

Shire Leasing Plc

Annual report and financial statements

For the year ended 31 March 2024

Registered number: 02476571



SHIRETM
LEASING
PART OF SHIRE BUSINESS GROUP

Shire Leasing Plc

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

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Shire Leasing Plc

Directors and advisers

Directors

M E Smith
J Worton
R C Hayes
S Price
M D Picken
H Lumb
C H MacKrell
M J Workman
J M McLintock
G Coe
E Carruthers – appointed 24 April 2024

Company secretary

H Lumb

Registered office and Business Address

1 Calico Business Park
Sandy Way
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B77 4BF

Independent auditor

RSM UK Audit LLP
Chartered Accountants
Davidson House
Forbury Square
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 3EU

Bankers

HSBC
City of London Branch
60 Queen Victoria Street
London
EC4N 4TR

Handelsbanken
3rd Floor
67 Temple Row
Birmingham
B2 5LS

Shire Leasing Plc

Report of the Chairmen

The overall business conditions for UK SME's remained challenging during the 23-24 financial year. There was a lack of clarity and confidence in the Geo-political environment which suppressed any growth ambitions for the majority of entrepreneurs owning and running small and medium sized enterprises. The lack of growth in the SME community is born out in the overall GDP figures for the U.K. during the last 12 months. Inflation, energy costs and the cost of borrowing all remained high leading to a cautious outlook by business leaders.

Our prime customer base is U.K. SME's and our main asset type is business equipment. Across the whole of the leasing industry lending in this area was down 6% year on year (Finance and Leasing Association March 2024 statistics).

It is very pleasing to see that Shire bucked the industry trend with some very strong results. Lease originations up 29% year on year, Own Book lending up 35% year on year and Gross receivables up 21% year on year. We also passed a milestone during the year where our gross receivables passed the £200m mark and we ended the year on £206m receivables.

The investment and growth in our own portfolio has the effect of suppressing profits in the current year. Having said this our profit mirrored the previous year but will lead to greater future profits as the additional lending works its way through our lending model.

Our continued investment in people and technology has produced some excellent results especially when you take into account the industry wide contraction in our sector.

We acquired a specialist loan company at the end of the financial year which will enhance the product range we can offer to our customers and gives the group a better balance which will be a catalyst to our ongoing business.

On behalf of the Chairmen



J Worton
Joint Chairman of the Board of Directors

29th July 2024

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report

The directors present their Strategic report together with the consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the Group ('Shire') is the provision of lease finance, hire purchase and loan arrangements. This comprises providing lease financing, hire purchase and loans to customers, the assignment of finance lease arrangements, hire purchase and loans to third parties, arranging lease financing on an agency basis, secondary rentals and sale of title. The market served is predominantly the Small Medium Enterprise market, with main asset types for lease finance and hire purchase being Lifestyle equipment, Agriculture, Telecommunications, Vending, and Vehicles.

Business model

The Group operates a hybrid model of being a lender and a broker. This has the advantage of being able to reach high acceptances for customers whilst mitigating risk for the group. The mix of business can be used to optimise medium to long term profitability from own book development, whilst brokerage gives access to short term profits and liquidity. Shire maintains a panel of funders for own book, with varying levels of flexibility and pricing to support its own book, including the British Business Bank's (BBB) ENABLE programme. The key to its successful own book is breadth and diversity of asset type, product type, geographical sector, industry sector and security taken. This also includes government guarantees of 80% and 70% under the Recovery Loan Schemes (RLS) and the prior Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan (CBILS) which attracted an 80% guarantee. Shire Leasing Plc was accredited for the schemes in July 2020 and has provided the different versions since then, including the new Guarantee Growth Scheme which commenced on 1st July 2024.

Review of business and strategic objectives

The Group has returned an operating profit of £3.3m (2023: £3.3m) during the current financial year. The Group's vision is to provide a market leading service through innovation and expertise, delivering flexible funding solutions for British businesses. It achieves this through a number of strategic objectives;

Increasing originations

The capital value of leases originated in the year was £134.8m (2023: £104.2m). The value of capital written has increased by 29.4% in the year. Shire has been able to further develop its Vendor programmes, attracting new partners as well as increase originations to its existing customers. During the financial year the Group wrote £21.6m (2023: £7.2m) of RLS agreements in its own book. The turnover from the assignment of leases has decreased by £0.1m to £0.5m (2023: £0.2m decrease) and the commission earned on lease arrangements on an agency basis has increased to £1.2m (2023: £1.1m) whilst the interest and other income from the Group's own portfolio of finances has increased to £29.8m (2023: £25.1m).

Growing own book lending

The Group has continued its strategic direction to focus on increasing its own portfolio of finance leases ("the portfolio") and £95.1m (2023: £70.6m) has been written to the portfolio during the current financial year. This has been offset by the continuous settlements in prior year finance leases during the current financial year which has resulted in the "Net Investment in Finance Leases" balance increasing to £177.9m (2023: £146.9m).

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

The Group's gross receivables of the portfolio increased to £209.9m from £170.6m. The Group's business model, the increase in business written and the movement in mix between assignment of leases, agency agreements and the portfolio, results in the unchanged operating profit (2023: £0.2m decrease), as future profits are held on the balance sheet and recognised over the life of the lease (average 52 months) rather than immediate revenue recognition. The unearned finance income in the balance sheet has increased from £28.1m to £38.0m. The net cash inflow from operating activities after movement in bank loans (which are accounted for in cost of sales) has increased to £3.2m (£0.9m outflow in 2023).

On 28th March 2024, Shire Leasing Plc acquired 100% of the share capital of Shire Securities Ltd (SSL), a business to business loan provider. Shire Leasing Plc has been expanding its loan offering since 2020 and SSL which was 50% owned by the Company's shareholders is a well-established broker in this space. The acquisition compliments the Group's strategy of growing originations and will ultimately increase own book originations in the Business to Business loan space. SSL's Balance Sheet has been consolidated into the Group position at 31st March 2024. No Statement of Income was attributed to Shire Leasing Plc in the last financial year. SSL gross receivables amounted to £7.2m.

Shire continued to utilise its Medium Term Note (MTN) programme and drew a further £4.6m which was used to develop its Own Book and also acquire Shire Securities Ltd. Accessing this working capital facility will allow Shire to develop its Own Book further, originating a higher proportion than through organic growth alone.

Optimised Borrowing Facilities

The Group has continued to keep a well-diversified funding base, benefitting from a British Business Bank's ENABLE Series 2 facility of £62.4m, which sits alongside its fully utilised £37.4m Series 1. This was further supported by a £6.6million of mezzanine funding from British Business Investments Ltd, which has been repaid to £3.3m. The ENABLE Funding programme has been developed as an aggregation vehicle making similar agreements with other funders and the British Business Bank ultimately will aim to refinance these 'warehouse' facilities to allow institutional investors access to a large and highly diversified pool of SME debt. Full utilisation of the ENABLE funding facility ensures the Group is well placed to be part of any refinancing that may occur in the capital markets, should it choose to do so. The Group has an intent to access the capital markets. This funding was complemented by a diverse range of Block discounting funders. Optimising the funding base has resulted in an increase of own book finance costs from £6.3m to £7.9m on an increased portfolio.

Shire also utilises a number of Block Discounting facilities and during the year entered into 1 new block facility of £6m and increased the overall block facilities by £16m.

Investment in technological advancements

The Group continues to invest in its in house Leaseman system which includes auto underwriting, Shire Online, Click to Finance and developed API's in to Suppliers as well as various third party systems. Click2Finance is a fully automated, digital customer journey including KYC, AML and fraud checks as well as fully automated underwriting, document production and e-signature capabilities. This is linked to a Vendor's website that supports online B2B shopping baskets, such that the Customer can get acceptance and documentation for leasing within seconds. Shire is also developing its back end systems to support the Click 2 Finance product, through Aurora – "Increasing scalability through automation" and projects delivered during the year were Scheme Tier Capture, Directors Guarantee automation and Retentions Accounting, Intelligent Block Funding as well as a complete new workflow system. Many more are in the current pipeline, being deployed over the next few months.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Position of the company

At the end of the year, net assets totalled £24,738,000 for the Company (2023 - £21,882,000) and £24,738,000 for the Group.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Group's principal financial instruments comprise bank balances, bank loans, net investment in finance leases, trade debtors and trade creditors. The main purpose of these instruments is to finance the business' operations.

The Group maintains a formal Risk Register identifying key risks and mitigating factors which has been approved by the Risk Committee. Our approach to risk is to identify the risk; measure the importance of the risk through impact and likelihood of occurrence; mitigate risks and monitor the progress of the risk. The Risk Committee meets monthly and reports into the Executive Board.

Risk	Mitigations
Strategic Risk – the risk of not being able to fulfil the business plan and strategic objectives.	Mitigations include review of financial models against actuals on a quarterly basis, ongoing monitoring of variances, scenario planning, trend analysis and regular stress testing. Continual monitoring of the macro economic environment and periodic financial modelling of probability of defaults, loss given defaults and vintage analysis of Shire's portfolio. We have diverse routes to market which mitigates exposure and the Proposal Allocations Committee meets monthly and reviews forecasted volumes, covenants, cost of funds and funding headroom to optimise the mix of funding.
Credit Risk – the degree a debtor is likely to default on credit.	Mitigations include Shire's business model being one of a lender and brokerage. This allows the business to spread credit risk and manage customer exposures. By spreading exposures in terms of geography, asset class and industry sector, helps to limit exposure in any specific sector. The Group currently has access to a database of circa 66,000 customers and the average principal balance owing on the number of live leases is currently £7,300 (2023 - £6,100). By ensuring that loans and leases are smaller and spread over a large customer base and geographical spread, as well as robust internal processes the Group is spreading the risk of potentially large bad debt write-offs.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

<p>Capital Risk – the risk of having insufficient capital to fulfil strategic objectives.</p>	<p>Shire’s funding model is a mix of brokerage funders, block discounting and the ENABLE warehousing facility from the British Business Bank for own book and management continually assess availability. A panel of different block discounters gives access to a variety of flexible funding and pricing. Optimised funding placement is set by the monthly Proposal Allocations Committee. Accreditation under the government Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) and Recovery Loan Scheme (RLS) attracts an 80% or 70% (post 1st January 2022) government guarantee.</p>
<p>Liquidity Risk – the inability to meet short term financial demands.</p>	<p>Mitigations include monitoring of unencumbered paper and reporting at Proposal Allocations Committee to optimise funding options and medium term returns whilst ensuring necessary cash flow and financial covenants are met. Shire has a facility on a Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, which will allow access to working capital to support own book growth further.</p>
<p>Interest Rate Risk – the impact of the change in interest rates.</p>	<p>Mitigations include the differing risk, mix and breath of the own book portfolio resulting in a broad range of sell out rates. A spread of different funders, through block discounting and BBB ENABLE, with more than sufficient headroom, means Shire is not singularly dependent on one funder. Leases and loans are written on fixed interest rates for the term and the associated funding is matched to the terms of the agreements with fixed interest rates over that term. Prices to customers continue to reflect the underlying movement in cost of funds</p>
<p>Market Risks – the risk of losses due to the market not behaving as expected, including movement in asset prices.</p>	<p>Each proposal underwritten on a proposal by proposal basis, monitoring exposure for each deal. Own book assets are mainly soft assets so the security of each deal rests mainly with the customer which Shire underwrites with emphasis on the customer. The business maintains strong relationships with its suppliers and all go through a complete due diligence and an on boarding process. The market is constantly monitored to ensure Shire deals with good quality suppliers and funders. The Company is a member of the FLA and is actively involved in various committees including Chair of the Green Committee and the MD/CFO also sits on the FLA Board.</p>

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

<p>Operational Risks – the risk of failures of systems or internal procedures.</p>	<p>Segregation of duties and internal controls are the main key mitigations for internal fraud plus a comprehensive authority matrix and various policies. Data losses are reported via a data protection email and are recorded alongside any data breaches which the data protection officer and the legal and compliance director have access to. Annual training and tests are performed on GDPR and other internal policies and Shire uses Adobe and Sharefile to send documents, which include link expiration. Firewalls, pen testing, web content and email filtering are all in use as well as full business continuity plans, major incident plans and business impact analysis documents which were implemented during the pandemic lockdowns, resulting in flexible homeworking solutions.</p>
<p>Conduct and Regulatory Risks – lack of market integrity due to either supplier and/or Shire's behaviour, activity and processes.</p>	<p>Mitigations include induction programmes, social media policy, internal training on Shire policies and externally provided staff training as required. Anti-money laundering, bribery and financial crime policies are tested annually. Suppliers are quality approved by Shire, ensuring their financial standing and FCA approved as necessary and key relationships are managed within the sales teams.</p>

Research and Development

The Group maintains a program of innovation and continuous improvement in both new products and systems. By employing its own developers, as well as using contract developer resources, it is able to respond quickly to changing needs.

Key performance indicators

The Board and Senior Management regularly review and monitor performance across a range of metrics. Some of these are detailed below:

Company and Group average capital value originated per month £11.2m (2023: £8.7m)

Company gross receivables £202.8m (2023: £170.6m), Group £209.9m

Company Net Investment in Finance Leases (NIFL) £172.3m (2023: £146.9m), Group NIFL £177.9m

Company unearned finance income £36.5m (2023: £28.1m), Group unearned finance income £38.0m

Company and Group Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation (EBITDA) £4.4m (2023: £4.2m)

Company Leaseman Online proposals received 37.3% (2023: 31.9%)

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Future strategy and outlook

Shire is committed to developing its new acquisition Shire Securities Ltd, to grow originations and benefit from the funding relationships of Shire to develop further its Own Book of loans. As part of this process, overall funding facilities are being reviewed and the business processes and systems including provision of robust management information are being aligned to Shire Leasing's practices in order to develop further growth as part of an overall Group strategy.

In 2024 and beyond, the Group continues to be actively committed to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) under its People, Planet, Profit initiative.

Shire has identified 3 key Development Goals:

- People: Enhancing and expanding the social aspect of what we do for our staff, our customers, our suppliers, our funders and our community through:
 - Education
 - Wellbeing
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
 - Culture
 - Community and Volunteering
- Planet: Minimising our own impact on the environment whilst using our products and market influence to support others in making positive changes in their journey to reducing their carbon footprint by
 - Offering finance solutions that support affordable access to green/ sustainable assets
 - Transitioning to technologies that will reduce Shire's own carbon footprint
 - Identifying and implementing initiatives that reduce Shire's environmental impact
- Profit: As a growing profitable financial services organisation that does business fairly and responsibly, Shire are committed to:
 - Supporting the growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises by providing them with affordable finance solutions
 - Delivering economic growth and stakeholder value
 - Adhering to ethical lending practices
 - Cultivating an open and strong business culture through accountability and transparency

Shire have developed new products which can be used for green/sustainable assets launching a Low Start for Low Emissions as part of the Green Asset Policy and also a Balloon product. This complements the Clean Air Zones that are already in operation. Shire also continues to form relationships with other Cleantech specialists to respond to sustainability challenges and tackle air pollution, as well as communicate the message that alternative finance is an enabler for businesses seeking to invest.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Shire have also focused extensively on its People – by introducing several workplace benefits, enhancing Employee Assistance Programmes and providing extensive wellbeing programmes. A new volunteering scheme was introduced in April 2023 in order for Shire to support its employees giving back to the local community and Shire continues to support charity days in the office.

Shire's Click2Finance platform is exciting and will aid equipment suppliers who have transformed their business models to online shopping during the pandemic, enabling them to offer their business to business finance seamlessly online. The end to end digital journey for the business customer is transformative in this space. 'Powered by Aurora' is Shire's internal process development and automation to support this initiative which will help us to grow our originations significantly without having to increase resources and overheads in the process.

The Group will continue to focus on its own portfolio of finance leases positioning itself well as it navigates the known challenges ahead. The Medium Term Note programme (MTN) will allow Shire to raise working capital funds when required, to support the exciting Own Book origination initiatives. Active work on cash flow management will continue to optimise profitability whilst providing liquidity as well as proactively working with funding providers to ensure that the strategic direction of strengthening the Own Book portfolio continues into the foreseeable future.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Director's Duties to Stakeholders

The Directors are aware of their duty under s.172 of the Companies Act 2006 to act in the way which they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the Group for the benefit of its members as a whole and, in doing so, to have regard (amongst other matters) to:

- the likely consequences of any decision in the long term;
- the interests of the Group's employees;
- the need to foster the Group's business relationships with suppliers, customers, and others;
- the impact of the Group's operations on the community and the environment;
- the desirability of the Group maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct;
- the need to act fairly between members of the Group

Purpose, strategy and long term consideration

Shire's vision is to provide a market-leading service through innovation and expertise, delivering flexible funding solutions to British businesses. As a Group we aim to achieve this through a combination of strategic investment in our Own Book and optimising this for the long term, alongside where appropriate, the use of external funder partnerships. The Directors have a duty to promote the success of the Group and it relies on smooth operations with appropriate policies and governance and the support of its various Stakeholders.

Our People

Our employees are the most valuable assets of the Group. Our people's commitment is essential for us to deliver on our vision. We engage with the employees through quarterly briefings, operating meetings, regular and ad hoc meetings, video conference, telephone and email for the following topics:

- Sustainable strategies and their implementation
- Compensation, welfare and employee care
- Compliance
- Work environment safety, health and wellbeing
- Internal training

We have an employee forum to ensure our staff have a voice within the organisation and we encourage employees to make suggestions for improvements via our All Ideas Matter (AIM) incentive.

We set up strict selection procedures and standards in place to ensure non-discrimination in our employment policy. We provide employees with comprehensive training and career development opportunities. We conduct departmental and external professional training.

The Group strives to enhance employee safety and care. The Group has comprehensive staff health and safety policies, a Wellbeing Committee, induction and training programmes and encourages employee involvement in monitoring and enhancing health and safety practices throughout the company and also has an Employee Assistance Program.

The Group operates a hybrid working policy for those employees who request it where appropriate.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Business Relationships

Suppliers

Shire works with its vendor base who introduce business ensuring operations can be carried out as efficiently as possible. Through our Supplier portal, our newly created Click2Finance product, API's to their systems and formal trading agreements, we work with suppliers to give them maximum possible vision of our relevant requirements and ensure that invoices are paid in a timely manner.

Customers

Shire aims to maximise the value for customers by optimising services, products and communications. We focus on customer requirements and satisfaction and we satisfy our customers and improve competitiveness by providing more accurate and wider service through the cooperation with other funding partners.

Funders

Our funding partners who provide the means for the Group to grow its Own Book play an essential part of the commercial strategy at Shire and we hold regular communication, quarterly review meetings and audits as required. We hold an annual funder roadshow, where we present our financial results and indicate our plans for the future.

Service providers

Shire works with a number of key service providers for IT solutions and support as well as credit reference agencies and bureaus. These form a vital part of the delivery of our services to our customers as well as mitigating risks in the business.

Other Industry and Regulatory Bodies

We play an active part in our industry, with many of our Directors chairing various committees or representing the Group at the Finance and Leasing Association (FLA). Our Managing Director sits on the FLA board of Directors. We also have representation on the Leasing Foundation Board and Diversity and Inclusion Group and we have constructive and open relationships with all regulatory bodies. Compliance is maintained through our Risk Committee and Legal and Compliance function.

Community and Environment

Shire's management and employees harness individual expertise and the Group's strong position to create positive change for the people and communities with which they interact, in particular within the Small, Medium Enterprise (SME) marketplace.

Shire Leasing Plc

Strategic report (continued)

Culture, Value and Standards

The Directors consider it crucial that the Group maintains a reputation for high standards of business conduct. The Board is responsible for setting, monitoring and upholding the culture, values, standards, ethics, brand and reputation of the Group. Management drives the embedding of the desired culture throughout the organisation and its values of Service, Honesty, Innovation, Relationships and Efficiency are driven throughout the heart of the business in everything we do, reflected in our policies and practices and how we deal with others. These values and standards guide decision making and promote success, including the consequences of those decisions in the long term.



SERVICE
We apply our knowledge and expertise to provide a professional and consistent service to all our customers.

HONESTY
We offer an honest and accountable service, which is key to the integrity of our business.

INNOVATION
We promote innovation through a team of dedicated, motivated and well-trained staff, instilling confidence in our customers and colleagues.

RELATIONSHIPS
We build lasting relationships with customers and colleagues through a flexible and approachable attitude.

EFFICIENCY
We offer reliable, accurate and consistent processes that support our customers' business needs.

OUR VISION

To provide a market-leading service through innovation and expertise, delivering flexible funding solutions for British businesses.

Shire Leasing Plc

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M D Picken', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

On behalf of the Board

M D Picken CEO

29th July 2024

Shire Leasing Plc

Directors' report

The directors present their report together with the audited financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Funding

Management will continue to monitor compliance with all of the mandatory covenants, and advise the funders on compliance with their respective covenants on a regular basis. The Group maintains regular dialogue and has strong and open relationships with all of its funders. The Group has total facilities of £203.4 million and a further £1.6million facility in run-off providing sufficient headroom for at least the next 12 months of trading.

The Group has made all the repayments in respect of the facilities on schedule.

Going Concern

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis and the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Group and Company have the resources to continue in business for the 12 months from the reporting date.

The Directors have considered a wide range of information relating to present and future conditions, including the current state of the balance sheet, future projections of profitability, cash flows, capital resources and the longer term strategy of the business. Cash flow forecasts have been produced for the period up to 31 March 2027 and these show that the Group will be generating sufficient cash to meet all of its liabilities as they fall due. The Directors believe that the Group and Company have sufficient resources to continue its activities for the foreseeable future.

Charitable Donations

The Group and Company made charitable donations of £13,161 to local charities and £7,419 to national charities (2023: £3,644 and £6,340) during the year.

Research and Development

The Group and Company incurred £1,015,000 on external research and development expenditure during the year (2023: £808,000).

Directors

The directors who served during the year under review and up to the date of signing the financial statements were:

M E Smith
J Worton
R C Hayes
S Price
M D Picken
H Lumb
C H MacKrell
M J Workman
J M McLintock
G Coe
E Carruthers – appointed 26 April 2024

Except as explained in note 24 to these financial statements, none of the directors had, directly or indirectly, a material beneficial interest in any contract, transaction or arrangement to which the Group was a party during the year ended 31 March 2024 or the prior year.

Shire Leasing Plc

Directors' report (continued)

Results and dividends

The result for the year is set out on page 21. An interim dividend of £1,350,803 (2023: £1,350,803) was paid during the year. The directors do not recommend payment of a final dividend (2023: £nil).

Creditor payment policy

Suppliers are made aware of payment terms and how disputes are to be settled and payment is made in accordance with those terms. At 31 March 2024, the Group and Company has an average of 8 days (2023: 12 days) purchases outstanding in trade creditors.

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Annual Report and the financial statements

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

Company law requires the directors to prepare group and company financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law).

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 the company and of the profit or loss of the group for that period.

In preparing each of the group and company financial statements, the directors are required to:

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

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the group's and the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the group and 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 group and the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to disclosure of information to the auditor

In so far as the directors, individually, are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the group's auditor is aware of that information.

Strategic report

The principal activities, review of business and future developments, principal risks and uncertainties, and key performance indicators have been included in the separate Strategic Report in accordance with section 414C(11) of the Companies Act 2006.

Shire Leasing Plc

Directors' report (continued)

Independent auditors

The auditors, RSM UK Audit LLP, have indicated their willingness to continue in office and a resolution concerning their reappointment will be proposed at the Annual General Meeting.

On behalf of the Board

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a central vertical stroke, likely representing the initials 'HL'.

H Lumb
Director and Company Secretary

29th July 2024

Shire Leasing Plc

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Shire Leasing Plc

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Shire Leasing Plc (the 'parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'group') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated statement of comprehensive income, the Consolidated and company statement of financial position, the Consolidated and company statement of changes in equity, the consolidated statement of cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group's and of the parent company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group's profit for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- 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. 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

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the group's or the parent company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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 course of 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 this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Shire Leasing Plc

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Shire Leasing Plc (continued)

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 the 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 their environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the 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 15, 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.

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.

The extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

Shire Leasing Plc

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Shire Leasing Plc (continued)

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the group audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the industry and sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the group and parent company operates in and how the group and parent company are complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, the Companies Act 2006 and tax compliance regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those in relation to the rules and principles set out by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) as regulator for the financial services industry in the UK. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management whether the group is in compliance with these law and regulations. We inspected compliance documentation, including but not limited to, internal procedures' manuals, risks and breaches registers, regulatory returns and correspondence with the FCA as well as considering compliance with regulatory conditions for authorisation, including with any restrictions or requirements placed on the firm, and other regulatory obligations.

The group audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and revenue cut-off as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, and reviewing a sample of transactions either side of the year end and recalculating a sample of interest income recognised during the year to ensure that revenue has been recognised in the correct accounting period.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://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.

Shire Leasing Plc

Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Shire Leasing Plc (continued)

Perry Linton

Perry Linton FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of RSM UK Audit LLP, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
Davidson House
Forbury Square
Reading
Berkshire
RG1 3EU
29th July 2024

Shire Leasing Plc

Consolidated Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Capital value of originations in the year *		134,771	104,165
Turnover	2	31,522	26,819
Cost of sales		<u>(10,468)</u>	<u>(8,477)</u>
Gross profit		21,054	18,342
Operating expenses		(17,236)	(14,503)
Amortisation		<u>(511)</u>	<u>(511)</u>
Operating profit		3,307	3,328
Other interest receivable and similar income	5	-	-
Interest payable and similar charges	6	<u>(507)</u>	<u>(419)</u>
Profit before taxation	3	2,800	2,909
Tax on profit	7	<u>(843)</u>	<u>(607)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the financial year		<u>1,957</u>	<u>2,302</u>

All of the profit and other comprehensive income are attributable to the owners of the Parent Company.
All of the operations of the company and group are classed as continuing.

* The capital value of originations in the year includes the capital value of new business from the Group's Own Portfolio, assignments of finance leases and leases arranged on a commission basis. The capital value of originations has been disclosed to provide information on the underlying scale of the Group's operations.

Shire Leasing Plc (Registered number: 02476571)

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	9	3,328	1,557
Tangible assets	10	513	388
		3,841	1,945
Current assets			
Debtors due within one year	12	67,690	56,229
Debtors due in more than one year	12	113,158	93,482
Cash at bank and in hand		5,981	6,527
		186,829	156,238
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(64,948)	(56,839)
Net current assets		121,881	99,399
Total assets less current liabilities		125,722	101,344
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(100,829)	(79,400)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	17	(155)	(62)
Net assets		24,738	21,882
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	18	93	59
Merger reserve	18	2,216	-
Capital redemption reserve	18	602	602
Profit and loss account	18	21,827	21,221
Total equity		24,738	21,882

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 29th July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



H Lumb
Director

The notes on pages 28 to 53 form part of these financial statements

Shire Leasing Plc (Registered number: 02476571)

Company Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

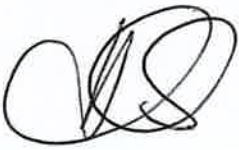
	Note	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Fixed assets			
Intangible assets	9	1,447	1,557
Tangible assets	10	505	388
Investments	11	4,553	-
		6,505	1,945
Current assets			
Debtors due within one year	12	65,007	56,229
Debtors due in more than one year	12	110,245	93,482
Cash at bank and in hand		4,899	6,527
		180,151	156,238
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(62,659)	(56,839)
Net current assets		117,492	99,399
Total assets less current liabilities		123,997	101,344
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(99,106)	(79,400)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	17	(153)	(62)
Net assets		24,738	21,882
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital	18	93	59
Merger reserve	18	2,216	-
Capital redemption reserve	18	602	602
Profit and loss account	18	21,827	21,221
Total equity		24,738	21,882

The Parent Company has taken the exemption from preparing a separate profit and loss account as permitted under section 408 of Companies Act 2006

The profit for the Parent Company for the year was £1,957,000 (2023: £2,302,000).

Shire Leasing Plc (Registered number: 02476571)

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 29th July 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H Lumb', written in a cursive style.

H Lumb
Director

The notes on pages 28 to 53 form part of these financial statements

Shire Leasing Plc

Consolidated Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Share Capital £000's	Merger reserve £000's	Capital redemption reserve £000's	Profit and loss account £000's	Total £000's
At 1 April 2022	59	-	602	20,270	20,931
Retained profit for the financial year	-	-	-	2,302	2,302
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(1,351)	(1,351)
At 31 March 2023	59	-	602	21,221	21,882

	Share Capital £000's	Merger reserve £000's	Capital redemption reserve £000's	Profit and loss account £000's	Total £000's
At 1 April 2023	59	-	602	21,221	21,882
Retained profit for the financial year	-	-	-	1,957	1,957
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(1,351)	(1,351)
Acquisition of Subsidiary	34	2,216	-	-	2,250
At 31 March 2024	93	2,216	602	21,827	24,738

Shire Leasing Plc

Company Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Share Capital £000's	Merger reserve £000's	Capital redemption reserve £000's	Profit and loss account £000's	Total £000's
At 1 April 2022	59	-	602	20,270	20,931
Retained profit for the financial year	-	-	-	2,302	2,302
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(1,351)	(1,351)
At 31 March 2023	59	-	602	21,221	21,882

	Share Capital £000's	Merger reserve £000's	Capital redemption reserve £000's	Profit and loss account £000's	Total £000's
At 1 April 2023	59	-	602	21,221	21,882
Retained profit for the financial year	-	-	-	1,957	1,957
Dividends paid	-	-	-	(1,351)	(1,351)
Acquisition of Subsidiary	34	2,216	-	-	2,250
At 31 March 2024	93	2,216	602	21,827	24,738

Shire Leasing Plc

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		£000's	£000's
Operating activities			
Cash used in operations	19	(21,982)	(8,662)
Interest received		-	-
Interest paid		(507)	(419)
Taxation		(811)	(544)
Net cash used in operating activities		(23,300)	(9,625)
Investing activities			
Proceeds from sales of fixed assets		1	2
Purchase of fixed assets		(1,109)	(827)
Purchase of subsidiary (net of cash acquired)		(1,220)	-
Net cash used in investing activities		(2,328)	(825)
Financing activities			
Equity dividends paid to shareholders		(1,351)	(1,351)
Proceeds from bank loans		66,191	39,489
Repayment of bank loans		(39,706)	(31,746)
Repayment of capital element of finance leases		(51)	(65)
Net cash from financing activities		25,083	6,327
Net decrease in cash during the year		(545)	(4,123)
Cash at beginning of year		6,527	10,650
Cash at end of year		5,982	6,527

No statement of cash flows has been presented for the Parent Company as it has taken advantage of the exemption given in FRS 120 1.12(b)

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. These accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and the preceding year in relation to items which are material to the Group's and Company's financial statements.

General Information

Shire Leasing Plc is a limited company domiciled and incorporated in England. The address of the Company's registered office and principal place of business is:

1 Calico Business Park
Sandy Way
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B77 4BF

The principal activity of the Group and Company is the provision of lease finance, hire purchase and loan arrangements. This comprises providing lease financing, hire purchase and loans to customers, the assignment of finance lease arrangements, hire purchase and loans to third parties, arranging lease financing on an agency basis, secondary rentals and sale of title. The market served is predominantly the Small Medium Enterprise market, with main asset types for lease finance and hire purchase being Lifestyle equipment, Agriculture, Telecommunications, Vending, and Vehicles.

Basis of accounting

The consolidated Group and separate financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102").

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000 except where otherwise indicated.

Parent Company separate financial statements

In preparing the financial statements of Shire Leasing Plc, advantage has been taken of the following disclosure exemptions available in FRS 102 on the basis the information is included in the consolidated financial statements:

- The requirement to present a statement of cash flows and the related notes
- Financial instrument disclosures (except for intercompany balances) including:
 - Categories of financial instruments
 - Items of income, expense, gains or losses relating to financial instruments, and
 - Exposure to and management of financial risks
- Share based payment disclosures
- Compensation for key management personnel

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements incorporate the financial statements of the Company and entities controlled by the Group (its subsidiaries). Control is achieved where the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Accounting policies consistent with those of the parent are used and all intra-group transactions, balances, income, and expenses are eliminated in full on consolidation.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Going concern

For the year ended 31 March 2024 the Group made a pre-tax profit of £2.8 million (2023: pre-tax profit of £2.9 million) and had net current assets of £121.9 million (2023: £99.4 million net current assets) and net assets totalling £24.7 million (2023: £21.9million net assets). At the time of approving the financial statements the Directors have considered the forecasts and projections for the Group and Company for the next 12 months from the date of this report and having sensitised the forecasts to take account of a worst case scenario, have a reasonable expectation that the Group and Company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the Directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing these financial statements.

Alternative presentation of profit and loss account

In accordance with the laws and regulations of the Companies Act 2006 the special nature of the business requires the adaptation of the arrangements of headings set out in that Act. The statement of comprehensive income is therefore presented in a revised format, with interest payable and similar charges related to the cost of providing finance to customers classified as cost of sales.

Functional and presentational currencies

The financial statements are presented in Sterling (£) which is also the functional currency of the Group and Company.

Foreign currencies

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of sterling (foreign currencies) are initially recorded at the exchange rate prevailing on the date of the transaction.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the reporting date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction or, if the asset or liability is measured at fair value, the rate when that fair value was determined.

All translation differences are taken to profit or loss, except to the extent that they relate to gains or losses on non-monetary items recognised in other comprehensive income, when the related translation gain or loss is also recognised in other comprehensive income.

Finance lease contracts and income – lessor accounting

Assets leased to customers under arrangements that transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the assets to the lessee, other than legal title, are classified as finance leases.

The gross earnings from a finance lease (including any items of income incidental to the leases) are allocated to accounting periods using the sum of digits method as a proxy to approximate to a constant periodic rate of return on the Group and Company's net cash investment in the lease and is included in turnover. Under the sum of digits method, the total gross earnings are apportioned over the term of the lease in proportion to the number of rentals outstanding. This method is considered immaterially different to the actuarial approach required by FRS 102.

Initial direct costs, which are incremental and are directly associated with negotiating and consummating the lease transactions are included in the net investment in finance leases and reflected in the calculation of the lease income. Other costs and income are recognised in the profit or loss when incurred.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Net investment in finance leases at the financial position date represents the minimum lease rentals accruing less the gross earnings allocated to future periods. There are no guaranteed residual values available at the end of any leases and as unguaranteed residual values are not considered to be material, they are not reflected in the net investment in finance leases.

Any gain or loss on disposal of assets arising at the end of the lease is included in turnover when all the risks and rewards have been transferred by the Group.

Any gain or loss on early terminations of leases, calculated as the difference between the total net sums recovered and the book value of net investment in finance leases, is included in the profit or loss when such terminations arise.

Secondary rentals are recognised in the profit or loss as they accrue, after taking account of the possibility of bad debts.

Specific provision is made in respect of finance leases, which have been identified as impaired. Further, a general provision is made in respect of amounts not specifically identified, but considered to be impaired based on past experience, taking into account current economic conditions and the level of specific provisions. Any provision for bad debts is set against the net investment in finance leases.

Assignment of finance leases

Under certain arrangements entered into by the Group, finance lease arrangements may be assigned to counterparties ("assignees") and on assignment substantially all the risks and rewards in the assets and the finance lease arrangement are transferred to the assignees. The related net investment in finance lease outstanding at the date of transfer is derecognised and any gain is recognised within turnover.

Volume related bonuses and incentives received from the assignees are recognised in profit or loss when realised within turnover.

Where the Group subsequently re-acquires assets from assignees for onward disposal, any gain or loss on disposal of these assets is recognised in turnover, at the point it can be determined that all the risks and rewards in the assets have been transferred by the Group.

Commission income

Commission earned by the Group for arranging finance leases on behalf of counterparties is recognised directly in the profit and loss account and included in the turnover when the transaction is completed and the receipt is reasonably certain.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised at the fair value of the asset received or receivable when there is a reasonable assurance that the grant conditions are met and the grants will be received.

A grant that specifies performance conditions is recognised in income when the performance conditions are met. Where a grant does not specify performance conditions it is recognised in income when the proceeds are received or receivable. A grant recognised before the recognition criteria are satisfied is recognised as a liability.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Hire purchase and finance lease contracts – lessee accounting

Assets held under finance leases, which are leases where substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset have passed to the Group, are capitalised in the balance sheet as tangible fixed assets and are depreciated over their useful lives. The capital elements of future obligations under the leases are included as liabilities in the balance sheet. The interest element of the rental obligation is charged to the profit or loss over the period of the lease and represents a constant proportion of the balance of capital repayments outstanding.

Assets held under hire purchase agreements are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are depreciated over their useful lives. The capital element of future finance payments is included within creditors. Finance charges are allocated to accounting periods over the length of the contract.

Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the profit or loss on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less the related accumulated depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment	-	20-50% on straight line
Motor vehicles	-	25% on straight line
Computer equipment	-	20-33% on straight line
Leased assets	-	straight line over the lease term

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the reporting date, after estimated costs of disposal, for the assets as if it were at the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

Subsequent costs, including replacement parts and major inspections, are capitalised only when it is probable that such costs will generate future economic benefits. Any replaced parts or remaining carrying amounts of previous inspections are then derecognised. All other costs of repairs and maintenance are charged to the profit or loss as incurred.

Impairment of fixed assets

An assessment is made at each reporting date of whether there are indications that a fixed asset may be impaired or that an impairment loss previously recognised has fully or partially reversed. If such indications exist, the Group estimates the recoverable amount of the asset or, for goodwill, the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the goodwill belongs.

Shortfalls between carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, being the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, are recognised as impairment losses.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. On reversal of an impairment loss, the depreciation or amortisation is adjusted to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount (less any residual value) over its remaining useful life.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Goodwill

Goodwill, being the difference between the fair value of the consideration and the fair value of the separable net assets acquired, is capitalised and amortised over managements' assessment of the useful economic life of the underlying assets, based on the straight line method and being a period of ten years.

Development expenditure

Costs related to the development of software products are capitalised when they meet the following conditions:

- (i) It is technically feasible to complete the development so that the software product will be available for use or sale.
- (ii) It is intended to use or sell the software product being developed.
- (iii) The company is able to use or sell the software product being developed.
- (iv) It can be demonstrated that the software product will generate probable future economic benefits.
- (v) Adequate technical, financial and other resources exist so that software product development can be completed and the product subsequently used or sold.
- (vi) Expenditure attributable to the software development can be reliably measured.

Capitalised development costs are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment losses and amortised over its useful economic life, currently estimated to be 4 years. Amortisation expenses for the year are included in administrative expenses.

All other research and development expenditure is recognised as an expense in the period in which it is incurred.

Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the current tax expense and deferred tax expense. Current tax assets are recognised when tax paid exceeds the tax payable.

Current tax is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from total comprehensive income because it excludes items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other periods. Current tax assets and liabilities are measured using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or the liability is settled based on tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date. Deferred tax is not discounted.

Deferred tax liabilities are recognised in respect of all timing differences that exist at the reporting date. Timing differences are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income that arise from the inclusion of income and expense in tax assessments in different periods from their recognition in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered by the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Employee benefits

The costs of short-term employee benefits are recognised as a liability and an expense.

Employees can carry forward any unused holiday entitlement at the reporting date for utilisation in the following 9 months. The cost of any unused entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received. Any accrual is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement and is included in the statement of financial position.

Retirement benefits

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The amounts charged to the profit or loss represent the contributions payable in the year. Any difference between contributions payable in the year and contributions paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the statement of financial position.

Finance costs

Finance costs on bank and other borrowings is recognised on an effective interest rate method and included within cost of sales where they relate to funds used to acquire assets for finance leases.

Financial Instruments

The Company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments' of FRS 102, in full, to all of its financial instruments.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument, and are offset only when the Company currently has a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial Assets

Trade Debtors

Trade debtors which are receivable within one year and which do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price. Trade debtors are subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled and any provision for bad debts.

Where the arrangement with a trade debtor constitutes a financing transaction, the debtor is initially and subsequently measured at the present value of future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Specific provision is made in respect of trade debtors, which have been identified as impaired. Further, a general provision is made in respect of amounts not specifically identified, but considered to be impaired based on past experience, taking into account current economic conditions and the level of specific provisions. Any provision for bad debts is set against the trade debtors. Impairment losses are recognised in the profit or loss for the excess of the carrying value of the trade debtor.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Financial Instruments (continued)

Financial Liabilities and Equity

Trade Creditors

Trade creditors payable within one year that do not constitute a financing transaction are initially measured at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost, being the transaction price less any amounts settled.

Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price, including transaction costs, and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the sum of digits method as a proxy to the effective interest method. Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in cost of sales.

Borrowings under the ENABLE and mezzanine scheme are initially recognised at the transaction price and subsequently measured at the transaction price less the principal received from the collateral assets in the respective portfolio. The interest expense is calculated at the prevailing interest rates of the principal outstanding and included in cost of sales.

Derecognition of Financial Assets and Liabilities

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flows expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events and it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

Business Combinations

Acquisitions of subsidiaries and businesses are accounted for using the purchase method. The cost of the business combination is measured at the aggregate of the fair values (at the date of exchange) of assets given, liabilities incurred or assumed, and equity instruments issued by the Group in exchange for control of the acquiree, plus costs directly attributable to the business combination.

Any excess of the cost of the business combination over the Group's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets and liabilities is recognised as goodwill.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies (continued)

For the purpose of impairment testing, the goodwill acquired in a business combination is allocated, on acquisition date, to the cash generating units that are expected to benefit from the synergies of the combination.

Dividends

Dividends are recognised as liabilities once they are no longer at the discretion of the Company.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Areas of Judgement

Critical Accounting Estimates

The Group makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

- A general provision is made in respect of finance leases which have not been specifically identified as impaired but are considered to be impaired based on past experience, taking into account current economic conditions and the level of specific provisions. Any provision for bad debts is set against the net investment in finance leases.

Critical Areas of Judgement

In categorising leases as finance leases or operating leases, management makes judgements as to whether significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the Group as lessee, or the lessee, where the Group is a lessor.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

2. Turnover

Turnover represents the income, excluding value added tax, derived from finance leases, assignment of finance leases and commission as mentioned in note 1 to these financial statements. Turnover is derived from business arising within the United Kingdom. The following are the details of the turnover:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Interest earned on finance leases (see note below)	29,810	25,146
Gain on assignment of finance leases	468	568
Commission earned on lease arrangements	1,244	1,105
	<u>31,522</u>	<u>26,819</u>

Interest earned on finance leases includes secondary rentals together with other related income which is not considered to be incidental to the leases and is therefore recognised as earned.

3. Profit before taxation

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Profit before tax is stated after charging / (crediting):		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets – owned	151	145
– under finance leases	50	67
Amortisation of goodwill (note 9)	511	511
Amortisation of software	387	192
Operating lease charges – land and buildings	348	347
Bad debt expense	1,835	882
Auditors' remuneration – audit service	59	34
Auditors' remuneration – non-audit services	-	8
Expenditure incurred on internal development of software	748	808
Loss (profit) on disposal of fixed assets	3	(1)

Of the £nil (2023: £8,000) incurred under services provided by the Group's auditor for non-audit work, £nil (2023: £7,000) relates to taxation work undertaken and £nil (2023: £1,000) relates to other services provided during the year.

4. Staff costs

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Staff costs for the Company and Group during the year amounted to:		
Wages and salaries	10,286	8,838
Social security costs	1,216	1,044
Other pension costs (note 20)	129	116
	<u>11,631</u>	<u>9,998</u>
Agency staff costs	541	424
	<u>12,172</u>	<u>10,422</u>

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Staff costs (continued)

	2024 Number	2023 Number
The average monthly number of employees (including executive directors) was:		
Administrative and sales	166	155
Agency staff	22	19
	188	174

Directors' remuneration

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Aggregate emoluments	2,053	1,952
Group pension contributions to money purchase schemes	11	11

Pensions

	2024 Number	2023 Number
The number of directors who were members of pension schemes was:		
Money purchase scheme	8	8

Highest paid director

The above amount for directors' emoluments includes £477,549 (2023: £499,879) in respect of the highest paid director. The Group made £1,321 contribution to the money purchase pension scheme on behalf of the highest paid director in the year (2023: £1,321).

5. Other interest receivable and similar income

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Bank and other interest receivable	-	-

6. Interest payable and similar charges

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Bank and hire purchase interest payable	1	5
Other interest payable	506	414
Total interest payable	507	419

Interest payable on finance leases issued

Interest payable on finance leases issued of £7,873,000 (2023: £6,257,000), is included within cost of sales of £10,468,000 (2023: £8,477,000).

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

7. Tax on profit on ordinary activities

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
The tax charge comprises:		
Current tax		
UK Corporation tax on profits for the year	752	651
Total current tax	752	651
Deferred tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences (note 17)	91	(44)
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	843	607

Factors affecting tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year is higher (2023: higher) than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK 25% (2023: 19%). The differences are explained below:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Profit before tax	2,800	2,909
Profit before tax multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% (2023: 19%)	700	553
Effects of:		
Expenditure not deductible for tax purposes	143	111
Non-taxable income	(91)	(13)
Total tax charge	752	651

Factors affecting future tax charges

No changes to the main rate of corporation tax have been announced by the UK government. All potential deferred taxation assets or liabilities are therefore provided at the current rate of 25%.

8. Dividends

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Equity shares – Ordinary B		
Interim dividend paid on ordinary shares	1,351	1,351

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

9. Intangible fixed assets

Group

	Goodwill £000's	Software £000's	Total £000's
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	8,019	2,860	10,879
Additions on acquisition of subsidiary	1,881	-	1,881
Additions	-	787	787
At 31 March 2024	9,900	3,647	13,547
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 April 2023	7,509	1,813	9,322
Charge for the year	510	387	897
At 31 March 2024	8,019	2,200	10,219
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	1,881	1,447	3,328
At 31 March 2023	510	1,047	1,557

The goodwill arising as a result of the transfer of trading business of the acquired subsidiary undertaking. The goodwill is being amortised on a straight line basis over the remaining useful economic life of ten years. This is the period over which the directors estimate that value of the underlying business is expected to exceed the value of the underlying assets.

Amortisation is recognised within administration expenses

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

9. Intangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Goodwill £000's	Software £000's	Total £000's
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	8,019	2,860	10,879
Additions	-	787	787
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	8,019	3,647	11,666
Accumulated amortisation			
At 1 April 2023	7,509	1,813	9,322
Disposals	-	-	-
Charge for the year	510	387	897
At 31 March 2024	8,019	2,200	10,219
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	-	1,447	1,447
At 31 March 2023	510	1,047	1,557

The goodwill arising as a result of the historic transfer of trading business of the acquired subsidiary undertaking, Shire Professional Services Limited, is being amortised on a straight line basis over the remaining useful economic life of ten years. This is the period over which the directors estimate that value of the underlying business is expected to exceed the value of the underlying assets.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment (including computers)	Motor vehicles	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	1,774	279	2,053
Additions	330	-	330
Disposals	(12)	-	(12)
At 31 March 2024	2,092	279	2,371
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	1,438	227	1,665
Charge for the year	149	52	201
Eliminated on disposals	(8)	-	(8)
At 31 March 2024	1,579	279	1,858
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	513	-	513
At 31 March 2023	336	52	388

Assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts capitalised in fixtures, fittings and equipment and motor vehicles were as follows:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Cost	236	236
Aggregate depreciation	(236)	(186)
Net book value	-	50

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

Company

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment (including computers)	Motor vehicles	Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	1,774	279	2,053
Additions	322	-	322
Disposals	(12)	-	(12)
At 31 March 2024	2,084	279	2,363
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	1,438	227	1,665
Charge for the year	149	52	201
Eliminated on disposals	(8)	-	(8)
At 31 March 2024	1,579	279	1,858
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	505	-	505
At 31 March 2023	336	52	388

Assets held under finance leases and hire purchase contracts capitalised in fixtures, fittings and equipment and motor vehicles were as follows:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Cost	236	236
Aggregate depreciation	(236)	(186)
Net book value	-	50

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

11. Fixed Asset Investments

	Group		Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000s	£000's	£000's	£000's
Interests in subsidiaries	-	-	4,553	-

Subsidiary Undertakings

The following were subsidiary undertakings of the Company

Name	Registered Office	Principal Activity	Class of Shares	Holding
Shire Securities Limited	1 Calico Business Park, Sandy Way, Tamworth B77 4BF	Provision of business loans to SMEs as a lender and broker	Ordinary	100%
Shire Professional Services Limited	1 Calico Business Park, Sandy Way, Tamworth B77 4BF	Dormant Company	Ordinary	100%

100% of the share capital of Shire Securities Limited was acquired on 28 March 2024, see note 21.

12. Debtors

	Group		Company	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	£'000s	£000's	£000's	£000's
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Net investment in finance leases	64,702	53,395	62,053	53,395
Trade debtors	1,003	1,673	974	1,673
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	19	-
Other debtors and prepayments	1,985	1,161	1,961	1,161
	67,690	56,229	65,007	56,229

Amounts falling due after more than one year:

Net investment in finance leases	113,158	93,482	110,245	93,482
	113,158	93,482	110,245	93,482

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Debtors (Continued)

Further details on the assets included in the net investment in finance leases are given below:

	Group		Company	
	2024 £'000s	2023 £000's	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Gross amounts receivable under finance leases:				
Within one year	75,774	64,971	72,381	64,971
In the second to fifth years inclusive	131,928	103,146	128,221	103,146
After five years	2,174	2,511	2,174	2,511
Gross investment	209,876	170,628	202,776	170,628
Less: Unearned finance income	(38,011)	(28,139)	(36,473)	(28,139)
Present value of minimum lease payments	171,865	142,489	166,303	142,489
Plus: supplier commissions allocated to future periods	5,995	4,388	5,995	4,388
Net investment in contracts accounted for as finance leases	177,860	146,877	172,298	146,877

The Group did not recognise any contingent rentals during the year (2023: £nil) and the Group has not and continues not to offer residual values.

The Group has an accumulated allowance of £1,547,000 (2023: £784,000) for uncollectable minimum lease payments receivable.

The Company has an accumulated allowance of £1,469,000 (2023: £784,000) for uncollectable minimum lease payments receivable.

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Company	
	2024 £'000s	2023 £000's	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Bank and other borrowings (note 15)	58,626	50,029	56,756	50,029
Trade creditors	1,842	2,663	1,786	2,663
Corporation tax payable	685	401	433	401
Other tax and social security payable	672	853	653	853
Other creditors	1,657	1,605	1,656	1,605
Accruals and deferred income	1,466	1,288	1,375	1,288
	64,948	56,839	62,659	56,839

A debenture dated 19 July 2022 incorporating, inter alia, a fixed and floating charge is held over all the assets and undertaking of the Company both present and future.

14. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	Group		Company	
	2024 £'000s	2023 £000's	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Bank and other borrowings (note 15)	100,829	79,400	99,106	79,400

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Bank and other borrowings

	Group		Company	
	2024 £'000s	2023 £000's	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Due within one year or on demand				
Bank loans and overdrafts				
Secured	58,476	49,828	56,606	49,828
Unsecured	150	150	150	150
	58,626	49,978	56,756	49,978
Finance lease and hire purchase obligations	-	51	-	51
	58,626	50,029	56,756	50,029
Due after more than one year				
Bank loans				
Secured	100,829	79,400	99,106	79,400
	100,829	79,400	99,106	79,400
Total borrowings	159,455	129,429	155,862	129,429

The secured bank loans represent a combination of the funding obtained by the Group under various financing arrangements entered into to finance the acquisition of assets to be provided to customers under finance lease contracts and additional borrowing.

The loans entered into to finance the acquisition of assets provided to customers are denominated in GBP and are secured by a charge over the underlying finance lease contracts.

They are a combination of fixed term facilities and warehousing facilities repaid from the underlying principal received from finance lease contracts.

Interest is calculated using the effective interest rate method and the bank and other borrowings are stated at amortised cost on fixed term facilities and on the balance outstanding of the warehouse facility at prevailing interest rates.

The additional borrowing is a medium term note facility denominated in GBP and secured via a fixed and floating charge held over the assets of the Company both present and future.

Interest is calculated using the effective interest rate method and the borrowings are stated at amortised cost.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Bank and other borrowings (continued)

Maturity of financial liabilities within bank and other borrowings – Group

The maturity profile of the carrying amount of the Group's liabilities at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

	Bank loans and overdrafts	Finance lease and hire purchase obligations	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Less than one year	58,626	-	58,626	50,029
In more than one year but not more than two years	31,781	-	31,781	39,784
In more than two years but not more than five years	69,048	-	69,048	39,616
	159,455	-	159,455	129,429

Maturity of financial liabilities within bank and other borrowings - Company

The maturity profile of the carrying amount of the Company's liabilities at 31 March 2024 was as follows:

	Bank loans and overdrafts	Finance lease and hire purchase obligations	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Less than one year	56,756	-	56,756	50,029
In more than one year but not more than two years	30,058	-	30,058	39,784
In more than two years but not more than five years	69,048	-	69,048	39,616
	155,862	-	155,862	129,429

Finance lease and hire purchase obligations – Group and Company

The minimum lease payments under finance lease and hire purchase contracts fall due as follows:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Less than one year	-	51
In more than one year but not more than five years	-	-
Present value of finance lease and hire purchase liabilities	-	51

Obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts are secured by the related assets and bear finance charges at rates ranging from 4.9% to 5.2% per annum (2023 : 4.9% to 5.2% per annum).

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

15. Bank and other borrowings (continued)

Finance lease and hire purchase payments represent rentals payable by the Group for certain vehicles and items of office equipment. Leases include purchase options at the end of the lease period, and no restrictions are placed on the use of the assets. The average lease term is 2 years. All leases are on a fixed repayment basis and no arrangements have been entered into for contingent rental payments.

The Group's obligations under finance leases and hire purchase contracts are secured by the lessor's charge over the leased assets. The net book value of secured assets is disclosed in note 10.

16. Financial instruments

The carrying amount of the Group's financial instruments at 31 March were:

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Financial assets:		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	180,249	149,141
Financial Liabilities:		
Measured at amortised cost	(164,420)	(134,985)

Company

At the balance sheet date the company had intercompany debtors of £19,000 (2023: £nil) as set out in note 12. These are measured at cost and relate to transactions described in note 24.

17. Deferred Taxation

Deferred taxation	Group £000's	Company £000's
At 1 April 2023	(62)	(62)
Debited to the profit and loss account (note 7)	(91)	(91)
Purchased on acquisition of subsidiary	(2)	-
At 31 March 2024	(155)	(153)

There was no unprovided deferred tax at 31 March 2024 (2023: £nil). The deferred tax provision is shown below:

	Group		Company	
	2024 £000's	2023 £000's	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Accelerated capital allowances	(269)	(170)	(267)	(170)
Other timing differences	114	108	114	108
	(155)	(62)	(153)	(62)

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

18. Share capital and reserves

Called up share capital

	2024 £000's	2023 £000's
Allotted and fully paid		
68,728 Ordinary shares of 50p each (2023: nil)	34	-
116,112 "A" Ordinary shares of 50p each (2023: 116,112)	58	58
838,383 "B" Ordinary shares of 0.001p each (2023: 838,383)	1	1
1,000 "C" Ordinary shares of 0.001p each (2023: 1,000)	-	-
	93	59

Voting rights

The holders of the "A" Ordinary shares, "B" Ordinary shares, and Ordinary shares shall be entitled to receive notice of and to attend and speak at all general meetings of the Company. The holders of the "A" Ordinary shares, "B" Ordinary shares, and Ordinary shares who (being individuals) are present in person or by proxy or (being a corporation) are present by duly authorised representatives or by proxy shall:

- (a) on a show of hands, have one vote each, and,
- (b) on a poll, have one vote each for every Share held.

The holders of the "C" Ordinary shares shall be entitled to receive notice of and to attend and speak but not vote at any general meeting of the Company.

Share transactions in the year

During the year 68,728 Ordinary shares were issued in a share for share exchange in part consideration for shares held in Shire Securities Limited.

Reserves

Reserves of the Company represent the following:

Merger reserve – Excess of consideration and nominal value of shares issued when compared to the fair value of the assets acquired less annual transfers to the profit and loss account as this value amortises.

Capital redemption reserve - The nominal value of shares repurchased by the Company.

Profit and loss account - Cumulative profit and loss net of distributions to owners plus annual transfers from the merger reserve (see above).

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

19. Reconciliation of Group profit after tax to net cash used in operations

	2024	2023
	£000's	£000's
Profit after tax	1,957	2,302
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	201	212
Loss (profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	3	(1)
Amortisation of software	386	192
Amortisation of goodwill (note 9)	510	511
Interest receivable	-	-
Interest payable	507	419
Taxation	843	607
Operating cash flows before movements in working capital	4,407	4,242
Increase in trade and other debtors	(25,541)	(13,436)
(Decrease) Increase in trade and other creditors	(848)	532
Cash used in operating activities	(21,982)	(8,662)

20. Pension costs

The Group contributes to defined contribution pension schemes. The assets of the schemes are held separately from those of the Group in independently administered funds. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Group to the fund and in the year ended 31 March 2024 amounted to £129,000 (2023: £116,000). Contributions totalling £43,000 (2023: £31,000) for the Company, £45,000 for the Group were payable to the schemes at the year end and are included within creditors.

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

21. Business Combinations

On 28 March 2024 the Group acquired the entire share capital of Shire Securities Limited, a provider of loans to the SME market domiciled in the UK, company number 05881283.

Recognised amounts of identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed

	£000's
Tangible fixed assets	8
Current assets	
Trade debtors	5,599
Other debtors	23
Cash at bank and in hand	1,083
Total assets	6,705
Trade creditors	(74)
Other creditors: amounts falling due within 1 year	(2,234)
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(1,723)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	(2)
Total Net assets	2,672
Goodwill	1,881
Total Purchase Consideration	4,553

No fair value adjustments were required on assets and liabilities acquired

Consideration was split as £2.25m cash, £2.25m share for share exchange

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

22. Contingencies and commitments

In the normal course of business the Group may, from time to time, provide guarantees; however at 31 March 2024 none are considered to be a contingent liability.

Lease commitments

At 31 March 2024, the Company was committed to making the following total minimum payments under non-cancellable operating leases:

	2024	2023
	Land and buildings £000's	Land and buildings £000's
Amounts due:		
- within 1 year	30	343
- within 2-5 years	-	1,141
- after more than 5 years	-	43
	30	1,527

Please refer to note 26 which explains the change seen from 2023 to 2024.

23. Control

No investor acting individually has the ability to control the activities of the Company and consequently it is considered that there is no ultimate controlling party.

24. Related party transactions

Group

Transactions between group companies, which are related parties, have been eliminated on consolidation and are not disclosed in this note.

Group and Company

During the year, the Group entered into certain transactions with related parties of the shareholders and directors, in the normal course of business and on an arm's length basis. These companies are related to the Group on the basis of common directorship and / or shareholding. The names of the related parties, the nature of these transactions and their total value is shown below:

Shire Securities Limited: On 28 March 2024 Shire Leasing Plc acquired 100% of the share capital of Shire Securities Limited. Prior to this date £29,000 (2023: £78,000) was invoiced to the Company for commissions/management charges and during the period Shire Securities Limited raised invoices to Shire Leasing Plc of £13,000 (2023: £27,000).

Shire Business Group Limited: At the year end the balance on the loan account was £5,000 (2023: £5,000), there was no movement in the year.

SAF Leasing Limited: Included in creditors is an amount of £1,000 for the Company and £4,000 for the Group (2023: £1,000). During the year invoices were received from SAF Leasing Limited of £85,000 (2023: £54,000) for lease referral. Included in debtors is an amount of £7,000 for the Company and £8,000 for the Group (2023: £7,000) and during the year Shire Leasing plc raised invoices to SAF Leasing Limited for management recharges of £78,000 (2023: £78,000).

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

24. Related party transactions (continued)

Shire Financial Services: No outstanding amounts are included in creditors at 31 March 2024 (2023: £nil) and during the year invoices were received from Shire Financial Services of £341,000 (2023: £339,000) for rental of properties occupied by the company. No amount is included within debtors at 31 March 2024 (2023: £35,000) and during the year no invoices were raised for management recharges (2023: £1,000).

Shire Recoveries Limited: Included in group and company debtors is an amount of £10,000 (2023: £9,000) and during the year £119,000 (2023: £82,000) was invoiced to the Group for commissions/management charges. Included in group and company creditors is an amount of £8,000 (2023: £8,000) and during the year Shire Recoveries Limited raised invoices to Shire Leasing Plc of £101,000 (2023: £101,000).

Shire Insurance Services Limited: Included in group and company debtors is an amount of £2,000 (2023: £2,000) and during the year £1,000 (2023: £14,000) was invoiced to the Group for commissions/management recharges. There were no outstanding amounts in group or company creditors at the end of the year (2023: £nil) and during the year Shire Insurance Services Limited raised invoices to Shire Leasing Plc for insurances of £40,000 (2023: £62,000).

Shire Professional Funding Limited: Included in group and company debtors is an amount of £4,000 (2023: £7,000) and during the year £1,000 (2023: £13,000) was invoiced to the Group for commissions/management charges. Included in creditors at the end of the year is an amount of £6,000 (2023: £16,000) and during the year Shire Professional Funding Limited raised invoices to Shire Leasing Plc for commissions £91,000 (2023: £62,000).

During the year amounts were loaned to Shire Professional Funding Limited under a block funding arrangement of £881,000 (2023: £1,299,000) and interest income was recognised of £26,000 (2023: £36,000) in respect of this. Included within group and company other creditors is a balance owing to Shire Professional Funding of £255,000.

Shire Invoice Finance Limited: Included in group and company debtors is an amount of £4,000 (2023: £nil) and during the year £32,000 (2023: £25,000) was invoiced to the Group for commissions/management charges. During the year Shire Invoice Finance Limited raised invoices to Shire Leasing Plc of £nil for commissions (2023: £2,000), no amount was included in creditors in either year for the Company, there was a creditor of £2,000 for the group.

Irlon Laundry Limited: During the year loans were made to Irlon Laundry Limited of £315,000. Interest income of £3,000 was recognised in respect of this and the balance included within group and company debtors at the year end was £318,000.

Finance & Leasing Association: During the year £17,000 was invoiced from the Finance & Leasing Association and no amount was included in group or company creditors at the year end.

The Leasing Industry Philanthropic and Research Foundation Limited: During the year £2,000 was invoiced from The Leasing Industry Philanthropic and Research Foundation Limited and no amount was included in group or company creditors at the year end.

Transactions with Directors: The maximum amount outstanding during the year from directors was £951,000 (2023: £4,000). At the year-end £951,000 was owed to the Company (2023: £1,000), this was repaid in full during April 2024.

Dividend payments: During the year dividends were paid to Mr M E Smith, Mrs S Smith, Mr J Worton, Mrs J Worton and Mr J J Flounders totalling £1,351,000 (2023: £1,351,000).

Shire Leasing Plc

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

24. Related party transactions (continued)

Transactions with close family members of Directors

During the year, remuneration of £224,000 (2023: £196,000) was earned by close family members of directors. There were no amounts outstanding at the year-end (2023: £nil).

Transactions with companies under the control of close family members of Directors

Leasing Equipment Disposals Limited: During the year, services of £181,000 were charged to Leasing Equipment Disposals Limited (2023: £177,000). Included in group and company debtors is an amount of £21,000 (2023: £17,000).

Love Finance Limited: During the year Love Finance Limited raised invoices of £1,009,000 (2023: £419,000) to the company for commissions. Included in group and company creditors is an amount of £21,000 (2023: £2,000).

25. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The total remuneration of the directors (considered to be the key management personnel) of the Group was £2,346,000 (2023: £1,975,000).

26. Post Balance Sheet Events

On 30 April 2024 the Group purchased the properties occupied by the Group from the related party, Shire Financial Services (a partnership controlled by Directors in Shire Leasing Plc), for £4.2m.