idverde UK Limited

Annual report and consolidated financial statements
Registered number 06539986
For the year ended 31 December 2018



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Strategic report

idverde UK Limited ("idverde" or "Group") is a holding company for the UK trading group. idverde is the leading provider of specialist green services, delivering grounds management, arboriculture, cleansing, park management and consultancy, facilities management and sports & landscape creation services.

On 1 May 2018, idverde acquired certain trading assets of Championship Sports Surfacing ("CSS"). CSS installs and maintains high quality mixed artificial sports surfaces throughout the UK. This strategic acquisition provides the Group with a compelling diversity of service provision to clients who require national coverage to service their assets with skilled directly employed idverde colleagues. A number of high quality professional club football pitch installations have already been completed during the 2018 off-season and an active programme is underway for 2019 installations.

On 28 September 2018, idverde acquired 100% of the equity of Landscaping Centre (Holdings) Limited, the parent company of Landscaping Centre Limited, together trading as Out There Services ("OTS"). OTS is a grounds maintenance and landscaping service business with headquarters in Belfast and servicing the whole of Northern Ireland. OTS delivers in excess of £10m revenue per annum and one of its main clients is the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for which OTS delivers a spectrum of grounds maintenance related services under a long term contract. The business has many valuable client relationships across Northern Ireland and is a natural strategic fit for the idverde Group providing geographical coverage to an area of the UK not previously serviced. OTS has performed very well since acquisition with all colleagues having been retained.

idverde wins the majority of its income by tendering for, and the delivery of, long-term maintenance contracts. It has an enviable record for the quality of its service delivery and consequently for retaining contracts when they come up for extension and renewal. Our strategy to expand our presence and offer a truly national service delivered via directly employed colleagues is now a demonstrable quality USP in the market.

idverde continues to follow its four point strategy for growth, namely:

- Retaining and renewing existing contracts through the continued delivery of a quality service mainly through a directly employed service provision;
- 2 Organic growth via new contracts;
- 3 Acquisitive growth from selective strategic acquisitions; and
- 4 Continued development of its people, processes and systems.

A key emphasis at idverde is its engagement with colleagues and their continuous development. The Group continues its investment to attract, develop and retain colleagues who are proud to work for idverde and can have a positive impact on the Group's service delivery to its clients. In the 2018 Colleague Engagement survey, 83% of respondents provided a positive response with regards to being proud to work for idverde.

Profitability has significantly improved since the year ended 31 December 2017. This reflects the Company's ability to integrate strategic acquisitions successfully and is particularly impressive as overall profitability has been achieved against a continued background of client spending cuts within the public sector. This reaffirms management's ability to help its clients achieve their financial objectives at the same time as continuing to grow the profitability of idverde.

idverde delivered strong results for the year with adjusted EBITDA (see calculation within KPI's on page 2) of £12.7 million, 10.5% of turnover (2017: £10.2 million, 9.6% of turnover).

During the year, idverde won/commenced a number of significant new long-term contracts most notably:

- A strategic partnership with Veolia to provide Northampton Borough Council with grounds maintenance, cemetery, sports and allotment services commencing in June 2018 for an initial ten year term with an option to extend for a further ten years.
- idverde's strategic holistic parks management and grounds maintenance, event management and neighbourhood services contract with London Borough of Bromley was re-secured for a new eight year term with an option to extend for eight further years.
- A new ten year contract was secured with Telford & Wrekin Council to provide grounds maintenance services, commencing in April 2019. The contract has an option to extend for a further two years.

Following the new business won in the year, the Group has a forward order book on grounds maintenance of £683 million (year ended 31 December 2017: £570 million), including available extension periods worth £379 million. The bid pipeline remains healthy, with a number of significant tenders in the pipeline for 2019.

Strategic Report (continued)

Management continues to address the issues surrounding the reducing budgets of many of our public sector clients, working even closer with them to help achieve their budget reductions and service delivery objectives, ensuring the Group protects its margin at the same time as delivering client objectives. This approach together with The Group's enviable track record of securing contract extensions has meant that it continues to develop its first strategic objective to "keep and improve what we have got".

Key performance indicators ("KPIs")

	2018	2017	Commentary
Turnover £m	120.8	105.8	Group turnover increased in the year due to full year run rate for 2017 acquisitions together with new maintenance contracts commencing.
Adjusted EBITDA* £m	12.7	10.2	Group EBITDA increased in the year due to full year run rate for 2017 acquisitions together with underlying organic improvement.
Adjusted EBITDA margin %	10.5	9.6	Adjusted EBITDA margin % is the ratio of adjusted EBITDA compared to turnover. The ratio for the year ended 31 December 2018 is consistent with prior year.
Grounds maintenance order book £m	683.0	570.0	The Group continues to increase its term maintenance order book giving it visibibility of revenue beyond 2028.
* Adjusted EBITDA is calculated as follows:			2018 2017 £000 £000
Operating profit Add back:			6,376 3,422
Depreciation			4,684 4,310
Non-underlying income			(638) (202)
Investors' fee/management charges Amortisation			1,022 1,129 1,277 1,519
Adjusted EBITDA			12,721 10,178

Subsequent to the year end idverde continued its external growth ambition. On 31 January 2019, 100% of the equity of KJT Group Limited was acquired for a net cash amount of £4.3 million. This was funded through a new intercompany loan from the French parent company for £4.6 million. On 28 June 2019, 100% of the equity of both Assist Solutions Group Limited and Aspho Surfacing Limited were acquired for a combined £7.9 million, funded through a new intercompany loan of £8.0 million.

These acquisitions represent geographical growth into the south west and north west of England respectively. The acquisitions both strengthen idverde's national presence together with enhancing the Group's client base.

Strategic report (continued)

Financial risk management

idverde's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effects of changes in market prices, credit risk and liquidity risk. idverde has in place a risk management programme that seeks to limit the adverse effects on the financial performance of idverde, by monitoring levels of debt finance and the related finance costs. Given the size of idverde, the directors have not delegated the responsibility of monitoring financial risk management to a sub- committee of the Board. The policies set out by the Board of directors are implemented by idverde's central finance department.

Price Risk

idverde is exposed to commodity price risk as a result of its operations. However, given the size of the Group's operations, the costs of managing exposure to commodity price risk exceed any potential benefits. The directors will revisit the appropriateness of this policy should the Group's operations change in size or nature.

Credit Risk

idverde has implemented policies that require appropriate credit checks on potential customers before sales are made. The Group operates credit insurance for significant private sector transactions. Although the exposure was not considered material, idverde was able to utilise its credit insurance cover during the year subsequent to the demise of Carillion plc, one of the Company's former clients.

Liquidity Risk

idverde, with the support of its parent idverde SAS, and the Group's principal shareholder, actively maintains a mixture of long term and short term debt finance that is designed to ensure the Group has sufficient available funds for operations and planned expansions.

Business risk

idverde regularly assesses risks that impact on the business. This includes our processes and procedures in relation to quality and health and safety. idverde has maintained its full accreditation for IS09001, IS014001 and OHSAS18001. As part of our Integrated Management System, idverde conducts regular risk assessments and audits with management committed to improving controls and processes. idverde's Board regularly reviews such risk assessments together with related health and safety matters. All of the key indicators showed an improving trend throughout the year. During the year, idverde continued its training programme for managers and relevant Directors to undertake NEBOSH and IOSH training courses. All senior operational directors and managers are encouraged to obtain qualification to NEBOSH certificate level. The ongoing a programme in 2019 continues to train its directors and managers. idverde also has a policy of ensuring that every operational or contract manager is qualified to IOSH level and has a continuous training programme to maintain this with new employees and as new mangers join at new contracts.

By order of the Board

D J Graham

Chief Executive Officer

36 September 2019

Directors' report

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018.

Results and dividends

The consolidated income statement is set out on page 10.

The directors do not recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares (2017: £Nil).

Going concern

At 31 December 2018, the Group has net current liabilities of £4,966,000 (2017: £2,149,000) as shown on page 12. The directors consider the Group to be a going concern on the basis that results of the Group since 31 December 2018 and forecasts prepared indicate that the Group is able to operate within its current facilities.

Employment of disabled persons

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment with the company continues and that appropriate training is arranged. It is the policy of the company that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

Employment involvement

During the year, the Group continued to develop its 'grow our own' strategy of attracting and developing talent at all levels within the business. This positive investment by the group has helped to address the industry wide skills shortage.

The Accelerated Leadership Programme (ALP) and Management Development Programme (MDP) enable the group to continually develop the management of people within the business. These programmes educate and guide managers in leadership styles, their own work preferences, the impact of their management on others and the link between good quality leadership, employee engagement and performance. This has resulted in progression to senior management roles for a number of developing managers during the year

Training and up skilling amongst Operatives continues to be delivered through the continuation of offering Work Based Diplomas in 12 industry specific frameworks. Our commitment to ensuring that our attraction strategy to offer training and development under apprenticeship schemes continues to develop, and idverde has notably established an industry leading development centre for its colleagues, Performance Campus.

Communications with staff include a monthly newsletter distributed to all colleagues. Toolbox talks are given regularly to provide updates on general company information and health and safety issues. One significant initiative during the year was the introduction of "brown bag lunches" where a member of the senior leadership team hosts a general discussion over lunchtime with up to 20 colleagues. This provides a forum for the colleagues to discuss company issues and plans with the management team. It has been a resounding success during the year with excellent colleague feedback. During the year 15% of idverde UK's 2,600 colleagues had the opportunity to attend a session.

Directors

The directors of the company during the year and changes subsequent to the year end were:

N Temple-Heald

D J Graham

H Lancon FR E Faivre D'Arcier FR

S Hughes-Clarke

J E Rhodes

A K Gomm

S Huxley (appointed 1 February 2019)

Directors' report (continued)

Disclosure of information to auditor

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditor is unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that they ought to have taken as a director to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006, Ernst and Young LLP were appointed as auditors in the year.

By order of the Board

D J Graham

Chief Executive Officer

Landscapes House
3 Rye Hill Office Park
Birmingham Road
Allesley
Coventry
CV5 9AB

36 September 2019

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the annual report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Group and Parent Company financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare group and parent company financial statements for each financial year. Under that law they have elected to prepare both the group and the parent company financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union (IFRSs as adopted by the EU) and applicable law and have elected to prepare the parent company financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law, including FRS 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework.

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 group and parent company and of their profit or loss for that period. In preparing each of the group and parent company financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable, relevant and reliable;
- state whether they have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU;
- for the group financial statements, state whether they have been prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the EU;
- for the parent company financial statements, state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the group and parent company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the group or the parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the parent company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the parent company and enable them to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the group and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

Independent auditor's report to the members of idverde UK Limited

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of idverde UK Limited ('the parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 December 2018 which comprise the Consolidated Profit and Loss Account, the Consolidated and Parent company Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Consolidated and Parent Statement of Changes in Equity and the related notes 1 to 36, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the group financial statements is applicable law and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as adopted by the European Union. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of the parent company financial statements is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the group's and of the parent company's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of the Group's profit for the year then ended;
- the group financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union;
- the parent company financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance in with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report below. We are independent of the group and parent company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the parent company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Independent auditor's report to the members of idverde UK Limited (continued)

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report set out on pages 1 to 5, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information.

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent company, or returns adequate for our audit
 have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent company financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the group's and the parent company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the group or the parent company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Independent auditor's report to the members of idverde UK Limited (continued)

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

Adrian Roberts (Senior statutory auditor)

Enor & Young les

for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor

Birmingham

30 September 2019

Consolidated Income Statement

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note		2018			2017	
		Underlying	*Non- underlying	Total	Underlying	*Non- underlying	Total
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	2	120,782	-	120,782	105,807	-	105,807
Cost of sales		(105,277)	-	(105,277)	(92,830)	(660)	(93,490)
Gross profit/(loss)		15,505	-	15,505	12,977	(660)	12,317
Administrative expenses	6	(9,767)	638	(9,129)	(9,757)	862	(8,895)
Operating profit/(loss)	3, 4	5,738	638	6,376	3,220	202	3,422
Finance expenses	7	(1,697)	-	(1,697)	(1,617)	-	(1,617)
Net financing expense		(1,697)	-	(1,697)	(1,617)	-	(1,617)
Negative goodwill arising on business combination	3	-	-	-	-	660	660
Profit/(loss) before taxation		4,041	638	4,679	1,603	862	2,465
Taxation	8	(939)	-	(939)	(944)	-	(944)
Profit/(loss) for the year		3,102	638	3,740	659	862	1,521

^{*} Non-underlying comprises those items which are unusual because of their size, nature or incidence. The directors consider that these items should be separately identified within their relevant Consolidated Income Statement caption to enable a full understanding of the Group's results.

All amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 15 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 £000	2017 £000
Profit for the year		3,740	1,521
Other comprehensive income/(expense): items that will not be reclass	ssified to p	profit or loss	
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability Income tax on items that will not be reclassified to profit or loss	17	1,866 (317)	1,630 (277)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of income tax	_	1,549	1,353
Total comprehensive income for the year	_	5,289	2,874

The notes on pages 15 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

at 31 December 2018

Note	2018 £000	2017 £000
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment 9	12,857	12,646
Intangible assets 10	34,581	31,524
Deferred tax assets 12	590	1,260
	48,028	45,430
Current assets		
Inventories 13	155	191
Trade and other receivables 14	20,799	18,049
Cash and cash equivalents	3,100	5,059
	24,054	23,299
Total assets	72,082	68,729
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables 15	(23,478)	(20,639)
Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings 16	(4,316)	(3,672)
Provisions 18	(1,186)	(1,137)
	(28,980)	(25,448)
Non-current liabilities		
Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings 16	(19,012)	(19,340)
Employee benefits 17	(2,150)	(3,641)
Provisions 18	(927)	(4,576)
	(22,089)	(27,557)
Total liabilities	(51,069)	(53,005)
Net assets	21,013	15,724
Equity attributable to equity holders of the parent		
Share capital	16,721	16,721
Share premium	15,837	15,837
Retained earnings	(11,545)	(16,834)
Total equity	21,013	15,724

The notes on pages 15 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements. These financial statements were approved by the Board of directors on **3** September 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

JEphose

J E Rhodes

Director

Company registered number: 06539986

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Share capital £000	Share premium £000	Retained earnings £000	Total equity £000
Balance at 1 January 2017	16,721	15,837	(19,708)	12,850
Total comprehensive income for the year Profit for the year Other comprehensive income	- -	- -	1,521 1,353	1,521 1,353
Total comprehensive income for the year			2,874	2,874
Balance at 31 December 2017	16,721	15,837	(16,834)	15,724
Balance at 1 January 2018	16,721	15,837	(16,834)	15,724
Total comprehensive income for the year Profit for the year Other comprehensive income	- -	-	3,740 1,549	3,740 1,549
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	5,289	5,289
Balance at 31 December 2018	16,721	15,837	(11,545)	21,013

The notes on pages 15 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Consolidated Cash Flow Statement

for year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 £000	2017 £000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Profit for the year		3,740	1,521
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation of property, plant and equipment	4	4,684	4,310
Financial expense	7	1,697	1,617
Gain on sale of property, plant and equipment	4	(99)	(17)
Amortisation	10	1,277	1,519
Taxation		939	944
		12,238	9,894
Working capital changes:			
Increase in trade and other receivables	14	(1,311)	(2,742)
Decrease/(increase) in inventories	13	55	(14)
(Decrease)/increase in trade and other payables	15	(3,161)	881
Increase/(decrease) in provisions and employee benefits	17	291	(668)
		8,112	7,351
Interest received		1	_
Interest paid		(970)	(567)
Tax paid		(681)	(551)
		6,462	6,233
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		223	206
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	9	(1,525)	(1,233)
Acquisition of subsidiary	3	(3,786)	(1,075)
Net cash from investing activities		(5,088)	(2,102)
		<u> </u>	
Cash flows from financing activities		(2.222)	(2.074)
Capital element of finance leases repaid		(3,333)	(2,874)
Loans repaid			(1,491)
Net cash from financing activities		(3,333)	(4,365)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(1,959)	(234)
Cash and cash equivalents at start of year		5,059	5,293
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year		3,100	5,059

The notes on pages 15 to 45 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

1. Accounting policies

idverde UK Limited (the "Company") is a private company incorporated, domiciled and registered in England in the UK. The registered number if 06539986 and the registered address is Landscapes House, 3 Rye Hill Office Park, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9AB.

The Group financial statements consolidate those of the Company and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the "Group"). The parent company financial statements present information about the Company as a separate entity and not about its Group.

The Group financial statements have been prepared and approved by the directors in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU ("Adopted IFRSs"). The Company has elected to prepare its parent company financial statements in accordance with FRS 101; these are presented on pages 46 to 51.

The presentation currency of these financial statements is sterling. All amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £1,000.

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

Judgements made by the directors, in the application of these accounting policies that have a significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year are discussed in note 1.20

1.1. Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis with the exception of pension scheme assets which are stated at fair value.

1.2. Going concern

The Group's business activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position are set out in the Strategic Report on pages 1 to 3. The financial position of the Group is set out in the Consolidated Balance Sheet on page 12 and its cash flows in the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement on page 14. Details of the Group's borrowings and financial instruments are set out in note 16 on page 35 and page 36 and in note 20 on page 44.

The Group has considerable financial resources together with long-term contracts with a number of customers and suppliers across different geographic areas. As a consequence, the directors believe that the Group is well placed to manage its business risks successfully despite the current uncertain economic outlook.

The directors have a reasonable expectation that the Group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3. Basis of consolidation

Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are entities controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed to, or has rights to, variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. In assessing control, the Group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable. The acquisition date is the date on which control is transferred to the acquirer. The financial statements of subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Transactions eliminated on consolidation

Intra-Group balances and transactions, and any unrealised income and expenses arising from intra-Group transactions, are eliminated. Unrealised gains arising from transactions with equity-accounted investees are eliminated against the investment to the extent of the Group's interest in the investee. Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

1.4. Foreign currency

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to the respective functional currencies of Group entities at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are retranslated to the functional currency at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation are recognised in the income statement. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies that are stated at fair value are retranslated to the functional currency at foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates the fair value was determined.

1.5. Revenue

Revenue from service contracts represents the fair value of work performed in connection with grounds maintenance services, excluding value added tax. Revenue from long term landscape construction projects is accounted for under the principles of long term contract accounting and is recognised on the basis of an assessment of fair value of works performed, exclusive of value added tax. Differences between this and amounts invoiced are held as amounts recoverable on contract or payments on account. Full provision for loss-making contracts is made for any foreseeable losses.

1.6. Classification of financial instruments issued by the Group

Following the adoption of IAS 32, financial instruments issued by the Group are treated as equity only to the extent that they meet the following two conditions:

- (a) they include no contractual obligations upon the group to deliver cash or other financial assets or to exchange financial assets or financial liabilities with another party under conditions that are potentially unfavourable to the group; and
- (b) where the instrument will or may be settled in the company's own equity instruments, it is either a nonderivative that includes no obligation to deliver a variable number of the company's own equity instruments or is a derivative that will be settled by the company's exchanging a fixed amount of cash or other financial assets for a fixed number of its own equity instruments.

To the extent that this definition is not met, the proceeds of issue are classified as a financial liability. Where the instrument so classified takes the legal form of the company's own shares, the amounts presented in these financial statements for called up share capital and share premium account exclude amounts in relation to those shares.

1.7. Non-derivative financial instruments

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise investments in equity and debt securities, trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other payables.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Group's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose only of the cash flow statement.

Interest-bearing borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are recognised initially at fair value less attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

1.8. Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where parts of an item of property, plant and equipment have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of property, plant and equipment.

Leases in which the Group assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the leased asset are classified as finance leases. Where land and buildings are held under leases the accounting treatment of the land is considered separately from that of the buildings. Leased assets acquired by way of finance lease are stated at an amount equal to the lower of their fair value and the present value of the minimum lease payments at inception of the lease, less accumulated depreciation and less accumulated impairment losses. Lease payments are accounted for as described below.

Depreciation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of each part of an item of property, plant and equipment. Land is not depreciated. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Freehold property 2% to 10% straight line
 Leasehold property evenly over term of lease
 Plant and machinery 8% - 100% straight line
 Motor vehicles 10% - 33% straight line
 Office equipment 10% - 33% straight line

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each balance sheet date.

1.9. Intangible assets and goodwill

Goodwill

Goodwill is stated at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. Goodwill is allocated to cash-generating units and is not amortised but is tested annually for impairment. In respect of equity accounted investees, the carrying amount of goodwill is included in the carrying amount of the investment in the investee.

Other intangible assets

Expenditure on internally generated goodwill and brands is recognised in the income statement as an expense as incurred.

Other intangible assets that are acquired by the Group are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation

Amortisation is charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of intangible assets unless such lives are indefinite. Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and goodwill are systematically tested for impairment at each balance sheet date. Other intangible assets are amortised from the date they are available for use. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Customer contracts
 8 years

1.10. Business combinations

All business combinations are accounted for by applying the acquisition method. Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method as at the acquisition date, which is the date on which control is transferred to the Group.

The Group measures goodwill at the acquisition date as:

- the fair value of the consideration transferred; plus
- the recognised amount of any non-controlling interests in the acquiree; plus
- the fair value of the existing equity interest in the acquiree; less
- the net recognised amount (generally fair value) of the identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed.

When the excess is negative, a bargain purchase gain is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Costs related to the acquisition, other than those associated with the issue of debt or equity securities, are expensed as incurred.

Any contingent consideration payable is recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. If the contingent consideration is classified as equity, it is not remeasured and settlement is accounted for within equity. Otherwise, subsequent changes to the fair value of the contingent consideration are recognised in profit or loss.

On a transaction-by-transaction basis, the Group elects to measure non-controlling interests, which have both present ownership interests and are entitled to a proportionate share of net assets of the acquiree in the event of liquidation, either at its fair value or at its proportionate interest in the recognised amount of the identifiable net assets of the acquiree at the acquisition date. All other non-controlling interests are measured at their fair value at the acquisition date.

1.11. Construction contract debtors

Construction contract debtors represent the gross unbilled amount for contract work performed to date. It is measured at cost plus profit recognised to date (see the revenue accounting policy) less a provision for foreseeable losses and less progress billings. Variations are included in contract revenue when they are reliably measurable and it is probable that the customer will approve the variation itself and the revenue arising from the variation. Claims are included in contract revenue only when they are reliably measurable and negotiations have reached an advanced stage such that it is probable that the customer will accept the claim. Cost includes all expenditure related directly to specific projects and an allocation of fixed and variable overheads incurred in the Group's contract activities based on normal operating capacity.

Construction contract debtors are presented as part of trade and other receivables in the balance sheet. If payments received from customers exceed the income recognised, then the difference is presented as deferred income in the balance sheet.

1.12. Inventories

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost is based on the cost of purchase in a first-in first-our principle.

1.13. Impairment excluding inventories and deferred tax assets

Financial assets (including receivables)

A financial asset not carried at fair value through profit or loss is assessed at each reporting date to determine whether there is objective evidence that it is impaired. A financial asset is impaired if objective evidence indicates that a loss event has occurred after the initial recognition of the asset, and that the loss event had a negative effect on the estimated future cash flows of that asset that can be estimated reliably.

An impairment loss in respect of a financial asset measured at amortised cost is calculated as the difference between its carrying amount and the present value of the estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Interest on the impaired asset continues to be recognised through the unwinding of the discount. When a subsequent event causes the amount of impairment loss to decrease, the decrease in impairment loss is reversed through profit or loss.

Non-financial assets

The carrying amounts of the Group's non-financial assets, other than inventories and deferred tax assets, are reviewed at each reporting date to determine whether there is any indication of impairment. If any such indication exists, then the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For goodwill, and intangible assets that have indefinite useful lives or that are not yet available for use, the recoverable amount is estimated each year at the same time.

The recoverable amount of an asset or cash-generating unit is the greater of its value in use and its fair value less costs to sell. In assessing value in use, the estimated future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the asset. For the purpose of impairment testing, assets that cannot be tested individually are grouped together into the smallest group of assets that generates cash inflows from continuing use that are largely independent of the cash inflows of other assets or groups of assets (the "cash-generating unit"). The goodwill acquired in a business combination, for the purpose of impairment testing, is allocated to cash-generating units, or ("CGU"). Subject to an operating segment ceiling test, for the purposes of goodwill impairment testing, CGUs to which goodwill has been allocated are aggregated so that the level at which impairment is tested reflects the lowest level at which goodwill is monitored for internal reporting purposes. Goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated to groups of CGUs that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination.

An impairment loss is recognised if the carrying amount of an asset or its CGU exceeds its estimated recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. Impairment losses recognised in respect of CGUs are allocated first to reduce the carrying amount of any goodwill allocated to the units, and then to reduce the carrying amounts of the other assets in the unit (group of units) on a pro rata basis.

An impairment loss in respect of goodwill is not reversed. In respect of other assets, impairment losses recognised in prior periods are assessed at each reporting date for any indications that the loss has decreased or no longer exists. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined, net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

1.14. Employee benefits

Defined contribution plans

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Defined benefit plans

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan. The Group's net obligation in respect of defined benefit pension plans is calculated by estimating the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods; that benefit is discounted to determine its present value, and the fair value of any plan assets (at bid price) are deducted. The Group determines the net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset for the period by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the annual period to the net defined benefit liability/(asset).

The discount rate is the yield at the reporting date on bonds that have a credit rating of at least AA that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the Group's obligations and that are denominated in the currency in which the benefits are expected to be paid.

Re-measurements arising from defined benefit plans comprise actuarial gains and losses, the return on plan assets (excluding interest) and the effect of the asset ceiling (if any, excluding interest). The Group recognises them immediately in other comprehensive income and all other expenses related to defined benefit plans in employee benefit expenses in profit or loss.

The calculation of the defined benefit obligations is performed by a qualified actuary using the projected unit credit method. When the calculation results in a benefit to the Group, the recognised asset is limited to the present value of benefits available in the form of any future refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions and takes into account the adverse effect of any minimum funding requirements.

1.15. Expenses

Operating lease payments

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the income statement on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Finance lease payments

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charge is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

Financing income and expenses

Financing expenses comprise interest payable and finance leases recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method, unwinding of the discount on provisions, and net foreign exchange losses that are recognised in the income statement.

Interest income and interest payable is recognised in profit or loss as it accrues, using the effective interest method. Dividend income is recognised in the income statement on the date the entity's right to receive payments is established. Foreign currency gains and losses are reported on a net basis.

1.16. Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss 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 equity, in which case it is recognised in equity.

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 balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The following temporary differences are not provided for: the initial recognition of goodwill; the initial recognition of assets or liabilities that affect neither accounting nor taxable profit other than in a business combination, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that they will probably not reverse in the foreseeable future. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

1.17. Provisions

A provision is recognised in the balance sheet when the Group 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 determined by discounting the expected future cash flows at a pre-tax rate that reflects risks specific to the liability.

1.18. Implementation of new IFRSs during the year

The following new relevant standards and amendments became effective as of 1 January 2018, and have been adopted by the Group:

- IFRS 9 Financial Instruments
- IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- Clarification to IFRS 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers

1.19. Adopted IFRS not yet adopted

The following Adopted IFRSs have been issued but have not been applied by the Group in these financial statements. Their adoption is not expected to have a material effect on the financial statements unless otherwise indicated:

- IFRS 16 Leases (effective date 1 January 2019).
- IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts (effective date to be confirmed).
- IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration (effective date to be confirmed).
- IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments (effective date to be confirmed).
- Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle (effective date to be confirmed).
- Amendments to IFRS 9: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation (effective date to be confirmed).

The Group has performed initial assessments on the estimated impact that the initial application of IFRS 17 will have on its consolidated financial statements but has not yet completed its detailed assessment. The estimated impact of the adoption of these standards on the Group's equity as at 1 January 2019 is based on these initial assessments and is not expected to be material.

The Group has performed an initial assessment on the estimated impact that the initial application of IFRS 16 will have on its consolidated financial statements, but has not yet been able to reliably quantify the estimated impact of the adoption of these standards on the Group's equity as at 1 January 2019. The initial assessment has identified the consolidated financial statements will reflect the value of the right to use assets within tangible assets and the corresponding liability within other interest-bearing loans and borrowings at 1 January 2019.

1.20. Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The nature of the Group's business is such that there can be unpredictable variation and uncertainty regarding its business. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Significant management judgements

The judgements that have a significant impact on the carrying value of assets and liabilities are discussed below:

Consolidation

Management have concluded that is not appropriate to utilise the exemption from consolidation available to investment entities under IFRS10 as it is not considered to meet all of the essential elements of the definition of an investment entity as performance is not measured or evaluated on a fair value basis. Accordingly the consolidation includes all entities which the Company controls.

Significant estimates

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

Receivables

Due to the nature of some services provided by certain businesses within the Group the recoverability of receivables can be subject to management estimates. Management estimation is required in measuring and recognising provisions and otherwise determining the exposure to unrecoverable debts. Sensitivity is limited through the Group's credit control procedures and the overall high quality of the Group's customer base, although it is acknowledged that some customer concentration can mean that adjustments could be material

Useful lives of depreciable assets

The depreciation charge for an asset is derived using estimates of its expected useful life and expected residual value, which are reviewed annually. Increasing an asset's expected life or residual value would result in a reduced depreciation charge in the consolidated income statement.

Management determines the useful lives and residual values for assets when they are acquired, based on experience with similar assets and taking into account other relevant factors such as any expected changes in technology or regulations.

Business combinations

When the Group completes a business combination, the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities acquired are recognised. The determination of the fair values of acquired assets and liabilities is based, to a considerable extent, on management estimations. If the purchase consideration exceeds the fair value of the net assets acquired then the incremental amount paid is recognised as goodwill. If the purchase price consideration is lower than the fair value of the assets acquired then the difference is recorded as a gain in the income statement.

Fair value measurement

Management uses valuation techniques to determine the fair value of financial instruments (where active market quotes are not available) and non-financial assets. This involves developing estimates and assumptions consistent with how market participants would price the instrument. Management bases its assumptions on observable data as far as possible but this is not always available. In that case management uses the best information available. Estimated fair values may vary from the actual prices that would be achieved in an arm's length transaction at the reporting date.

1.20. Significant accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

Deferred tax asset

The Group recognises a deferred tax asset in respect of temporary differences relating to capital allowances, revenue losses and other short term temporary differences when it considers there is sufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered against future taxable profits.

This requires management to make decisions on such deferred tax assets based on future forecasts of taxable profits. If these forecast profits do not materialise, or there is a change in the tax rates or to the period over which temporary timing differences might be recognised, the value of the deferred tax asset will need to be revised in a future period.

The most sensitive area of estimation risk is with respect to losses. The Group has losses for which no value has been recognised for deferred tax purposes in these financial statements, as future economic benefit of these temporary differences is not probable. If appropriate profits are earned in the future, recognition of the benefit of these losses may result in a reduced tax charge in a future period.

2. Revenue

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Grounds maintenance Landscape construction	102,962 17,820	92,005 13,802
	120,782	105,807

Turnover arises solely within the United Kingdom.

3. Business combinations

Acquisitions in the current year

On 28 September 2018, the Group acquired control of Landscaping Centre (Holdings) Limited and its subsidiary Landscaping Centre Limited, through a purchase of 100% of the share capital of the holding company Landscaping Centre (Holdings) Limited for a total consideration of £3,611,000 payable in cash. Both companies are registered and domiciled in Northern Ireland. Landscaping Centre Limited, trading as Out There Services, is a leading provider of specialist clean and green services, delivering grounds management, arboriculture and cleansing services, complimentary to the Group's existing business streams. This strategic acquisition provides the Group with expanded coverage across the United Kingdom and diversify its service provision to Local Authority and private commercial clients. In the three months to 31 December 2018, the subsidiaries contributed net profit of £54,000 to the consolidated net profit for the year. If the acquisition had occurred on 1 January 2018, Group revenue would have been an estimated £129,088,000 and net profit would have been an estimated £4,000,000. In determining these amounts, the directors have assumed that the fair value adjustments that arose at the date of acquisition would have been the same if the acquisition occurred on 1 January 2018.

Effect of acquisition

The acquisition had the following effect on the Group's assets and liabilities:

	Fair value
	recognised on
	acquisition
	£000
Acquiree's net assets at the acquisition date:	
Intangible assets	1,753
Property, plant and equipment	1,458
Inventories	19
Trade and other receivables	1,438
Cash and cash equivalents	105
Deferred tax	(298)
Trade and other payables	(3,427)
Other provisions	(47)
Net identifiable assets	1,001
Cash consideration paid	3,611
Goodwill arising on acquisition	2,610

The recognition of goodwill in underpinned by the forward order book in place for Out There Services at the date of acquisition.

Fair values determined on a provisional basis

As the acquisition is more than 12 months prior to the authorised for issuance date of the financial statements, all of the fair values are now confirmed.

The Group incurred acquisition related costs of £77,000 related to the cost of due diligence and legal expenses. These costs have been included in non-underlying administrative expenses in the Group's Consolidated Income Statement.

Acquired receivables

There is no difference between the gross contractual and fair value of acquired receivables.

Fair value

3. Business combinations (continued)

On 1 May 2018, the Group acquired certain trading assets of Championship Sports Surfacing for £400,000, to be settled in cash. The business installs and maintains high quality mixed artificial sports surfaces throughout the UK. This strategic acquisition provides the group with a compelling diversity of service provision to clients who require national coverage to service their assets with skilled directly employed idverde colleagues. In the eight months to 31 December 2018 the impact of the trading assets contributed net profit of £105,000 to the consolidated net profit for the year. If the acquisition had occurred on first day of accounting period, Group revenue would have been an estimated £121,071,000 and net profit would have been an estimated £3,783,000. In determining these amounts, management has assumed that the fair value adjustments that arose on the date of acquisition would have been the same if the acquisition occurred on first day of accounting period.

Effect of acquisition

The acquisition had the following effect on the Group's assets and liabilities:

	rair value recognised on acquisition
A socional social and according to the constraint on the constraint of the constrain	£000
Acquiree's net assets at the acquisition date:	
Property, plant and equipment	229
Net identifiable assets	229
Consideration:	
Initial cash consideration paid	280
Deferred cash consideration	120
Total consideration	400
Goodwill arising on acquisition	171

The recognition of goodwill in underpinned by the forward order book in place for Championship Sports Surfacing at the date of acquisition.

Fair values determined on a provisional basis

As the acquisition is more than 12 months prior to the authorised for issuance date of the financial statements, all of the fair values are now confirmed.

The Group incurred acquisition and integration related costs of £410,000 related to the cost of due diligence and legal expenses. These costs have been included in non-underlying administrative expenses in the Group's Consolidated Income Statement.

3. Business combinations (continued)

Acquisitions in the prior period

On 30 May 2017, idverde Limited acquired certain trading assets of Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited for £1,075,000, satisfied in cash. The company operates three business streams: projects, pre-planned maintenance and responsive works. Through each of these business streams the company's activities/disciplines include; civil engineering, traditional hard and soft landscaping, natural stone paving and public realm development, masonry, grounds maintenance and winter services. These activities are provided through competitive tendering to both the commercial private sector and the public sector including local authorities. This strategic acquisition provides the group with a compelling diversity of service provision to its Public Sector clients and private commercial clients who require national coverage to service their assets with skilled directly employed idverde colleagues. In the seven months to 31 December 2017 the impact of the trading assets contributed net profit of £852,000 to the consolidated net profit for the year. If the acquisition had occurred on first day of accounting period, Group revenue would have been an estimated £118,660,000 and net profit would have been an estimated £3,317,000. In determining these amounts, management has assumed that the fair value adjustments that arose on the date of acquisition would have been the same if the acquisition occurred on 1 January 2017.

Effect of acquisition

The acquisition had the following effect on the Group's assets and liabilities:

	Fair value recognised on
	acquisition
	£000
Acquiree's net assets at the acquisition date:	
Property, plant and equipment	631
Inventories	25
Trade and other receivables	1,079
Net identifiable assets	1,735
Consideration:	
Initial cash consideration paid	1,075
Total consideration	1,075
Negative goodwill arising on acquisition	(660)

Negative goodwill has arisen on the acquisition because of the low purchase price on the acquired trading assets of Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited. This has been disclosed in the Consolidated Income Statement during 2017 within non-underlying items.

The Group incurred acquisition related costs of £357,000 related to legal and professional services rendered into the acquisition of certain trading assets of Land Engineering (Scotland) Limited. These costs have been included in administrative expenses in the Group's Consolidated Income Statement during 2017.

Acquired receivables

The fair value of acquired receivables was £1,055,000. The gross contractual amount receivable was £348,000.

4. Administrative expenses

Included in administrative expenses are the following:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Amortisation of intangible assets	1,277	1,519
Depreciation - owned	1,739	1,594
Depreciation - leased	2,945	2,716
Profit on sale of assets	(99)	(17)
Operating lease rentals:		
Plant and machinery	2,978	2,573
Other assets	887	959
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of these financial statements	45	36
Amounts receivable by the Company's auditor and its associates in respect	of:	
Audit of the financial statements of subsidiaries of the Company	75	54
Taxation compliance services	-	25
All other services	-	174

Amounts paid to the Company's auditor and its associates in respect of services to the Company, other than the audit of the Company's financial statements, have not been disclosed as the information is required instead to be disclosed on a consolidated basis.

5. Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the Group (including directors) during the period, analysed by category, was as follows:

	Number of employees		
	2018	2017	
Administrative staff	144	137	
Field operational including managers	2,279	1,926	
Executive and non-executive directors	5	5	
	2,428	2,068	
	2018	2017	
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were as follows:	£000	£000	
Wages and salaries	52,831	48,017	
Social security costs	5,509	4,111	
Other pension costs	1,918	1,971	
Expenses related to defined benefit plans held by the group	122	135	
	60,380	54,234	

5. Staff numbers and costs (continued)

Remuneration of directors	2018 £000	2017 £000
Directors' remuneration	796	824
Company contributions to pension plan	33	18
	829	842
	Number of	directors
	2018	2017
Retirement beenfits are accruing to the following number of directors under:		
Money purchase schemes	5	5

The aggregate of remuneration and amounts receivable under long term incentive schemes of the highest paid director was £248,000 (2017: £229,000), and Company pension contributions of £3,000 (2017: £1,000) were made to a defined contribution pension plan on their behalf.

6. Non-underlying income/(expense)

In the year, the Group incurred £662,000 (2017: £138,000) of costs relating to the acquisition and integration of business combinations into the Group.

The Group also recognised non-underlying income following the release of provisions totalling £1,350,000 (2017: £1,000,000).

7. Finance expense

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Loans and other financial expenses	1,613	1,465
Net interest on defined benefit plan obligation	84	152
Total finance expense	1,697	1,617
•		

8. Taxation

Recognised in the income statement	2018 £000	2017 £000
Current tax		
Current tax on profits for the year	883	375
Adjustment in respect of prior years	49	394
Total current tax expense	932	769
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	55	124
Adjustment in respect of prior years	(48)	51
Rate change .	-	-
Total deferred tax benefit	7	175
Income tax expense	939	944
Income tax recognised in other comprehensive income	2018 £000	2017 £000
Remeasurement of defined benefit liability	317	277

Tax expense for the year is higher (2017: higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for the year ended 31 December 2018 of 19% (2017: 19.25%). The differences are explained below:

Reconciliation of effective tax rate	2018 £000	2017 £000
Profit before taxation	4,679	2,465
Profit multiplied by the standard rate of tax in the UK of 19% (2017: 19.25%)	889	475
Effects of:		
Fixed asset adjustments	18	19
Non-deductible expenses	64	57
Movements in deferred tax not recognised	-	(1)
Rate difference	(33)	(51)
Adjustments in respect of prior periods	1	445
Tax charge	939	944

The tax rate for the current year is lower than the prior year, due to changes in the UK corporation tax rate, which decreased from 20% to 19% from 1 April 2017.

Changes to the UK corporation tax rates were substantially enacted 6 September 2016, as part of the Finance Bill 2016. These include reductions to the main rate to reduce the rate to 17% from 1 April 2020. Deferred taxes at the balance sheet date have been measured using these enacted rates and reflected in these financial statements.

9. Property, plant and						
	Freehold land & buildings £000	Leasehold land & buildings £000	Plant & equipment £000	Fixtures & fittings £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
Cost						
Balance at 1 January 2017	168	555	22,282	1,887	7,100	31,992
Additions	41	8	3,982	168	1,455	5,654
Disposals	-	(46)	(2,851)	(177)	(1,079)	(4,153)
Acquisitions through business combinations	-	-	607	-	24	631
Balance at 31 December 2017	209	517	24,020	1,878	7,500	34,124
Balance at 1 January 2018	209	517	24,020	1,878	7,500	34,124
Additions	22	41	2,305	449	515	3,332
Disposals	-	-	(1,514)	(185)	(882)	(2,581)
Acquisitions through business combinations	<u>:</u>	-	943	46	698	1,687
Balance at 31 December 2018	231	558	25,754	2,188	7,831	36,562
Depreciation and impairment						
Balance at 1 January 2017	30	188	15,010	1,262	4,627	21,117
Depreciation charge	4	89	3,126	369	722	4,310
Disposals	-	(36)	(2,736)	(167)	(1,010)	(3,949)
Balance at 31 December 2017	34	241	15,400	1,464	4,339	21,478
Balance at 1 January 2018	34	241	15,400	1,464	4,339	21,478
Depreciation charge	13	83	3,366	305	917	4,684
Disposals	-	-	(1,447)	(180)	(830)	(2,457)
Balance at 31 December 2018	47	324	17,319	1,589	4,426	23,705
Net book value						
At 31 December 2018	184	234	8,435	<u>599</u>	3,405	12,857
At 31 December 2017	175	276	8,620	414	3,161	12,646

At 31 December 2018, the net carrying amount of leased plant & machinery and motor vehicles was £9,912,000 (2017: £9,591,000). The related depreciation charge on these assets for the period was £2,945,000 (2017: £2,716,000). The lease equipment and motor vehicles secures lease obligations (see note 16).

10. Intangible assets

ē	Customer contracts £000	Goodwill £000	Total £000
Cost:			
Balance at 1 January 2018	6,148	35,342	41,490
Additions through business combinations	1,753	2,781	4,534
Purchase price adjustment	-	(200)	(200)
Balance at 31 December 2018	7,901	37,923	45,824
Amortisation and impairment:			
Balance at 1 January 2018	2,813	7,153	9,966
Amortisation for the year	1,277	-	1,277
Balance at 31 December 2018	4,090	7,153	11,243
Net book value			
At 31 December 2018	3,811	30,770	34,581
At 31 December 2017	3,335	28,189	31,524

Impairment

Each year, or whenever events or a change in the economic environment or performance indicates a risk of impairment, the Group reviews the value of goodwill allocated to its cash generating units.

An impairment test in a comparison of the carrying value of the assets of the business or CGU to their recoverable amount. The recoverable amount represents the higher of the CGU's fair value less the cost to sell and value in use. Where recoverable amount is less than carrying value, an impairment results. During the period, all goodwill was tested for impairment, with no impairment charge resulting (2017: No impairment).

Value in use was determined by discounting the future cash flows generate from the continuing use of the CGU, applying the following key assumptions.

Key assumptions

Cash flows were projected based on the approved 2017 business plan assuming a growth rate between 2018 and 2027 of 3.5%.

Management have used an approved forecast period of greater than five years because given the nature of the business and the contracts secured going-forward, a forecast period of ten years was deemed more appropriate.

The growth rate selected is greater than the long-term average growth rate for the country market of 1.3% because this is based on historical growth rates achieved by the Group. The growth rates used in the value in use calculation reflect the average growth rate experienced by the Group for the country market over a three year period.

The main assumptions within the operating cash flows used for 2017 include the achievement of future sales values and control of prices including achievement of budgeted operating costs and overheads. These assumptions have been reviewed in light of the current economic environment.

The directors have estimated the discount rate by reference to the Group's weighted average costs of capital. A pre-tax weighted average cost of capital of 8.0% has been used for impairment testing.

11. Investment in subsidiaries

The Company has the following investments in subsidiaries:

Company	Country of incorporation	Principal activity	Proportion of shares held	Class of shares held
idverde Holdings Limited ¹	England and Wales	Holding company	100%	Ordinary
Banyards Limited*	England and Wales	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
Western Landscapes Limited*1	England and Wales	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
idverde Limited*1	England and Wales	Grounds maintenance and landscape construction	100%	Ordinary
English Landscapes Maintenance Limited* ¹	England and Wales	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
English Landscapes Limited* 1	England and Wales	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
English Woodlands Limited* ¹	England and Wales	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
Quadron Services Limited*1	England and Wales	Grounds maintenance	100%	Ordinary
Blythe Valley Limited*1	England and Wales	Arboriculture services	100%	Ordinary
idverde Scotland Limited* ²	Scotland	Dormant	100%	Ordinary
Landscaping Centre (Holdings) Limited* ³	Northern Ireland	Holding company	100%	Ordinary
Landscapeing Services Limited* ³	Northern Ireland	Grounds maintenance and landscape construction	100%	Ordinary

^{*} Owned by a subsidiary company

Investments after the balance sheet date

Subsequent to the year end idverde continued its external growth ambition. On 31 January 2019, idverde Holdings Limited acquired 100% of the equity of KJT Group Limited for a net cash amount of £4.3 million. This was funded through a new intercompany loan from the French parent company for £4.6 million.

On 28 June 2019, idverde Holdings Limited acquired 100% of the equity of Assist Solutions Group Limited and Aspho Surfacing Limited for a combined £7.9 million, funded through a new intercompany loan of £8.0 million.

¹ - Registered office - Landscapes House, 3 Rye Hill Office Park, Birmingham Road, Allesley, Coventry, CV5 9AB

² - Registered office - 3 Cambuslang Court, Glasgow, Scotland, G32 8FH

³ - Registered office - 181b Templepatrick Road, Ballyclare, Co Antrim, BT39 0RA

12. Deferred tax assets and liabilities

Recognised deferred tax assets and liabilities

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are attributable to the following:

		Assets		Liabilities	
		2018	2017	2018	2017
		£000	£000	£000	£000
Intangible assets		-	-	(691)	(634)
Tangible fixed assets		895	866	-	-
Short term provisions		6	180	-	-
Employee benefits		380	898	_	_
Losses		-	27	-	-
Deferred tax liability not recognised		-	-	-	(77)
					
Tax assets		1,281	1,971		
Net of tax liabilities		(691)	(711)	(691)	(711)
Net tax assets		590	1,260	(691)	(711)
Movement in deferred tax during the year:					
	1 January	Recognised in	Recognised in		31 December
	2018	income	equity	Acquired	2018
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Intangible assets	(634)	241	-	(298)	(691)
Tangible fixed assets	866	77	-	(48)	895
Short term provisions	180	(174)	-	-	6
Employee benefits	898	(201)	(317)	-	380
Losses	27	(27)	-	-	-
Deferred tax liability not recognised	(77)	77	-	-	-
	1,260	(7)	(317)	(346)	590
Movement in deferred tax during the prior	year:				
	1 January	Recognised in	Recognised in		31 December
•	2017	income	equity	Acquired	2017
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Intangible assets	(922)	288	-	-	(634)
Tangible fixed assets	845	21	-	-	866
Short term provisions	278	(98)	-	-	180
Employee benefits	1,561	(386)	(277)	-	898
Losses	27	-	-	-	27
Deferred tax liability not recognised	(77)	-	-	-	(77)
	` ,				

At the Statement of Financial Position date, the Group has unused capital losses in the UK of £Nil (2017: £Nil) available for offset against future chargeable gains. No deferred tax asset has been recognised in respect of this amount (2017: £Nil).

13. Inventories	
2018	2017
0003	£000
Raw materials and consumables	191
Raw materials, consumables recognised as cost of sales in the year amounted to £10,689,000 (2017: £8,974,0	00).
14. Trade and other receivables	
2018	2017
£000	£000
Amounts due from parent undertakings 1,220	1,220
Trade receivables 13,036	9,337
Amounts recoverable on contracts 772	1,031
Other receivables 149	173
Prepayments and accrued income 5,622	6,288
20,799	18,049
15. Trade and other payables 2018	2017
0003	£000
Amounts due to parent undertakings 2,719	1,648
Trade payables 5,872	6,067
Corporation tax liability 519	167
Taxation and social security 3,725	3,243
Other trade payables -	295
Non-trade payables and accrued expenses and deferred income 10,643	9,219
23,478	20,639

16. Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings

This note provides information about the contractual terms of the Group's interest-bearing loans and borrowings, which are measure at amortised cost. For more information about the Group's exposure to credit and liquidity risk, see note 20.

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Current liabilities		
Parent company loan	502	491
Interest on loans	218	431
Finance lease liabilities	3,596	2,750
	4,316	3,672
Non-current liabilities		
Loan notes	5,569	4,843
Interest bearing loans	10,246	10,245
Finance lease liabilities	3,197	4,252
	19,012	19,340

Finance lease liabilities

Finance lease liabilities are payable as follows:

		2018			2017	
	Minimum lease payments £000	Interest £000	Principal £000	Minimum lease payments £000	Interest £000	Principal £000
Less than one year Between one and five years More than 5 years	3,829 3,396	233 199	3,596 3,197	2,948 4,515	198 263	2,750 4,252
	7,225	432	6,793	7,463	461	7,002

Loans analysis:

,			2018		2017	
	Rate	Matures	Face value £000	Carrying value £000	Face value £000	Carrying value £000
Loan notes	15%	2023	2,953	5,569	2,953	4,843
Interest bearing loans	5%	2022	10,246	10,246	10,245	10,245
Parent company loan	Base + 2%	on demand	502	502	491	491
			13,701	16,317	13,689	15,579

The difference between the loan notes face and carrying value represents the interest accrued on these notes.

17. Employee benefits

Defined benefit plan - idverde Limited

The Group sponsors the Federated Pension Plan (FPP) which is a funded defined benefit arrangement. This is a separate trustee administered fund holding the pension plan assets to meet long term pension liabilities for 18 active members, 15 deferred members and 18 pensioner members as at 5 April 2016. The level of retirement benefit is principally based on salary earned in the last three years of employment prior to leaving active service and is linked to changes in inflation up to retirement.

The plan is subject to the funding legislation, which came into force on 30 December 2005, outlined in the Pensions Act 2004. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator, and guidance notes adopted by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension plans in the UK.

The trustees of the plan are required to act in the best interest of the plan's beneficiaries. The appointment of the trustees is determined by the plan's trust documentation. It is policy that at least one third of all trustees should be nominated by the members.

The defined benefit scheme was established under an irrevocable Deed of Trust by idverde Limited for its employees and those of subsidiary undertakings. The Deed determines the appointment of trustees to the fund.

An investment policy was transferred from Scottish Life to the Federated Pension Plan in April 2011, the amount of the transfer payment was £699,000. This consisted of the transfer of previous service for some 13 existing members, as well as transferring into the plan an additional 15 members.

The Federated Pension Plan Scheme is open to new eligible members transferring under TUPE (Transfer of Undertakings and Protection of Employment) where the Group enters into customer contracts requiring a broadly comparable pension scheme offering to those transferring employees who currently contribute to a defined benefit pension scheme.

A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 5 April 2016 in accordance with the scheme funding requirements of the Pensions Act 2004 and the funding of the plan is agreed between the Group and the trustees in line with those requirements. These in particular require the surplus/deficit to be calculated using prudent, as opposed to best estimate actuarial assumptions.

The position of the Plan based on financial assumptions as at 16 June 2017 revealed a funding shortfall of £351,000. The Group has agreed with the trustees that it will aim to eliminate the deficit over a period of 8 years from 5 April 2016 by the payment of annual contributions of £46,000 in respect of the deficit. In addition and in accordance with the actuarial valuation, the Group has agreed with the trustees that it will pay 48.1% of pensionable earnings less member contributions in respect of the cost of accruing benefits and management and administration expenses. The Group will meet Insurance premiums for death in service premiums and levies to the Pension Protection Fund In addition.

For the purposes of IAS19, the actuarial valuation as at 5 April 2016, which was carried out by a qualified independent actuary, has been updated on an approximate basis to 31 December 2018. There have been no changes in the valuation methodology adopted for this period's disclosures compared to the previous period's disclosures.

Defined benefit plan - Quadron Services Limited

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme for certain employees and, for eligible employees, a scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the pension schemes are held separately from those of the company, being invested by an independent investment manager.

The Group's final salary pension scheme is now closed to new entrants. The total contributions per the schedule of contributions for the year ended 31 December 2018 were £365,000 (2017: £806,000). The group expects to continue to contribute to the schemes at similar levels next year. Outstanding contributions payable to the fund at the balance sheet date were £Nil (2017: £Nil).

The Group sponsors the plan which is a funded defined benefit arrangement. This is a separate trustee administered fund holding the pension plan assets to meet long term pension liabilities for some 227 past and 175 pensioners at 5 April 2016 (the date of the last triennial funding valuation). The level of retirement benefit is principally based on salary earned in the last three years of employment prior to leaving active service and is linked to changes in inflation up to retirement.

17. Employee benefits (continued)

The plan is subject to the funding legislation, which came into force on 30 December 2005, outlined in the Pensions Act 2004. This, together with documents issued by the Pensions Regulator, and Guidance Notes adopted by the Financial Reporting Council, set out the framework for funding defined benefit occupational pension plans in the UK.

The trustees of the plan are required to act in the best interest of the plan's beneficiaries. The appointment of the trustees is determined by the plan's trust documentation.

The defined benefit scheme was established under an irrevocable Deed of Trust by Quadron Services Limited for its employees and those of subsidiary undertakings. The Deed determines the appointment of trustees to the fund.

A full actuarial valuation was carried out as at 5 April 2016 in accordance with the scheme funding requirements of the Pensions Act 2004 and the funding of the plan is agreed between the Group and the trustees in line with those requirements. These in particular require the surplus/deficit to be calculated using prudent, as opposed to best estimate, actuarial assumptions.

This actuarial valuation showed a deficit of £5,181,000. The Trustee and the Employers have agreed a recovery plan in order to eliminate the deficit. Under the agreed plan, the Employers will pay contributions of £250,000 in the year ending 5 April 2017, then increase their contributions to an initial rate of £325,000 per annum with effect from 6 April 2017, increasing by 3% each 6 April thereafter. These contributions shall be payable until 5 July 2029.

Contributions to the defined benefit scheme are determined by a qualified actuary using the projected unit method. The full actuarial valuation for the scheme as a whole as at 5 April 2016 was updated to 31 December 2018 by a qualified actuary and showed that the market value of the scheme's assets was £17.7 million (2017: £19.2 million) and that the value of these assets represented 89% (2017: 85%) of the benefits that had accrued to members. The deficit is being reduced through additional contributions from the company.

For the purposes of IAS19 the actuarial valuation as at 5 April 2016, which was carried out by a qualified Independent actuary, has been updated on an approximate basis to 31 December 2018. There have been no changes in the valuation methodology adopted for this year's disclosures compared to the previous year's disclosures except that mortality assumptions have been updated to the latest available data.

Amounts included in the statement of financial position

		2018			2017	
		Quadron			Quadron	
	idverde	Services		idverde	Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair value of plan assets Present value of defined benefit	2,437	17,703	20,140	2,397	19,187	21,584
obligation	(2,449)	(19,841)	(22,290)	(2,590)	(22,635)	(25,225)
Net obligation	(12)	(2,138)	(2,150)	(193)	(3,448)	(3,641)

17. Employee benefits (continued)

Reconciliation of opening and closing present value of the defined benefit obligation

		2018			2017	
		Quadron			Quadron	
	idverde	Services		idverde	Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Defined benefit obligation at the						
beginning of the year	2,590	22,635	25,225	2,667	21,583	24,250
Current service cost	122	_	122	135	-	135
Expenses	33	-	33	38	-	38
Interest expense	66	531	597	73	609	682
Contributions by plan						
participants	16		16	18	-	18
Past service costs	-	550	550	_	-	-
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to						
scheme experience	2	(210)	(208)	(217)	(261)	(478)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to						
changes in financial assumptions	(255)	(2,502)	(2,757)	45	1,542	1,587
Benefits paid, death in service						
premiums and expenses	(88)	(1,025)	(1,113)	(83)	(417)	(500)
Actuarial (gains)/losses due to	` ,					
demographic assumptions	(37)	(138)	(175)	(86)	(421)	(507)
Present value of defined benefit obligation at end of year	2,449	19,841	22,290	2,590	22,635	25,225

There have been no plan amendments, curtailments or settlements in the year (2017: None).

Reconciliation of opening and closing values of the fair value of plan assets

· _		2018			2017	
		Quadron			Quadron	
	idverde	Services		idverde	Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fair value of plan assets at						
beginning of year	2,397	19,187	21,584	2,088	16,375	18,463
Interest income	61	452	513	58	472	530
Return on plan assets (excluding						
interest income)	(135)	(1,139)	(1,274)	128	2,104	2,232
Contributions by the Group	186	332	518	188	806	994
Contributions by plan						
participants	16	-	16	18	-	18
Benefits paid, death in service						
premiums and expenses	(88)	(1,129)	(1,217)	(83)	(570)	(653)
Fair value of plan assets at end of						
year	2,437	17,703	20,140	2,397	19,187	21,584

17. Employee benefits (continued)

The actuarial return on the plan assets over the year ended 31 December 2018 was £74,000 (2017: £186,000) for idverde Limited and £687,000 (2017: £2,576,000) for Quadron Services Limited.

Defined benefit costs recognised in profit or loss

		2018			2017	
	·	Quadron			Quadron	
	idverde	Services		idverde	Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Current service cost	122	-	122	135	-	135
Expenses	33	104	137	38	153	191
Past service cost	-	550	550	-	-	-
Net interest income	5	79	84	15	137	152
Net obligation	160	733	893	188	290	478

Defined benefit costs recognised in other comprehensive income

		2018			2017	
	idverde	Quadron Services	_	idverde	Quadron Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Return on plan assets (excluding amounts included in net interest cost)	(135)	(1,139)	(1,274)	128	2,104	2,232
Experience gains and losses arising on the defined benefit obligation gain/(loss)	(2)	210	208	217	261	478
Effects of changes in the demographic assumptions underlying the present value of the defined benefit obligations gain/(loss)	37	138	175	86	421	507
Effects of changes in the financial assumptions underlying the present value of the defined benefit obligations gain/(loss)	255	2,502	2,757	(45)	(1,542)	(1,587)
Total amount recognised in other comprehensive income gain/(loss)	155	1,711	1,866	386	1,244	1,630

17. Employee benefits (continued)

Assets

		2018			2017	
		Quadron			Quadron	
	idverde	Services		idverde	Services	
	Limited	Limited	Total	Limited	Limited	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Equity	998	5,763	6,761	959	11,100	12,059
Bonds	499	3,068	3,567	479	-	479
Divested growth fund	-	8,598	8,598	-	7,205	7,205
Insurance policy	920	238	1,158	946	266	1,212
Cash	20	36	56	13	616	629
Net obligation	2,437	17,703	20,140	2,397	19,187	21,584

None of the fair values of the assets shown above include any direct investment in the Group's own financial instruments, or any property occupied by, or other assets used by, the Group. All of the scheme's assets have a quoted market price in an active market with the exception of the Trustee's bank account balance.

It is the policy of the Trustees and the Group to review the investment strategy at the time of each funding valuation. The Trustee's investment objectives and the processes undertaken to measure and manage the risks inherent in the plan investment strategy are illustrated by the asset allocation as at 31 December 2018.

There are no asset/liability matching strategies currently used by the plans.

Significant actuarial assumptions

	idverde	Limited	Quadron Services Limited		
	2018	2017	2018	2017	
	£000	£000	£000	£000	
Discount rate	2.80	2.50	2.95	2.40	
Inflation (RPI)	3.25	3.20	3.25	3.40	
Inflation (CPI)	2.25	2.20	2.25	2.40	
Salary Growth	2.00	3.00	-	-	
Allowance for revaluation of deferred					
pensions of RPI	3.25	3.20	-	-	
Allowance for revaluation of deferred					
pensions of CPI	2.25	2.20	-	-	
Allowance for pension in payment increase					
of RPI	3.25	3.20	3.10	3.25	
Allowance for pension in payment increase					
of CPI	2.25	2.20	2.00	2.10	
Allowance for commutation of pension for	100% of post	100% of post	100% of post	100% of post	
cash at retirement	a day	a day	a day	a day	

17. Employee benefits (continued)

The mortality assumptions adopted at 31 December 2018 are 100% of the standard tables S2PxA (both idverde Limited and Quadron Services Limited), Year of Birth, no age rating for males and females, projected using CMI_2017 (both idverde Limited and Quadron Services Limited) converging to 125% pa (both idverde Limited and Quadron Services Limited). These imply the following life expectancies:

Life expectancy at age 65 years

	idverde Limited Years	Quadron Services Limited Years
Male retiring in 2018	21.9	22.0
Female retiring in 2018	23.8	23.9
Male retiring in 2038	23.3	23.4
Female retiring in 2038	25.4	25.4

Analysis of the sensitivity to the principal assumptions of the present value of the defined benefit obligation

idverde Limited	Change in assumptions	Change in liabilities
Discount rate Rate of inflation Rate of salary growth	Decrease of 0.25% pa Increase of 0.25%pa Increase of 0.25%pa	Increase by 5.1% Increase by 5.1% Increase by 1.1%
Rate of mortality Quadron Services Limited	Increase in life expectancy of 1 year Change in assumptions	Increase by 2.9% Change in liabilities
Discount rate Rate of inflation Rate of mortality	Decrease of 0.25% pa Increase of 0.25%pa Increase in life expectancy of 1 year	Increase by 4.3% Increase by 3.4% Increase by 4.1%

The sensitivities shown above are approximate. Each sensitivity considers one change in isolation. The inflation sensitivity includes the impact of changes to the assumptions for revaluation, pension increases and salary growth.

The average duration of the defined benefit obligation at 31 December 2018 is 20 years for idverde Limited and 19 years for Quadron Services Limited.

The plans typically expose the Group to actuarial risks such as investment risk, interest rate risk, salary growth risk, mortality risk and longevity risk. A decrease in corporate bong yields, a rise in inflation or an increase in life expectancy would result in an increase to plan liabilities. This would detrimentally impact the balance sheet position and may give rise to increased charges in future Income Statements. This effect would partially be offset by an increase in the value of the plan's bond holdings, and in qualifying death in service insurance policies that cover the mortality risk. Additionally, caps on inflationary increases are in place to protect the plan against extreme inflation.

The best estimate of contributions to be paid by the Group to the plans for the period commencing 1 January 2019 is £507,000 (2017: 399,000).

18. Provisions

	Onerous contracts £000	Pensions £000	Other £000	Total £000
Movement in provisions during the current year				
Balance at 1 January 2018	3,863	1,500	350	5,713
Provisions made during the year	-	-	-	-
Provisions reverse during the year	(1,750)	(950)	(350)	(3,050)
Provisions used during the year	-	(550)	-	(550)
Balance at 31 December 2018	2,113	-	-	2,113
Non-current	1,186	-	_	1,186
Current	927	-	-	927
Balance at 31 December 2018	2,113	-		2,113
Movement in provisions during the prior year				
Balance at 1 January 2017	2,471	2,500	456	5,427
Provisions made during the year	2,320	-	350	2,670
Provisions reverse during the year	(928)	-	(456)	(1,384)
Provisions used during the year	-	(1,000)	-	(1,000)
Balance at 31 December 2017	3,863	1,500	350	5,713
Non-current	2,726	1,500	350	4,576
Current	1,137	-	-	1,137
	3,863	1,500	350	5,713

Onerous contract provisions relate to a number of onerous contracts from existing contracts and those that have been identified following acquisitions undertaken by the Group. The pension provision related to the defined benefit pension liabilities that was recognised following acquisitions undertaken by the Group measured at its fair value. Other provisions related to a dispute against the escrow account following acquisitions undertaken by the Group.

The cash flows associated with the provisions above are expected to be settled between those due within one year and those due after one year and therefore classified as current and non-current.

19. Capital and reserves

Share capital	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Alloted, called up and fully paid		
1,672,094,000 (2017: 1,672,094,000) ordinary shares of £0.01 each	16,721	16,721
	1 . = 0.1	16.501
Shares classified in shareholders' funds	16,721	16,721

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at meetings of the Company.

20. Financial instruments

(a) Credit risk

Financial risk management

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss to the Group if a customer or counterparty to a financial instrument fails to meet its contractual obligations, and arises principally from the Group's trade receivables.

The carrying amount of financial assets at the statement of financial position date was as follows:

	£000	£000
Trade and other receivables Cash and cash equivalents	20,799 3,100	18,049 5,059
	23,899	23,108

Credit quality of financial assets and impairment losses

The ageing of trade receivables at the balance sheet date was:

The agoning of made receivables at the canance sheet of	2018		20	17
	Curr	Net of	C	Net of
	Gross £000	impairment £000	Gross £000	impairment £000
Not past due	9,783	9,783	6,759	6,759
Past due 0 - 30 days	1,849	1,849	1,507	1,507
Past due 30 - 120 days	917	917	1,110	1,110
Past due more than 120 days	637	487	349	(39)
	13,186	13,036	9,467	9,115

All other receivables are not past due (2017: not past due).

The movement in the allowance for impairment in respect of trade receivables during the year was as follows:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Opening balance Impairment loss reversed	388 (238)	410 (22)
	150	388

The allowance account for trade receivables is used to record impairment losses unless the Group is satisfied that no recovery of the amount owing is possible; at that point the amounts considered irrecoverable are written off against the trade receivables directly.

20. Financial instruments (continued)

(b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Group will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

idverde UK Limited, with the support of its parent and the Group's principal shareholder, actively maintains a mixture of long term and short term debt finance that is designed to ensure the group has sufficient available funds for operations and planned expansions.

The following are the contractual maturities of financial liabilities, including estimated interest payments and excluding the effect of netting agreements:

			2018			
	Carrying amount £000	Contractual cash flows	1 year or less £000	1 to <2 years £000	2 to <5 years £000	5 years and over £000
Non-derivative financial liab	ilities					
Loan notes	5,569	5,569	-	-	5,569	-
Interest bearing loans	10,246	10,246	-	-	-	10,246
Parent company loans	502	502	502	-	-	_
Finance lease liabilities	7,225	7,225	3,329	2,507	1,389	-
Trade and other payables	23,478	23,478	23,478	-	-	-
	47,020	47,020	27,309	2,507	6,958	. 10,246

			2017			
	Carrying amount £000	Contractual cash flows £000	1 year or less £000	1 to <2 years £000	2 to <5 5 years £000	years and over £000
Non-derivative financial liabil	lities					
Loan notes	4,843	4,843	-	-	-	4,843
Interest bearing loans	10,245	10,245	-	-	-	10,245
Parent company loans	491	491	491	-	-	-
Finance lease liabilities	7,463	7,463	2,948	2,267	2,248	-
Trade and other payables	20,639	20,639	20,639	-	-	-
	28,102	28,102	23,587	2,267	2,248	-

21. Operating leases

Non-cancellable operating lease rentals are payable as follows:

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Less than one year	2,775	3,131
Between one and five years	4,706	6,308
More than five years	870	1,165
	8,351	10,604

During the year £3,865,000 was recognised as an expense in the Consolidated Income Statement in respect of operating leases (2017: £3,532,000).

22. Capital commitments

At 31 December 2018, the Group had entered into contracts for the purchase of property, plant and equipment of £3,209,000 (2017: £844,000).

23. Contingencies

The Group has no material contingent liabilities as at the date of these financial statements.

24. Related parties

A loan from idverde SAS, the immediate parent company, accrues interest at 2% above base rate and is repayable on demand. As at 31 December 2018, the amount outstanding was £502,000 (2017: £491,000).

Another loan exists between idverde SAS and idverde Holdings Limited for a principal amount of £10,246,000 (2017: £10,245,000). The loan accrued interest at 5% per annum and is repayable in more than 5 years.

The loan notes between idverde SAS and idverde Holdings Limited for a principal amount of £2,953,000 (2017: £2,953,000) accrue interest at 15% per annum. As at 31 December 2018, the amount outstanding was £5,569,000 (2017: 4,843,000).

Transactions with key management personnel

The compensation of key management personnel (including directors) is as follows:

	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Key management remuneration including social security costs Compensation for loss of office	-	67
		67

25. Ultimate parent company and parent company of larger group

The Company's immediate parent company is idverde SAS, a company incorporated in France.

At the year end, the largest group of undertakings for which group accounts are drawn up is Armorica Topco SCA, the ultimate parent company, registered in Luxembourg and controlled by Core Equity Holdings LP.

Company Balance Sheet at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 £000	2017 £000
Non-current assets			
Investments	34	16,740	16,740
		16,740	16,740
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	35	2,740	3,255
Cash and cash equivalents		14	14
		2,754	3,269
Creditors - Amounts falling due within one year	36	(1,606)	(1,088)
Net current assets		1,148	2,181
Total assets less current liabilities, being net assets		17,888	18,921
Equity			
Share capital	38	16,721	16,721
Share premium		15,837	15,837
Retained earnings		(14,670)	(13,637)
Total shareholders' funds		17,888	18,921

The notes on pages 48 to 51 form an integral part of these financial statements.

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 3º September 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

Jephotes

J E Rhodes

Director

Company registered number: 06539986

Company Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Share capital £000	Share premium £000	Retained earnings £000	Total equity £000
Balance at 1 January 2017	16,721	15,837	(12,495)	20,063
Total comprehensive income for the year Loss for the year	-	-	(1,142)	(1,142)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(1,142)	(1,142)
Balance at 31 December 2017	16,721	15,837	(13,637)	18,921
Balance at 1 January 2018	16,721	15,837	(13,637)	18,921
Total comprehensive income for the year Profit for the year	-	-	(1,033)	(1,033)
Total comprehensive income for the year	-	-	(1,033)	(1,033)
Balance at 31 December 2018	16,721	15,837	(14,670)	17,888

The notes on pages 48 to 51 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

26 Accounting policies

26.1 Basis of preparation

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements, except as noted below.

These financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ("FRS 101").

In preparing these financial statements, the Company applies the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU ("Adopted IFRSs"), but makes amendments where necessary in order to comply with Companies Act 2006 and has set out below where advantage of the FRS 101 disclosure exemptions has been taken.

Under section s408 of the Companies Act 2006 the company is exempt from the requirement to present its own profit and loss account.

In these financial statements, the Company has applied the exemptions available under FRS 101 in respect of the following disclosures:

- a Cash Flow Statement and related notes;
- Comparative period reconciliations for share capital, tangible fixed assets and intangible assets;
- Disclosures in respect of transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries;
- Disclosures in respect of capital management;
- The effects of new but not yet effective IFRSs;
- Disclosures in respect of the compensation of Key Management Personnel; and
- Disclosures of transactions with a management entity that provides key management personnel services to the company.

As the consolidated financial statements of ultimate parent undertaking include the equivalent disclosures, the Company has also taken the exemptions under FRS 101 available in respect of the following disclosures:

- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 13 Fair Value Measurement and the disclosures required by IFRS 7 Financial Instrument Disclosures.
- Certain disclosures required by IAS 36 Impairment of assets in respect of the impairment of goodwill and indefinite life intangible assets; and
- Certain disclosures required by IFRS 3 Business Combinations in respect of business combinations undertaken by the Company in the current year and prior period including the comparative period reconciliation for goodwill.

The accounting policies set out below have, unless otherwise stated, been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements. The Company proposes to continue to adopt the reduced disclosure framework of FRS 101 in its next financial statements.

Judgements made by the directors, in the application of these accounting that have significant effect on the financial statements and estimates with a significant risk of material misstatement in the next year are discussed in note 27

26.2 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are recognised at cost less provision for impairment in value. The directors perform regular impairment reviews assessing the carrying value of the asset against the higher of the value in use and the net realiseable value.

26.3 Measurement convention

The financial statements are prepared on the historical cost basis.

26 Accounting policies (continued)

27.4 Financial instruments

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise investments in equity, trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other payables.

Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and call deposits. Bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Group's cash management are included as a component of cash and cash equivalents for the purpose only of the cash flow statement.

Interest-bearing borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are recognised initially at fair value less attributable transaction costs. Subsequent to initial recognition, interest-bearing borrowings are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

27.5 Taxation

Tax on the profit or loss for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account except to the extent that it relates to items recognised directly in equity or other comprehensive income, in which case it is recognised directly in equity or 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 balance sheet date, and any adjustment to tax payable in respect of previous years.

Deferred tax is provided on temporary differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities for financial reporting purposes and the amounts used for taxation purposes. The following temporary differences are not provided for: the initial recognition of goodwill; the initial recognition of assets or liabilities that affect neither accounting nor taxable profit other than in a business combination, and differences relating to investments in subsidiaries to the extent that they will probably not reverse in the foreseeable future. The amount of deferred tax provided is based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date.

A deferred tax asset is recognised only to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profits will be available against which the temporary difference can be utilised.

28 Significant accounting estimates and judgements

The preparation of the Parent Company financial statements requires the management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future period impacted.

The key judgement and estimate employed in the financial statements is:

Impairment of investment in subsidiary companies

The subsidiary companies' investment balances are held at cost less any impairment. An impairment exists when their recoverable amount is less than the cost of investment held in the accounts. There are a number of factors which could impact the recoverable amount which creates a risk of this recoverable amount being lower than the investment balance held. The discounted cash flows used align to those used in testing goodwill, please see note 10 in Group consolidated financial statements for more detail.

29 Profit for the financial year

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own profit and loss account in these financial statements. The Company profit for the year includes a loss after tax of £1,033,000 (2017: £1,142,000) which is dealt with in the financial statements of the Parent Company.

Fixed asset investments 30

	Shares in
	Group
	undertakings
	£000
Cost and net book value:	
At beginning and end of year	16,740
Details of the Company's subsidiaries are disclosed in Note 11 of the Group Finance	ial Statements

Details of the Company's subsidiaries are disclosed in Note 11 of the Group Financial Statements.

	31	Trade and	other	receivables
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	2018 £000	2017 £000
Amounts due from Group undertakings	2,740	3,255
	2,740	3,255
32 Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	2018 £000	2017 £000
Amounts due to Group undertakings Parent company loan	1,104 502	597 491
	1,606	1,088

33 Other interest-bearing loans and borrowings

This note provides information about the contractual terms of the Company's interest-bearing loans and borrowings, which are measured at amortised cost.

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Current liabilities Parent company loans	502	491
	502	491

The parent company loan accrued interest at Base +2% and is repayable on demand.

34 Deferred tax assets and liabilities

Unrecorded deferred tax assets and liabilities

At the Statement of Financial Position date, the Company has unused capital losses in the UK of £4,000 (2017: £4,000) available for offset against future chargeable gains. No deferred tax asset has been recognised in respect of this amount.

35 Capital and reserves

Share capital	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
1,672,094,000 ordinary shares of 0.01 each	16,721	16,721
Shares classified in shareholders' funds	16,721	16,721

The holders of ordinary shares are entitled to receive dividends as declared from time to time and are entitled to one vote per share at meetings of the Company.

36 Related parties

During the year, the Company entered into transactions in the ordinary course of business with related parties. The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under paragraph 8(k) of FRS 101 not to disclose transactions with fellow wholly owned subsidiaries.