

ABERDEEN SMALLER COMPANIES INCOME TRUST PLC

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

1. Membership

- 1.1 The Committee shall comprise at least three members. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board, on the recommendation of the Nominations Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee.
- 1.2 All members of the Committee shall be independent non-executive directors at least one of whom shall have recent and relevant financial experience. The Chairman of the Board shall not be a member of, but will attend the Committee by invitation.
- 1.3 Only members of the Committee have the right to attend Committee meetings. However, other individuals, such as employees of the Manager, may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting as and when appropriate.
- 1.4 The external auditor will be invited to attend meetings of the Committee on a regular basis.
- 1.5 The Board shall appoint the Committee Chairman who shall be an independent non-executive director. In the absence of the Committee Chairman and/or an appointed deputy, the remaining members present shall elect one of themselves to chair the meeting.

2. Secretary

The Company secretary shall act as Secretary of the Committee.

3. Quorum

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be not less than two members. A duly convened meeting of the Committee at which a quorum is present shall be competent to exercise all or any of the authorities, powers and discretions vested in or exercisable by the Committee.

4. Frequency of meetings

The Committee shall meet at least two times a year at appropriate times in the reporting and audit cycle and otherwise as required.

5. Notice of Meetings

- 5.1 Meetings of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary of the Committee at the request of any of its members or at the request of the external auditor if they consider it necessary.
- 5.2 Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, shall be forwarded to each member of the Committee, any other person required to attend and all other non-executive directors, no later than five working days before the date of the meeting. Supporting papers shall be sent to Committee members and to other attendees as appropriate, at the same time.

6. Minutes of meetings

- 6.1 The Secretary shall minute the proceedings and decisions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.
- 6.2 Draft minutes of Committee meetings shall be circulated promptly to all members of the Committee. Once approved, minutes should be circulated to all other members of the Board unless it would be inappropriate to do so.

7. Annual General Meeting

The Committee Chairman should attend the annual general meeting to answer shareholder questions on the Committee's activities.

8. Duties

The Committee should carry out the duties below for the parent company, major subsidiary undertakings and the group as a whole, as appropriate.

8.1 Financial Reporting

- 8.1.1 The Committee shall monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the company including its annual and half-yearly reports, interim management statements, and any other formal announcements relating to its financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting issues and judgements which they contain.
- 8.1.2 In particular, the Committee shall review and challenge where necessary:-
 - 8.1.2.1 the consistency of, and any changes to, accounting policies both on a year on year basis and across the group/company;
 - 8.1.2.2 the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible;
 - 8.1.2.3 whether the company has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the views of the external auditor;
 - 8.1.2.4 the basis of the going concern assumption;
 - 8.1.2.5 the clarity of disclosure made in the company's financial reports and the context in which statements are made; and
 - 8.1.2.6 all material information presented with the financial statements, such as the business review/operating and financial review and the corporate governance statement (insofar as it relates to the audit and risk management);
 - 8.1.2.7 to ensure that the annual report and accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable and provide the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's performance, business model and strategy; and
 - 8.1.2.8 to identify significant issues that it considered in relation to the financial statements and how these issues were addressed.

8.1.3 The Committee shall assess the integrity of the Company's viability statement in the annual report which determines whether the Board has a reasonable expectation that the company will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities as they fall due. The Committee should specify the recommended period to be covered (should be longer than 12 months) and why they consider that period to be appropriate.

8.2 Internal controls and risk management systems

The Committee shall:

8.2.1 keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the company's internal controls and internal control and risk management systems;

8.2.2 review and approve the statements to be included in the annual report concerning internal controls and risk management; and

8.2.3 review the operations and effectiveness of the administrators (BNP), custodians, registrar, savings plan administrators and other subcontractors providing services to the Company.

8.2.4 carry out a robust assessment of the principal risks facing the company, including those that would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency or liquidity and to describe how these principal risks are being managed or mitigated (viability statement).

8.3 Compliance, whistleblowing and fraud

The Committee shall:

8.3.1 review the adequacy and security of the company's arrangements for its employees and contractors to raise concerns, in confidence, about the possible wrong doings in financial reporting or other matters. The Committee shall ensure that these arrangements allow proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and appropriate follow up action;

8.3.2 review the Manager's procedures for detecting fraud;

8.3.3 review the Manager's systems and controls for the prevention of bribery and receive reports on non-compliance; and

8.3.4 review regular reports from the Manager's compliance function and keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Manager's compliance function.

8.4 Internal audit

The Committee shall:

8.4.1 review the Manager's internal audit function;

8.4.2 monitor and review the effectiveness of the Manager's internal audit function in the context of the company's overall risk management system;

8.4.3 consider and approve the remit of the Manager's internal audit function and ensure it has adequate resources and appropriate access to information to enable it to perform its function effectively and in accordance with the relevant professional standards. The

Committee shall also ensure the function has adequate standing within the Manager's organisation and is free from management or other restrictions;

8.4.4 review and assess the Manager's annual internal audit plan;

8.4.5 review reports addressed to the Committee from the Manager's internal audit function;

8.4.6 review and monitor the Manager's responsiveness to the findings and recommendations of their internal auditor; and

8.4.7 meet the Manager's head of internal audit at least once a year to discuss their remit and any issues arising from the internal audits carried out. In addition, the Manager's head of internal audit shall be given the right of direct access to the chairman of the Board and to the Committee.

8.5 External Audit

The Committee shall:

8.5.1 consider and make recommendations to the Board, to be put to shareholders for approval at the AGM, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the company's external auditor. The Committee shall oversee the selection process for a new auditor and if an auditor resigns the Committee shall investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether action is required; and

8.5.2 oversee the relationship with the external auditor including (but not limited to):

8.5.2.1 recommendations on their remuneration, whether fees for audit or non-audit services, and that the level of fees is appropriate to enable an adequate audit to be conducted;

8.5.2.2 approval of their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;

8.5.2.3 assessing annually their independence and objectivity taking into account relevant UK professional and regulatory requirements and the relationship with the auditor as a whole, including the provision of non-audit services;

8.5.2.4 satisfying itself that there are no relationships (such as family, employment, investment, financial or business) between the auditor and the company (other than in the ordinary course of business);

8.5.2.5 agreeing with the Board a policy on the employment by the Manager of former employees of the company's auditor, then monitoring the implementation of this policy;

8.5.2.6 monitoring the external auditor's compliance with relevant ethical and professional guidance on the rotation of audit partner, the level of fees paid by the company compared to the overall fee income of the firm, office and partner and other related requirements; and

8.5.2.7 assessing annually the qualifications, expertise and resources of the auditor and the effectiveness of the audit process, which shall include a report from the external auditor on their own internal quality procedures.

8.5.3 meet regularly with the external auditor, including once a year after the audit at the reporting stage. The Committee shall meet the external auditor at least once a year, without employees of the Manager being present, to discuss the auditor's remit and any issues arising from the audit;

8.5.4 review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement;

8.5.5 review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

8.5.5.1 a discussion on any major issues which arose during the audit

8.5.5.2 any accounting and audit judgements

8.5.5.3 levels of errors identified during the audit

8.5.5.4 the effectiveness of the audit

The Committee shall also

8.5.6 review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are signed on behalf of the Company;

8.5.7 review the representation letter from the Manager and the Manager's response to the external auditor's findings and recommendations; and

8.5.8 develop and implement a policy on the supply of non-audit services by the external auditor, taking into account any relevant ethical guidance on the matter.

9. Reporting Responsibilities

9.1 The Committee Chairman shall report formally to the Board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities.

9.2 The Committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.

9.3 The Committee shall produce a report on its activities to be included in the Company's annual report.

10. Other matters

The Committee shall:

10.1 have access to sufficient resources to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretariat for assistance as required;

10.2 be provided with appropriate and timely training, both in the form of an induction programme for new members and on an ongoing basis for all members;

- 10.3 give due consideration to laws and regulations, the provisions of the code and the requirements of the UK Listing Authority's Listing, Prospectus and Disclosure and Transparency Rules and any other applicable Rules, as appropriate;
- 10.4 oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference; and
- 10.5 arrange for periodic reviews of its own performance and, at least annually, review its constitution and terms of reference to ensure it is operating at maximum effectiveness and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board for approval.

11. Authority

The Committee is authorised:

- 11.1 to seek any information it requires from any employee of the Manager in order to perform its duties;
- 11.2 to obtain, at the company's expense, outside legal or other professional advice on any matter within its terms of reference;
- 11.3 to call any employee of the Manager to be questioned at a meeting of the Committee as and when required; and
- 11.4 to have the right to publish in the Company's annual report details of any issues that cannot be resolved between the Committee and the Board.

5 September 2016