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Castlefield B.E.S.T Income Fund Castlefield Managed Multi-Asset Fund Castlefield UK Opportunities Fund Castlefield UK Smaller Companies

# **INTERIM REPORT & ACCOUNTS**

Sub-Funds of Castlefield Funds OEIC

For the Period 01 March 2017 To 31 August 2017 A UK Authorised Investment Company with Variable Capital

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The Authorised Corporate Director ("ACD") and registered office of the Castlefield Funds ("the Company"):

### CASTLEFIELD FUND PARTNERS LIMITED

111 Piccadilly, Manchester, M1 2HY

Castlefield Fund Partners Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") and is a member of The Investment Association ("IA").

## DIRECTORS OF THE ACD:

John Eckersley (Managing Director) Summayya Mosam (Head of Service Delivery) Susan Cohen (Head of Finance)

## **INVESTMENT ADVISER:**

Castlefield Investment Partners LLP is the Investment Adviser to the Castlefield Funds, and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") and is a member of the London Stock Exchange.

## DEPOSITARY:

Société Générale S.A. (London Branch), SG House, 41 Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4SG

## AUDITOR:

Beever and Struthers St George's House 215-219 Chester Road, Manchester, M15 4JE

## ADMINISTRATOR

Société Générale Securities Services, SG House, 41 Tower Hill, London, EC3N 4SG

## REGISTRAR

Maitland Institutional Service Limited Springfield Lodge, Colchester Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 5PW

# COMPANY INFORMATION

Castlefield Funds is an Investment Company with Variable Capital under regulation 12 of the Open-Ended Investment Company Regulations and incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC000234 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority with effect from 14 May 2003. Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company. At the period end, the Company contained six sub-Funds. The report and accounts contained within the below statements refer specifically to Castlefield B.E.S.T Income, Castlefield Managed Multi-Asset, Castlefield UK Opportunities and Castlefield UK Smaller Companies as sub-Funds of the Company.

The Company is a UCITS scheme which complies with the Financial Conduct Authority Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook and is structured as an umbrella Company so that different sub-Funds may be established from time to time by the ACD with the approval of the Financial Conduct Authority and the agreement of the Depositary.

## REPORT OF THE ACD TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY

The ACD, as sole director, presents its report and the audited Financial Statements of the Company for the period from 1st March 2017 to 31 August 2017.

The Investment Objectives and Policies of each sub-Fund of the Company are covered in the section for each sub-Fund. The sub-Funds of an umbrella Company should be invested as if they were a single company. The names and addresses of the ACD, the Depositary, the Registrar, the Investment Adviser and the Auditor are detailed on page 2.

In the future there may be other sub-Funds of the company.

Where a sub-Fund invests in other Collective Investment Schemes, the maximum annual management fee that may be charged to that Collective Investment Scheme is 5% of the net asset value of such a scheme, however, it is expected that the actual annual management fee will not exceed 2%.

## SUB-FUND CROSS-HOLDINGS

No sub-Fund held shares in any other sub-Fund within the Investment Company with Variable Capital during the current or prior year.

# DIRECTORS' STATEMENT

In accordance with the Regulations, we hereby certify the report on behalf of the directors of Castlefield Fund Partners Limited.

John Eckersley Managing Director (of the ACD)

31 October 2017

Summaya Mosam Director (of the ACD)



## ABOUT THE INVESTMENT ADVISER

Castlefield Investment Partners (CIP) is part of the Castlefield family of investment, advisory and operational support businesses. The group adopts a unique approach to looking after money, reflecting the individual objectives of all kinds of clients – from private individuals and the businesses they own and work for, to the not-for-profit organisations they help to run. CIP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and is a member of the London Stock Exchange..

## INVESTMENT REVIEW OF CASTLEFIELD FUNDS

### MARKET REVIEW

The first half of the year was dominated by Theresa May's hastily called general election. The news was immediately followed by a fall in the UK stock market and sterling strengthened for a brief spell, but this was short-lived and equities soon recovered their losses. The Prime Minister decided to roll the dice, despite well documented voter fatigue and the Fixed Term Parliament Act existing to prevent just this kind of snap election being launched. The gamble, of course, did not pay off for Mrs May and she was left with a minority government. The morning after the election, UK share movements echoed those seen after the referendum almost a year previously, with domestic-focused companies weaker and the large multinational businesses with overseas currency exposure faring significantly better.

Inflation has continued to rise due to the weaker pound, directly influenced by the decision to vote for "Brexit" in last years' referendum. The average worker will inevitably be worse off than a year ago due to rises in wages not keeping up with inflation. Whilst this has pressured disposable income over the past year, denting sentiment towards UK market sectors such as retailers, there has been some signs of emerging improvement for domestic consumer stocks.

Europe saw a sweeping victory for new French President Emmanuel Macron against the French National Front. Despite the far-right being beaten back in this particular election, Europe is still dogged by the populist rhetoric and anti-immigrant sentiment that has dominated political discord across the continent. This was evidenced most recently in the German election which saw Angela Merkel's position weakened and the far-right Alternative for Deutschland (AfD) party ride into prominence. Elsewhere, discussion over the Catalan independence referendum put the cat among the pigeons in Spain. Speculation over whether or not it would go ahead came to fruition recently but debate over the legality of the move still rages.

Across the Atlantic, June saw a high-profile announcement as President Trump confirmed the rumours that he intended to withdraw the US from the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. The Paris Agreement was a triumph of global political will to tackle a critical issue that affects not only society and the environment as a whole but also financial markets. The agreement has been key to encouraging investors to question the valuation basis for the world's largest oil companies and to consider the need to mitigate against the potential for increased incidence of natural disasters. Although dispiriting to hear, more heartening was the number of Chief Executives of American companies and Mayors of US cities that reaffirmed their intention to meet their pledges under the Agreement. The President's words are impotent in the face of such actions.

Impotence seems to be a recurring theme for the Trump presidency. His inability to pass proposed healthcare reforms despite the Republicans controlling all branches of the government has cast doubts on whether Trump's other planned policy changes will go ahead. August saw Trump announce plans to cut corporation tax to 15% from the current rate of 35%. This saw the resumption of the "reflation trade" that was first triggered by his election. However, there is only a small margin of error for Trump to see his reforms realised. If a few Republicans in both the Senate and the House of Representatives decide that the proposed tax policy is unsuitable then it cannot be passed without Democratic votes, which Trump is unlikely to receive. US equities have consequently responded in cautiously optimistic fashion, moving higher anticipating more favourable tax rates but mindful of the policy deadlock that has characterised much of the first year of the Trump Presidency.

Governance in a corporate sense has been the key talking point with the release of the third Castlefield Stewardship Report. Castlefield promotes open dialogue with investee companies which we see as an important part of being Thoughtful Investors. In practical terms, this can mean avoiding those companies where poor corporate behaviour can result in subsequent regulatory fines or civil lawsuits. It can also mean taking account of a broader consideration of environmental risk when making investment decisions. The importance of this factor was thrown into sharp focus with the devastation caused by several hurricanes over the last quarter. Changing weather patterns as a consequence of climate change highlight that companies providing solutions to the problems of global warming and abating emissions are well positioned to mitigate climate related natural disasters and deliver long term value.

#### OUTLOOK

The UK election result has resulted in a constrained mandate for the Prime Minister, which has led to an erosion of confidence within her abilities to lead on Brexit discussions. It is still unclear whether a measured, consensual approach to Brexit talks will be taken (commonly known as a "soft Brexit") or whether "no deal is better than a bad deal" will be the tone that steers the negotiations.

The Bank of England is tasked with keeping inflation at 2% and Mark Carney's recent comments: indicate a normalising of interest rates from their post-Brexit record low of 0.25%, although no official decision has yet been made. Should the BoE press ahead with tightening rates however, this nascent recovery may be halted in its tracks. The effect of a rate rise will have far reaching consequences for everyone from pensioners, to workers to businesses although not all of which need be negative. Indeed, pensioners are set to see a benefit of increased inflation. The triple lock pension system means that pensioners, and some of those currently saving into private pensions, will see significant benefits. Under the triple lock guarantee, pensions rise by either 2.5%, earnings or prices, whichever is the higher. With inflation being the highest, pensions will be up-rated by 3% in April next year.

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners, October 2017.

## **COMPARATIVE TABLES**

### **General Shares - Income**

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	78.41	75.66	81.56
Return before operating charges *	4.78	7.20	(1.04)
Operating charges	(1.03)	(1.21)	(1.37)
Return after operating charges*	3.75	5.99	(2.41)
Distributions on income units	(1.61)	(3.24)	(3.49)
Closing net asset value per share	80.55	78.41	75.66
after direct transaction costs of:**	0.04	0.07	0.02
Performance			
Return after charges	4.78%	7.92%	(2.95)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	315	259	262
Closing number of shares	390,800	330,598	346,908
Operating charges*	1.47%	1.50%	1.72%
Direct transaction costs**	0.06%	0.09%	0.03%
Prices			
Highest share price	83.83	79.54	85.20
Lowest share price	78.46	69.79	72.59

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

#### Institutional Shares - Income

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	80.53	77.51	83.35
Return before operating charges *	4.81	7.37	(1.07)
Operating charges*	(0.85)	(1.03)	(1.20)
Return after operating charges*	3.96	6.34	(2.27)
Distributions on income units	(1.66)	(3.32)	(3.57)
Closing net asset value per share	82.83	80.53	77.51
after direct transaction costs of:**	0.05	0.08	0.02
Performance			
Return after charges	4.91%	8.18%	(2.72)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value ( $\pounds$ '000)	9,633	7,883	5,112
Closing number of shares	11,629,468	9,789,575	6,595,192
Operating charges*	1.22%	1.25%	1.47%
Direct transaction costs**	0.06%	0.10%	0.03%
Prices			
Highest share price	86.15	81.69	87.12
Lowest share price	80.60	71.55	74.36

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

## **Charity Shares - Income**

	31 Aug 17	28 Feb 17	28 Feb 16
	(pence per share)	(pence per share)	(pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	81.53	78.47	84.38
Return before operating charges *	4.87	7.46	(1.07)
Operating charges*	(0.86)	(1.04)	(1.22)
Return after operating charges*	4.00	6.42	(2.29)
Distributions on income units	(1.68)	(3.36)	(3.62)
Closing net asset value per share	83.86	81.53	78.47
after direct transaction costs of:**	0.05	0.08	0.02
Performance			
Return after charges	4.91%	8.18%	(2.71)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	17,031	15,523	11,028
Closing number of shares	20,309,217	19,040,183	14,054,109
Operating charges*	1.22%	1.25%	1.47%
Direct transaction costs**	0.06%	0.09%	0.03%
Prices			
Highest share price	87.22	82.70	88.20
Lowest share price	81.60	72.44	75.28

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

### **RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (RRI)**



The sub-Fund is ranked as 5 because it has experienced medium to high rises and falls in value over the past five years. Please note that even the lowest ranking does not mean a risk-free investment.

The Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the sub-Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the sub-Fund.

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The investment objective of the Castlefield B.E.S.T Income Fund is to predominantly generate a relatively high level of current income, together with income growth and some capital growth over the long term. The investment policy of the sub-Fund is to invest principally in a portfolio of UK equities, although money market instruments, collective investment schemes, deposits, warrants, derivatives (for hedging purposes) and other permitted investments and transactions may also be invested in.

In seeking to achieve the stated investment objective, consideration will be given not only to traditional business and financial criteria, but also to environmental, ethical, social, governance and other similar issues. This is reflected in the name of the Fund where "B.E.S.T" is intended to indicate the investment criteria that will be applied to the Fund: Business, Environmental/ethical, Social/governance; and Transparency.

### **INVESTMENT REVIEW**

#### PERFORMANCE

During the period, the fund achieved a return of +5.00% (Institutional Income Units) against its peer group IA UK Equity Income sector, which returned +4.93%.

#### MARKET REVIEW

The reporting period saw significant inflows into the Fund allowing for purchases of new holdings and additions to existing holdings alike. We took the opportunity to increase our position in Debenhams. Whilst, General Retailers as a whole experienced a tough period with consumer confidence remaining fragile and pressure on the growth of consumers' "real" disposable incomes, we viewed concerns with Debenhams to be overdone as management continue to restructure the store portfolio to meet the changes in consumer shopping habits. The group is on track with reducing debt and continues to develop, refine and grow the internet retailing channel, so we took advantage of recent weakness to add to the holding. Premier Technical Service Group (PTSG) has moved from strength to strength over the year as the company continues to identify attractive and accretive acquisitions and with plenty of further opportunities presenting themselves. In July, we took part in a placing by PTSG to fund the acquisition of a market leading lightning protection and steeplejack company. August then revealed this incremental top-up to be a timely move as our optimism was confirmed towards the end of the month as interim results revealed strong performance and gave a 30% boost to the share price. A further addition to the Fund came via the  $\pounds 270m$  initial public offering on the London AIM market of a renewable energy infrastructure company, Greencoat Renewables. Proceeds from the listing will be used to fund a portfolio of onshore wind farms in Ireland. The final new holding added to the Fund was in premium building products provider, Alumasc Group. Alumasc has built strong positions, and leading brands, in a number of niche markets, particularly those which add value in conserving and managing the scarce resources of energy and water in the built environment. The shares offer an attractive initial yield whilst, given the specialism in sustainable building products, it's business activities, importantly, screen well against our B.E.S.T remit

#### OUTLOOK

With the consumer price index (CPI) rising to 3% shortly after the period end, inflation now stands at the highest level since 2012. As unemployment rates are now at their lowest since records began in 1975, the Bank of England's past justifications for keeping rates at their historic lows now appear untenable. With market participants increasingly expecting a rate hike before the year-end, we are likely to see a further increase in the pound relative to the dollar should this come to fruition. The fund's diversified nature should help to mitigate any fluctuations from currency moves however with uncertain macroeconomic conditions further heightened by the noise of Brexit, we remain alive to such factors. We do not allow these to guide investment decisions though, preferring to base our investment decisions on company fundamentals. A strong focus on robust balance sheets, healthy cash flows and sustainable and growing dividends whilst also importantly, ensuring all holdings meet our B.E.S.T remit are central to our approach

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners, October 2017.

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## The top ten purchases and total sales during the period were as follows:

Purchases	Costs <i>£</i> '000
Greencoat Renewables	1,106
Aviva	312
Debenhams	275
SSE	274
The Gym	229
Lancashire Holdings	189
Assura	185
AstraZeneca	166
Prudential	156
National Grid	148
Total purchases during the period were	4,416

Sales Proceeds £'000

Total sales during the period were

## PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS

As at 31 August 2017

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund
	CONSUMER GOODS 2.68% (2.67%)		
	Food Producers 0.34% (0.41%)		
6,232	Glanbia	91	0.3
		91	0.3
	Personal Goods 2.34% (2.26%)		
14,046	Unilever	632	2.3
		632	2.3
	CONSUMER SERVICES 15.54% (13.68%)		
	Food & Drug Retailers 1.88% (1.76%)		
207,478	WM Morrison Supermarkets	506	1.83
		506	1.8
	General Retailers 7.73% (6.23%)		
1,339,689	Debenhams	536	1.99
81,386 *	Joules Group	244	0.9
188,842	Marks & Spencer Group	601	2.23
215,865	N Brown Group	705	2.6
		2,086	7.7
	Media 1.79% (2.33%)		
73,617	UBM	483	1.7
		483	1.79
	Travel, Leisure & Catering 4.14% (3.36%)		
15,145	Go-Ahead Group	270	1.00
410,881	Gym Group	848	3.1
		1,118	4.1
	FINANCIALS 38.08% (32.18%)		
80.292	Banks 2.24% (2.19%) HSBC Holdings	605	2.2
		605	2.2
	Equity Investment Instruments 17.97% (14.33%)		
299,718	3i Infrastructure	587	2.1
1,206,955	Greencoat Renewables	1,179	4.3
937,362	Greencoat UK Wind/Funds	1,140	4.2
209,933	HICL Infrastructure Co/Fund	342	1.2
537,161	John Laing Environmental Assets Group	572	2.1
427,500	Menhaden Capital - Preference	291	1.03
678,749	Renewables Infrastructure Group	736	2.75
		4,847	17.9
	Financial Services 2.75% (2.83%)		
51,169	Intermediate Capital Group	451	1.6
385,000 *	Park Group	292	1.03

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	Life Insurance 6.85% (5.38%)		
179,285	Aviva	941	3.48
49,976	Prudential	908	3.33
		1,849	6.85
	N		
00 100	Nonlife Insurance 2.51% (2.09%)	070	0 F
98,122	Lancashire Holdings	678	2.5
		678	2.5
	Real Estate Investment Trusts 5.76% (5.36%)		
1,562,672	Assura	1,022	3.79
87,485	British Land Co	532	1.97
		1,554	5.76
	HEALTH CARE 6.68% (7.28%)		
	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology 6.68% (7.28%)		
21,054	AstraZeneca	950	3.53
55,629	GlaxoSmithKline	851	3.15
		1,801	6.68
	INDUSTRIALS 21.27% (21.18%)		
	Construction & Materials 6.06% (7.24%)		
228,102	Balfour Beatty	598	2.22
52,959	Kier Group	614	2.28
439,484 *	Van Elle Holdings	422	1.56
		1,634	6.06
	Electronic & Electrical Equipment 3.08% (2.72%)		
367,663	Luceco	831	3.08
		831	3.08
	General Industrials 3.03% (1.47%)		
496,007 *	Premier Technical Services Group	818	3.03
		818	3.03
	Support Services 9.10% (9.75%)		
36,399	Capita	234	0.85
224,788	Carillion	99	0.37
12,930	De La Rue	81	0.30
315,693	Equiniti Group	863	3.19
345,976	Lakehouse	114	0.42
285,075	RPS Group	833	3.09
56,253 *	RWS Holdings	232	0.86
		2,456	9.10

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	TECHNOLOGY 3.07% (2.84%)		
	Software & Computer Services 3.07% (2.84%)		
250.000 *	IDOX	150	0.56
97,432	Sage Group	678	2.5
		828	3.07
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS 2.96% (3.36%)		
	Fixed Line Telecommunications 1.12% (1.45%)		
103,978	BT Group	302	1.12
		302	1.12
	Mobile Telecommunications 1.84% (1.91%)		
226,153	Vodafone Group	496	1.84
		496	1.84
	UTILITIES 8.64% (7.70%)		
	Electricity 3.37% (2.94%)		
63,929	SSE	908	3.37
		908	3.37
	Gas, Water & Multiutilities 5.27% (4.76%)		
107,032	National Grid	1,038	3.85
47,296	Pennon Group	384	1.42
		1,422	5.27
	Total Value of Investments	26,688	98.92
	Net Other Assets	291	1.08
		26,979	100.00

Figures in brackets represent sector distribution at 28 February 2017

Securities are admitted to an official stock exchange listing or traded on another regulated market unless otherwise stated.

\* AIM Quoted Securities

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

## For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Au	31 Aug 17		g 16
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Net capital gains		842		674
Revenue	527		409	
Expenses	(150)		(119)	
Net revenue before taxation	377		290	
Taxation				
Net revenue after taxation		377	-	290
Total return before distributions		1,219		964
Distributions		(526)	-	(409)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		693		556

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

# For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17		31 Aug 16	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		23,665		16,402
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	3,043		1,926	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(422)		(243)	
		2,621		1,683
Dilution Levy		-		-
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		693		556
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		26,979		16,641

### **BALANCE SHEET**

### As at 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17 £'000	28 Feb 17 <u>£'000</u>
ASSETS		
Fixed assets:		
Investment assets	26,688	21,511
Current assets:		
Debtors	151	94
Cash and bank balances	464	2,275
Total Assets	27,303	23,880
LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Distribution payable on income units	(305)	(186)
Other creditors	(19)	(29)
Total liabilities	(324)	(215)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	26,979	23,665

On behalf of Castlefield Fund Partners Limited

John Eckersley Managing Director (of the ACD)

31 October 2017

Summaya Mosam Director (of the ACD)



# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The interim financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of Authorised Funds", issued by The Investment Association in May 2014, the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and the Instrument of Incorporation.

### **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

For the period from 1 March 2017 to 31 May 2017:

#### First Interim dividend distribution in pence per share.

#### General Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/08/17	27/08/16
Group 1	0.6997	-	0.6997	0.8011
Group 2	0.6811	0.0186	0.6997	0.8011

#### Institutional Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/08/17	27/08/16
Group 1	0.7190	-	0.7190	0.8210
Group 2	0.4339	0.2851	0.7190	0.8210

#### **Charity Shares - Income**

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/08/17	27/08/16
Group 1	0.7282	-	0.7282	0.8312
Group 2	06545	0.0737	0.7282	0.8312

#### For the period from 1 June 2017 to 31 August 2017:

#### Second Interim dividend distribution in pence per share.

#### General Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/11/17	26/11/16
Group 1	0.9090	-	0.9090	0.9896
Group 2	0.8223	0.0867	0.9090	0.9896

#### Institutional Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/11/17	26/11/16
Group 1	0.9361	-	0.9361	1.0143
Group 2	0.5060	0.4301	0.9361	1.0143

# **DISTRIBUTION TABLES (CONTINUED)**

### Charity Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/11/17	26/11/16
Group 1	0.9477	-	0.9477	1.0270
Group 2	0.7551	0.1926	0.9477	1.0270

## **COMPARATIVE TABLES**

### General Shares - Income

	31 Aug17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			· ·
Opening net asset value per share	221.14	203.33	211.60
Return before operating charges *	8.24	21.99	(3.83)
Operating charges*	(4.00)	(4.18)	(4.44)
Return after operating charges*	4.24	17.81	(8.27)
Distributions on income units		-	
Closing net asset value per share	225.38	221.14	203.33
after direct transaction costs of:**	-	0.01	0.01
Performance			
Return after charges	1.92%	8.76%	(3.91)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	58	13	11
Closing number of shares	25,630	5,708	5,708
Operating charges*	1.82%	1.90%	2.12%
Direct transaction costs**	-	0.01%	-
Prices			
Highest share price	227.30	221.78	214.15
Lowest share price	221.87	204.93	201.42

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

#### Institutional Shares - Income

	31 Aug 17	28 Feb 17	28 Feb 16
	(pence per share)	(pence per share)	(pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	233.66	214.81	222.44
Return before operating charges *	9.05	22.89	(4.07)
Operating charges*	(3.05)	(3.30)	(3.57)
Return after operating charges*	6.00	19.59	(7.64)
Distributions on income units	(0.50)	(0.74)	
Closing net asset value per share	239.16	233.66	214.81
after direct transaction costs of:**	-	0.01	0.01
Performance			
Return after charges	2.57%	9.13%	(3.43)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	29,348	26,230	17,582
Closing number of shares	12,271,442	11,225,745	8,184,982
Operating charges*	1.32%	1.40%	1.62%
Direct transaction costs**	-	0.01%	-
Prices			
Highest share price	241.15	234.99	225.26
Lowest share price	234.70	216.52	212.76

\*Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

## **RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (RRI)**



The sub-Fund is ranked as 3 because the sub-Fund and Portfolios holding similar assets have experienced low to medium rises and falls in value over the past five years. Please note that even the lowest ranking does not mean a risk-free investment.

The Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the sub-Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the sub-Fund.

### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The investment objective of the Castlefield Managed Multi-Asset Fund is to generate a positive annualised return over a rolling 3 year basis. However, there is no guarantee that this objective will be achieved over that specific, or any, time period and there is always a risk of loss to your original capital. The sub-Fund will invest in transferable securities (both quoted and unquoted), units and/or shares in other collective investment schemes, structured products, deposits, warrants, fixed interest securities, money market instruments, and cash and near cash. The sub-Fund may also invest in derivatives and forward transactions for investment purposes as well as for efficient portfolio management (including hedging), and may also borrow and enter into stocklending and underwriting arrangements in accordance with COLL.

### **INVESTMENT REVIEW**

#### PERFORMANCE

The fund returned 2.57% (as measured by the Institutional Income class), compared to an increase in UK CPI inflation during the 6 months under review of 1.08% and an average return from the peer group of funds within the IA Targeted Absolute Return Sector of 2.05%.

#### MARKET REVIEW

During the six months under review, equity markets generated relatively modest gains as bouts of volatility affected risk assets globally. On the domestic front, the announcement of a snap general election in the UK saw shares move lower as investors switched to bonds before subsequently reverting to trend after the election itself. A reduced majority with no overall control for the government was perceived to be riskier for gilt investors but conversely better for equities with the government being forced to engage to a greater extent with those holding a more moderate view of what a "Brexit" should look like. Currencies were the other main asset class to be influenced by such moves during the period with sterling beginning to reverse some of the losses against the dollar returned since the Brexit referendum. A full twelve-month period since the referendum result in June 2016 is now behind us and a weaker currency over that time-frame has seen UK inflation pick up materially, moving ahead of the Bank of England's target of 2%. Recent comments from the Bank have hinted heavily at a rate rise in the remainder of the year and sterling has consequently appreciated against the dollar by just under 5% during the period under review.

#### **PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY**

Within the portfolio, the relatively buoyant market backdrop over the past several years meant that we received the proceeds from a number of structured products which were redeeming in the period. We worked to reinvest into some similarly attractive issues, again using some of the same strategies that have worked well for us in the past such as "defensive autocalls" alongside some newer strategies.

With the "Autocall" notes, we selected replacement holdings with a defensive return profile, typically incorporating either a declining hurdle for achieving returns or a deeply discounted final barrier, providing much greater certainty over the receipt of the final proceeds at the end of the term. This provides an attractive risk-reward profile in conjunction with the coupons on offer. The strong run of underlying equity markets has influenced our thinking here. Whilst equity markets continue to make advances we have also observed that returns have moderated over the past year and introducing more defensive holdings in this area should mitigate against any unforeseen negative developments.

We dealt with the prospect of rising yields in the domestic fixed income market by acquiring some new bonds at the point of primary issuance, providing the potential for more attractive returns as well as some cushion should yields materially pick up. These issues came to market from very conservatively structured borrowers with low levels of overall borrowings and although each issue was unsecured, the issuing organisations have good fixed asset cover on their respective balance sheets.

The remainder of net inflows was invested into infrastructure and real estate holdings where the investments represent additions to existing holdings or related funds. The Pacific Industrial and Logistics REIT focuses on light industrial units across the UK and has been a beneficiary of the boom in internet retailing and associated logistics. We first invested in late 2016 as part of a capital raising to fund an acquisition of a property portfolio that they were completing and then took part in a similar placing this August. We also added a new fund from Greencoat to the portfolio. Greencoat manage portfolios of renewable energy assets and their focus on distributing cash flows to investors leads to a disciplined process. We already hold one fund managed by Greencoat and we have invested in their most recent offering which is an AIM listed operating company focusing on Irish wind farm assets.

#### OUTLOOK

With the BoE having hinted strongly that UK base-rates will likely rise in the near term but the number of MPC meetings remaining before the end of the year rapidly diminishing, we still expect an increase to be announced at the either the November of December meetings. Whilst this will only have the effect of reversing the emergency 0.25% cut enacted shortly after the Brexit referendum in August 2016, recent moves of sterling against the dollar suggests that there may be a further rebound of sterling to come through. Whilst we remain cautiously optimistic, our portfolio positioning has taken this view into account with more defensive structured product and bond positioning being implemented over the past six months.

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners, October 2017.

#### The top ten purchases and total sales during the period were as follows:

Purchases	Costs £'000	Sales	Proceeds £'000
BNP Paribas 20/07/2022	1,161	Barclays 0% 04/03/17	715
Goldman Sachs International 12/05/2023	1,000	SG Issuer SA 03/08/2020	697
GS Issuer 14/07/2023	1,000	Royal Bank of Scotland Cert 29/03/2017	692
Greencoat Renewables	745	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce 08/07/2021	580
AEW UK Long Lease REIT	550	SGA Societe Generale Acceptance NV 27/03/2017	412
JPEL Private Equity Limited	400	Pacific Industrial Private Placing	385
Pacific Industrial Private Placing	385	M&G High Income Investment Trust	246
Pacific Industrial & Logistics REIT	385		
Retail Charity Bonds 4.25% 30/03/2026	328		
International Public Partnerships	188		
Total purchases during the period were	6,476	Total sales during the period were	3,727

## **PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS**

As at 31 August 2017

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Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	EQUITIES 11.68% (12.75%)		
	Guernsey 0.69% (1.76%)		
125,215	International Public Partnerships	203	0.6
		203	0.65
	Ireland 2.70% (0.00%)		
813,040	Greencoat Renewables	794	2.70
		794	2.70
	United Kingdom 8.29% (4.74%)		
550,000	AEW UK Long Lease REIT	547	1.86
940,701	Assura	615	2.09
421,390	Greencoat UK Wind/Funds	513	1.74
635,000	Pacific Industrial & Logistics REIT	763	2.60
		2,438	8.29
	WARRANTS 0.00% (4.18%) Curacao 0.00% (1.55%)		
	United Kingdom 0.00% (2.63%) STRUCTURED PLANS 35.25% (34.20%)		
	France 0.00% (2.15%)		
	Luxembourg 10.67% (10.51%)		
500,000	Natixis 0% 10/12/2021	514	1.75
755,000	Natixis 0% 31/12/2018	613	2.08
1,250,000 .000.000	SG Inverse Reverse CV 10% VXX 13/02/18 0% 13/02/2018	1,015	3.45
,000,000	SG Issuer 0% 14/07/2023	996 	3.39 10.67
		3,130	10.07
<b>FFO 000</b>	Netherlands 21.16% (18.83%)	800	0.5
750,000 .000.000	BBVA Global Markets BV 0% 28/09/2022 BNP Paribas 0% 25/02/2022	798	2.71
500,000	BNP Paribas 0% 25/02/2022 BNP Paribas 0% 25/09/2020	729 483	2.48
,500,000	BNP Paribas 0% 20/07/2022	483	1.64 3.69
750,000	JP Morgan Structured products 0% 06/06/2022	826	2.81
750,000	JP Morgan Structured products 0% 09/11/2022	792	2.69
750,000	Morgan Stanley 0% 16/06/2022	866	2.94
500,000	Morgan Stanley BV 0% 25/09/2020	647	2.20
		6,223	21.16
	United Kingdom 3.42% (2.71%)		
,000,000	Goldman Sachs 0% 12/05/2023	1,007	3.42
		1,007	3.42

150,000 550,000 300,000 150,000 200,000 500,000 167,200 327,900	DEBT SECURITIES 11.91% (11.33%) United Kingdom 11.91% (11.33%) Alpha Plus Holdings 5.75% 18/12/2019 Burford Capital 6.125% 26/10/2024		
550,000 300,000 150,000 200,000 500,000 167,200	Alpha Plus Holdings 5.75% 18/12/2019		
550,000 300,000 150,000 200,000 500,000 167,200	Alpha Plus Holdings 5.75% 18/12/2019		
300,000 150,000 200,000 500,000 167,200	Burford Capital 6.125% 26/10/2024	158	0.54
150,000 200,000 500,000 167,200		600	2.04
200,000 500,000 167,200	Intermediate Capital Group 5% 24/03/2023	317	1.08
500,000 167,200	International Personal Finance 6.125% 08/05/2020	147	0.50
167,200	National Grid Floating 06/10/2021	243	0.83
	Places for People Finance 4.25% 15/12/2023	511	1.74
327,900	Retail Charity Bonds 4.25% 06/07/2026	170	0.58
	Retail Charity Bonds 4.25% 30/03/2026	328	1.12
117,700	Retail Charity Bonds 4.375% 29/07/2021	125	0.4
153,500	Retail Charity Bonds 4.4% 30/04/2025	158	0.5
83,900	Retail Charity Bonds 5% 12/04/2026	93	0.32
307,000	Tesco Personal Finance Floating 16/12/2019	348	1.18
200,000	United Kingdom Gilt Inflation Linked Floating 22/11/2017	283	0.90
		3,481	11.84
	EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS 2.50% (2.81%)		
	Ireland 1.38% (1.56%)		
1,085	iShares Global High Yield Corp	111	0.38
3,300	iShares J.P. Morgan USD EM Bond UCITS ETF USD Dist	295	1.00
		406	1.3
	Jersey 1.12% (1.25%)		
27,075	ETFs Gold	328	1.12
		328	1.12
	INVESTMENT TRUSTS 20.71% (22.58%)		
	Bermuda 5.32% (5.79%)		
203,239	Acorn Income Fund	294	1.00
440,000	UIL - Preference - 31/10/2018	686	2.34
416,100	UIL - Preference - 31/10/2020	583	1.98
		1,563	5.32
	Guernsey 4.71% (3.92%)		
108,537	Apax Global Alpha	166	0.50
211,000	F&C Commercial Property Trust	316	1.08
316,897	JPEL Private Equity - Preference	314	1.08
250,000	JPEL Private Equity	263	0.89
50,000	NB Private Equity Partners - Preference	54	0.18
434,782	Schroder Real Estate Investment Trust	272	0.92
		1,385	4.7
222,750	<b>Jersey 1.48% (1.65%)</b> 3i Infrastructure	436	1.48
222,130	טי ווודמגנו טכנטו פ	436 436	1.46

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	United Kingdom 9.20% (11.22%)		
250,000	Conygar Investment Co - Preference	313	1.06
160,000	Inland ZDP - Preference	228	0.78
300,000	Menhaden Capital - Preference	204	0.69
29,152	P2P Global Investments/Fund	246	0.84
33,890	Ranger Direct Lending Fund	259	0.88
512,000	Ranger Direct Lending ZDP - Preference	517	1.76
500,000	Schroder European Real Estate	565	1.92
413,949	UK Commercial Property Trust	374	1.27
		2,706	9.20
	COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES 10.22% (10.97%)		
	Guernsey 3.97% (4.39%)		
550,000	Axiom European Financial Debt	517	1.76
350,000	TwentyFour Income Fund	404	1.37
250,000	TwentyFour Select Monthly Income Fund	246	0.84
		1,167	3.97
	Ireland 4.33% (4.41%)		
3,612	Lazard Global Investment Funds	407	1.38
469,836	Lazard Global Listed Infrastructure	867	2.95
		1,274	4.33
	Luxembourg 1.92% (2.17%)		
485,877	Ignis Absolute Return Government	564	1.92
		564	1.92
	Total Value of Investments	27,113	92.20
	Net Other Assets	2,293	7.80
	Total Net Assets	29,406	100.00

Figures in brackets represent sector distribution at 28 February 2017

Securities are admitted to an official stock exchange listing or traded on another regulated market unless otherwise stated.

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17		31 Au	31 Aug 16	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Income					
Net capital gains		629		1,164	
Revenue	252		189		
Expenses	(193)		(146)		
Interest payable and similar charges		-			
Net revenue before taxation	59		43		
Taxation		-			
Net revenue after taxation		59		43	
Total return before distributions		688		1,207	
Distributions		(59)		(43)	
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		629		1,164	

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17	31 Aug 17		6
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		26,243		17,593
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	3,737		3,542	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(1,203)		(465)	
		2,534		3,077
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		629		1,164
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		29,406		21,834

## **BALANCE SHEET**

As	at	31	August	2017
----	----	----	--------	------

	31 Aug 17 £'000	28 Feb 17 £'000
ASSETS		
Fixed assets:		
Investment assets	27,113	23,820
Current assets:		
Debtors	85	69
Cash and bank balances	2,291	2,425
Total Assets	29,489	26,314
LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Distribution payable on income units	(61)	(28)
Other creditors	(22)	(43)
Total liabilities	(83)	
Net assets attributable to shareholders	29,406	26,243

On behalf of Castlefield Fund Partners Limited

John Eckersley Managing Director (of the ACD)

31 October 2017

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The interim financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of Authorised Funds", issued by The Investment Association in May 2014, the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and the Instrument of Incorporation.

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

For the period from 1 March 2017 to 31 August 2017

Interim dividend distribution in pence per share.

#### Institutional Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	27/11/2017	25/11/2016
Group 1	0.4984	-	0.4984	0.4904
Group 2	0.2852	0.2132	0.4984	0.4904



Director (of the ACD)

Summaya Mosam

### **COMPARATIVE TABLES**

### **General Shares - Income**

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	369.71	337.86	365.50
Return before operating charges *	20.90	42.81	(16.22)
Operating charges*	(6.76)	(5.95)	(6.83)
Return after operating charges*	14.14	36.86	(23.05)
Distributions on income units	(3.50)	(5.01)	(4.59)
Closing net asset value per share	380.35	369.71	337.86
after direct transaction costs of:**	-	0.09	-
Performance			
Return after charges	3.83%	10.91%	(6.31)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	999	1,005	1,158
Closing number of shares	262,520	271,977	342,882
Operating charges*	1.85%	1.85%	1.93%
Direct transaction costs**	-	0.02%	-
Prices			
Highest share price	387.95	370.97	377.83
Lowest share price	368.07	322.64	313.11

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

#### Institutional Shares - Income

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	375.36	343.01	371.08
Return before operating charges *	20.81	43.49	(16.48)
Operating charges*	(4.94)	(4.25)	(5.13)
Return after operating charges*	15.87	39.24	(21.61)
Distributions on income units	(4.55)	(6.89)	(6.46)
Closing net asset value per share	386.67	375.36	343.01
after direct transaction costs of:**	-	0.09	-
Performance			
Return after charges	4.23%	11.44%	(5.82)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	21,973	21,670	19,766
Closing number of shares	5,682,483	5,772,970	5,762,299
Operating charges*	1.35%	1.35%	1.43%
Direct transaction costs**	-	0.03%	-
Prices			
Highest share price	393,90	377.09	384.07
Lowest share price	373,86	327.68	318.20

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

## **Charity Shares - Income**

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			<b>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </b>
Opening net asset value per share	379.35	346.08	374.39
Return before operating charges *	20.15	44.50	(16.61)
Operating charges*	(4.01)	(3.38)	(4.28)
Return after operating charges*	16.14	41.12	(20.89)
Distributions on income units	(5.10)	(7.85)	(7.42)
Closing net asset value per share	390.40	379.35	346.08
after direct transaction costs of:**	-	0.09	-
Performance			
Return after charges	4.26%	11.70%	(5.58)%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	9,050	9,376	8,867
Closing number of shares	2,318,137	2,475,716	2,562,074
Operating charges*	1.10%	1.10%	1.18%
Direct transaction costs**	-	0.03%	-
Prices			
Highest share price	397.45	380.69	387.74
Lowest share price	377.29	330.67	321.20

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

## **RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (RRI)**



The sub-Fund is ranked as 6 because it has experienced relatively high rises and falls in value over the past five years. Please note that even the lowest ranking does not mean a risk-free investment.

The Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the sub-Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the sub-Fund.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The investment objective of the Castlefield UK Opportunities Fund is to invest primarily for long term capital growth from a portfolio of investments. The investment policy of the sub-Fund is to actively invest in those companies, primarily within the UK, where the Manager believes there are above average opportunities for growth.

## **INVESTMENT REVIEW**

### PERFORMANCE

The fund returned 4.23% (as measured by the Institutional Income class), compared to an average return from the peer group of funds within the IA UK All Companies Sector of 5.92%.

#### MARKET REVIEW

With the market enjoying a buoyant start to the year, Theresa May called a snap general election in April prompting a sharp reversal in UK equities. After the initial sell-off a swift rebound followed driven by more domestic-focused stocks. The pound regained some of the ground lost to other currencies after the election result confirmed that the government had a weakened majority and equity investors considered the prospect of a more business-friendly outcome to the Brexit negotiations. As the period progressed, there was a rebound for more cyclical sectors despite the wider geopolitical uncertainty as a result of the actions of North Korea. However, with sterling continuing to rise on the back of comments from the BoE that it would begin tightening rates, some stocks with a high proportion of overseas earnings or assets again started to slip. Disposable incomes were squeezed during the period as rising inflation, prompted by the sharp fall of sterling after the Brexit referendum just over a year ago.

#### **PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY**

During the period, we have taken some profits in a number of holdings that had performed particularly well, often bucking the wider trends within their respective sectors. In the Leisure sector, often seen as an industry that performs in a similar manner to the retailers, we sold some of our shares in the cinema-chain Cineworld and hotel operator Park Plaza Europe, reducing our holdings in each but retaining a sizeable stake. Cineworld continues to gradually expand its portfolio of cinemas in this country but has a greater capacity to expand its estate of multiplexes across eastern Europe where it also has operations. Park Plaza also performed very strongly as a direct result of portfolio expansion. It has a rolling programme of redevelopments predominantly across its London-based hotels and also new openings across continental Europe. Hotels are concentrated in destination cities aimed at the business or mid-market leisure customer. It has a Croatian holiday business which it has consolidated during the period that has seen good levels of trading despite being something of an "outlier" to the rest of its hotel portfolio. The weakness of sterling during the period has benefited the company two-fold, prompting an increase in the value of its overseas assets once converted back in to a sterling-denominated "net asset value" and also making the UK a more attractive holiday destination to overseas travellers. Revenue per room in the London hotels was therefore up over 10% on stronger pricing as a result. With a further raft of extensions and redevelopments planned and underway, the company is still a key holding and we have simply taken some profits following a sharp appreciation in the share price.

We added a holding of K3 Capital to the portfolio towards the start of the period when the group listed on the AIM market in April. We followed this up with a further purchase after the period end following a further placing of shares. The Bolton-headquartered group provides business-listing and vending services, typically acting on sales of up to £50m. The trends outlined in the maiden results announcement released in early September pointed to a continuation of the positive trading apparent at the IPO. Key operating metrics tracked by the company such as initial enquires and numbers of mandates awarded all point to a further expansion of market share. Winning larger mandates also directly increases profitability and the group's billing structure results in excellent cash generation resulting in a full-year forecast dividend yield of over 6%.

#### OUTLOOK

We have, as noted above, taken profits in some stocks as a risk-control measure following a strong run in several key holdings. This has led us to be increasingly vigilant of headwinds to equities following this otherwise positive run. The recent much publicised increase in inflation is making headlines but is not necessarily a negative for equities. Stable, moderately positive inflation is no hindrance to growing corporate earnings, unlike deflation or excessive inflation which can both be disastrous.

Whilst CPI at 3% might feel like "excessive inflation" In the current low return environment, it is not very high in an historical context. We therefore await the reaction of the Bank of England mindful that a greater risk to equities is an increase to interest rates being pursued at a pace that economic growth cannot bear. A gradual exit of extraordinarily low rates is more than overdue but we would argue for a measured reaction to the current inflation figures.

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners, October 2017

#### The top ten purchases and total sales during the period were as follows:

Purchases	Costs £'000	Sales	Proceeds £'000
RWS Holdings	598		
Intermediate Capital Group	374		
Prudential	325		
Park Plaza Hotels	260		
Aveva Group	229		
Total purchases during the period were	1,785	Total sales during the period were	

# PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS

As at 31 August 2017

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	BASIC MATERIALS 7.76% (7.01%)		
	Chemicals 3.24% (3.04%)		
21,455	Croda International	825	2.5
79,520	Elementis	214	0.6
		1,039	3.24
	Mining 4.52% (3.97%)		
43,132	BHP Billiton	634	1.98
21,591	Rio Tinto	811	2.54
		1,445	4.52
	CONSUMER GOODS 12.58% (11.62%)		
	Beverages 5.97% (5.14%)		
92,177	Britvic	698	2.17
47,066	Diageo	1,214	3.80
		1,909	5.97
	Food Producers 3.14% (3.33%)		
68,772	Glanbia	1,006	3.14
		1,006	3.14
	Household Goods & Home Construction 1.36% (1.32%)		
5,949	Reckitt Benckiser Group	435	1.36
		435	1.36
	Personal Goods 2.11% (1.79%)		
15,038	Unilever	677	2.1
		677	2.11
	CONSUMER SERVICES 14.93% (14.79%)		
	General Retailers 3.44% (2.90%)	200	10
833,399 235,394	Debenhams N Brown Group	333 769	1.04 2.40
233,394	к втомп огоор		
		1,102	3.44
	Media 1.79% (2.04%)		
87,174	UBM	572	1.79
		572	1.79
	Travel, Leisure & Catering 9.70% (9.85%)		
150,432	Cineworld Group	960	3.00
137,700	PPHE Hotel Group	1,253	3.90
24,165	Whitbread	895	2.80
		3,198	9.70

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund
	FINANCIALS 20.93% (21.21%)		
	Banks 4.44% (5.04%)		
383,422	Barclays	732	2.2
61,773 **	Irish Bank Resolution Corp/Old	-	
1,086,740	Lloyds Banking Group	689	2.1
		1,421	4.4
	Financial Services 7.98% (7.56%)		
125,000 **	Finance Ireland	13	0.0
207,442 *	H&T Group	653	2.0
211,764	IG Group Holdings	1,3661	4.2
59,392	Intermediate Capital Group	524	1.6
283,500 **	Tersus Energy	-	
		2,556	7.9
	Life Insurance 4.33% (4.74%)		
76,266	Prudential	1,386	4.3
		1,386	4.3
	Nonlife Insurance 1.29% (1.30%)		
59,878	Lancashire Holdings	414	1.2
		414	1.2
	Real Estate Investment Trusts 2.89% (2.57%)		
1,413,800	Assura	925	2.8
		925	2.8
	HEALTH CARE 9.66% (12.46%)		
	Health Care Equipment & Services 3.33% (2.89%)		
76,650	Smith & Nephew	1,066	3.3
		1,066	3.3
	Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology 6.33% (9.57%)		
78,996	Hikma Pharmaceuticals	969	3.0
27,882	Shire	1,058	3.3
		2,027	6.3
	INDUSTRIALS 23.41% (20.67%)		
	Aerospace & Defense 4.23% (3.95%)		
56,535	Chemring Group	99	0.0
243,403	Meggitt	1,255	3.9
		1,354	4.2
1/0.000	Industrial Engineering 1.57% (1.28%)	500	
146,923	Fenner	502	1.5
		502	1.5'

	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
Holding	Support Services 17.61% (16.07%)		
33,157	Aggreko	295	0.92
108,527	Babcock International Group	877	2.74
694,992 *	Begbies Traynor Group	414	1.29
390,287	Equiniti Group	1,065	2.26
295,327	K3 Capital Group	378	1.18
415,734	RPS Group	1,215 1,397	3.79 4.36
338,868 *	RWS Holdings		4.30
		5,641	17.61
	OIL & GAS 2.71% (4.11%)		
	Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution 2.71% (4.11%)		
125,246	John Wood Group	697	2.94
42,329	Petrofac	171	1.15
		868	2.71
	TECHNOLOGY 0.00% (0.69%)		
	Software & Computer Services 0.00% (0.69%)		
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS 5.96% (6.34%)		
	Fixed Line Telecommunications 3.16% (3.56%)		
347,490	BT Group	1,010	3.16
		1,010	3.16
	Mobile Telecommunications 2.80% (2.78%)		
124,284	Inmarsat	898	2.80
		898	2.80
	Total Value of Investments	31,361	97.94
	Net Other Assets	660	2.06
	Total Net Assets	32,021	100.00

Figures in brackets represent sector distribution at 28 February 2017

Securities are admitted to an official stock exchange listing or traded on another regulated market unless otherwise stated.

\* AIM Quoted Securities

\*\* Delisted Securities

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug	31 Aug 17		31 Aug 16
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Net capital gains		958		2,037
Revenue	606		602	
Expenses	(213)		(208)	
Interest payable and similar charges			(1)	
Net revenue before taxation	393		393	
Taxation	(1)			
Net revenue after taxation	-	392		393
Total return before distributions		1,350		2,430
Distributions	-	(392)		(393)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		958		2,037

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug17	31 Aug17		31 Aug 16	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		32,051		29,791	
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	826		267		
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(1,814)		(706)		
		(988)		(439)	
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		958		2,037	
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		32.021		31,389	

## CASTLEFIELD UK OPPORTUNITIES FUND

## **BALANCE SHEET**

### As at 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17 £'000	28 Feb 17 £'000
ASSETS		
Fixed assets:		
Investment assets	31,361	31,899
Current assets:		
Debtors	151	65
Cash and bank balances	665	323
Total Assets	32,177	32,287
LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Bank overdrafts	-	(87)
Distribution payable on income shares	(138)	(85)
Other creditors	(18)	(64)
Total liabilities	(156)	(236)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	32,021	32,051

On behalf of Castlefield Fund Partners Limited

John Eckersley Managing Director (of the ACD)

31 October 2017

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The interim financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of Authorised Funds", issued by The Investment Association in May 2014, the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and the Instrument of Incorporation.

Summaya Mosam Director (of the ACD)



## **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

For the period from 1 March 2017 to 31 May 2017

## First Interim dividend distribution in pence per share.

#### **General Shares - Income**

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/ 08/17	26/08/16
Group 1	2.4247	-	2.4247	2.1030
Group 2	0.5040	1.9207	2.4247	2.1030

#### Institutional Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/08/17	26/08/16
Group 1	2.9713	-	2.9713	2.5864
Group 2	1.5272	1.4441	2.9713	2.5864

#### **Charity Shares - Income**

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	25/08/17	26/08/16
Group 1	3.2539	-	3.2539	2.8344
Group 2	2.0151	1.2389	3.2539	2.8344

For the period from 1 June 2017 to 31 August 2017

Second Interim dividend distribution in pence per share.

## General Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	27/11/17	25/11/16
Group 1	1.0771	-	1.0771	1.4071
Group 2	0.3437	0.7334	1.0771	1.4071

#### Institutional Shares - Income

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	27/11/17	25/11/16
Group 1	1.5829	-	1.5829	1.8801
Group 2	1.0298	0.5531	1.5829	1.8801

#### **Charity Shares - Income**

			Distribution Paid	
	Net income	Equalisation	27/11/16	25/11/16
Group 1	1.8441	-	1.8441	2.1240
Group 2	0.8674	0.9767	1.8441	2.1240

## **COMPARATIVE TABLES**

#### **General Shares - Income**

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	441.35	353.82	340.03
Return before operating charges *	89.46	97.48	27.10
Operating charges*	(10.53)	(9.95)	(13.31)
Return after operating charges*	78.93	87.53	13.79
Distributions on income units		-	
Closing net asset value per share	520.28	441.35	353.82
after direct transaction costs of:**	0.26	0.14	0.21
Performance			
Return after charges	17.88%	24.74%	4.06%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	1,026	848	979
Closing number of shares	197,214	192,162	276,653
Operating charges*	3.14%	3.17%	3.58%
Direct transaction costs**	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%
Prices			
Highest share price	529.36	456.41	395.20
Lowest share price	450.62	346.26	343.12

\* Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

\*\* Direct transaction costs are stated after deducting the proportion of the amounts collected from dilution adjustments or dilution levies that relate to direct transaction costs. A negative transaction costs figure might arise where there is a timing difference between inflows and the settlement of the resultant purchases.

#### Institutional Shares - Income

	31 Aug 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 17 (pence per share)	28 Feb 16 (pence per share)
Change in net asset value per share			
Opening net asset value per share	451.41	360.82	345.04
Return before operating charges *	90.24	98.65	27.44
Operating charges*	(8.13)	(8.06)	(11.66)
Return after operating charges*	82.11	90.59	15.78
Distributions on income units		-	
Closing net asset value per share	533.52	451.41	360.82
after direct transaction costs of:**	0.26	0.14	0.22
Performance			
Return after charges	18.19%	25.11%	4.57%
Other information			
Closing net assets value (£'000)	5,006	4,339	3,536
Closing number of shares	938,278	961,082	980,160
Operating charges*	2.64%	2.67%	3.08%
Direct transaction costs**	0.05%	0.03%	0.06%
Prices			
Highest share price	542.78	467.72	402.53
Lowest share price	461.05	353.75	348.19

\*Operating charges, otherwise known as OCF is the ratio of the sub-Fund's total disclosable costs (excluding overdraft interest) to the average net assets of the sub-Fund. The OCF is intended to provide a reliable figure which gives the most accurate measure of what it costs to invest in a sub-Fund and is calculated based on the last period's figures.

\*\*Direct transaction costs are stated after deducting the proportion of the amounts collected from dilution adjustments or dilution levies that relate to direct transaction costs. A negative transaction costs figure might arise where there is a timing difference between inflows and the settlement of the resultant purchases.

## **RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (RRI)**



The sub-Fund is ranked as 5 because it has experienced medium to high rises and falls in value over the past five years. Please note that even the lowest ranking does not mean a risk-free investment.

The Risk and Reward Indicator demonstrates where the sub-Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the sub-Fund.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The investment philosophy of the Castlefield UK Smaller Companies Fund is to invest in well managed UK smaller companies that are financially sound, have a distinct and sustainable competitive advantage and are capable of long term growth. The investment process involves a thorough appraisal of a Company's management, a detailed financial review and an assessment of its market position and the competitive environment. We also look to invest in companies that can demonstrate a high level of employee engagement and where employees are encouraged to become shareholders.

## INVESTMENT REVIEW

### PERFORMANCE

For the period from 1st March to 31st August 2017, the Castlefield UK Smaller Companies Fund, as measured by the Institutional Income units, recorded a total return of 18.1%, compared to a total return from the IA UK Smaller Companies sector average of 13.2%.

### MARKET REVIEW

Stock markets seem understandably uncertain at present, given the confluence of expensive valuations (in the US at least), geopolitical concerns around North Korean missile tests and the lack of direction over the UK's exit from the EU. Whilst the Article 50 notification has been given, and negotiations have begun, they have yielded little so far. This, partly due to the surprise general election called by Theresa May and fallout that ensued, dominating much of the period. The Prime Minister rolled the dice, apparently seeking a clear mandate for the negotiations to withdraw from the European Union. As we now know however the gamble backfired and instead of a landslide victory she was left with a minority government. The shock result left analysts scrambling to decipher what this meant for markets, whilst the contrast with the sweeping victory for new French President Emmanuel Macron could not have been clearer. One thing we do know however is that inflation in the UK continues to pick up and it is now materially above the levels of wage growth, signalling an income squeeze.

UK smaller companies however have seemingly shrugged off this backdrop of enduring political uncertainty and performed well both in absolute and relative terms. The Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies) in total return terms rose by 10.3%, outperforming larger capitalisation companies and the wider market.

## PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

There was a significant amount of activity within the Fund over the period as we crystallised gains from some of the Fund's stronger performers, such as IQE and Fevertree, and reduced exposure to resource related sectors, given our caution here. We also exited a couple of smaller, non-core positions, as well as the holding in Waterman Group following an approach by Japanese consulting engineer CTI at a c.80% premium to the prevailing share price.

Proceeds from these sales were redeployed into a combination of current core holdings and several new holdings, with detail on the latter as follows. PTSG is a niche service provider to markets focused on safety at height and/or characterised by being highly regulated in nature. Iomart Group is a leading provider of secure managed hosting and cloud services. Keywords Studios is an outsourced technical services provider to the global video games industry which has been growing very strongly. The Gym Group is a fast-growing budget gym club chain in the UK, focusing purely on affordability and flexibility. Two of the remaining new holdings were by way of newcomers to the AIM market. The first being Strix Group, a global leader in the design, manufacture and supply of kettle safety controls, whilst the second, Gordon Dadds, is an acquisitive law firm in the highly fragmented UK legal services market. The final significant holding introduced to the Fund was in a more established listed company, Alumasc Group. Having floated in 1986, Alumasc has a long-standing heritage of excellence in the manufacture and supply of a variety of products. It is now however a focused supplier of building products to niche markets, with a focus on the management of scarce resources, such as water and energy, in the built environment. Finally, a smaller position was initiated in leading renewable energy supplier, Good Energy.

### OUTLOOK

Having carried out a partial reorganisation of the Fund, and with encouraging news flow from most of the companies held in the portfolio, we believe that the portfolio is well placed for the coming months. While the recent exceptional performance from smaller companies is unlikely to be repeated in the short term, the UK economy still appears to be making reasonable steps despite challenging headwinds, which we also believe provides a solid background for the continued progress of the Fund. Against such a background UK Small Companies' performance will continue to be heavily influenced by the direction of the UK stockmarket as a whole. However recent news from most of the companies held in the portfolio has been reassuring. The UK economy continues to make progress against challenging headwinds and we believe that the portfolio is well placed to make further progress in coming months.

Source: Castlefield Investment Partners, October 2017.

#### The top ten purchases and total sales during the year were as follows:

Purchases	Costs £'000	Sales	Proceeds £'000
iomart Group	190	IQE	348
The Gym Group	162	Avon Rubber	245
Work Group RG Placing	122	Fevertree Drink	156
Keywords Studios	113	Sound Energy	138
Premier Technical Services Group	89	Faroe Petroleum	103
Strix Group IPO Placing	85	Waterman	98
Arden Partners Placing	80	AB Dynamics	89
Strix Group	68	Gresham House Strategic	70
Amino Technologies	50	Clarkson	58
Premier Technical Services Group	48	Vianet	25
Total purchases during the year were	1,119	Total sales during the year were	1,383

## PORTFOLIO OF INVESTMENTS

As at 31 August 2017

\_\_\_\_

61,800 *	CONSUMER GOODS 10.33% (11.41%)		
61 800 *			
61 800 *	Automobiles & Parts 1.56% (2.04%)		
01,000	Autins Group	91	
,000,000	Torotrak	3	
		94	
	Beverages 5.11% (5.40%)		
12,500 *	Fevertree Drinks	308	
		308	
	Household Goods & Home Construction 3.66% (3.97%)		
35,000	Headlam Group	221	
		221	
	CONSUMER SERVICES 6.40% (3.45%)		
	Food & Drug Retailers 1.39% (1.33%)		
7,000	Greggs	84	
		84	
	General Retailers 0.07% (0.06%)		
100,000	Flying Brands	4	
		4	
	Media 1.92% (2.06%)		
93,500 *	Cello Group	116	
		116	
88,432	Travel, Leisure & Catering 3.02% (0.00%) Gym Group	182	
00,102	5j 5. 50p	182	
	FINANCIALS 24.57% (26.14%)		
	Equity Investment Instruments 1.96% (3.47%)		
30,000	City of London Investment Group	118	
		118	
	Financial Services 17.44% (17.23%)		
340,000 *	Arden Partners	139	
313,730 ***		125	
610,000 *	First Property Group	323	
37,500 *	Mattioli Woods	313	
200,000 *	Park Group		
		1,052	
20,000	Nonlife Insurance 5.17% (5.44%) Lancashire Holdings	138	
20,000 44,000 *	Personal Group Holdings	138	
44,000	0- 		

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	INDUSTRIALS 35.61% (30.66%)		
	Aerospace & Defense 0.00% (4.70%)		
	Construction & Materials 1.91% (1.95%)		
25,666	Costain Group	101	1.95
		101	1.95
	Electronic & Electrical 0.00% (0.04%)	-	0.00
	Electronic & Electrical Equipment 2.83% (0.00%)		
135,023	Strix Group	171	2.83
		171	2.83
	General Industrials 6.35% (3.18%)		
266,667	Macfarlane Group	173	2.87
127,154	Premier Technical Services Group	210	3.48
		383	6.35
	Industrial Engineering 9.39% (7.83%)		
56,500 *	AB Dynamics	331	5.49
50,000	Porvair	235	3.90
		566	9.39
5,000	Industrial Transportation 3.32% (2.81%) Clarkson	140	2.32
		140	2.32
	Support Services 12.81% (9.68%)		
103,846 *	Driver Group	49	0.8
86,872	Gordon Dadds Group	123	2.04
600,000 *	Inspired Energy	128	2.12
200,000 *	InterQuest Group	80	1.33
13,000	Keywords Studios	178	2.95
106,742	Lakehouse	35	0.58
22,500	Vp	180	2.98
		773	12.8
	OIL & GAS 0.15% (12.34%)		
	Oil & Gas Producers 0.15% (7.58%)		
593,879 *	Hydrodec Group	9	0.15
		9	0.15
	TECHN0L0GY 18.63% (15.58%)		
	Software & Computer Services 10.24% (7.91%)		
65,000 *	GB Group	250	4.14
290,000 *	IDOX	174	2.88
62,000	lomart Group	194	3.22
		618	10.24

Holding	Investment	Market Value £'000	Total Value of Sub-Fund %
	Technology Hardware & Equipment 8.39% (7.67%)		
66,000 *	Amino Technologies	124	2.06
275,000 *	IQE	382	6.33
		506	8.39
	UTILITIES 0.86% (0.00%)		
	Electricity 0.86% (0.00%)		
22,500	Good Energy Group	52	0.86
		52	0.86
	Total Value of Investments	5,824	96.55
	Net Other Assets	208	3.45
	Total Net Assets	6,032	100.00

Figures in brackets represent sector distribution at 28 February 2017

Securities are admitted to an official stock exchange listing or traded on another regulated market unless otherwise stated.

\* AIM Quoted Securities

\*\*\* Social Stock Exchange

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Au	g 17	31 Au	g 16
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income				
Net capital gains		922		558
Revenue	65		62	
Expenses	(73)		(74)	
Net expense before taxation Taxation	(8)		(12)	
Net expense after taxation		(8)		(12)
Total return before distributions		914		546
Distributions				
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		914		546

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

#### For the period ended 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 201	7	31 Aug 2016	6
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		5,187		4,515
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	266		155	
Amounts payable on cancellation of shares	(335)		(300)	
		(69)		(145)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		914		546
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		6,032		4,916

## **BALANCE SHEET**

### As at 31 August 2017

	31 Aug 17 £'000	28 Feb 17 £'000
ASSETS		
Fixed assets:		
Investment	5,824	5,165
Current assets:		
Debtors	162	30
Cash and bank balances	56	44
Total Assets	6,042	5,239
LIABILITIES		
Creditors:		
Bank overdrafts	-	-
Other creditors	(10)	(52)
Total liabilities	(10)	(52)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	6,032	5,187

On behalf of Castlefield Fund Partners Limited

John Eckersley Managing Director (of the ACD)

31 October 2017

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### **1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The interim financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice "Financial Statements of Authorised Funds", issued by The Investment Association in May 2014, the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook and the Instrument of Incorporation.

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

Expenses exceeded revenue during the period, as a result no distributions were paid (2016:same).

Summaya Mosam Director (of the ACD)





THE THOUGHTFUL INVESTOR