

# The Start-Up Loans Company

A company limited by guarantee

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

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## **Chair's statement for the year ending 31 March 2023**

The Start-Up Loans Company ("SUL") is part of the British Business Bank Plc Group ("the Group"), with the British Business Finance Limited ("BBFL", a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Business Bank plc) being the sole member of the Company. SUL manages the Start Up Loans Scheme ("the Scheme") which was created by the government in 2012 and has since delivered over 102,000 loans, providing over £9,384m of funding across the UK to an average of 25 businesses a day. Around 31% of SUL recipients were unemployed at the point of application, equating to approximately 26,350 jobs directly created over the lifetime of the scheme.

During the 2022-23 financial year we loaned a further £120 million to small businesses with an average loan size of £12.6k. This compared with £131 million gross lending in 2021-22 with an average loan size of £12.6k.

In 2021, the government committed funding for the scheme until March 2025, to deliver 33,000 additional Start Up Loans.

In addition to providing funding, a defining feature of the scheme is the provision of high quality application support through expert Business Advisers, paired with 12 months of support post drawdown. Throughout 2022-23, a new, enhanced Partner network was modelled and procured, in order to build regional impact whilst maintaining volume and value-for-money. The new national network of Business Support Partners will provide pre-loan support, helping Applicants to create robust business plans and ensure supporting documentation is in place. Following successful drawdown of a loan, the new National Post Loan Support Partner will provide 4 hours of mentoring and 12 months access to an industry leading online learning platform to help SUL recipients evolve and develop their business, building on the strong support provided by our suite of Delivery Partners (who formerly provided both pre and post loan support).

### **Value for money**

The scheme by its nature is non-commercial. SUL delivers the scheme as a non-profit organisation through the support of grant and loan funding provided by the Secretary of State for Business and Trade (DBT) (previously the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)). SUL continues to demonstrate a cost-effective approach with value for money for the UK taxpayer through enabling growth in the UK economy and increasing the tax take for HM Treasury. Value for money - as assessed by measuring turnover/Gross Value Added from start-up businesses against the economic costs of running the scheme - has also improved over time.

We continue to improve our technology in order to deliver cost efficiencies and improved customer service through our Atlas CRM system. We closely monitor and control the cost base to ensure that it is appropriate to enable us to effectively deliver our services whilst managing taxpayer resources efficiently within a robust risk management framework.

## Chair's statement for the year ending 31 March 2023 (continued)

### Future of the scheme

The scheme aims to ensure that people who would not otherwise have the resources to start up their own business have access to the support to allow them to do so. To date the scheme has focused on the inclusion of those people, with the key objectives of:

- Providing pre-loan and post loan support to enable new business owners to develop, grow and thrive,
- Supporting new jobs & economic growth - by supporting start up businesses, we help create new jobs and boost economic growth across the UK,
- Supporting diverse business owners – we help people from all walks of life to realise their ambitions and start their own business, keeping customer centricity as forefront of what we do,
- Unlocking potential and growth by ensuring entrepreneurs can access the finance they need regardless of where and who they are.

The scheme is a successful and well received government backed programme that reaches across the whole of the UK. It is well supported by industry bodies, local government and the Devolved Nations.

The scheme's performance to date is in line with the current government's aspiration.



Louis Taylor  
Director

24 November 2023

## **Directors and advisers for the year ended 31 March 2023**

The Directors of SUL who were in office during the year and up to the date of signing:

- Richard Bearman (appointed 13 June 2022)
- David Louis Taylor (appointed 1 October 2022)
- Patrick Magee (resigned 1 July 2022)
- Catherine Lewis La Torre (resigned 1 October 2022)

### **Bankers**

National Westminster Bank plc  
250 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4AA

### **Registered office address**

Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield S1 2GQ.

## Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Directors present their report and the unaudited financial statements of The Start-Up Loans Company ("SUL") for the year ended 31 March 2023. For the financial year in question, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479a of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

### Review of Business

The aim of the scheme managed by SUL is to provide support to individual entrepreneurs and their businesses, by:

- Increasing the rate of business creation and promoting entrepreneurship
- Facilitating lending and the provision of mentoring and other forms of non-financial support
- Supporting the development and resourcing of a network of Partners, providing finance, business support, mentoring and associated services
- Delivery of programmes, grant or loan funded by DBT/BEIS and other public bodies in respect of the operation of projects, schemes and programmes relevant to the objects of the company
- Collecting and analysing data on the financing and performance of individual entrepreneurs and their businesses funded by or through SUL.

Demand for funding under the scheme remains strong with a total of 9,549 new loans issued in the year ended 31 March 2023. The total value of loans made was £120m, a decrease of £10.8m on the previous year. We have seen a shift towards early-stage businesses and higher capital requirements from entrepreneurs and we have now provided over £934m via more than 102,000 loans through the scheme since its inception in 2012.

### Principal risks and uncertainties

SUL has the following main areas of exposure:

#### *Cash flow risk and going concern*

SUL is dependent on receiving further funding from DBT and BBFL to be able to meet its liabilities as they fall due. SUL has received a letter of support from DBT stating it will provide sufficient funding to enable SUL to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, on the basis that SUL continues to meet the principles and conditions communicated to it, not least a number of financial covenants.

#### *Credit risk*

SUL has a policy of assessing at each reporting date whether, as a result of one or more events that occurred after initial recognition, there is objective evidence that an individual loan is impaired or may become impaired. A charge is made to the profit and loss account for these loans based on the difference between the loan's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted using the loan's original effective interest rate, which is the effective interest rate used at initial recognition.

The Company has closely followed the guidance issued by the Financial Conduct Authority, the Financial Reporting Council and the Prudential Regulation Authority regarding the approach to assessing ECL provisions under IFRS 9.

## Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### *Performance of the UK Economy*

Performance of the UK economy has an impact on both new business volumes and performance of the existing loan book. The demand for the scheme is in part linked to unemployment levels and pricing compared to other forms of finance. The company continues to monitor demand and credit quality, through internal stress testing and adjust the credit risk parameters to ensure the loan book performs in line with the grant covenants set by DBT.

### **Development & Performance**

SUL has continued to invest in the development of infrastructure and partnerships with third parties:

- We invested in the procurement of a new Partner network (Business Support Partners and National Post Loan Support Partner), in order to continue building regional impact whilst maintaining volume and value-for-money, and further enhancing our post loan support offering.
- We have invested in continuous improvement of our 'Atlas' CRM system, to streamline the application process and improve the customer experience.
- We continue our partnership with The Open University under the 'Learn with Start Up Loans' proposition, helping new start-ups and business owners to develop the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed. Since the November 2020 launch, we have referred over 17.5k users to the Open University, with 1,752 enrolling on to courses, with the most popular courses of study being entrepreneurship, finance and accounting and marketing.

The proportion of Start Up Loans which are lent to under-served groups is far higher than their proportion of the business population, with 40% female loan recipients (who make up 17% of the overall SME population), 21% to those from ethnic minority backgrounds (who make up 4% of the SME population) and 23% to those in the 18 to 24 age group and not in education, employment, or training.

During the year we supported the scheme through a series of marketing activities which resulted in the delivery of over 1.8 million visits to our website; a slight decrease of –9% in traffic when compared to the previous financial year that was inflated by the pandemic. This integrated marketing approach, including paid media, PR, affiliates, email marketing, SEO, events sponsorship and partnerships culminated towards achieving 104,234 registrations over the course of the full financial year, with a further 9,867 registrations received via our network of Delivery Partners.

## **Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

Our lending in 2022-23 was funded by a combination of capital grant received under the terms of a Grant Offer Letter with DBT (previously BEIS), an unsecured loan facility from BBFL and recycled capital receipts. On 1 April 2019, SUL signed an amendment to its second term facility agreement with BBFL, to a value of £50,300,000 at an interest rate of 2.525%. The facility has been extended and matures on 31 March 2026 though the drawdown period has now expired. In the year £nil (2022 ~ £nil) was drawn from BBFL under the respective facility agreements.

During the year, SUL has met all the covenants in relation to the credit losses and operation of the Scheme that have been set by DBT.

### **People**

SUL is committed to promoting best employment practice and equal opportunities. It operates a framework for employee information and consultation.

In line with the Group, SUL is committed to ensuring the combined organisation is a great place to work, and has been continually developed its culture, processes and procedures over recent years as the Bank continues to grow.

The Bank's Colleague Forum plays a key role in this and ensures that matters important to colleagues have an appropriate place to be discussed between colleagues and Executive Committee on an ongoing basis.

SUL had 57 staff (2022: 58) and Board members including 2 Non-Executive Directors.

### **Financial Performance**

SUL's profit after tax was £1,000 (2022: £9,000). At the end of the financial year, the Company's net assets stood at £166,000 (2022: £165,000).

### **Post balance sheet events**

There have been no reportable post balance sheet events.

## **Strategic report for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

### **Future Developments**

Work during 2023-24 is focused upon embedding the new national Partner network of Business Support Partners and the Post Loan Support Partner. this will ensure SUL retains existing reach and aims to increase the proportion of loans delivered to those furthest from finance, continuing to support harder to reach people and regions, including females and ethnic minorities.

The significant investment made in previous years and ongoing continuous improvement in technology has increased both the sustainability and scalability of the scheme and provides a foundation upon which to build and support ever more entrepreneurs.

### **On behalf of the Board**



Louis Taylor

Director

24 November 2023

## Corporate Governance and managing our risks

### Corporate governance

SUL is part of the British Business Bank Plc Group. The British Business Bank plc's interests are represented by its executives sitting on SUL's Board. The policies that apply to the British Business Bank Plc Group also apply to SUL.

SUL operates within the Risk Management and Governance Framework of the British Business Bank. Audit & Risk, Remuneration and Nomination matters fall within the remit of the British Business Bank Plc Group's Executive and Board Committees. Investment decisions fall within the remit of the British Business Bank Investment Committee.

The Board's key responsibilities are:

- Reviewing, approving and guiding corporate strategy, major plans of action, annual budgets and business plans; setting performance objectives; monitoring implementation and corporate performance.
- Reviewing and approving the risk appetite, controls and material policies of the Company.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the Company's governance arrangements and practices, making changes as needed to ensure the alignment of the Company's governance framework with current best practices.
- Approving the remuneration and bonus payable to Executive Directors and fees payable to Non-Executive Directors on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committees.
- Monitoring and managing potential conflicts of interest of management, Board members, stakeholders, external advisors and other service providers, including misuse of corporate assets and abuse in related party transactions; and
- Approving each year's annual financial statements prior to publication.

The composition of the Board of Directors is set out on page 5. The CEO of the British Business Bank (who is the Accounting Officer of the British Business Bank group for the purposes of HM Treasury's 'Managing Public Money' handbook) is the Chair of the Board of SUL. They have direct accountability to SUL's ultimate shareholder, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT). The responsibilities of an Accounting Officer include the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, keeping proper records and safeguarding the British Business Bank's assets. The day to day running of SUL and the implementation of strategy and business plans is delegated to management.

## **Corporate Governance and managing our risks (continued)**

### **Risk management and internal control**

A full description of the Risk Management Framework of the British Business Bank is included within its Annual Report. The main aspects of the framework are:

- a collection of tools, processes and methodologies to identify, assess, monitor and control risks.
- a Risk Appetite Policy which SUL is subject to; however the SUL Board approves the company's own Risk Appetite Statement.
- risk governance based on the 'three lines of defence' model.
- a wide range of policies, frameworks and procedures which take account of regulatory or legal requirements and industry best practice.

The key operational risks that SUL is exposed to, discussed in the Directors' Report, are:

- Cash flow risk and going concern.
- Credit risk
- Performance of the UK economy

The key financial risks the company is exposed to are detailed in note 13.2 of the accompanying financial statements.

## Statement of Directors' responsibilities

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The Directors have chosen to adopt International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) which is consistent with the accounting treatment adopted by the British Business Bank Plc Group, of which SUL is a wholly owned subsidiary. Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- Properly select and apply accounting policies.
- Present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information.
- Provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements in IFRSs are insufficient to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the entity's financial position and financial performance.
- Make an assessment of the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose, with reasonable accuracy at any time, the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge:

- The financial statements, prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the Company and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole;
- The strategic report includes a fair review of the development and performance of the business and the position of the Company, and the undertakings included in the consolidation taken as a whole, together with a description of the principal risks and uncertainties that they face;
- The annual report and financial statements, taken as a whole, are fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy.

On behalf of the Board



Louis Taylor  
Director

24 November 2023

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

### Statement of Comprehensive Net Income

INCOME	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Interest income	4.1	29,326	28,585
Grant income	4.2	3,443	4,224
<b>Gross operating income</b>		<b>32,769</b>	<b>32,809</b>
Expected credit loss on amortised cost assets	9	5,339	16,264
Net losses on investment assets	4.3	(50,831)	(51,856)
Net gain on write down of repayable capital grant	4.4	32,280	22,608
<b>Net operating income</b>		<b>19,557</b>	<b>19,825</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Staff costs	5.1	(3,264)	(3,089)
Other operating expenditure	5.2	(15,009)	(15,285)
Depreciation and amortisation		(14)	(232)
<b>Operating expenditure</b>		<b>(18,287)</b>	<b>(18,606)</b>
<b>Net operating profit before interest payable</b>		<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,219</b>
Interest expense	16	(1,270)	(1,269)
<b>(Loss)/profit before taxation</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(50)</b>
Tax charge for the year	7	1	59
<b>Profit for the year after tax</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income in the year</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>

All operations are continuing. The Company has no recognised gains and losses, other than those set out above. The notes on pages 17 to 42 form an integral part of these financial statements.

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		8,837	8,300
Trade and other receivables	8	977	833
Amortised cost investments	9	181,910	178,831
Property, plant and equipment		-	2
Intangible assets		-	12
Deferred tax assets		208	208
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>191,932</b>	<b>188,186</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	10	(2,155)	(3,157)
Deferred scheme income	11	(731)	(974)
Loans and repayable capital grant	12	(188,880)	(183,890)
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>(191,766)</b>	<b>(188,021)</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Capital &amp; Reserves</b>			
Retained earnings		166	165
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>166</b>	<b>165</b>

The notes on pages 17 to 42 are an integral part of these financial statements.

For the financial year in question, the Company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 479a of the Companies Act 2006. No members have required the Company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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



Louis Taylor  
Director

24 November 2023

**Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

**Statement of changes in equity as at 31 March 2023**

	Retained Earnings £'000	Total Equity £'000
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2021</b>	156	<b>156</b>
Total comprehensive income for the year	9	<b>9</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2022</b>	165	<b>165</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2022</b>	165	<b>165</b>
Total comprehensive income for the year	1	<b>1</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2023</b>	166	<b>166</b>

The notes on pages 17 to 42 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### Cash flow statement

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>			
(Loss)/Profit before taxation		-	(50)
<i>Adjustment for non-cash items:</i>			
Net gain on write-down of capital grant	4.4	(32,280)	(22,608)
Depreciation and amortisation		14	233
Deferred loan scheme	11	(243)	776
Interest payable	16	1,270	1,269
<i>Changes in operating assets and liabilities:</i>			
Net increase in amortised cost investments	9	(3,079)	(21,466)
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables	8	(144)	444
(Decrease) /Increase in trade and other payables	10	(1,002)	442
Payment of Corporation Tax		1	50
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>		<b>(35,463)</b>	<b>(40,910)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment of unsecured loans	12	-	(14,894)
Capital grants received	12	36,000	60,000
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>36,000</b>	<b>45,106</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>537</b>	<b>4,196</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		8,300	4,104
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>		<b>8,837</b>	<b>8,300</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents consist of:</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand		8,837	8,300

The notes on pages 17 to 42 are an integral part of these financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

### 1. General Information

The Start-Up Loans Company ("The Company") is a government funded business that provides start up support to entrepreneurs across the UK in the form of loan financing together with support from a business mentor. The Company is limited by guarantee and is incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The address of its registered office is Steel City House, West Street, Sheffield S1 2GQ.

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with UK-adopted International accounting standards and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis. These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the Company operates.

On 7th February 2023, the prime minister announced a major machinery of government change which redistributed the activities of several existing government departments, including BEIS, and created three new departments, the Department for Business and Trade (DBT), the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Start-Up Loans Company has been designated to the Department for Business and Trade with accounting officer responsibilities formally transferred from 1st April 2023. Any reference to DBT in the financial statements also infers reference to BEIS.

The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

#### (b) Going concern

The Company requires future additional funding from British Business Finance Limited ("BBFL") and the Secretary of State for Business and Trade (DBT) to maintain its ability to continue to operate the Start-up Loans Scheme. The Company has received a letter of support from the Secretary of State for Business and Trade stating it will provide sufficient funding to enable the Company to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, on the basis that the Company continues to meet the principles and conditions communicated to it.

As the letter of support is not legally binding, the reliance on such support comprises an element of uncertainty. However, on the basis of history of support pre and post year-end the Directors consider that the necessary funding will be available to the Company as required. Thus, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### (c) Adoption of new and revised standards

There were no new or amended standards applied for the first time and therefore no restatements of the previous financial statements were required.

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, the Directors do not expect that the adoption of Standards and Interpretations in issue but not yet effective (IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts) will have a material impact on the financial statements of the Company in future years. The Company are carrying out an impact assessment with regard to the issuance of IFRS S1 and IFRS S2 Sustainability Standards.

## 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (d) Revenue recognition

#### (i) Interest income

Interest income and expense on all financial instruments are recognised within interest receivable or payable on an effective interest rate basis.

The effective interest rate method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts future contractual cash payments or receipts over the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset (i.e. its amortised cost before any impairment allowance) or to the amortised cost of the financial liability. The calculation does not consider expected credit losses and includes transaction costs, and premiums or discounts that are integral to the effective interest rate, such as origination fees.

When the Company revises the estimates of future cash flows, the carrying amount of the respective financial asset or financial liability is adjusted to reflect the new estimate discounted using the original effective interest rate. Any changes are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income.

#### (ii) Grant income

Grant income represents funding received from DBT to cover the operating costs of the Company and performance fees for delivery partners. Any income in excess of this has been included as a liability on the Balance Sheet.

#### (iii) Write down of repayable capital grant

The Company receives a repayable capital grant from DBT for the purpose of extending entrepreneur loans at below market rate. The repayable capital grant will be reduced by any unrecovered capital and interest repayments from the beneficiaries of the loans. The write down of repayable capital grant represents the reduction in the liability for the write-offs and impairment losses incurred on the loans as well as the reduction/increase in the liability for the fair value adjustment on initial recognition of the loans and the subsequent amortisation of this adjustment.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (e) Taxation

##### *(i) Current and deferred tax*

The tax expense represents the sum of current and deferred tax.

Deferred tax is the tax expected to be payable or recoverable on differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit and is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences.

Current and deferred tax are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income, except when they relate to items that are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case, the current and deferred tax are also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

#### (f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and current balances with banks and other financial institutions, which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value and have an original maturity of three months or less.

#### (g) Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the Company's Statement of Financial Position when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are initially measured at fair value, less directly attributable transaction costs, except for the transaction costs directly attributable to the acquisition of financial assets or financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss which are recognised immediately in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income.

##### *(i) Financial assets*

Financial assets include trade and other receivables and cash at bank, and these are initially recognised at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Loans to entrepreneurs are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market. Loans are recognised when cash is advanced to the entrepreneurs and initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost over the term of the loan.

Loans are derecognised when the right to receive cash flows from the asset have expired, usually when all amounts outstanding have been repaid by the entrepreneurs or the loan has been written off.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies – (continued)

#### *(ii) Fair value at initial recognition*

Loans originated through the Company's Start Up Loan programme have been classified as amortised cost financial instruments. The Company charges a single rate of interest (6%) to Start Up Loans customers that is independent of the credit quality of the customer. This interest rate is not sufficient to compensate for the expected losses for the Start Up Loans scheme which are forecast to be between 30% and 40%, reflecting the non-commercial nature of the scheme. Therefore, the transaction value of a Start Up Loan will not equal its fair value.

The future expected cash flows are risk adjusted and discounted using an appropriate discount rate, which has been calculated by taking the average 5-year median corporate debt rate for Caa/C rated loans, in order to calculate the fair value.

In accordance with IFRS 9 the fair value adjustment at initial recognition, which is the difference between the transaction value of the loans and their fair value would usually be deferred and either amortised or recognised when a gain or loss was crystallised. However, the Directors have determined that it is appropriate in this circumstance to apply a true and fair override, and consequently any fair value adjustment arising on the Start Up Loans loan book will be recognised immediately through the Statement of Comprehensive Net Income because this reflects the commercial position more appropriately.

#### *(iii) Impairment of financial assets*

The Company assesses on a forward-looking basis, the expected credit losses ('ECL') associated with its debt instrument assets carried at amortised cost. At initial recognition, financial assets are categorised as 'stage 1' and an impairment provision is made for ECLs resulting from default events projected within the next 12 months ('12-month ECL').

Subsequently, financial assets are considered to be in 'stage 2' when their credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, at which point it is considered appropriate to recognise lifetime ECL. The Company assesses assets to be in stage 2 using a combination of non-statistical, qualitative information as well as quantitative, statistical information, including when accounts are more than 30 days past due or there has been a significant relative increase in the lifetime probability of default ('PD') compared to initial recognition, where the PD is derived based on the customer's credit quality, including analysis of behaviour score and other account characteristics.

Financial assets are included in 'stage 3' when there is objective evidence that the asset is credit impaired, with expected credit losses still calculated on a lifetime basis. Assets which are more than 90 days past due are in default and are considered by the Company to be credit impaired.

ECLs are calculated using three main components, PD, a loss given default ('LGD') and the exposure at default ('EAD'). The LGD represents losses expected on default, taking into account the time value of money. The EAD represents the expected balance at default, taking into account the repayment of principal and interest from the reporting date to the default. Discounting of the expected cashflows is performed using the effective interest rate of the loan.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### *The calculation of probability of default (PD)*

The PD of each underlying loan or credit facility provided by the Company is a key assumption for the IFRS 9 ECL calculation and this is reliant on rating assessments undertaken by external and internal PD models. Where account level ratings are not available the average PD derived from the same cohort of lending is applied.

#### *The calculation of loss given default (LGD)*

LGD assesses the loss potential in case of a default and is estimated using internal models which consider observed loss data, cure rates or external benchmarks where appropriate.

#### *The calculation of exposure at default (EAD)*

Exposure at default (EAD) is estimated for each month for the contractual lifetime of each financial instrument. This is either based on the contractual maturity profile of each loan or an internal estimate of the exposure value based on expected repayment profiles based on historical information.

#### *(iii) Impairment of financial assets*

Changes in the carrying amount of assets arising as a result of impairment are recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Income. Loans remain on the balance sheet, net of associated provisions, until they are deemed to have no reasonable expectation of recovery. Loans are generally fully written off where the offering of any forbearance measures has proved unsuccessful in the borrower being able to meet the revised repayment schedule, there is a continued pattern of non-payment, and it is assessed that there is no realistic prospect of any further recovery. Loans are partially written off from an accounting perspective where the borrower is unable to repay the loan in full and the loan has been subject to forbearance such that the original amounts due are no longer expected to be fully recovered.

Any loss incurred by the Group on extinguishing the debt is written off against the provision for loan impairment. Any subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are recognised through the Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Net Income.

#### *(iv) Financial liabilities*

Financial liabilities include trade and other payables and loans and other borrowings.

#### *(v) Trade and other payables*

Trade payables are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Trade payables are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### *(vi) Loans and repayable capital grant*

The Company has received two types of funding from the DBT:

- A capital grant: the agreement does not have a maturity date and carries an interest rate of zero. The capital grant may become repayable on demand, in whole or in part, if at the absolute discretion of the DBT certain conditions arise that affect the Scheme adversely.
- Term facilities: the terms of these agreements are unsecured and carry an interest rate of zero.

The Company has also entered into a term facility agreement with British Business Finance Limited at an interest rate of 2.525%. Further details are provided in note 12.

The Company initially measures the loans and capital grant as the amount received. For the loans the Directors have determined that the amount received is a reasonable estimation of fair value based on the terms of these loans. For the capital grant, the amount received is equivalent to the fair value at initial recognition because the capital grant is repayable on demand. Subsequently the Company will adjust the amount recorded with any interest payable or repayments made and in respect of the capital grant, any amounts the Company believes will not be recoverable from the entrepreneurs.

### 3. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

In preparing the Financial Statements, the Directors are required to make judgements and estimates. Judgements involve an interpretation of requirements to decide how to allocate, value or recognise an item. Estimates arise from using assumptions which result in a range of possible outcomes. The most important judgements and estimates used in preparing these Financial Statements are described below. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the year in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that year, or in the year of the revision and future years if the revision affects both current and future years.

#### **Accounting Judgement:**

##### ***Funding from BBFL and DBT***

The Company is dependent on continuing to receive further funding from BBFL and DBT and has a letter of support from DBT stating it will provide sufficient funding to enable the Company to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due for a period of not less than twelve months of the date of approval of the financial statements. This funding is conditional on the Company continuing to meet the principles and conditions communicated to it.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 3. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty (continued)

#### *The assessment of fair value on initial recognition for SUL.*

There is uncertainty in both the expected cash flows and the Effective Interest Rate (EIR) used to calculate the fair value at initial recognition for Start Up Loans to entrepreneurs. The EIR is subsequently used in the calculation of interest income recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as the fair value adjustment amortises.

The cash flows comprise four main components: principal, interest, expected loss on principal and expected loss on interest. For each individual account and for each period, the expected loss on principal and the expected loss on interest are assessed by taking the outstanding contractual amounts and adjusting for the marginal PDs and LGD.

EIR is calculated using the risk adjusted cash flows discounted using a derived market rate which references to the 5-year median yield for Caa/C rated corporate debt applicable at the year of origination.

The fair value of SUL is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and to changes in expected cash flows arising from the actual and future expected performance of the loans. A 3% increase in the discount rate as a result of movements in corporate debt rates for Caa/C rated loans or SONIA would have led to an approximate £1.6m decrease in the fair value recognised at inception for the loans newly originated during the year.

#### **Sources of estimation uncertainty**

The estimate that risk causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year is the assessment of ECL impairment allowances against assets held at amortised cost and financial assets.

#### *The assessment of ECL impairment allowances against amortised cost financial assets*

The calculation of impairment provisions is inherently uncertain and requires the Company to make a number of assumptions and estimates.

Where there has been a significant relative increase in the probability of default (PD) compared to initial recognition, based on the customer's credit quality, the account is assessed as being in 'stage 2'. The SUL loans to entrepreneurs are not re-rated after origination and so, a percentage of the performing portfolio is assumed to be in Stage 2 based on industry analysis and timing of origination.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 3. Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty (continued)

#### *Economic scenarios and associated probability weightings*

IFRS 9 requires the calculation of ECLs to account for multiple forward-looking macroeconomic scenarios that are plausible. The ECL model adopted by the Group uses a range of forward-looking projections of UK liquidation rates generated by a macroeconomic regression model based on 3rd party base case forecasts of Consumer Price Index growth rates, interest rates, and unemployment rates, and then under two better and two worse scenarios. The selection of variables was reviewed in 2022-23 to ensure their continued suitability as independent variables within the regression model.

To account for the volatile nature of the UK economic environment, the Group has continued to engage with our third-party forecaster throughout the year to provide independent economic forecasts for use within the IFRS 9 ECL models. They provide five economic scenarios of varying severity as input to the macroeconomic regression model, and the weightings associated with each are reviewed, challenged and adjusted on a quarterly basis. As at 31 March 2023, adjustments to the scenario weightings have been applied to increase the probability of a downside scenario.

The Company has considered post-model overlays to reflect the increase in credit risk that is not accounted for due to any model limitations or the lack of behavioural credit scores. A post-model overlay for LGD has been applied which stresses the LGD to 90%. The impact of this overlay on the provision was an increase of £1.7m.

#### 4. Income

##### 4.1 Interest Income

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Contractual interest from Amortised Cost Investments	13,228	12,208
Amortisation of fair value adjustment on initial recognition from Amortised Cost Investments	16,098	16,377
<b>Effective Interest rate income</b>	<b>29,326</b>	<b>28,585</b>

The Company charges a contractual interest rate of 6% to customers regardless of the credit quality of the customer. The amortisation of the fair value adjustment on initial recognition represents the difference between the contractual interest rate and the effective interest rate applicable on these loans.

##### 4.2 Grant Income

Grant income relates to the Resource Grant received from the DBT under the terms of the 'Grant Offer Letter'. The grant income funds the operating expenses of the Company and any amount in excess is recorded as a deferred scheme income liability (note 11). A cash amount of £3.2m was received from the DBT in the form of a Resource Grant for the financial year ending 31 March 2023 (2022: £5m).

##### 4.3 Net losses on investment assets

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Impairment losses and other finance partner write-offs	21,490	20,854
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition of Amortised Cost assets	29,341	31,002
<b>Net losses on investment assets</b>	<b>50,831</b>	<b>51,856</b>

The impairment losses and other finance partner write-offs relates to the derecognition of loans where they are assessed to have no reasonable prospect of any further recoveries. When a loan is derecognised, there is also a reduction in the provision for expected credit losses which partially offsets the impact on net income. The reduction in the provision during the year for derecognised loans was £109.1m (2022 £110.9m).

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 4.4 Net gain on write down of repayable capital grant

The Company receives a Capital Grant from DBT under the terms of the 'Grant Offer Letter' between DBT and SUL for the purpose of extending loans to entrepreneurs at below market rate (see note 12). On expiry of the grant period (31 March 2027), SUL will repay to DBT the amount of cash held in its bank accounts representing capital and interest repayments from entrepreneurs. The repayable capital grant will be reduced by any unrecovered amounts from the beneficiaries of the loans. The gain on write-down of repayable capital grant represents the reduction in the capital grant liability for the write-offs and impairment losses incurred on the loans to entrepreneurs in the period as well as the reduction/increase in the capital grant liability for the fair value adjustment on initial recognition and the subsequent amortisation of this adjustment.

### 5. Operating expenditure

#### 5.1 Staff costs

Direct staff costs	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	2,652	2,537
Social security costs	296	254
Other pension costs	316	298
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>3,264</b>	<b>3,089</b>

#### 5.2 Other operating expenditure

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Professional fees - operational	590	177
Information technology	7	82
Delivery partner fees	7,312	8,282
Staff related costs, including training and travel	61	22
Other purchase of goods and services	7,039	6,722
<b>Total other operating expenditure</b>	<b>15,009</b>	<b>15,285</b>

The Company is part of the British Business Bank plc group, certain functions are provided centrally with a management fee cost recharged to the company. This recharge is shown within Other purchase of goods and services.

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31  
March 2023 (continued)**

**6. Employees and Directors**

*(i) Employees*

The average monthly number of persons (including Executive and Non-Executive Directors) employed by the Company during the year was:

	2023	2022
Non-Executive Directors	2	2
Permanent, fixed term and seconded employees	57	58
	<b>59</b>	<b>60</b>

*(ii) Executive and Non-Executive Directors' emoluments*

There were no directors' emoluments (short term, long term and post-employment benefits) in the current or prior financial year. The two directors who served during the financial year ended 31 March 2023 (2022: two) were employed by British Business Bank plc and did not receive remuneration for their services to the Company. Their remuneration is disclosed in the consolidated financial statements of British Business Bank plc.

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023  
(continued)**

**7. Tax on result/profit on ordinary activities**

**(a) Tax expense included in result**

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Current tax:		
UK Corporation tax on profits for the year	(1)	(51)
<b>Total current tax</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(51)</b>
Deferred tax:		
Origination and reversal of temporary differences	-	(8)
<b>Total deferred tax</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>Tax on result on ordinary activities</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>(59)</b>

**(b) Reconciliation of tax charge**

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Result on ordinary activities before tax</b>	-	263
Tax on profit at standard UK tax rate of 19% (2022: 19%)	-	50
Effects of:		
- Adjustment from previous periods and tax rate changes	1	1
<b>Tax charge for the year</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>

**(c) Deferred taxation**

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
<b>Opening balance at 1 April</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>200</b>
Movement in the year	-	8
<b>Deferred tax as at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>208</b>

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023  
(continued)**

**8. Trade and other receivables**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Prepayments and accrued income	295	10
Other receivables	682	823
	<b>977</b>	<b>833</b>

**9. Amortised cost Investments**

	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Opening balance at 1 April</b>		<b>178,831</b>	<b>157,365</b>
Additions		120,067	130,748
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition	<b>4.3</b>	(29,341)	(31,002)
Capital repayments		(100,822)	(102,275)
Accrued contractual interest	<b>4.1</b>	13,228	12,208
Amortisation of fair value adjustment on initial recognition	<b>4.1</b>	16,098	16,377
Impairment losses and other finance partner write offs	<b>4.3</b>	(21,490)	(20,854)
Expected credit loss allowance		5,339	16,264
<b>As at 31 March</b>		<b>181,910</b>	<b>178,831</b>

The fair value adjustment on initial recognition represents the difference between the face value of loans written and the future expected cash flows discounted using an appropriate discount rate. The fair value adjustment as a ratio to gross lending advanced was 24.4% during the year (2022: 23.7%).

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023  
(continued)**

**10. Trade and other payables**

Amounts falling due within one year:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Other accruals	1,373	1,941
Trade and other payables	177	194
Taxation and social security	75	61
Amounts owed to group undertakings	530	961
	<b>2,155</b>	<b>3,157</b>

The Directors consider that the carrying value of trade and other payables approximates their fair value.

**11. Deferred scheme income**

Grant income, not recognised in the profit and loss account, has been deferred for furtherance of the Scheme in future years in accordance with the terms set out in the DBT Grant Offer letters.

## 12. Loans and capital grant repayable

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
BBFL Unsecured loan – falling due within one year	-	53,835
DBT Repayable capital grant – falling due within one year	133,774	130,055
<b>Falling due within one year</b>	<b>133,774</b>	<b>183,890</b>
BBFL Unsecured loan – falling due after one year	55,106	-
<b>Falling due after one year</b>	<b>55,106</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total loans and capital grant repayable</b>	<b>188,880</b>	<b>183,890</b>

The loan facilities with BBFL carry an interest rate of 2.525%. This comprises two facilities repayable on 31 March 2026, extended from the previously repayment date of 31 March 2023 on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.

During the year the Company received capital grants from DBT of £36mm (2022: £60m) and wrote down the value of capital grants by £32.3m (2022: £20.6m). The repayable capital grant has been classified as a current liability as it may become repayable on demand, in whole or in part, under certain conditions (see note 2 (g)(vi)).

During the year repayments of £nil (2022: £nil) were made against the unsecured loans from BBFL.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management

#### 13.1 Financial Instruments

The following table analyses the Company's financial assets and liabilities in accordance with the categories of financial instruments in IFRS 9.

At 31 March 2023	Note	Amortised cost assets £'000	Amortised cost liabilities £'000	Non- financial items £'000	Total £'000
<b>Assets</b>					
Amortised cost investments	9	181,910	-	-	181,910
Trade and other receivables	8	682	-	-	682
Prepayments	8	-	-	295	295
Cash and cash equivalents		8,837	-	-	8,837
Deferred tax		-	-	208	208
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>191,429</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>191,932</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	10	-	(2,811)	(75)	(2,886)
Loans and other borrowings	12	-	(188,880)	-	(188,880)
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(191,691)</b>	<b>(75)</b>	<b>(191,766)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>191,429</b>	<b>(191,691)</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>166</b>

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023  
(continued)**

**13.1 Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)**

At 31 March 2022	Note	Amortised cost assets £'000	Amortised cost liabilities £'000	Non- financial items £'000	Total £'000
<b>Assets</b>					
Property, plant and equipment		-	-	2	2
Intangible assets		-	-	12	12
Amortised cost investments	9	178,831	-	-	178,831
Trade and other receivables	8	823	-	-	823
Prepayments	8	-	-	10	10
Cash and cash equivalents		8,300	-	-	8,300
Deferred tax		-	-	208	208
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>187,954</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>188,186</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Trade and other payables	10	-	(4,070)	(61)	(4,131)
Loans and other borrowings	12	-	(183,890)	-	(183,890)
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(187,960)</b>	<b>(61)</b>	<b>(188,021)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>187,954</b>	<b>(187,960)</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>165</b>

**Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities that are not measured at fair value on a recurring basis.**

The carrying amounts and fair values of the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities measured at amortised cost are generally equivalent, the exception being the loans measured at amortised cost as detailed in the table below.

	Carrying value 2023 £'000	Fair Value 2023 £'000	Carrying value 2022 £'000	Fair Value 2022 £'000
<b>Financial assets at amortised cost</b>				
Amortised cost				
- Start Up Loans	181,910	196,093	178,831	192,266
	<b>181,910</b>	<b>196,093</b>	<b>178,831</b>	<b>192,266</b>

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13.1 Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

#### Start Up Loans

Start Up Loans to entrepreneurs are financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and are not quoted in an active market. Loans are recognised when cash is advanced and initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost over the term of the loan.

For the estimation of fair value at the reporting date, the Company has utilised a future expected cash flow model which is based on the recent past performance for similar loans. The future expected cash flows derived from the model are discounted using an appropriate discount rate which has been calculated by taking the 5-year median corporate debt rates for Caa / C rated loans. This information has been sourced from Moody's market analysis. Start Up Loans are classed as Level 3 assets based on the valuation techniques used to determine the fair value at the reporting date. The fair value of Start Up Loans is sensitive to changes in the discount rate and to changes in the expected cash flows arising from the actual and future expected performance of the loans.

#### Other financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of cash & bank, other receivables, trade payables and delivery partner accrual are measured at carrying value due to the short-term nature of these assets.

For financial reporting purposes, fair value measurements are categorised into Level 1, 2 or 3 based on the degree to which the inputs to the fair value measurements are observable and the significance of the inputs to the fair value measurement in its entirety. All of the Company's other financial assets and financial liabilities are classed as Level 3 assets and liabilities. This means that they are derived from valuation techniques that include inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The carrying value and fair value of unsecured loan stock reflects the amount at which the Company expects to settle this liability with the Department for Business and Trade.

The carrying value and fair value of capital grants is equivalent because the grants have no maturity and may become repayable on demand, in whole or in part, under certain conditions (see note 2 (g)(vi)).

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

#### 13.2 Financial risk management

The Company has exposure to several financial risks through the conduct of its operations. Details of the Company's risk management structure are provided below. This note presents information specifically about the nature and extent of the Credit and Investment risk arising from the financial instruments.

##### Credit and Investment risk

Credit and investment risk is the risk of loss to the Company from the failure of clients, customers or counterparties to fully honour their obligations to the Company, including the whole and timely payment of principal, interest and other receivables. Credit risk may arise in any of the Company's assets where there is the potential for default including loans and receivables with a contractual repayment.

Assessment of credit and investment risk is carried out as part of the loan approval process and is revisited on an ongoing basis as part of the Company's portfolio management process. With respect to Start Up Loans, all loans to entrepreneurs are on an unsecured basis and the credit risk is the risk that an entrepreneur will default on their contractual obligations to make repayments resulting in financial loss to the Company. To manage this, Management approves the lending standards for Start Up Loans and all changes to it. All loan applications are assessed with reference to the lending standards in force at the time. Subsequently loans are regularly reviewed for any factors that may indicate that the likelihood of repayment has changed. During the year there have been no noteworthy changes in the credit risk management procedures.

##### Credit risk exposure

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Cash and cash equivalents	8,837	8,300
Trade and other receivables	682	824
Amortised cost investments	215,609	217,869
<b>Total</b>	<b>225,128</b>	<b>226,993</b>

The credit risk exposure is the gross carrying value of the financial assets in the Statement of Financial Position as no collateral is held against any of the assets and investments. If these loans were to default, the overall net loss recorded in the income statement would be lower due to the ECL provision held against the amortised cost investments.

**Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023  
(continued)**

**13.2 Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)**

*Trade and other receivables*

Impairment on trade and other receivables has been measured on the 12-month expected loss basis and reflects the short maturities of the exposures. An expected credit loss on trade and other receivables has not been recognised in the accounts as it is not material.

*Assets held at amortised cost*

The Company produces credit risk ratings for its loan based upon the output of internal and external PD models.

The following table presents an analysis of credit quality of assets held at amortised cost. It indicates whether assets were subject to a 12-month Expected Credit Loss ("ECL") or lifetime ECL allowance, and whether they were credit-impaired.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

#### 13.2 Financial risk management (continued)

Assets held at amortised cost (continued)

	Not credit-impaired			Credit impaired			Total
	Subject to 12-month ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	
	Gross carrying amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying amount	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>As at 1 April 2022</b>	<b>161,759</b>	<b>(11,252)</b>	<b>35,629</b>	<b>20,481</b>	<b>(17,777)</b>	<b>217,869</b>	<b>(39,038)</b>
Transfer to 12-month ECL	1,755	(315)	(1,740)	(15)	6	-	-
Transfer to lifetime ECL	(14,739)	3,123	15,007	(268)	186	-	-
Transfer to credit-impaired financial asset	(6,077)	1,505	(2,649)	8,726	(2,630)	-	-
New financial assets originated or purchased	120,067	(9,991)	-	-	-	120,067	(9,991)
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition (new lending)	(29,341)	-	-	-	-	(29,341)	-
Financial assets that have been derecognised during the period (including write-off)	(76,864)	292	(19,190)	(13,030)	1,022	(109,085)	1,632
Changes to risk parameters	-	4,537	-	-	5,913	-	13,697
Amortisation	12,561	-	2,128	1,409	-	16,098	-
<b>As at 31 March 2023</b>	<b>169,121</b>	<b>(12,101)</b>	<b>29,185</b>	<b>17,303</b>	<b>(13,280)</b>	<b>215,609</b>	<b>(33,698)</b>
<b>Carrying amount as at 31 March 2023</b>		<b>157,020</b>		<b>20,867</b>	<b>4,023</b>		<b>181,910</b>

<sup>1</sup> Derecognition relates to net repayments, closures and write-offs.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

#### 13.2 Financial risk management (continued)

Assets held at amortised cost (continued)

	Not credit-impaired			Credit impaired			Total
	Subject to 12-month ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	Subject to lifetime ECL	
	Gross carrying amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying amount	Gross carrying amount	Allowance for ECL	Gross carrying amount	Allowance for ECL
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>As at 1 April 2021</b>	<b>140,184</b>	<b>(9,948)</b>	<b>36,774</b>	<b>35,708</b>	<b>(32,358)</b>	<b>212,665</b>	<b>(55,301)</b>
Transfer to 12-month ECL	4,622	(3,015)	(2,391)	(2,231)	1,594	-	-
Transfer to lifetime ECL	(16,528)	5,069	20,637	(4,109)	1,364	-	-
Transfer to credit-impaired financial asset	(5,867)	371	(3,230)	9,097	(2,125)	-	-
New financial assets originated or purchased	130,748	(10,993)	-	-	-	130,748	(10,993)
Fair value adjustment on initial recognition (new lending)	(31,002)	-	-	-	-	(31,002)	-
Financial assets that have been derecognised <sup>1</sup> during the period (including write-off)	(72,978)	268	(18,930)	(19,013)	1,915	(110,921)	2,702
Changes to risk parameters	-	6,997	-	-	11,835	-	24,555
Amortisation	12,580	-	2,768	1,029	-	16,377	-
<b>As at 31 March 2022</b>	<b>161,759</b>	<b>(11,252)</b>	<b>35,629</b>	<b>20,481</b>	<b>(17,777)</b>	<b>217,869</b>	<b>(39,038)</b>
<b>Carrying amount as at 31 March 2022</b>		<b>150,507</b>		<b>25,620</b>		<b>2,074</b>	<b>178,831</b>

<sup>1</sup> Derecognition relates to net repayments, closures and write-offs.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)

#### 13.2 Financial risk management (continued)

The Company has undertaken sensitivity analysis of the key inputs to ECL impairment provision models.

- The potential impact of ascribing 100% probability to the worst-case economic scenario could increase provisions by £2.2 million.
- The potential impact of inaccurately modelled PD input with a sensitivity of a 1-notch downgrade on a granular PD rating scale, equating to 1.5x multiple on all the performing loan PD inputs, could increase provisions by £5.1 million.
- The potential impact of changing the LGD from 90% to 100% post overlay could increase provisions by £1.5 million.

#### *Cash and cash equivalents*

The cash and cash equivalents are held with banks and financial institutions which are rated AA- to AA+ based on S&P ratings. The Company considers that cash and cash equivalents have a low credit risk based on the external credit ratings of the holding parties. As such, an expected credit loss has not been recognised in the accounts.

#### *Interest rate risk*

The following table shows the average interest rates received or charged applicable to relevant financial assets and financial liabilities.

	2023		2022	
	Amount £'000	Contractual Average interest rate	Amount £'000	Contractual Average interest rate
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Start Up Loans	181,910	6%	178,831	6%
<b>Financial Liabilities</b>				
Loans and repayable capital grant from the Secretary of Business and Trade	133,774	0%	130,055	0%
Loans from British Business Finance Limited	55,106	2.525%	53,835	2.525%

The interest rate applicable to Start Up loans to entrepreneurs is fixed at a rate of 6% per annum. Interest is payable on borrowings from BBFL at 2.525%. Therefore, a consistent margin is maintained between interest receivable and interest payable. As a result, the trading performance for the year is not sensitive to changes in reference rates and no sensitivity analysis is presented.

## **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

### **13. Financial Instruments and Risk Management (continued)**

#### **13.2 Financial risk management (continued)**

##### ***Liquidity risk***

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity does not have sufficient financial resources in the short term to meet its obligations as they fall due, or its strategy is constrained by inadequate or inappropriate funding sources.

The Company manages its liquidity risk management as part of its cash and operational risk management processes and ensures that sufficient funds in liquid form are maintained at all times to meet liabilities as they fall due.

It should be noted loans to entrepreneurs have an average maturity of up to 5 years.

The capital grant funding received from DBT has no maturity and may become repayable on demand, in whole or in part, under certain conditions (see note 2(g)(vi)), if at the absolute discretion of DBT, certain conditions arise that affect the Company adversely. The maturity profile of the loan from BBFL is given in note 12. The Company has received a letter of support from DBT stating it will provide sufficient funding to enable the Company to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due for a period of not less than twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements, on the basis that the Company continues to meet the principles and conditions communicated to it.

Other than the capital grants, liquidity risk is not deemed significant to the Company as it is 100% Government funded, with all programmes pre-approved.

### **14. Share capital**

The Company is limited by Guarantee and BBFL is the sole member of the Company. BBFL is a wholly owned subsidiary of the British Business Bank plc.

### **15. Contingent liabilities**

The Company does not have any contingent liabilities.

## Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)

### 16. Related party transactions

#### Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel refer to the Directors of the Company. Key management personnel compensation is disclosed in note 6 to the financial statements.

#### Trading Transactions

The Company receives funding from DBT and BBFL which is part of the British Business Bank Plc Group as disclosed in note 12 to the financial statements. The Company also receives grant income from DBT to cover its operating expenses as disclosed in note 4.2. During the year the Company entered into the following related party transactions:

#### Income

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Grant Income – DBT	3,443	4,224
Write down of repayable capital grant received from DBT	32,280	22,608
<b>Total income</b>	<b>35,723</b>	<b>26,832</b>

#### Expenditure

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Recharges – British Business Bank plc	(6,174)	(6,174)

#### Capital

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Repayable capital grant received – DBT	36,000	60,000
Repayment of loans to DBT	-	(14,894)
<b>Total capital</b>	<b>36,000</b>	<b>45,106</b>

#### Interest Expense

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Repayable loan funding at 2.525% - BBFL	1,270	1,269

## **Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 (continued)**

### **16. Related party transactions (continued)**

#### ***Amounts outstanding at the end of the year***

Related party deferred scheme income and loans and borrowings outstanding at the end of the year are shown in the Statement of Financial Position and related notes.

At 31 March 2023 there was a £nil receivable from British Business Financial Service Ltd in respect of the recharge of operating expenses and other amounts settled (2022: £6,000).

At 31 March 2023 an amount of £530,000 was payable to British Business Bank plc in respect of recharges and other amounts settled by British Business Bank plc on behalf of the Company (2022: £967,000).

During the year, £nil was paid to BBFL in lieu of the interest charged on the repayable loans advanced by BBFL (2022: £nil).

### **17. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party**

In the opinion of the Directors, the Company's parent company is BBFL and the ultimate controlling party is the British Business Bank plc shareholder, the Secretary of State for Business and Trade (DBT). The consolidated financial statements of the DBT and BEIS are available from the Government departments' website at GOV.UK. Copies of the group financial statements of the British Business Bank plc and the financial statements of British Business Finance Limited are available from Companies House, Crown Way, Maindy, Cardiff, CF14 3UZ.

### **18. Events after the end of the reporting year**

There have been no post reporting date events that require disclosure.