laws and regulations;
- Evaluation of the operating effectiveness and reviewing the results of management's internal controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities, in particular their controls around authorisation of payments and other third parties;
- Reviewing internal audit reports in so far as they related to the annual accounts;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes including those of the Audit and Risk Committees;

- Reviewing tax compliance with the involvement of our tax specialists in the audit;
- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in forming significant accounting estimates, in particular those as described under the key audit matters below; and,
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journals posted by senior management and/or postings to unusual account combinations based on our understandings of business operations.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the annual accounts. Also, 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 or intentional misrepresentations or through collusion.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in the auditors' professional judgement, were of most significance in the audit of the annual accounts of the current period and include the most significant assessed risks of material misstatement (whether or not due to fraud) identified by the auditors, 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. These matters, and any comments we make on the results of our procedures thereon, were addressed in the context of our audit of the annual accounts as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. This is not a complete list of all risks identified by our audit.

The key audit matters below are consistent with last year.

Key audit matter

Impairment of loans and advances to customers

An impairment provision of £479,000 (2020: £310,000) is recognised by the Society against loans and advances to customers. The loans and advances represent mortgages secured against residential property or land.

The total impairment provision comprises individual provisions of £136,000 (2020: £90,000) and collective provision of £343,000 (2020: £220,000). Individual provisions are determined based on loans which meet certain risk criteria (e.g. arrears, bankruptcy) with collective provisions capturing the risk across the remaining portfolio relating to impairment events which have been incurred but not yet identified at the balance sheet date (including COVID-19).

At the year end, the Society has experienced limited deterioration in the performance of loans and advances to customers. An additional impairment allowance of $\pm 150,000$ has been booked in 2021 to respond to the latent risks caused by COVID-19 and the granting of payment deferrals to customers.

The determination of impairment provisions requires the use of several assumptions incorporating a significant level of judgement, particularly given the low levels of losses experienced historically. Key assumptions relate to the probability of default and loss given default (including forced sales discount).

The Society's impairment provision balances are detailed within *Note* 12. Management's associated accounting policies are detailed on pages 41 to 44 with detail about judgements in applying accounting policies and critical accounting estimates on page 44.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

- We obtained an understanding, evaluated and challenged the appropriateness of the key assumptions used in determining impairment provisions.
- We assessed and tested key controls in relation to the approval of impairment provisions by the Assets and Liability Committee.
- We tested the accuracy and completeness of underlying data used in the impairment calculations and identified no issues.
- We tested the reconciliation of loans and advances between underlying source systems and the allowance models.
- We tested the mechanical accuracy of the model, by independently recalculating the impairment provisions for a sample of mortgages.
- We performed sensitivity analysis to assess the impact of adopting different assumptions which could be considered reasonable based on our industry knowledge and experience.
- We also performed testing to assess that loans meeting the defined risk criteria had been captured in the assessment of individual provisions.
- We considered the appropriateness of the collective model methodologies and their ability to reflect the impact of COVID-19, and the relevant judgements and assumptions used in the determination of the modelled provisions for residential mortgages.
- We critically assessed management's monitoring activity performed throughout the year to ensure that changes to customer behaviour are reflected in impairment provisioning calculations at year end.
- We reviewed the adequacy of the disclosures in the annual accounts with a specific focus on the disclosure of critical estimates associated with impairment losses.

From the evidence we obtained, we consider that the impairment provisions are within an acceptable range.

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

| Key audit matter | How our audit addressed the key audit matter | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Revenue recognition | • We obtained an understanding of the basis of | | | | |
| The Society uses an Effective Interest Rate (EIR) model to adjust the recognition of fees, commissions and early redemption charges integral to its mortgage balances. | management's process for recognising interest income using the EIR method and identified the key data inputs and assumptions within management's calculation. | | | | |
| The loans and advances to customers of £409mn (2020: £334mn) presented in the balance sheet include an EIR | • We tested the accuracy and completeness of underlying data used in the EIR calculations and identified no issues. | | | | |
| asset of £390,000 (2020: £408,000). An EIR income of £18,000 (2020: £6,000) was recorded in the Income Statement for the year ended 31 January 2021. | • We tested the mechanical accuracy of the model, by independently recalculating the effective interest rate adjustment from supporting data for a sample of | | | | |
| The recognition of interest receivable using the EIR method | mortgage products. | | | | |
| requires judgement by management regarding the expected life of mortgage assets. | We considered the Society's historical experience of redemptions when assessing the estimates of expected | | | | |
| The Society's associated accounting policies are detailed | lives of mortgage assets. | | | | |
| on page 41, with detail about judgements made, and critical accounting estimates formed, in applying accounting policies on page 44. | • We also performed sensitivity analysis over this assumption to consider how the Society's interest income recognition would change in the event of management applying different assumptions. | | | | |
| | Based on the work performed on the EIR model, we consider that the deferred fees held in the Balance Sheet and the EIR | | | | |

income were appropriate at year end.

Key audit matter

Impact of COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in unprecedented economic conditions and resulting government support programmes and regulatory interventions to support businesses and individuals.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also changed the way that companies operate their businesses, with one of the most substantial impacts being the transition to remote working. A substantial proportion of the Society's employees have been working remotely during 2020 as has our audit team.

The roll out of vaccines has created an expectation that the restrictions will be eased, however, there remains uncertainty about the future mutation and spread of the disease, the extent and impact of government measures and the economic outlook.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting uncertainty has impacted certain estimates in the annual accounts of the Society. The directors have specifically considered a number of matters including:

- The impairment of loans and advances to customers; and,
- The going concern assessment of the Society.

Following the consideration of this assessment, the Directors continue to believe that it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the Annual Report.

The directors' disclosures demonstrating how the pandemic gives rise to a principal risk for the Society is given on page 65. Disclosures relating to the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of preparation and the considerations made by the directors when drawing this conclusion is given on page 15.

How we tailored the audit scope

We tailored the scope of our audit to ensure that we performed enough work to be able to give an opinion on the annual accounts as a whole, taking into account the structure of the society, the accounting processes and controls, and the industry in which it operates.

The Society has no active subsidiaries and all of the Society's activities are undertaken in Scotland, in a single line of business being the provision of mortgages and savings products to members and other customers. The accounting records for the Society are located at the Society's head office in Edinburgh.

How our audit addressed the key audit matter

We considered management's approach to assessing the impact of COVID-19 on the Society and its annual accounts. We also tailored our planning and execution of the audit to give specific consideration to the impact of COVID-19 by performing the following procedures:

- We considered the impact of COVID-19 on the Society's control environment.
- We adapted our own working practices to remote working and ensured we gathered appropriate reliable audit evidence.

The impact of COVID-19 on the most significant accounting estimate and our audit is in relation to impairment of loans and advances to customers as reported above in the relevant Key Audit Matter in this opinion. In addition, we also carried out the following procedures:

- We have assessed management's going concern assessment, including the modelled downside scenarios, the ongoing operational impact and assessed management's key assumptions. The findings are included in the section 'Conclusions relating to going concern' later in this opinion.
- We attended the Audit Committee meetings throughout the year which considered the COVID-19 impacts in advance of reporting; and
- We evaluated management's disclosures in the annual accounts and checked the consistency of the disclosures with our knowledge of the Society based on our audit.

As a result of these procedures we concluded that the impact of COVID-19 has been appropriately evaluated and reflected in the preparation of the annual accounts.

Audit procedures were performed over all material account balances and financial information of the Society by a single audit team. All audit procedures were conducted remotely as a result of lockdown restrictions and government advice on social distancing.

We tested and examined information using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we considered necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to form our own judgements. We obtained audit evidence by testing the effectiveness of controls, substantive procedures or a combination of both.

Independent Auditors' Report

Report on the audit of the annual accounts

Materiality

The scope of our audit was influenced by our application of materiality. We set certain quantitative thresholds for materiality. These, together with qualitative considerations, helped us to determine the scope of our audit and the nature, timing and extent of our audit procedures on the individual financial statement line items and disclosures and in evaluating the effect of misstatements, both individually and in aggregate on the annual accounts as a whole.

Based on our professional judgement, we determined materiality for the annual accounts as a whole as follows:

| Overall materiality | £356,550 (2020: £350,000) |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| How we determined it | 1% of net assets |
| Rationale for benchmark applied | We believe that net assets is the most appropriate benchmark to use for the Society, whose strategy is not one of profit maximisation. Regulatory capital is a key benchmark for management and regulators and hence we continue to use net assets, a GAAP enshrined proxy to regulatory capital, as our benchmark. |

We use performance materiality to reduce to an appropriately low level the probability that the aggregate of uncorrected and undetected misstatements exceeds overall materiality. Specifically, we use performance materiality in determining the scope of our audit and the nature and extent of our testing of account balances, classes of transactions and disclosures, for example in determining sample sizes. Our performance materiality was 75% of overall materiality, amounting to £267,413.

In determining the performance materiality, we considered a number of factors – the history of misstatements, risk assessment and aggregation risk and the effectiveness of controls – and concluded that an amount at the upper end of our normal range was appropriate.

We agreed with the Audit Committee that we would report to them misstatements identified during our audit above £17,000 (2020: £17,000) as well as misstatements below that amount that, in our view, warranted reporting for qualitative reasons.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

Our evaluation of the directors' assessment of the Society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- A risk assessment to identify factors that could impact the going concern basis of accounting, including the current and forecast financial performance, operational resilience, regulatory metrics and the sector in which the Society operates;
- Evaluation of the reasonableness of the Society's corporate plan, covering a period to January 2024, including key assumptions and considering the outcome of stress tests incorporated within the plan;
- Evaluation of the Society's access to funding schemes;
- Consideration of the Society's corporate plan, ICAAP and ILAAP, regulatory correspondence and reports provided to governance forums, and audit of the total capital resources and liquidity financing facilities; and
- Assessing the appropriateness of the disclosures in the Annual Report.

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 Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the annual accounts are authorised for issue.

In auditing the annual accounts, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the annual accounts is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the Society's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

REPORTING ON OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the annual accounts and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the annual accounts does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially

Independent Auditors' Report Other required report

misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the annual accounts 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 based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Annual Business Statement and Directors' Report we also considered whether the disclosures required by the Building Societies Act 1986 have been included.

Building Societies Act 1986 – Opinion on Annual Business Statement and Directors' Report

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

- the Annual Business Statement and the Directors' Report have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Building Societies Act 1986;
- the information given in the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 January 2021 is consistent with the accounting records and the annual accounts; and
- the information given in the Annual Business Statement (other than the information upon which we are not required to report) gives a true representation of the matters in respect of which it is given.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND THE AUDIT

Responsibilities of the directors for the annual accounts

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities set out on page 26, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the annual accounts in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual accounts, the directors are responsible for assessing the society'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 society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the annual accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 annual accounts.

Our audit testing might include testing complete populations of certain transactions and balances, possibly using data auditing techniques. However, it typically involves selecting a limited number of items for testing, rather than testing complete populations. We will often seek to target particular items for testing based on their size or risk characteristics. In other cases, we will use audit sampling to enable us to draw a conclusion about the population from which the sample is selected.

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

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the Society's members as a body in accordance with Section 78 of the Building Societies Act 1986 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

OTHER REQUIRED REPORTING

Building Societies Act 1986 exception reporting

Under the Building Societies Act 1986 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the Society; or
- the Society annual accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations and access to documents we require for our audit.

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

APPOINTMENT

Following the recommendation of the Audit Committee, we were appointed by the directors on 30 May 2018 to audit the annual accounts for the year ended 31 January 2019 and subsequent financial periods. The period of total uninterrupted engagement is 3 years, covering the years ended 31 January 2019 to 31 January 2021.

ALLAN MCGRATH (SENIOR STATUTORY AUDITOR) FOR AND ON BEHALF OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS EDINBURGH 25 March 2021

Image: Glen Affric, Inverness-shire. Used with permission of Trees for Life.





For the year ended 31 January 2021

Income Statement for the year ended 31 January 2021

| | Note | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Interest receivable and similar income Interest payable and similar charges | 2 3 | 10,622 (3,087) | 11,350 (4,304) |
| Net interest income | | 7,535 | 7,046 |
| Fees and commissions receivable Fees and commissions payable Net gains/(losses) from derivative financial instruments Total Net Income | 4 | 54 (33) 14 7,570 | 46 (26) (55) 7,011 |
| Administrative expenses Restructuring costs Depreciation and amortisation | 5 5 15, 16 | (6,311) - (288) | (6,130) (215) (225) |
| Operating Profit before movement in acquired assets, impairment losses and provisions | | 971 | 441 |
| Impairment (losses)/gains on loans and advances Net increase in value of acquired assets Reversal of previous impairment of Land & Buildings Provisions for liabilities - FSCS levy | 12 13 15 24 | (161) 30 - - | 59 44 76 8 |
| Operating Profit and Profit before tax | | 840 | 628 |
| Tax expense | 8 | (187) | (116) |
| Profit for the financial year | 25 | 653 | 512 |

Profit for the financial year arises from continuing operations. Both the profit for the financial year and total comprehensive income for the year are attributable to the members of the Society.

Statement of Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 January 2021

| | Note | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|------|--------------|--------------|
| Profit for the financial year | 24 | 653 | 512 |
| Valuation gains taken to reserves | 26 | 36 | - |
| Income tax on other comprehensive income | 26 | (5) | (1) |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | | 684 | 511 |

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 January 2021

| | Note | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--|---|--|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Liquid Assets: Cash in hand and balances with Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions Debt securities Derivative financial instruments Loans and advances to customers Investment in subsidiary undertaking Tangible fixed assets Intangible assets | 9 10 21 11 14 15 16 | 100,179 6,627 7,039 50 409,182 - 1,929 244 | 45,149 19,058 30,123 10 334,936 - 1,585 204 |
| Other assets | 17 | 441 | 340 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 525,691 | 431,405 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Shares Amounts owed to credit institutions Amounts owed to other customers Derivative financial instruments Other liabilities and accruals Deferred tax liability Provisions for liabilities | 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 | 436,685 41,004 10,473 736 1,028 110 - | 388,798 - 6,308 475 780 73 - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 490,036 | 396,434 |
| RESERVES | | | |
| General reserves Available-for-sale reserves | 25 26 | 35,637 18 | 34,984 (13) |
| Total reserves attributable to members of the Society | | 35,655 | 34,971 |
| TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES | | 525,691 | 431,405 |

These accounts were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 25 March 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:

RAYMOND ABBOTT CHAIRMAN PAUL DENTON CHIEF EXECUTIVE NEIL EASSON FINANCE DIRECTOR

Statement of Changes in Members' Interests for the year ended 31 January 2021

| | General reserves | Available -for-sale reserves | Total | General reserves | Available -for-sale reserves | Total |
|--|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| | 2021 £000 | 2021 £000 | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 | 2020 £000 | 2020 £000 |
| As at 1 February | 34,984 | (13) | 34,971 | 34,472 | (12) | 34,460 |
| Total Comprehensive income for the year | | | | | | |
| Profit for the financial year | 653 | - | 653 | 512 | - | 512 |
| Other comprehensive income/(expense) <i>(see Note 26)</i> | - | 31 | 31 | - | (1) | (1) |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | 653 | 31 | 684 | 512 | (1) | 511 |
| As at 31 January | 35,637 | 18 | 35,655 | 34,984 | (13) | 34,971 |

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 31 January 2021

| Cash nows from operating activities840628Adjustments for288149Loss on diposal of fixed assets12Increase/(decrease) in impairment of loans and advances161(59)Total1,290720Changes in operating assets and liabilities117Increase/(decrease) in other assets(141)117Increase in other liabilities and accruals and provisions for liabilities546290(Increase) in loans and advances to customers47,8878,861Increase (Accrease) in amounts owed to credit institutions and other customers(7,413)128Decrease/(Increase) in loans and advances to credit institutions38,600(2,99)Cash flows from investing activities26,580(5,299)52,991Cash flows from investing activities(15,580)(30,014)Sale and matrix of debt securities(164)16Sale and matrix of debt securities(128)(104)Net cash flows from investing activities22,347(2,585)Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents50,217105,897Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England20,200Flow20,000Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand50,220(5,071)45,149Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand50,2217105,8972019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England50,220(5,071)45,149< | | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 | |
|--|---|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Depreciation, amortisation and impairment288149Loss on disposal of fixed assets12Increase/Idecrease) in impairment of loans and advances1290720Total1290720Changes in operating assets and liabilities141117Increase in other assets144117Increase in other liabilities and accruals and provisions for liabilities546290(Increase) in loans and advances to customers74,8878,861Increase in shares164,342334831Increase in shares7,618(3,471)Increase in shares7,618(3,483)Increase in shares162,580(5,299)Cash flows generated from/(used in) operating activities26,580(5,299)Cash flows from investing activities(15,580)(30,014)Sale and maturity of debt securities(1644)164Purchase of debt securities(164)1604Purchase of intangible fixed assets16Purchase of intangible fixed assets16Purchase of intangible fixed assets12,347(2,585)Net cash flows from investing activities20,217(7,164)Net cash flows from investing activities50,6217100,179Cash in and and balances with the Bank of England20,217100,417Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity55,68050,2172019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England50,220(5,071)Loans and advances to | | 840 | 628 | |
| Changes in operating assets and liabilities (Increase)/decrease in other assets Increase in other liabilities and accruals and provisions for liabilities (Increase) in loans and advances to customers Increase in shares Increase/(decrease) in amounts owed to credit institutions and other customers Decrease/(increase) in loans and advances to credit institutions | Depreciation, amortisation and impairment Loss on disposal of fixed assets | 1 | 2 | |
| | Total | 1,290 | 720 | |
| | Changes in operating assets and liabilities | | | |
| Cash flows from investing activities(15,580)(30,014)Purchase of debt securities38,60027,991Purchase of tangible fixed assets(546)(464)Disposal of tangible fixed assets16Purchase of intangible assets(128)(104)Net cash flows from investing activities22,347(2,585)Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents45,14955,030100,179Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity55,68050,217105,897Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand | (Increase)/decrease in other assets Increase in other liabilities and accruals and provisions for liabilities (Increase) in loans and advances to customers Increase in shares Increase/(decrease) in amounts owed to credit institutions and other customers Decrease/(increase) in loans and advances to credit institutions | 546 (74,407) 47,887 45,169 7,618 | 290 (7,613) 8,861 (3,471) | |
| Purchase of debt securities $(15,580)$ $(30,014)$ Sale and maturity of debt securities $38,600$ $27,991$ Purchase of tangible fixed assets 1 6 Purchase of intangible assets 1 6 Purchase of intangible assets 1 6 Purchase of intangible assets $22,347$ $(2,585)$ Net cash flows from investing activities $22,347$ $(2,585)$ Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents $50,217$ $(7,164)$ Cash and cash equivalents $50,217$ $(7,164)$ Cash and cash equivalents $50,217$ $(7,000)$ Cash and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity $55,680$ $50,217$ $105,897$ 2019Cash 2020 2020 2020 2020 Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity $50,220$ $(5,071)$ $45,149$ Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity $50,220$ $(5,071)$ $45,149$ Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity $8,000$ $(1,00$ | Net cash flows generated from/(used in) operating activities | 26,580 | (5,299) | |
| Sale and maturity of debt securities38,60027,991Purchase of tangible fixed assets(546)(464)Disposal of tangible fixed assets16Purchase of intangible assets(128)(104)Net cash flows from investing activities22,347(2,585)Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents2020Cash £0002000Cash and cash equivalents5,5030100,179Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity35312,1872019Cash £00020002000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity50,220(5,071)2019Cash £00020002000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand £0,00050,220(5,071)45,1493,5312,1873,5312019Cash £0002000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand | Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents50,217(7,164)Cash and cash equivalents Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity45,149 3,531 2,187 5,718 2,187 5,718 7,00055,680 6,000 - - 55,680100,179 5,718 7,000 - <td>Sale and maturity of debt securities Purchase of tangible fixed assets Disposal of tangible fixed assets</td> <td>38,600 (546) 1</td> <td>27,991 (464) 6</td> <td></td> | Sale and maturity of debt securities Purchase of tangible fixed assets Disposal of tangible fixed assets | 38,600 (546) 1 | 27,991 (464) 6 | |
| Cash and cash equivalentsCash in hand and balances with the Bank of EnglandLoans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demandLoans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity2019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England2019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England2019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England2019Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of EnglandLoans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand4,624Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand4,6244,6241,0933,531Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity | Net cash flows from investing activities | 22,347 | (2,585) | |
| Cash and cash equivalents£000Flow£000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity45,14955,030100,1793,5312,1875,7187,000(7,000)-55,68050,217105,8972019 £000Cash £0002020 £000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity50,220(5,071)45,149 3,531 3,531 4,624Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity50,220(5,071) 4,62445,149 (1,093)Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity50,220(1,000)7,000 | Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 50,217 | (7,164) | |
| 2019 £000Cash Flow2020 £000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity50,220 4,624(5,071) (1,093) (1,000)45,149 (1,093) (1,000) | Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand | £000 45,149 3,531 | Flow 55,030 2,187 | £000 100,179 |
| £000Flow£000Cash in hand and balances with the Bank of England50,220(5,071)45,149Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand4,624(1,093)3,531Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity8,000(1,000)7,000 | | 55,680 | 50,217 | 105,897 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand4,624(1,093)3,531Loans and advances to credit institutions - less than 3 months maturity8,000(1,000)7,000 | | | | |
| 62,844 (7,164) 55,680 | Loans and advances to credit institutions - repayable on demand | 4,624 | (1,093) | 3,531 |
| | | 62,844 | (7,164) | 55,680 |

Notes to the Accounts

1. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Building Societies Act 1986, the Building Societies (Accounts and Related Provisions) Regulations 1998 and Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard* applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ("FRS 102"), as issued in September 2015, including the recognition and measurement provisions of International Accounting Standard 39 *Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement* (as adopted for use in the European Union), as permitted by section 11 of FRS 102.

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£). There are no foreign currency transactions.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these annual accounts.

Judgements made by the Directors in the application of these accounting policies that have significant effect on the annual accounts and estimates, with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year, are discussed in this note.

Accounting convention

The annual accounts are prepared on a going concern basis under the historic cost convention as modified by the fair value revaluation of available-for-sale assets, derivatives and hedged items.

Consolidation

The Society has one subsidiary undertaking – SBS Mortgages Limited – which is dormant and has share capital and an intercompany loan of £1. The Society has elected not to consolidate the financial results on the basis of materiality. The Accounts are, therefore, presented on a single-entity basis for the Society.

Interest

Interest income and expense is recognised in the Income Statement and Statement of Other Comprehensive Income using the effective interest method. The 'effective interest rate' is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash payments and receipts through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability (or, where appropriate, a shorter period), to the carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability.

When calculating the effective interest rate, the Society estimates future cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument, but not future credit losses.

The calculation of the effective interest rate includes transaction costs and fees paid or received that are an integral part of the effective interest rate. Transaction costs include incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of a financial asset or financial liability. Interest income and expense presented in the Income Statement and Statement of Other Comprehensive Income includes:

- interest on financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortised cost calculated on an effective interest rate basis;
- interest on available-for-sale investment securities calculated on an effective interest rate basis;
- the effective portion of fair value changes in qualifying hedging derivatives designated in fair value hedges of interest rate risk.

Fees and commission

Fees and commission income and expense that are integral to the effective interest rate on a financial asset or financial liability, such as arrangement fees, are included in the measurement of the effective interest rate as explained above.

Other fees and commission income, such as transaction charges, are recognised as the related services are performed.

Leases

Assets held under finance leases are recognised as assets of the Society at their fair value or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments, determined at the inception of the lease. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the Statement of Financial Position as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance charges are recognised immediately in the Income Statement.

Rental charges under operating leases are charged to the Income Statement evenly over the life of the lease.

Taxation

Tax on the Income Statement for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income, in which case it is recognised directly in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income.

Current tax is the expected tax payable or receivable on the taxable income or loss for the year, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the period end, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Provision for deferred tax is made, using the liability method, on a non-discounted basis for taxation at the relevant rate in respect of all items where there is a timing difference between their treatment for accounts and taxation purposes except where, in the opinion of the Directors, it is likely that tax assets would not be recoverable in the foreseeable future.

Financial instruments

Recognition

The Society initially recognises loans and advances, deposits, and debt securities on the date on which they are originated. All other financial instruments (including regular-way purchases and sales of financial assets) are recognised on the trade date, which is the date on which the Society becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

A financial asset or financial liability is measured initially at fair value plus, for an item not at fair value through the Income Statement, transaction costs that are directly attributable to its acquisition or issue.

Classification

Financial assets

The Society classifies its financial assets into one of the following categories:

• Loans and advances

'Loans and advances' are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and that the Society does not intend to sell immediately or in the near term.

Loans and advances are initially measured at fair value plus incremental direct transaction costs, and subsequently measured at their amortised cost using the effective interest method.

• Available-for-sale

'Available-for-sale investments' are non-derivative investments that are designated as available-for-sale or are not classified as another category of financial assets. Available-for-sale investments comprises debt securities. Unquoted equity securities whose fair value cannot be measured reliably are carried at cost. All other available-for-sale investments are measured at fair value after initial recognition.

Interest income is recognised in the Income Statement using the effective interest method. Impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement.

Other fair value changes, other than impairment losses, are recognised in the Statement of Other Comprehensive Income and presented in the available-for-sale reserve within reserves. When the investment is sold, the gain or loss accumulated in equity is reclassified to the Income Statement.

• At fair value through profit and loss

Derivative financial instruments are recognised at fair value. The gain or loss on remeasurement to fair value is recognised immediately in the Income Statement. However, where derivatives qualify for hedge accounting, recognition of any resultant gain or loss depends on the nature of the item being hedged.

On initial designation of the hedge, the Society formally documents the relationship between the hedging instrument(s) and hedged item(s), including the risk management objective and strategy in undertaking the hedge, together with the method that will be used to assess the effectiveness of the hedging relationship. The Society makes an assessment, both at inception of the hedge relationship and on an ongoing basis, of whether the hedging instrument(s) is(are) expected to be highly effective in offsetting the changes in the fair value or cash flows of the respective hedged item(s) during the period for which the hedge is designated, and whether the actual results of each hedge are within a range of 80-125%.

• Held to maturity

There are no financial assets held to maturity.

Fair value hedges

Where a derivative financial instrument is designated as a hedge of the variability in fair value of a recognised asset or liability or an unrecognised firm commitment, all changes in the fair value of the derivative are recognised immediately in the Income Statement. The carrying value of the hedged item is adjusted by the change in fair value that is attributable to the risk being hedged (even if it is normally carried at cost or amortised cost) and any gains or losses on remeasurement are recognised immediately in the Income Statement (even if those gains would normally be recognised directly in reserves). If hedge accounting is discontinued and the hedged financial asset or liability has not been derecognised, any adjustments to the carrying amount of the hedged item are amortised into the Income Statement using the effective interest method over the remaining life of the hedged item.

The UK regulators have reiterated their intention to transition from the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") to Sterling Overnight Index Average ("SONIA") as an alternative benchmark by the end of 2021. The Society is directly impacted through exposure to LIBOR-linked assets and liabilities therefore the Society has early adopted the FRS102 / IAS 39 amendments to hedging rules (issued by the FRC in December 2019) which provide relief from uncertainties relating to IBOR benchmark reform. Adoption of the amendments enable the Society to avoid any unnecessary discontinuation of existing LIBOR hedge accounting relationships during the period of uncertainty. *Note 31* provides further details of the Society's LIBOR exposures.

Financial liabilities

The Society classifies its financial liabilities, other than financial guarantees and loan commitments, as measured at amortised cost or fair value through the Income Statement.

Derecognition

The Society derecognises a financial asset when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or it transfers the rights to receive the contractual cash flows in a transaction in which substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred or in which the Society neither transfers nor retains substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership and it does not retain control of the financial asset.

The Society derecognises a financial liability when its contractual obligations are discharged or cancelled, or expire.

Measurement

Amortised cost measurement

The 'amortised cost' of a financial asset or financial liability is the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition, minus principal repayments, plus or minus the cumulative amortisation using the effective interest method of any difference between the initial amount recognised and the maturity amount, minus any reduction for impairment.

Fair value measurement

'Fair value' is the amount for which an asset could be exchanged, a liability settled, or an equity instrument granted could be exchanged, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

When available, the Society measures the fair value of an instrument using the quoted price in an active market for that instrument. A market is regarded as active if transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an on-going basis.

If there is no quoted price in an active market, then the Society uses valuation techniques that maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. The chosen valuation technique incorporates all of the factors that market participants would take into account in pricing a transaction.

The best evidence of the fair value of a financial instrument at initial recognition is normally the transaction price – i.e. the fair value of the consideration given or received. If the Society determines that the fair value at initial recognition differs from the transaction price and the fair value is evidenced neither by a quoted price in an active market for an identical asset or liability nor based on a valuation technique that uses only data from observable markets, then the financial instrument is initially measured at fair value, adjusted to defer the difference between the fair value at initial recognition and the transaction price. Subsequently, that difference is recognised in the Income Statement on an appropriate basis over the life of the instrument but no later than when the valuation is wholly supported by observable market data or the transaction is closed out.

Identification and measurement of impairment

At each reporting date, the Society assesses whether there is objective evidence that financial assets not carried at fair value through the Income Statement are impaired. A financial asset or a group of financial assets is 'impaired' when objective evidence demonstrates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset(s) and that the loss event has an impact on the future cash flows of the asset(s) that can be estimated reliably.

Objective evidence that financial assets are impaired includes:

- a. significant financial difficulty of the borrower or issuer;
- b. default or delinquency by a borrower;

- c. the restructuring of a loan or advance by the Society on terms that the Society would not consider otherwise;
- d. indications that a borrower or issuer will enter bankruptcy;
- e. the disappearance of an active market for a security; or
- f. observable data relating to a group of assets such as adverse changes in the payment status of borrowers or issuers in the group, or economic conditions that correlate with defaults in the group.

The Society considers evidence of impairment for loans and advances at both a specific asset and a collective level. Those found not to be specifically impaired are then collectively assessed for any impairment that has been incurred but not yet identified. Loans and advances that are not individually significant are collectively assessed for impairment by grouping together loans and advances with similar risk characteristics.

A collective provision is made against a group of loans and advances where there is objective evidence based on the Society's experience that credit losses have been incurred, but not yet identified, at the reporting date. Where certain emerging impairment characteristics are considered significant but have not been included as part of the impairment calculation, management may elect to apply an overlay to the calculated impairment provision to ensure that the Society has sufficient impairment provisions at the Statement of Financial Position date.

Impairment losses on assets measured at amortised cost are calculated as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

Interest on impaired financial assets is recognised at the effective interest rate for the relevant loan. To the extent that interest is not expected to be recovered, an allowance for this is included in the provisions for impairment losses.

If the terms of a financial asset are renegotiated or modified or an existing financial asset is replaced with a new one due to financial difficulties of the borrower, then an assessment is made of whether the financial asset should be derecognised. If the cash flows of the renegotiated asset are substantially different, then the contractual rights to cash flows from the original financial asset are deemed to have expired. In this case, the original financial asset is derecognised and the new financial asset is recognised at fair value.

A range of forbearance options are available to support customers who are in financial difficulty. The purpose of forbearance is to support customers who have temporary financial difficulties and help them get back on track. The main options offered by the Society include:

- Temporary payment reductions;
- Payment plans;
- Capitalisations; and
- Mortgage term extensions.

Customers requesting a forbearance option will need to provide information to support the request which is likely to include a budget planner, statement of assets and liabilities, bank/credit card statements, payslips etc. in order that the request can be properly assessed. If the forbearance request is granted the account is monitored in accordance with our policy and procedures. At the appropriate time the forbearance option that has been implemented is cancelled, with the exception of capitalisation of arrears, and the customer's normal contractual payment is restored.

Loans that are subject to restructuring may only be classified as restructured and up-to-date once a specified number and/or amount of qualifying payments have been received. These qualifying payments are set at a level appropriate to the nature of the loan and the customer's ability to make the repayment going forward. Typically the receipt of twelve months' of qualifying payments is required. Loans that have been restructured and would otherwise have been past due or impaired are classified as renegotiated.

Impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement and reflected in an allowance account against loans and receivables. Interest on the impaired assets continues to be recognised through the unwinding of the discount. If an event occurring after the impairment was recognised causes the amount of impairment loss to decrease, then the decrease in impairment loss is reversed through the Income Statement.

Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash comprises cash in hand and unrestricted loans and advances to credit institutions repayable on demand. Cash equivalents comprise highly liquid unrestricted investments that are readily convertible into cash with an insignificant risk of changes in value with original maturities of less than three months.

The Cash Flow Statement has been prepared using the indirect method.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged to the profit and loss account on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of tangible fixed assets. Assets held under finance leases are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Land is not depreciated. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

- Buildings 50 years
- Plant and equipment 4-5 years
- Fixtures and fitting 10 years
- Motor vehicles 3-4 years

Intangible assets

Intangible assets that are acquired by the Society are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and less accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation starts when the asset becomes available for operational use and is charged to the Income Statement on a

straight-line basis over a period of up to 5 years. The assets and the amortisation period are reviewed annually for impairment.

Computer software costs have been classified as intangible assets under FRS 102.

Pension costs

The Society operates defined contribution pension schemes administered by a British life company, the funds of which are separate from those of the Society. Contributions are charged to administrative expenses in the year in which they are made.

Provisions

A provision is recognised in the Statement of Financial Position when the entity has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, that can be reliably measured and it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation. Provisions are recognised at the best estimate of the amount required to settle the obligation at the reporting date.

Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Information about critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainties recognised within these financial statements are set out below:

- a. Impairment losses on loans and advances to customers the Society reviews its mortgage portfolio regularly to assess impairment. In determining whether an impairment loss should be recorded, the Society is required to exercise a degree of judgement. Impairment provisions are calculated using arrears experience, credit risk characteristics and expected cashflows. Estimates are applied to determine prevailing market conditions and customer behaviour. To the extent that default rates differ from those estimated by 50%, the impairment provisions on loans and advances would change by an estimated £74,000.
- b. Expected mortgage life in determining the expected life of mortgage assets, for the purposes of the effective interest rate calculation, the Society uses historical and forecast redemption data as well as management judgement.
 The accuracy of the estimated expected life would therefore be affected by unexpected changes to these assumptions. A 10% increase in the total mortgage life would result in an increase in the value of loans on the Statement of Financial Position by approximately £918,000.
- c. Fair value of derivatives and financial assets the Society employs the following techniques in determining the fair value of its derivatives and financial assets:
 - Derivative financial instruments calculated by discounted cashflow models using yield curves that are based on observable market data
 - Available-for-sale investments measured at fair value using market prices

A change in the yield curve of 1% would change the total net fair value of derivative financial instruments by $\pm 2,494,000$. However this would be largely offset by movements in the fair value of the hedged assets.

2. INTEREST RECEIVABLE AND SIMILAR INCOME

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| On loans fully secured on residential property On other loans Net expense on derivatives designated in hedging relationships | 10,295 463 (412) | 10,151 505 (54) |
| Net expense on derivatives designated as fair value through profit and loss | (50) | (7) |
| On debt securities: - interest and other income On other liquid assets: | 151 | 268 |
| - interest and other income | 175 | 487 |
| | 10,622 | 11,350 |

Included within loans fully secured on residential property is £27,404 (2020: £19,805) in respect of interest income on impaired loans.

3. INTEREST PAYABLE AND SIMILAR CHARGES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| On shares held by individuals On other shares On deposits and other borrowings | 3,019 4 64 | 4,232 6 66 |
| | 3,087 | 4,304 |

4. NET GAINS/(LOSSES) FROM DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| Derivatives in designated fair value hedge relationships Adjustment to hedged items in fair value hedge accounting relationships Derivatives not in designated fair value hedge relationships | (235) 260 (11) | (519) 458 6 |
| | 14 | (55) |

5. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Staff costs, including restructuring costs (<i>Note 6</i>) Other expenses, including restructuring costs | 4,062 2,249 | 4,037 2,308 |
| Administrative costs, including Restructuring costs | 6,311 | 6,345 |

One-off costs of ± 215 k were incurred in 2020 in relation to restructuring of roles within the Society (± 207 k staff costs, ± 8 k other expenses).

Included in other expenses are the following charges:

| - Property leasing costs | 54 | 93 |
|--|----|----|
| - Remuneration of auditors (excl. VAT): | | |
| Audit of the Annual Accounts under FRS 102 | 79 | 67 |
| COVID-19 prior year scope changes | 5 | - |
| Other services pursuant to legislation | 3 | 2 |

6. STAFF NUMBERS AND COSTS

The average number of persons employed by the Society (including Executive Directors) during the year was as follows:

| | Full time | | Part time | |
|-----------------------|-----------|------|-----------|------|
| | 2021 | 2020 | 2021 | 2020 |
| Head Office | 41 | 37 | 6 | 6 |
| Branches/Distribution | 23 | 25 | | 16 |
| | 64 | 62 | 15 | 22 |

The aggregate costs of employment of these persons were as follows:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wages and salaries Social security costs Pension costs | 3,431 345 286 | 3,359 322 356 |
| | 4,062 | 4,037 |

7. DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

Individual Directors' remuneration of £558,313 (2020: £565,995) is detailed in the Directors' Remuneration Report on pages 24 & 25.

8. TAX EXPENSE

| Current Tax | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Corporation tax charge for the year at 19.00% (2020: 19.00%) Adjustment in respect of prior year | 154 - | 97 |
| Total current tax charge for the year | 154 | 97 |
| Deferred tax | | |
| Deferred tax charge for the year (Note 23) | 33 | 19 |
| Total tax charge for the year | 187 | 116 |

The main rate of UK corporation tax is 19% from 1 April 2017. At the 2021 Budget, the Government announced that the Corporation Tax main rate would increase to 25% from April 2023. The proposed increase in the tax rate has not been reflected in the computation of the net deferred tax liability of the Society as it has not been substantively enacted.

The tax assessed for the year differs from the statutory rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19%; the differences are explained below:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation | 840 | 628 |
| Profit on ordinary activities before taxation multiplied by the statutory rate of corporation tax of 19.00% (2020: 19.00%) | 160 | 119 |
| Effects of: | | |
| Expenses not deductible for corporation tax purposes | 19 | (1) |
| Income not taxable | - | - |
| Effect of change of tax rate on deferred tax | 8 | (2) |
| Adjustment in respect of prior year | - | - |
| Total tax charge for the year | 187 | 116 |

The total tax charge is recognised as shown in the following table:

| | Current tax 2021 £000 | Deferred tax 2021 £000 | Total tax 2021 £000 | Current tax 2020 £000 | Deferred tax 2020 £000 | Total tax 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Recognised in Income Statement | 154 | 33 | 187 | 97 | 19 | 116 |
| Recognised in other comprehensive income | 1 | 4 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Total Tax | 155 | 37 | 192 | 98 | 19 | 117 |

A tax charge of £5,000 (2020: £1,000) has been recognised in the available-for-sale reserves.

9. LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Accrued interest | - | 57 |
| Repayable on demand | 5,718 | 3,531 |
| In not more than three months | - | 7,000 |
| In more than three months but not more than one year | - | 8,000 |
| Non-defined maturity | 909 | 470 |
| | 6,627 | 19,058 |

10. DEBT SECURITIES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|-----------------|
| Certificates of Deposit Floating rate notes | - 7,039 | 26,122 4,001 |
| | 7,039 | 30,123 |
| Debt securities have remaining maturities as follows: | | |
| Accrued interest | 3 | 130 |
| In not more than one year | - | 26,001 |
| In more than one year | 7,036 | 3,992 |
| | 7,039 | 30,123 |
| Transferable debt securities comprise: | | |
| Listed | 7,022 | 3,992 |
| Unlisted | - | 26,120 |
| Unamortised premia | 17 | |
| | 7,039 | 30,123 |
| Market Value of listed debt securities | 7,039 | 4,001 |
| Movements during the year of debt securities: | | |
| At 1 February | 30,123 | 28,100 |
| Additions | 15,580 | 30,014 |
| Disposals and maturities | (38,563) | (28,004) |
| Accrued interest | (127) | 19 |
| Amortisation Net gains/(losses) from changes in fair value recognised | (10) | (6) |
| in other comprehensive income | 36 | - |
| As at 31 January | 7,039 | 30,123 |

11. LOANS AND ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Loans fully secured on residential property Loans fully secured on land Fair value adjustment for hedged risk | 397,408 11,103 671 | 323,303 11,222 411 |
| | 409,182 | 334,936 |

Maturity Analysis

The remaining maturity of loans and advances to customers as at the date of the balance sheet is as follows:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| On call and at short notice | 617 | 391 |
| In not more than three months | 4,245 | 3,078 |
| In more than three months but not more than one year | 12,394 | 10,939 |
| In more than one year but not more than five years | 73,539 | 63,513 |
| In more than five years | 318,866 | 257,325 |
| Less allowance for impairment (Note 12) | 409,661 (479) | 335,246 (310) |
| | 409,182 | 334,936 |

The maturity analysis above is based on contractual maturity not expected redemption levels.

The Society has pledged as collateral £96.3m (2020: nil) of mortgages to the Bank of England under the Term Funding Scheme with additional incentives for SMEs (TFSME).

12. ALLOWANCE FOR IMPAIRMENT ON LOANS AND ADVANCES

| | Individual Impairment 2021 £000 | Collective Impairment 2021 £000 | Total 2021 £000 |
|---|--|--|-----------------------|
| Loans fully secured on residential property: | | | |
| At 1 February Amounts written off during the year, net of recoveries Charge/(credit) for the year | 90 8 38 | 220 - 123 | 310 8 161 |
| As at 31 January | 136 | 343 | 479 |
| | Individual Impairment 2020 £000 | Collective Impairment 2020 £000 | Total 2020 £000 |
| Loans fully secured on residential property: | | | |
| At 1 February Amounts written off during the year, net of recoveries Charge/(credit) for the year | 81 - 9 | 288 - (68) | 369 - (59) |
| As at 31 January | 90 | 220 | 310 |

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely affected the economy, with increasing unemployment likely to adversely impact borrower incomes when government income support schemes end. During the year, the Society worked with a number of borrowers who needed to defer mortgage payments under the Financial Conduct Authority agreed framework.

As a result of the impact of COVID-19 and the increased economic uncertainty, the Directors included an overlay to the collective assessment of impairment to ensure that adequate provisions are held against losses that may have been incurred but not identified at the year-end. This overlay amounts to £150,000 and has been estimated assuming an additional 1% of the Society's borrowers default on their mortgage. Partially offsetting the £150,000 overlay was £27,000 of other movements resulting in a net increase in the collective provision of £123,000.

13. MOVEMENTS IN VALUES OF ACQUIRED ASSETS

Following the merger with the Century Building Society on 1 February 2013, the Society acquired assets which were subsequently subject to a fair value adjustment. Movements in the fair value adjustment of those assets during the year are as outlined below:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Further impairment of acquired assets Increase in value of acquired assets | (3) 33 | - 44 |
| | 30 | 44 |

14. INVESTMENT IN SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKING

During the year, the Society had a 100% (2020: 100%) holding of the ordinary share capital in its sole subsidiary, SBS Mortgages Ltd, a company incorporated in Scotland under the Companies Act. The subsidiary company was dormant for the full year to 31 January 2021 having sold its mortgage assets to the Society at book value and settled the intercompany loan via a dividend payment on 27 October 2016.

For the duration of the financial year, and as at 31 January 2021, SBS Mortgages Ltd had Share Capital of £1. The Society has elected not to consolidate the financial results on the basis of materiality.

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

| | Land & Buildings Freehold 2021 £000 | Land & Buildings Short Leasehold 2021 £000 | Office Equipment 2021 £000 | Motor Vehicles 2021 £000 | Total 2021 £000 |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost | | | | | |
| As at 1 February | 1,634 | 460 | 1,061 | 61 | 3,216 |
| Additions | 346 | - | 165 | 35 | 546 |
| Disposals | - | (144) | (6) | (25) | (175) |
| As at 31 January | 1,980 | 316 | 1,220 | 71 | 3,587 |
| Accumulated depreciation | | | | | |
| As at 1 February | 588 | 153 | 852 | 38 | 1,631 |
| Charged in year | 38 | 34 | 106 | 22 | 200 |
| Impairment | - | - | - | - | - |
| Disposals | - | (144) | (4) | (25) | (173) |
| As at 31 January | 626 | 43 | 954 | 35 | 1,658 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| As at 31 January | 1,354 | 273 | 266 | 36 | 1,929 |

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS (continued)

| | Land & Buildings Freehold 2020 £000 | Land & Buildings Short Leasehold 2020 £000 | Office Equipment 2020 £000 | Motor Vehicles 2020 £000 | Total 2020 £000 |
|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cost | | | | | |
| As at 1 February | 1,634 | 150 | 988 | 96 | 2,868 |
| Additions | - | 315 | 149 | - | 464 |
| Disposals | - | (5) | (76) | (35) | (116) |
| As at 31 January | 1,634 | 460 | 1,061 | 61 | 3,216 |
| Accumulated depreciation | | | | | |
| As at 1 February | 631 | 150 | 838 | 37 | 1,656 |
| Charged in year | 33 | 8 | 89 | 29 | 159 |
| Impairment | (76) | - | - | - | (76) |
| Disposals | - | (5) | (75) | (28) | (108) |
| As at 31 January | 588 | 153 | 852 | 38 | 1,631 |
| Net book value | | | | | |
| As at 31 January | 1,046 | 307 | 209 | 23 | 1,585 |

The net book value of freehold and leasehold property occupied by the Society for its own activities was as follows:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| As at 31 January | 1,354 | 1,046 |

The net book value of motor vehicles includes an amount of £36,000 (2020: £23,000) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

Depreciation charged in the year on these assets amounted to £22,000 (2020: £29,000).

Property is subject to external valuation when management or the Directors believe factors have occurred which could impact on the carrying value of property assets. In giving consideration to the future use of the Society's Head Office premises, an independent valuation was carried out on 7 November 2019. As a result of the valuation provided, and considering the future use of the Head Office premises, the carrying value of the Society's Head Office was revised upward from £824,000 to £900,000 in the year to 31 January 2020 resulting in a £76,000 reversal of the £182,000 impairment charge previously recognised in the Income Statement to 31 January 2018. The Directors consider the valuation of £900,000 to be an appropriate carrying value for the premises at 31 January 2021.

The fair valuation report was prepared by a Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors ("RICS") registered valuer in accordance with the RICS Valuation - Global Standards 2017 incorporating International Valuation Standards Council international valuation standards. The carrying value is based on the estimated market value and fair valuation, based on vacant possession, in an arms length transaction.

16. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

| | Computer Software 2021 £000 | Computer Software 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cost | | |
| As at 1 February Additions Disposals | 797 128 - | 781 104 (88) |
| As at 31 January | 925 | 797 |
| Accumulated amortisation | | |
| As at 1 February Charged in year Disposals | 593 88 - | 615 66 (88) |
| As at 31 January | 681 | 593 |
| Net book value | | |
| As at 31 January | 244 | 204 |
| 17. OTHER ASSETS | | |
| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 424 | 313 |
| Other debtors | 17 | 27 |
| | 441 | 340 |

18. SHARES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| a) Held by individuals | 436,097 | 388,176 |
| Other shares | 588 | 622 |
| | 436,685 | 388,798 |
| b) Repayable from the date of the Financial Statements in the ordinary course of business as follows: | | |
| Accrued interest | 1,686 | 2,647 |
| On demand | 319,859 | 309,889 |
| In not more than three months | 31,546 | 36,934 |
| In more than three months but not more than one year | 27,300 | 19,134 |
| In more than one year but not more than five years | 56,294 | 20,194 |
| | 436,685 | 388,798 |

19. AMOUNTS OWED TO CREDIT INSTITUTIONS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Repayable from the date of the Financial Statements in the ordinary course of business as follows: | | - |
| Accrued interest | 4 | - |
| In not more than three months | 1,000 | - |
| In more than three months but not more than one year | - | - |
| In more than one year but not more than five years | 40,000 | - |
| | 41,004 | - |

Included in the amounts above for 2021 is £40m (2020: nil) borrowed from the Bank of England under the Term Funding Scheme with additional incentives for SMEs (TFSME).

20. AMOUNTS OWED TO OTHER CUSTOMERS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Repayable from the date of the Financial Statements in the ordinary course of business as follows: | | |
| Accrued interest | 24 | 13 |
| Repayable on demand | 5,349 | 6,295 |
| In not more than three months | 3,000 | - |
| In more than three months but not more than one year | 2,100 | - |
| | 10,473 | 6,308 |

21. DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

| | Positive Market value 2021 £000 | Negative Market value 2021 £000 | Positive Market value 2020 £000 | Negative Market value 2020 £000 |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Derivatives designated as fair value hedges: Interest rate swaps | 55 | (736) | 5 | (475) |
| Derivatives designated as fair value through profit and loss: Interest rate swaps | (5) | - | 5 | - |
| As at 31 January | 50 | (736) | 10 | (475) |

22. OTHER LIABILITIES AND ACCRUALS

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Other Liabilities | | |
| Corporation tax | 155 | 93 |
| Finance leases (Note 29) | 31 | 21 |
| Other creditors | 136 | 137 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 706 | 529 |
| | 1,028 | 780 |

23. DEFERRED TAX LIABILITY

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Provided: | | |
| Timing differences between capital allowances and depreciation FRS 102 transitional adjustments Recognised in other comprehensive income Other timing differences | 115 (3) 4 (6) | 82 (5) - (4) |
| | 110 | 73 |
| As at 1 February | 73 | 54 |
| Deferred tax charge for the financial year (<i>Note 8</i>): - Income Statement | 33 | 19 |
| Deferred tax charge for the financial year (<i>Note 8</i>): - other comprehensive income | 4 | - |
| As at 31 January | 110 | 73 |

24. PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES

Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| As at 1 February | - | - |
| Received/(paid) in year | - | 8 |
| (Credit)/charge for the year | - | (8) |
| As at 31 January | - | - |

In common with all regulated UK deposit takers, the Society pays levies to the FSCS to enable the FSCS to meet claims against it. The FSCS levy consists of two parts: a management expenses levy and a compensation levy. The management expenses levy covers the costs of running the scheme and the compensation levy covers the amount of compensation the scheme pays, net of any recoveries it makes using the rights that have been assigned to it. During 2008 and 2009 claims were triggered against the FSCS in relation to Bradford & Bingley plc, Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Heritable Bank plc, Landsbanki Islands hf, London Scottish Bank plc and Dunfermline Building Society.

Due to higher than expected recoveries, including settlement of the FSCS's claim in Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander, the Society received a rebate from FSCS of £8,000 in January 2020.

25. GENERAL RESERVES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| As at 1 February Profit for the year | 34,984 653 | 34,472 512 |
| As at 31 January | 35,637 | 34,984 |

26. AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE RESERVES

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| As at 1 February Valuation gains/(losses) recognised directly in other | (13) | (12) |
| comprehensive income net of tax | 31 | (1) |
| As at 31 January | 18 | (13) |

When an investment is sold, the gain or loss accumulated in equity is reclassified to the Income Statement.

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Society uses financial instruments to invest liquid asset balances and raise wholesale funding. The Society also uses derivative financial instruments (derivatives) to manage the risks arising from its operations.

The Society uses derivatives for economic hedging purposes only. The Society does not run a trading book.

The Society's core business is to provide its members with financial products appropriate to their needs. The Society uses wholesale financial instruments to invest in liquid assets and to raise funds from wholesale money markets in support of its retail savings operations. These instruments also allow it to manage the financial risks arising from these business activities.

The Society has a well-established formal structure for managing financial risks which includes formal risk policies, risk limits, reporting structures, mandates and control procedures. This structure begins with the Board of Directors and its Asset & Liability Committee.

Financial instruments used by the Society for risk management purposes include derivative instruments. In accordance with the Building Societies Act 1986 such instruments are only used to limit the extent to which the Society will be affected by changes in interest rates.

As part of its responsibilities, the Board approves the use of specified instruments within approved limits and business activities. The Society does not undertake transactions for trading or speculative purposes.

The Board approves the use of interest rate swaps in order to manage the Society's balance sheet risk exposures. These instruments are used to protect the Society from exposures arising principally from fixed-rate mortgage lending, and they could also be used against exposures arising from fixed-rate savings products and deposit funding if the need arose. The duration of the contracts is generally short to medium-term and their maturity profile reflects the nature of exposures arising from underlying business activities.

The notional principal of these instruments reflects the extent of the Society's involvement in the instruments, but does not represent its exposure to credit risk which is assessed by reference to the fair value.

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Categories of financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and liabilities are measured on an on-going basis either at fair value or at amortised cost. *Note* 1 'Financial instruments' describes how the classes of financial instruments are measured, and how income and expenses, including fair value gains and losses, are recognised. The tables below analyse the Society's financial assets and liabilities by financial classification:

| Carrying values by category as at 31 January 2021 | Held at amo | ortised cost | Held at fair value | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| | Loans and receivables £000 | Financial assets and liabilities at amortised cost £000 | Available- for-sale £000 | Derivatives designated as fair value hedges £000 | Unmatched derivatives £000 | Total £000 | |
| Financial assets | | | | | | | |
| Cash in hand and with Bank of England | - | 100,179 | - | - | - | 100,179 | |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | (() 7 | | | | | 6 6 9 7 | |
| Debt securities | 6,627 | - | - 7,039 | - | - | 6,627 7,039 | |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | 55 | (5) | 50 | |
| Loans and advances to customers | 409,182 | - | - | - | - | 409,182 | |
| Other assets | - | 2,614 | - | - | - | 2,614 | |
| | 415,809 | 102,793 | 7,039 | 55 | (5) | 525,691 | |
| Financial liabilities and reserves | | | | | | | |
| Shares | - | 436,685 | - | - | - | 436,685 | |
| Amounts owed to credit institutions | - | 41,004 | - | - | - | 41,004 | |
| Amounts owed to other customers | - | 10,473 | - | - | - | 10,473 | |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | 736 | - | 736 | |
| Other liabilities | - | 1,138 | - | - | - | 1,138 | |
| Reserves | - | 35,655 | - | - | - | 35,655 | |
| | - | 524,955 | - | 736 | - | 525,691 | |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

| Carrying values by category as at 31 January 2020 | Held at am | ortised cost | Held at fair value | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Loans and receivables £000 | Financial assets and liabilities at amortised cost £000 | Available- for-sale £000 | Derivatives designated as fair value hedges £000 | Unmatched derivatives £000 | Total £000 |
| Financial assets | | | | | | |
| Cash in hand and with Bank of England | - | 45,149 | - | - | - | 45,149 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | 10.050 | | | | | 10.050 |
| | 19,058 | - | - | - | - | 19,058 |
| Debt securities | - | - | 30,123 | - | - | 30,123 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 334,936 | - | - | - | - | 334,936 |
| Other assets | - | 2,129 | - | - | - | 2,129 |
| | 353,994 | 47,278 | 30,123 | 5 | 5 | 431,405 |
| Financial liabilities and reserves | | | | | | |
| Shares | - | 388,798 | - | - | - | 388,798 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | - | 6,308 | - | - | - | 6,308 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | 475 | - | 475 |
| Other liabilities | - | 853 | - | - | - | 853 |
| Reserves | - | 34,971 | - | - | - | 34,971 |
| | | 430,930 | | 475 | - | 431,405 |

Loans and advances to customers in the above table includes a £671,000 asset (2020: £411,000 asset) in relation to fair value adjustments in respect of hedged fixed-rate mortgages.

At the year-end, the Society has loan commitments to customers of £23.9m (2020: £15.5m) measured at cost less impairment.

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Valuation of financial instruments carried at fair value

The Society holds certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value, grouped into Levels 1 to 3 of the fair value hierarchy (see below).

Valuation techniques

Fair values are determined using the following fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of the inputs in measuring fair value:

- Level 1 The most reliable fair values of financial instruments are quoted market prices in an actively traded market. The Society's Level 1 portfolio comprises debt securities for which traded prices are readily available.
- Level 2 These are valuation techniques for which all significant inputs are taken from observable market data. These include valuation models used to calculate the present value of expected future cash flows and may be employed when no active market exists and quoted prices are available for similar instruments in active markets. The Society's Level 2 portfolio comprises interest rate swaps. The valuation of interest rate swaps is based on the 'present value' method. Expected interest cash flows are discounted using the prevailing LIBOR and SONIA yield curves. The yield curves are generally observable market data which is derived from quoted interest rates in similar time bandings which match the timings of the interest cash flows and maturities of the instruments.
- Level 3 These are valuation techniques for which one or more significant input is not based on observable market data. The Society currently does not hold any Level 3 instruments.

The table below summarises the fair values of the Society's financial assets and liabilities that are accounted for at fair value, analysed by the valuation methodology used by the Society to derive the financial instruments' fair value:

| | Level 1 £000 | Level 2 £000 | Level 3 £000 | Total £000 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 31 January 2021 | | | | |
| Financial assets | | | | |
| Debt securities | 7,039 | - | - | 7,039 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | 50 | - | 50 |
| | 7,039 | 50 | - | 7,089 |
| Financial liabilities | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | 736 | - | 736 |
| | - | 736 | - | 736 |
| 31 January 2020 | | | | |
| Financial assets | | | | |
| Debt securities | 30,123 | - | - | 30,123 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | 10 | - | 10 |
| | 30,123 | 10 | - | 30,133 |
| Financial liabilities | | | | |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | 475 | - | 475 |
| | - | 475 | - | 475 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Risk

Credit risk is the risk that a borrower or counterparty will cause a financial loss for the Society by failing to discharge an obligation.

All loan applications are assessed with reference to the Society's lending policy. Changes to policy are recommended by the Retail Credit Committee and approved by the Board and loan applications are approved in accordance with delegated lending authorities. The Asset & Liability Committee is responsible for recommending treasury counterparties to the Board for approval.

The Society's maximum credit risk exposure is detailed in the table below:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Cash in hand and with Bank of England | 100,179 | 45,149 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | 6,627 | 19,058 |
| Debt securities | 7,039 | 30,123 |
| Derivative financial instruments | 50 | 10 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 409,182 | 334,936 |
| Total Statement of Financial Position exposure | 523,077 | 429,276 |
| Statement of Financial Position exposure commitments | 23,889 | 15,500 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Risk (continued)

Credit quality analysis of loans and advances to customers

The tables below set out information about the credit quality of financial assets and the allowance for impairment/loss held by the Society against those assets.

| | | 2021 | | | 2020 | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| | Loans fully secured on residential property £000 | Loans fully secured on land £000 | Other Ioans £000 | Loans fully secured on residential property £000 | Loans fully secured on land £000 | Other Ioans £000 |
| Neither past due nor impaired | 391,746 | 11,007 | - | 319,109 | 11,222 | - |
| Past due but not impaired | | | | | | |
| 30 - 60 days | 2,026 | - | - | 1,800 | - | - |
| 60 - 90 days | 617 | - | - | 251 | - | - |
| 90 - 180 days | 1,140 | - | - | 971 | - | - |
| 180 days+ | 2,380 | - | - | 1,474 | - | - |
| | 6,163 | - | - | 4,496 | - | - |
| Individually impaired | | | | | | |
| Not past due | 43 | - | - | 70 | - | - |
| 30 - 60 days | 88 | - | - | - | - | - |
| 60 - 90 days | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 90 - 180 days | 564 | - | - | 304 | - | - |
| 180 days+ | 49 | - | - | 45 | - | - |
| Possession | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| | 744 | - | - | 419 | - | - |
| Allowance for impairment | | | | | | |
| Individual | (136) | - | - | (90) | - | - |
| Collective | (343) | - | - | (220) | - | - |
| Total allowance for impairment | (479) | - | - | (310) | - | - |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Risk (continued)

The Society holds collateral against loans and advances to customers in the form of mortgages over residential property.

Individual assessments are made of all mortgage loans where objective evidence indicates that losses are likely (for example when loans are past due) or the property is in possession, or where fraud or negligence has been identified. Further consideration is given in *Note* 1 to the Accounts.

The table below stratifies credit exposures from mortgage loans and advances to retail customers by ranges of loan-to-value (LTV) ratio. LTV is calculated as the ratio of the gross amount of the loan – or the amount committed for loan commitments – to the value of the collateral. The gross amounts exclude any impairment allowance. The valuation of the collateral excludes any adjustments for obtaining and selling the collateral. The value of the collateral for residential mortgage loans is based on the collateral value at origination updated based on changes in house price indices.

The Society does not take physical possession of properties held as collateral and uses external agents to realise the value as soon as practicable to settle indebtedness. Any surplus funds are returned to the borrower or are otherwise dealt with in accordance with appropriate insolvency regulations.

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|
| LTV | | |
| Less than 50% | 176,714 | 161,682 |
| 51%-70% | 123,986 | 110,569 |
| 71%-90% | 102,463 | 60,329 |
| 91%-100% | 6,427 | 2,596 |
| More than 100% | 71 | 70 |
| As at 31 January | 409,661 | 335,246 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Credit Risk (continued)

Forbearance

All temporary payment reductions are agreed for periods relevant to the borrower's circumstances. The arrangement will be subject to regular review with the aim of the borrower re-commencing the contractual monthly payment, together with repayment of the payment shortfall as soon as they are in a position to do so.

Payment plans are agreed to enable borrowers to reduce their arrears balances by an agreed amount per month which is paid in addition to their standard monthly repayment.

Capitalisation occurs where arrears are added to the capital balance outstanding for the purposes of restructuring the loan.

The term of the mortgage is extended in order to reduce payments to a level which is affordable to the borrower based on their current financial circumstances.

All forbearance arrangements are formally discussed with the borrower and reviewed by management prior to acceptance of the forbearance arrangement. By offering borrowers in financial difficulty the option of forbearance the Society potentially exposes itself to an increased level of risk through prolonging the period of non-contractual payment and/or potentially placing the borrower into a detrimental position at the end of the forbearance period.

Regular monitoring of the level of and different types of forbearance activity are reported to the Retail Credit Committee on a quarterly basis. In addition, all forbearance arrangements are reviewed and discussed with the borrower on a regular basis to assess the on-going potential risk to the Society and the suitability of the arrangement for the borrower.

As part of the UK-wide response to COVID-19, mortgage lenders were required to grant payment deferrals of up to six months at the request of the borrower. During the year, the Society granted COVID-19 payment deferrals to 509 customers, of which 20 were still in force at 31 January 2021.

The table below details the number of forbearance cases applied as at the year-end:

| | 2021 | 2020 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| Temporary payment reductions | 13 | - |
| Payment plans | 38 | 33 |
| Capitalisations | - | - |
| Mortgage term extensions | - | - |
| COVID-19 payment deferrals | 20 | - |
| | 71 | 33 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Society will encounter difficulty in meeting the obligations associated with its financial liabilities that are settled by delivering cash or another financial asset.

The Society's policy is to maintain sufficient funds in a liquid form at all times to ensure that the Society can meet its liabilities as they fall due. The objective of liquidity is to help smooth mismatches between maturing assets and liabilities and to provide a degree of protection against any unexpected developments that might arise.

Maturity analysis for financial assets and financial liabilities

The tables below set out the remaining contractual maturities of the Society's financial liabilities and financial assets. In practice, contractual maturities are not always reflected in actual experience. For example, loans and advances to customers tend to repay ahead of contractual maturity and customer deposits (for example shares) are likely to be repaid later than on the earliest date on which repayment can be required.

| As at 31 January 2021 | On demand £000 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Non- defined maturity £000 | Total £000 |
|--|----------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Financial assets | 400.007 | | | | | 00 | 400 470 |
| Cash in hand and with Bank of England Loans and advances to credit institutions | 100,087 5,718 | - | - | - | - | 92 909 | 100,179 6,627 |
| Debt securities | 5,710 | _ | _ | 7,036 | - | 3 | 7.039 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | - | 50 | 50 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 617 | 4,245 | 12,394 | 73,539 | 318,866 | (479) | 409,182 |
| Other assets | - | - | - | - | - | 2,614 | 2,614 |
| | 106,422 | 4,245 | 12,394 | 80,575 | 318,866 | 3,189 | 525,691 |
| Financial liabilities and reserves | | | | | | | |
| Shares | 319,859 | 31,546 | 27,300 | 56,294 | - | 1,686 | 436,685 |
| Amounts owed to credit institutions | - | 1,000 | - | 40,000 | - | 4 | 41,004 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 5,349 | 3,000 | 2,100 | - | - | 24 | 10,473 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | - | 736 | 736 |
| Other liabilities | - | - | - | - | - | 1,138 | 1,138 |
| Reserves | - | - | - | - | - | 35,655 | 35,655 |
| | 325,208 | 35,546 | 29,400 | 96,294 | - | 39,243 | 525,691 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Liquidity Risk (continued)

| As at 31 January 2020 | On demand £000 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Non- defined maturity £000 | Total £000 |
|---|----------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Financial assets | | | | | | | |
| Cash in hand and with Bank of England | 45,043 | - | - | - | - | 106 | 45,149 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | 3,531 | 7,000 | 8,000 | - | - | 527 | 19,058 |
| Debt securities | - | - | 26,001 | 3,992 | - | 130 | 30,123 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | - | 10 | 10 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 391 | 3,078 | 10,939 | 63,513 | 257,325 | (310) | 334,936 |
| Other assets | - | - | - | - | - | 2,129 | 2,129 |
| | 48,965 | 10,078 | 44,940 | 67,505 | 257,325 | 2,592 | 431,405 |
| Financial liabilities and reserves | | | | | | | |
| Shares | 309,889 | 36,934 | 19,134 | 20,194 | - | 2,647 | 388,798 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 6,295 | - | - | - | - | 13 | 6,308 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | - | 475 | 475 |
| Other liabilities | - | - | - | - | - | 853 | 853 |
| Reserves | - | - | - | - | - | 34,971 | 34,971 |
| | 316,184 | 36,934 | 19,134 | 20,194 | - | 38,959 | 431,405 |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Liquidity Risk (continued)

The tables below show the Society's gross contractual cash flows payable under financial liabilities:

| As at 31 January 2021 | On demand £000 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Total £000 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Financial liabilities | | | | | | |
| Shares | 321,099 | 31,669 | 27,405 | 56,512 | - | 436,685 |
| Amounts owed to credit institutions | 4 | 1,000 | - | 40,000 | - | 41,004 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 5,373 | 3,000 | 2,100 | - | - | 10,473 |
| | 326,476 | 35,669 | 29,505 | 96,512 | - | 488,162 |

| As at 31 January 2020 | On demand £000 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Total £000 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Financial liabilities | | | | | | |
| Shares | 312,014 | 37,187 | 19,265 | 20,332 | - | 388,798 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 6,308 | - | - | - | - | 6,308 |
| | 318,322 | 37,187 | 19,265 | 20,332 | - | 395,106 |

The analysis of gross contractual cash flows differs from the maturity analysis above due to the inclusion of accrued interest.

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Market Risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices.

The Society is exposed to movements in interest rates reflecting the mismatch between the dates on which interest receivable on assets and interest payable on liabilities are next reset to market rates or, if earlier, the dates on which the instruments mature. The Society manages this exposure through the use of financial instruments within defined parameters to provide a hedge against identified exposure in fixed-rate lending.

The table below summarises these re-pricing mismatches as at 31 January 2021. Items are allocated to time bands by reference to the earlier of the next interest rate re-pricing date and the maturity date.

| As at 31 January 2021 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Non- interest bearing £000 | Total £000 |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Financial assets | | | | | | |
| Liquid assets: | 113,750 | - | - | - | 95 | 113,845 |
| Cash in hand with Bank of England | 100,087 | - | - | - | 92 | 100,179 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | 6,627 | - | - | - | - | 6,627 |
| Debt securities | 7,036 | - | - | - | 3 | 7,039 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | 50 | 50 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 222,575 | 35,313 | 150,918 | - | 376 | 409,182 |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | - | - | 1,929 | 1,929 |
| Intangible fixed assets | - | - | - | - | 244 | 244 |
| Other assets | - | - | - | - | 441 | 441 |
| | 336,325 | 35,313 | 150,918 | - | 3,135 | 525,691 |
| Financial liabilities | | | | | | |
| Shares | 351.405 | 27,300 | 56.294 | - | 1.686 | 436,685 |
| Amounts owed to credit institutions | 41,000 | | , | - | 4 | 41,004 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 8,349 | 2,100 | - | - | 24 | 10,473 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | 736 | 736 |
| Other liabilities and accruals | - | - | - | - | 1,138 | 1,138 |
| Provision for liabilities | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reserves | - | - | - | - | 35,655 | 35,655 |
| | 400,754 | 29,400 | 56,294 | - | 39,243 | 525,691 |
| Notional amount of interest rate swaps | 120,200 | (22,000) | (97,200) | (1,000) | - | - |
| Interest rate sensitivity gap | 55,771 | (16,087) | (2,576) | (1,000) | (36,108) | - |
| Cumulative Gap | 55,771 | 39,684 | 37,108 | 36,108 | - | |

27. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Market Risk (continued)

| As at 31 January 2020 | Not more than three months £000 | More than three months but not more than one year £000 | More than one year but not more than five years £000 | More than five years £000 | Non- interest bearing £000 | Total £000 |
|---|--|--|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Financial assets | | | | | | |
| Liquid assets: | 56,044 | 34,001 | 3,992 | - | 293 | 94,330 |
| Cash in hand with Bank of England | 45,043 | - | - | - | 106 | 45,149 |
| Loans and advances to credit institutions | 11,001 | 8,000 | - | - | 57 | 19,058 |
| Debt securities | - | 26,001 | 3,992 | - | 130 | 30,123 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | 10 | 10 |
| Loans and advances to customers | 211,171 | 43,028 | 80,737 | - | - | 334,936 |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | - | - | 1,585 | 1,585 |
| Intangible fixed assets | - | - | - | - | 204 | 204 |
| Other assets | - | - | - | - | 340 | 340 |
| | 267,215 | 77,029 | 84,729 | - | 2,432 | 431,405 |
| Financial liabilities | | | | | | |
| Shares | 346,823 | 19,134 | 20,194 | - | 2,647 | 388,798 |
| Amounts owed to other customers | 6,295 | - | - | - | 13 | 6,308 |
| Derivative financial instruments | - | - | - | - | 475 | 475 |
| Other liabilities and accruals | - | - | - | - | 853 | 853 |
| Provision for liabilities | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Reserves | - | - | - | - | 34,971 | 34,971 |
| | 353,118 | 19,134 | 20,194 | - | 38,959 | 431,405 |
| Notional amount of interest rate swaps | 83,700 | (18,500) | (65,200) | - | - | - |
| Interest rate sensitivity gap | (2,203) | 39,395 | (665) | - | (36,527) | - |
| Cumulative Gap | (2,203) | 37,192 | 36,527 | 36,527 | - | |

The management of interest rate risk against interest rate gap limits is supplemented by monitoring the sensitivity of the Society's financial assets and financial liabilities to various standard and non-standard interest rate scenarios. Standard scenarios that are considered on a monthly basis include a 100-basis point parallel fall or rise in the yield curve in a 12-month period. A 1% rate change will result in a net interest income change of £481,000 for one year (2020: £96,000).

28. CAPITAL STRUCTURE

Gross capital is defined as general reserves as shown in the Society's Statement of Financial Position, and free capital as the aggregate of gross capital and collective impairment provisions less tangible and intangible fixed assets. The Directors ensure that a satisfactory level of capital is maintained to protect the Society against adverse market movements or changes in economic conditions.

At the year-end the ratio of gross capital as a percentage of total shares and deposit liabilities was 7.30% (2020: 8.85%) and free capital was 7.82% (2020: 8.46%).

The Society's policy is to maintain a strong capital base to maintain member, creditor and market confidence and to sustain future development of the business. The formal ICAAP (Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process) assists the Board with management of capital. Through its annual Corporate Plan the Board monitors the Society's capital position to assess whether adequate capital is held to mitigate the risks faced in the course of the Society's business activities. The Society's actual capital position is reviewed against stated risk appetite and against its regulatory Total Capital Requirement (TCR).

The Society's capital requirements are set and monitored by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA).

There were no reported breaches of capital requirements during the year.

29. GUARANTEES AND OTHER FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

a) At 31 January, non-cancellable operating lease payments for land and buildings were:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Within one year Between one and five years More than five years | 55 133 - | 61 301 - |
| | 188 | 362 |

b) At 31 January, amounts payable under finance leases were:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Within one year Between one and five years | 16 15 | 14 7 |
| More than five years | - | - |
| | 31 | 21 |

30. RELATED PARTIES

Key management personnel remuneration

Remuneration of the key management personnel, who are not Executive Directors, for the year was £851,000 (2020: £782,000).

Transactions with Directors and key management personnel

In the normal course of business, Directors, key management personnel, and their close family members, transacted with the Society. The year-end balances of transactions with key management personnel, and their close family members, are as follows:

| | £000 | Number | £000 |
|---|------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | 114 250 | 3 | 374 200 |
| | 1 32 | | |

The aggregate amount outstanding at 31 January 2021 in respect of loans, transactions and arrangements made by the Society to Directors or persons connected with a Director was £114,085 (2020: £333,575) comprising secured mortgages to family members of one Director at normal commercial rates and under the Society's standard terms and conditions.

The Society's vehicle advisers are Pike & Bambridge, a firm which is connected with the Society Vice-Chairman. All related financial transactions are with independent leasing companies, carried out on arms length basis. There were no financial transactions during the year or liabilities at year-end to Pike & Bambridge. There are no other current business relationships between the Society and firms connected with Directors.

A Register of loans and transactions subsisting between the Society and its Directors (and connected persons) is maintained. This Register is available for inspection by any member of the Society at the Society's Head Office for a period of fifteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting and at the Annual General Meeting.

31. INTEREST RATE BENCHMARK REFORM

The UK regulators have reiterated their intention to transition from the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate ("LIBOR") to Sterling Overnight Index Average ("SONIA") as an alternative benchmark by the end of 2021. The Society has successfully used SONIA for all new interest rate swaps since October 2019 and transitioned 8 swap contracts with a nominal value of £12.1m from LIBOR to SONIA in 2020. All remaining LIBOR swaps maturing after 2021 will be proactively transitioned to SONIA in 2021.

As at the year-end, the Society's remaining exposure to LIBOR-linked financial instruments was as below:

| | Maturing in 2021 | | Maturing after 2021 | |
|---|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|
| | Number of contracts | Value £000 | Number of contracts | Value £000 |
| Interest rate swaps designated as fair value hedges | 8 | 25,500 | 7 | 7,400 |
| Loans fully secured on residential property | 1 | 76 | 6 | 323 |

32. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Directors do not consider that there have been any events since the year-end that have a material effect on the financial position of the Society as at 31 January 2021.

33. REGISTERED OFFICE

The Scottish Building Society is incorporated in Scotland, UK under the Building Societies Act 1986.

The address of the Society's registered office, which is also the head office, is:

Scottish Building Society SBS House 193 Dalry Road Edinburgh EH11 2EF

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Country-by-Country Reporting

Report on the audit of the country-by-country information

OPINION

In our opinion, Scottish Building Society's country-by-country information for the year ended 31 January 2021 has been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013.

We have audited the country-by-country information for the year ended 31 January 2021 in the Country-by-Country Report.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)"), including ISA (UK) 800 and ISA (UK) 805, and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the country-by-country information section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the Society in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the country-by-country information in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

EMPHASIS OF MATTER - BASIS OF PREPARATION

In forming our opinion on the country-by-country information, which is not modified, we draw attention to the Country-by-Country Report which describes the basis of preparation. The country-by-country information is prepared for the directors for the purpose of complying with the requirements of the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013. The country-by-country information has therefore been prepared in accordance with a special purpose framework and, as a result, the country-by-country information may not be suitable for another purpose.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

Our evaluation of the directors' assessment of the Society's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included:

- A risk assessment to identify factors that could impact the going concern basis of accounting, including the current and forecast financial performance, operational resilience, regulatory metrics and the sector in which the Society operates;
- Evaluation of the reasonableness of the Society's corporate plan, covering a period to January 2024, including key assumptions and considering the outcome of stress tests incorporated within the plan;
- Evaluation of the Society's access to funding schemes;
- Consideration of the Society's corporate plan, ICAAP and ILAAP, regulatory correspondence and reports provided to governance forums, and audit of the total capital resources and liquidity financing facilities; and
- Assessing the appropriateness of the disclosures in the Annual Report.

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 Society's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date on which the countryby-country information is authorised for issue.

In auditing the country-by-country information, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the country-by-country information is appropriate.

However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this conclusion is not a guarantee as to the Society's ability to continue as a going concern.

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

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY INFORMATION AND THE AUDIT

Responsibilities of the directors for the country-by-country information

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the country-by-country information in accordance with the requirements of the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013 as explained in the basis of preparation and accounting policies in the Country-by-Country Report, and for determining that the basis of preparation and accounting policies are acceptable in the circumstances. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of country-by-country information that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the country-by-country information, the directors are responsible for assessing the Society'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 Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the country-bycountry information

It is our responsibility to report on whether the country-bycountry information has been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant requirements of the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the country-by-country information as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' 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 this country-bycountry information.

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.

Country-by-Country Reporting (continued)

Based on our understanding of the Society and its industry, we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to but are not limited to, breaches of regulations of the Prudential Regulation Authority ('PRA') and the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') and UK tax legislation, and we considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the country-by-country information. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the country-by-country information such as the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the country-bycountry information (including the risk of override of controls), and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to manipulate financial performance, management bias in significant accounting estimates and significant one-off or unusual transactions. Audit procedures performed included:

- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance including consideration of known or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Reading key correspondence with the PRA and the FCA in relation to compliance with laws and regulations;
- Evaluation of the operating effectiveness and reviewing the results of management's internal controls designed to prevent and detect irregularities, in particular their controls around authorisation of payments and other third parties;
- Reviewing internal audit reports in so far as they related to the annual accounts;
- Reviewing relevant meeting minutes including those of the Audit and Risk Committees;
- Assessment of matters, if any, reported to the Audit Committee;
- Reviewing tax compliance with the involvement of our tax specialists in the audit;

- Designing audit procedures to incorporate unpredictability around the nature, timing or extent of our testing;
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in forming significant accounting estimates, in particular those as described under the key audit matters below; and,
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any journals posted by senior management and/or postings to unusual account combinations based on our understanding of business operations.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the country-by-country information. Also, 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 or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the country-by-country information is located on the FRC's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

Use of this report

This report, including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Society's directors in accordance with the Capital Requirements (Country-by-Country Reporting) Regulations 2013 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS EDINBURGH 25 March 2021

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY REPORT

Scottish Building Society is a UK-registered entity, with 100% of its activities within the UK. The Society's total operating income, profit before tax, tax on profit, public subsidies received and the number of full time equivalent employees during the year to 31 January 2021 were:

| | 2021 £000 | 2020 £000 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Total operating income | 7,570 | 7,011 |
| Profit before tax | 840 | 628 |
| Tax paid in year | 92 | - |
| Public subsidies received | - | - |
| Average number of employees on FTE basis | 70 | 73 |

The country-by-country information has been prepared under FRS102 and on the following basis:

• Total operating income represents Total Net Income for the Society as disclosed in the Income Statement.

• Profit before tax represents Profit before tax as disclosed in the Income Statement.

• Tax paid in year represents actual corporation tax payments made during the year as disclosed in the Society Cash Flow Statement.

• Number of employees on an FTE basis is representative of the average number of persons employed by the Society as disclosed in *Note 6* to the Accounts.

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Annual Business Statement

1. STATUTORY PERCENTAGES

| | 2021 % | 2020 % | Statutory Limit % |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| a) Lending limit | 2.99 | 3.57 | 25.0 |
| b) Funding limit | 10.67 | 1.75 | 50.0 |

The above percentages have been calculated in accordance with the provisions of the Building Societies Act 1986. The Lending limit measures the proportion of business assets not in the form of loans fully secured on residential property and the Funding limit measures the proportion of shares and borrowings not in the form of shares held by individuals.

The statutory limits are prescribed in building society legislation and ensure that the principal purpose of a building society is that of making loans which are secured on residential property and are funded substantially by its members.

2. OTHER PERCENTAGES

| | 2021 % | 2020 % |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| As a percentage of shares and borrowings: | | |
| a) Gross capital | 7.30 | 8.85 |
| b) Free capital | 6.93 | 8.46 |
| c) Liquid assets | 23.32 | 23.87 |
| Profit after tax as a percentage of mean total assets | 0.14 | 0.12 |
| Profit after tax (excluding movement in acquired assets and | | |
| FSCS levy) as a percentage of mean total assets | 0.13 | 0.11 |
| Management expenses as a percentage of mean total assets | 1.38 | 1.53 |

Explanation of terms

Shares and borrowings represents the total of shares, amounts owed to credit institutions and amounts owed to other customers (all including accrued interest).

Gross capital is the general reserves as shown in the Statement of Financial Position.

Free capital represents gross capital and collective impairment allowance less tangible fixed assets and intangible assets.

Mean total assets represents the average of total assets shown in the relevant Statements of Financial Position. These amounted to $\pm 428,251k$ for 2020, increasing to $\pm 478,548k$ for 2021.

Management expenses represents the aggregate of administrative expenses, depreciation, amortisation and impairment of fixed assets.

Annual Business Statement (continued)

3. DIRECTORS AS AT 31 JANUARY 2021

| Name and Business Occupation | Age | Date of Appointment | Other Directorships |
|--|-----|------------------------|--|
| Raymond J Abbott Company Director | 61 | 01.06.13 | SBS Mortgages Limited Foresight 4 VCT PLC Integrated Environmental Solutions Limited Schroder UK Public Private Trust plc |
| John C Ogston Chartered Banker | 63 | 01.07.13 | Constant Progress Limited Equator Capital Limited Toward Technology Limited |
| Margaret MacKay Company Director | 58 | 01.03.17 | None |
| Karyn Lamont Chartered Accountant | 52 | 30.05.18 | The Scottish Investment Trust plc The North American Income Trust plc iomart Group plc The Scottish American Investment Company plc |
| Andrew Hastings Chartered Banker | 57 | 01.07.19 | Electricity Supply Board Elavon Financial Services DAC Pepper Finance Corporation (Ireland) DAC Carrick Laurel Consulting Ltd |
| Sheila Gunn Company Director | 57 | 01.11.19 | Wheatley Housing Group Limited Wheatley Enterprises Limited Wheatley Solutions Limited The Wheatley Foundation Limited Lowther Homes Limited Reassure Limited/Reassure Life Limited Standard Life Assurance Limited Phoenix Life Assurance Limited/Phoenix Life Limited Gunn Limited |
| Paul Denton Building Society Chief Executive | 50 | 01.07.19 | SBS Mortgages Limited |
| Neil Easson Building Society Finance Director | 50 | 01.04.20 | Caber Finance Consulting Limited |

Our Branches

EDINBURGH

SBS House 193 Dalry Road Edinburgh EH11 2EF

GALASHIELS

48 Bank Street Galashiels TD1 1EP

GLASGOW

78 Queen Street Glasgow G1 3DN

INVERNESS

71 Queensgate Inverness IV1 1DG

TROON

27 Ayr Street Troon KA10 6EB

ABERDEEN

6 Alford Place Aberdeen AB10 1YD



0333 207 4007* scottishbs.co.uk

*Lines are open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday (10am on Wednesdays). Calls may be monitored and/or recorded.



Head Office: SBS House, 193 Dalry Road, Edinburgh EH11 2EF.

Scottish Building Society is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority (Register No. 206034). Member of the Building Societies Association and UK Finance.

