



Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited

Summary Financial Statements 23-24

Summary:

The principal activities of the Company during the year were management and operation of Bereavement Facilities for Cheshire East Borough Council (CEBC) including the Handy Person Service.

Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited (Orbitas) is in its tenth year of trading. It commenced trading on 1 April 2014. Orbitas has performed strongly in 2023/24, despite the death rate reducing by 6.46% which has resulted in reduced income recovery. The Company has managed costs in year, in response to increased inflation, which has resulted in the Company passing back to CEBC a rebate of £105k on the core contract. Orbitas has recorded an operating profit (before tax) of £88,000 on commercial business (2022: £70,000).

Core bereavement services related income (i.e. Burials/Cremations) is managed and collected by Orbitas on behalf of CEBC through its Agency contract. However, that income is retained by CEBC in its accounts but forms a part of the income sharing arrangement between Orbitas and CEBC. Orbitas has performed strongly recovering £2.9m of core bereavement income (retained in Cheshire East's accounts) for CEBC and continuing to maintain high standards of core service delivery.

The Profit after tax is £66,000 (2023: Profit £73,000) relating to commercial business. This is mainly attributable to an increase in the commercial activity of the company predominately relating to sales of memoria and providing bereavement administrative service to Alliance. Nationally there has been an increase in the cost of materials, staffing and other hired and contracted services. Orbitas has performed incredibly well during a very difficult period navigating increased inflationary pressures, whilst striving to rationalise core contract costs to further demonstrate the company's innovative delivery arrangements and effective stewardship of public money.

Orbitas believe that the needs of the bereaved are paramount, the Company strives to provide services which are both relevant and meet the expectations of the bereaved and the vulnerable from across Cheshire East. The reported outturn demonstrates the Company's determination to succeed whilst at the same time providing confidence in Orbitas' ability to manage and govern this strong but sensitive business.

Orbitas is reporting a profit of £66,394 derived from commercial activities.

Statement of Comprehensive Income (Unaudited)

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	2,543	2,502
Cost of Sales	<u>(1,588)</u>	<u>(1,509)</u>
Gross Profit	<u>955</u>	<u>993</u>
Administrative Expenses	<u>(867)</u>	<u>(923)</u>
Operating profit	<u>88</u>	<u>70</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before interest	88	70
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>-</u>	<u>(1)</u>
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	88	69
Taxation	<u>(22)</u>	<u>4</u>
Profit for the financial year	<u>66</u>	<u>73</u>
Other comprehensive period for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>66</u>	<u>73</u>

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

At 31 March 2024

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	8	8
Total Fixed assets	8	8
Current assets		
Stocks	33	34
Debtors	541	571
Cash at bank in hand	547	365
Total Current assets	1,121	970
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Creditors	(604)	(519)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(604)	(519)
Net Current assets	517	451
Total Assets less current liabilities	525	459
Net Assets	525	459
Capital and Reserves		
Share capital	-	-
Retained Earnings	525	459
Total Equity	525	459

The financial statements of Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited (the "Company") for the year ended 31 March 2024 will be issued to the Board for authorisation in October 2024 following the external audit of the company accounts in July and September.

As a Company within the Cheshire East Borough Council Group, Orbitas Bereavement Services Limited's results are included in the consolidated financial statements of CEBC which are available from:

http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/council_and_democracy/your_council/council_finance_and_governance/statement_of_accounts/statement_of_accounts.aspx

Since the original draft Financial Statements were prepared, Cheshire East Council has announced it is redesigning the way in which it delivers its waste, recycling and bereavement services. The council has been carrying out an extensive review of two of its wholly owned companies, Ansa Environmental Services and Orbitas Bereavement Services Ltd.

Following the latest stage of that review, and a decision made by the council's finance sub-committee on 25 June 2024, the services provided by Ansa and Orbitas are to be brought back-in house and delivered directly by Cheshire East Council.

This includes bin collections, street cleansing, maintenance of green spaces, fleet, social transport.