Company Registration No. 05104995

Northstar Ventures Limited

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2016

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Annual report and financial statements 2016

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Annual report and financial statements 2016

Officers and professional advisers

Directors

Mr A D Ross Mr G White Mr I Richards Mr A D M Greig Ms E R O'Rourke Mr D J M Hickey

Company Secretary

Ms E R O'Rourke

Registered Office

5th Floor Maybrook House 27-35 Grainger Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5JE

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc Percy Street Newcastle upon Tyne Tyne and Wear NEI 4QL

Auditor

Deloitte LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Newcastle upon Tyne United Kingdom

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report on the affairs of the company together with the audited financial statements and independent auditor's report for the year ended 31 March 2016.

The Directors' report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies entitled to the small companies exemption. The directors have taken advantage of the small companies' exemption from preparing a strategic report.

Principal activities

The company is an authorised person for the purposes of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and was regulated by the Financial Services Authority to 31 March 2013, and the Financial Conduct Authority thereafter.

The company acts as a manager of early stage investment funds with over £100m of funds under management at 31 March 2016.

Review of developments and future prospects

On 20 August 2015 the Company was bought out by its Executive Directors. The transaction involved gaining a new holding company, Northstar Ventures Holdings Limited, which is 70% owned by Northstar Ventures Group Limited and 30% by The Northstar Foundation. Northstar Ventures Group Limited is jointly owned by the Company's Executive Directors and all members of staff have options over its shares. The Directors consider that this buy-out positions the Company better for fund-raising and retention of key staff, with all members of staff sharing in the Company's long term success.

The Northstar Foundation has been set up to support entrepreneurship and social enterprise in the regions where the Company operates and the Company has committed to donate a proportion of its profits to The Northstar Foundation each year.

During the year the £17.5m Finance for Business North East Proof of Concept Fund was increased in size to £20.74m and the investment period extended to 31 December 2016. The fund invested £3.1m into 40 small and medium sized companies ("SMEs") during the year.

During the year the £28.4m Finance for Business North East Accelerator Fund was increased in size to £34m and the investment period extended to 31 December 2016. The fund invested £3.2m into 18 SMEs during the year.

These funds are performing well against their investment targets.

The company has three further funds under management, which have now ceased investing. At the end of their investment phases, the North East Proof of Concept Fund had invested £12.6m into 191 SMEs, the North East Co Investment Fund had invested £30m into 40 SMEs and the North East Creative Content Fund, a pilot fund of £2.4m, had invested £2.4m into 17 SMEs.

During the year the £9m North East Social Investment Fund invested £0.6m into 2 charities during the year. On 7 July 2016 the size of this fund was increased to £10.2m.

As part of the restructuring on 20 August 2015 an interim dividend of £700,000 (£11.67 per share) was paid to NF Holdings Limited and there was a restructuring via a share for share exchange which resulted in Northstar Ventures Holdings Limited, becoming the intermediate holding company for the Company. On the same day Northstar Ventures Group Limited, a company owned by the Executive Directors of the Company, became 70% shareholder in Northstar Ventures Holdings Limited. NF Holdings Limited donated the interim dividend and its 30% shareholding in Northstar Ventures Holdings Limited to a registered charity, The Northstar Foundation.

Directors' report (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors consider that the key risks affecting the company are:

- Recovery of Fund Raising Costs The company needs to continue to raise new funds to manage to secure its future in the medium to longer term. Significant start-up costs are incurred by an investment manager in pursuing an opportunity and raising a new fund. Normally such start-up costs are recovered by the investment manager from the fund. Therefore, until there is certainty that a proposed new fund can be raised investment managers face a risk that these start-up costs may be irrecoverable. The company mitigates this risk by undertaking initial market testing to ensure that significant fund raising costs are only incurred when there is a high probability that a fund can be raised. As some of the funds targeted by the Company are dependent on support from the European Regional Development Fund and the European Investment Bank, this risk has increased with the proposed 'Brexit'.
- Employees Fund managers are very much "people businesses" and their performance depends largely on their employees. The resignation of key individuals and the inability to recruit people with the right experience and skills could adversely impact on results. The company mitigates this risk by paying competitive salaries and providing the opportunity for employees to progress within the organisation, aided by the funding of relevant training. This risk has also been mitigated by the change in control of the Company, which is now owned by its management with all staff holding share options.

Going concern

The financial position of the company is shown on page 9. The company has sufficient financial resources and the nature of the fund management contracts is such that the company has a set level of income for a fixed period of time. As a consequence, the directors believe the company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current uncertain economic outlook. Based on the company's forecasts and projections, and taking into account reasonable possible changes in trading performance, the directors are confident that the company has sufficient funding in place for the next twelve months and beyond to continue with its fund management activity.

As a consequence of the above, the directors believe the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the directors have adopted the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and financial statements.

Results and dividends

The results of the company for the period are set out in detail on page 8.

An interim dividend of £700,000 (2015: £nil) being £11.67 per share was paid during the year.

The directors do not recommend the payment of a final dividend for the year ended 31 March 2016 (2015: £nil).

Directors and their interests

The directors who served during the year and subsequently were as follows:

Mr A D Ross

Mr T Levett (resigned 20 August 2015)

Mr I Richards Mr A D M Greig

. . .

Mr G White Ms E R O'Rourke Dr A W Henfrey

(resigned 20 August 2015)

Mr D J M Hickey (appointed 30 April 2015)

Disabled employees

The company gives full and fair consideration to applications for employment by disabled persons, having regard to their respective aptitudes and abilities. The company's policy, where applicable, includes the continued employment of those who may become disabled during their employment.

Directors' report (continued)

Auditor

Each of the directors at the date of approval of this report separately confirms that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware;
 and
- the director has taken all the steps that he/she ought to have taken as a director to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

This confirmation is given and should be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of S418 of the Companies Act. 2006.

Deloitte LLP have expressed their willingness to continue in office as auditor and a resolution to reappoint them will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board

E R O'Rourke Director

21 July 2016

Directors' responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law) including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- · make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

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

Independent auditor's report to the members of Northstar Ventures Limited

We have audited the financial statements of Northstar Ventures Limited for the year ended 31 March 2016 which comprise the Profit and Loss Account, the Statement of Changes in Equity, the Balance Sheet and the related notes 1 to 16. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the Directors' responsibilities statement, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the annual report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 March 2016 and of its profit for the year then ended;
- · have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Opinion on other matter prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Northstar Ventures Limited (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

David Taylor FCA (Senior statutory auditor) for and on behalf of Deloitte LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom

Date: 22 July 2016

Profit and loss account For the year ended 31 March 2016

	Notes	2016 £	2015 £
Turnover	2	2,201,837	2,111,541
Administrative expenses		(1,609,577)	(1,735,794)
Operating profit		592,260	375,747
Interest receivable	5.	3,686	3,938
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	4.	595,946	379,685
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	6.	(112,598)	(62,977)
Profit for the year	14	483,348	316,708

All activities are derived from continuing operations.

There are no items of comprehensive income for the current or previous financial year other than as stated in the profit and loss account. Accordingly no separate statement of comprehensive income has been presented.

Balance sheet As at 31 March 2016

	Notes	£	2016 £	£	2015 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	8		7,962		7,899
Investments	7		8		8
			7,970		7,907
Current assets					,
Debtors	9	341,684		169,416	
Investments	10	900,000		1,250,000	
Cash at bank and in hand		334,047		558,493	
		1,575,731		1,977,909	
Creditors: amounts falling due within					
one year	11	(222,889)		(408,828)	
Net current assets			1,352,842		1,569,081
Provisions for liabilities and charges	12		(476)		-
Net assets			1.370.336		1 526 000
Net assets			1,360,336		1,576,988
Capital and reserves					
Called-up share capital	13		60,000		60,000
Profit and loss account	14		1,300,336		1,516,988
Shareholder's funds	14		1,360,336		1,576,988

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

The financial statements of Northstar Ventures Limited, registered number 05104995, were approved by the board of directors and authorised for issue on 21 July 2016.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

E R O'Rourke Director

21 July 2016

Statement of Changes in Equity As at 31 March 2016

,	Called-up 'share capital £	Profit and loss account £	Total £
At 1 April 2015 Profit for the year	60,000	1,516,988 483,348	1,576,988 483,348
Dividends paid		(700,000)	(700,000)
At 31 March 2016	60,000	1,300,336	1,360,336

Notes to the financial statements For the year ended 31 March 2016

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. They have all been applied consistently throughout the current and previous year.

General information basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102) issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

Northstar Ventures Limited is a company incorporated in the UK under the Companies Act. Its functional currency is considered to be pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates. The address of the registered office is given on page 1.

This is the Company's first set of financial statements that comply with FRS 102. The company transitioned to FRS 102 on 1 April 2014. No transitional adjustments were required in equity or profit or loss for the year.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the company will continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The financial position of the company is shown on page 9. The company has sufficient financial resources and the nature of the fund management contracts is such that the company has a set level of income for a fixed period of time. As a consequence, the directors believe the company is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current uncertain economic outlook. Based on the company's forecasts and projections, and taking into account reasonable possible changes in trading performance, the directors are confident that the company has sufficient funding in place for the next twelve months and beyond to continue with its fund management activity.

Fixed asset investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost less any provision for impairment. Current asset investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Computer equipment

33% straight-line

Fixtures and fittings

50% straight-line

Cashflow statements

The company has taken advantage of the exemption available in FRS 102 Section 7 "Statement of Cashflows" not to disclose a cashflow statement and associated notes.

Turnover

Turnover is stated net of VAT and comprises management fees, monitoring fees, arrangement fees and other fees receivable during the year. Turnover is recognised as the related service is performed.

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

Current tax, including UK corporation tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at the balance sheet date to pay more tax, or a right to pay less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current tax rates and the law. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered.

Pension costs

Pension costs represent contributions to the staff defined contribution personal pension plan. Contributions to the defined contribution pension scheme are taken to the profit and loss account when they become payable.

Consolidation

The company qualifies for the small companies' regime and accordingly is not required to prepare group accounts by virtue of the Companies Act 2006 s398 and s399.

Current asset investments

Cash deposits with banks in excess of seven days are disclosed as current asset investments.

Share-based payments

The Company issues equity-settled share options and cash-settled share appreciation rights to certain employees of the Company. Equity-settled share-based payment transactions are measured at fair value (excluding the effect of non-market-based vesting conditions) at the date of grant. The fair value determined at the grant date of the equity-settled share-based payments is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on the Company's estimate of shares that will eventually vest and adjusted for the effect of non-market-based vesting conditions.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, which are described in this note, the directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

2. Turnover

	2016 £	2015 £
Fund management fees Monitoring and finance fees	1,764,275 437,562	1,688,837 422,704
	2,201,837	2,111,541

Turnover represents amounts derived from the provision of services which fall within the company's ordinary activities which arise in the United Kingdom. The turnover and pre-tax profit are wholly attributable to the company's principal activity.

3. Directors and employees

	2016 £	2015 £
Directors' emoluments	æ.	I.
Emoluments	431,705	431,524
Pension contributions	86,438	97,952
:	518,143	529,476
4. Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		
	2016	2015
	£	£
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:		
Depreciation	5,917	4,370
Auditor's remuneration:	_ %	
- amounts payable for the audit of the company's financial statements	9,400	8,800
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	606
5. Interest receivable		
	2016	2015
	2016 £	2015 £
	÷	æ.
Bank interest	3,686	3,938

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

6. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	2016 £	2015 £
Current tax:		
- United Kingdom corporation tax on the profit for the year	118,518	89,288
- Adjustment in respect of previous years	(14,538)	(17,804)
Total current tax.	103,980	71,484
Deferred tax:		
- Timing differences	8,671	(4,733)
- Adjustment in respect of previous periods	-	(4,000)
- Effects of change in tax rates	(53)	226
Total deferred tax	8,618	(8,507)
Total tax per income statement	112,598	62,977
The charge for the year can be reconciled to the profit per the income statement as follows:	2016 £	2015 £
Profit on ordinary activities before tax	595,946	379,685
Tax on profit at standard UK tax rate of 20% (2015: 21%)	119,189	79,734
Effects of:		
- Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	8,000	4,821
- Tax rate changes	(53)	226
- Adjustment in respect of previous years	(14,538)	(21,804)
Total tax charge for year	112,598	62,977

Finance Act No 2 2015, which was substantively enacted on 26 October 2015, included provisions to reduce the rate of corporation tax to 19% with effect from 1 April 2017 and 18% with effect from 1 April 2020. Accordingly these rates have been applied when calculating deferred tax assets and liabilities as at 31 March 2016.

During the year commencing 1 April 2016, the net reversal of deferred tax assets and liabilities is expected to increase the corporation tax charge for the year by £1,000. This is primarily due to the reversal of the existing timing differences in relation to fixed assets.

In addition on 16 March 2016 the Government announced in the 2016 Budget Report that there would be a further reduction in the main rate of corporation tax from 18% to 17% from 1 April 2020. As this rate has not been substantially enacted at the balance sheet date this rate does not apply to the deferred tax position at 31 March 2016 or to the above expected reversal.

There is no expiry date on timing difference, unused tax losses or other tax credits.

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

7. Investments held as fixed assets

	•	2016 £	2015 £
Shares in group undertakings	٠	8	8

Details of subsidiary undertakings owned by the company which are registered in England and Wales are as follows:

Name	Share capital	Ownership	Activity
NSEI General Partner Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	General partner of venture capital partnership
North East Accelerator General Partner Limited	£1 ordinary	100%.	General partner of venture capital partnership
North East Creative General Partner Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	General partner of venture capital partnership
North East Accelerator Carried Interest Partner Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	Carried interest vehicle of venture capital fund
North East Creative Carried Interest Partner Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	Carried interest vehicle of venture capital fund
NE Creative GP Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	Dormant
NorthStar Equity Investors Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	Carried interest vehicle of venture capital fund
Social GP Limited	£1 ordinary	100%	General partner of venture capital partnership

At 31 March 2016, the aggregates of capital and reserves and the profits of the above named companies are shown below:

	Profit £	Capital and reserves
NSEI General Partner Limited	-	1
North East Accelerator General Partner Limited	•	1
North East Creative General Partner Limited	-	1
North East Accelerator Carried Interest Partner Limited	-	1
North East Creative Carried Interest Partner Limited	-	1
NE Creative GP Limited	-	1
NorthStar Equity Investors Limited	•	1
Social GP Limited	-	1

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

8. Tangible fixed assets

	mputer iipment £	Fixtures and fittings	Total £
At I April 2015 Additions	53,405 2,217	51,068 3,763	104,473 5,980
At 31 March 2016	55,622	54,831	110,453
Depreciation At 1 April 2015	46,594	49,980	96,574
Charge in year	3,301	2,616	5,917
At 31 March 2016	49,895	52,596	102,491
Net book value At 31 March 2016	5,727	2,235	7,962
At 31 March 2015	6,811	1,088	7,899
9. Debtors			•
		2016 £	2015 £
Trade debtors Amounts owed from group undertakings Prepayments and accrued income Other debtors Deferred tax (note 12)		87,758 229,582 20,568 3,776	136,787 23,308 1,179 8,142
	,	341,684	169,416
10. Current asset investments			
		2016 £	2015 £
Cash deposits in excess of seven days		900,000	1,250,000

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

11. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2016 £	2015. £
Trade creditors	36,153	51,082
Corporation tax creditor	60,737	28,774
Other taxation and social security	74,046	149,957
Accruals and deferred income	50,164	165,076
Other creditors	1,789	1,789
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	12,150
	222,889	408,828
12. Deferred tax		
•	2016	2015
•	£	£
Deferred tax (asset)/liability		
At 1 April 2015	(8,142)	365
(Credit)/charge to profit and loss account Adjustment in respect of prior years	8,618	(4,507) (4,000)
At 31 March 2016	476	(8,142)
Deferred tax (asset)/liability comprises:		,
	2016	2015
	£	£
Accelerated capital allowances	1,196	1,258
Short term timing differences - trading	(720)	(9,400)
At 31 March 2016	476	(8,142)
13. Called-up share capital and reserves		
	2016	2015
	£	£
Allotted, called-up and fully paid		
60,000 ordinary £1 shares	60,000	60,000

The profit and loss account represents cumulative profits and losses net of dividends paid and other adjustments.

Notes to the financial statements (continued) For the year ended 31 March 2016

14. Dividends

An interim dividend of £700,000 (2015: £nil) being £11.67 per share was paid during the year.

No final dividend (2015: £nil) was paid or proposed in the year.

15. Ultimate controlling party and related party transactions

At 31 March 2016, the parent company was Northstar Ventures Holdings Limited. The ultimate parent company is Northstar Ventures Group Limited.

At 31 March 2016 and in the opinion of the directors, the ultimate controlling parties are the directors and equal shareholders of Northstar Ventures Group Limited. These are Mr I Richards, Mr A D M Greig and Ms E R O'Rourke.

The company has taken advantage of the exemptions available in Financial Reporting Standard 102 Section 33 'Related Party Disclosures', not to disclose transactions with entities that are part of the same group.

16. Share Options

During the year, the employees of Northstar Ventures Limited were issued share options in its ultimate parent company, Northstar Ventures Group Limited. 556,666 options are in issue, which are equity settled at an exercise price of 3 pence per share in the event of the sale or listing of the Company. The fair value of the options was determined based on the value of the Company and the exercise price of the options, and based on this nil was posted to the balance sheet or profit and loss account in the year.