

## **PROVEN VCT PLC (the “Company”)**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (the “Committee”)**

#### **Membership**

1. Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board in consultation with the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Committee shall be made up of at least 2 members.
2. All members of the Committee shall be independent non-executive directors.
3. The Audit Committee as a whole shall have competence relevant to the sector in which the company operates.
4. Only members of the Committee have the right to attend Committee meetings. However, other individuals such as the Chairman of the Board, other directors, and representatives from the finance function may be invited to attend all or part of any meeting as and when appropriate.
5. The external auditors will be invited to attend meetings or provide reports to the Committee on a regular basis.
6. Appointments to the Committee shall be for a period of up to three years, which may be extended provided the director remains independent.
7. The Board shall appoint the Committee Chairman who shall be an independent non-executive director.
8. The Chair of the Board should not chair the Committee but can be a member if they were independent on appointment.
9. The Board should satisfy itself that at least one member has recent and relevant financial experience. The Committee as a whole shall have competence relevant to the sector in which the company operates.

#### **Secretary**

The Company Secretary or their nominee shall act as the secretary of the Committee.

#### **Quorum**

The quorum necessary for the transaction of business shall be 2 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.

#### **Frequency of meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least twice a year in line with the half yearly and final reports accounting cycle and otherwise as required.

#### **Notice of meetings**

1. Meetings of the Committee shall be summoned by the secretary of the Committee at the request of any of its members or at the request of external parties if they consider it necessary.
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 5 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.

#### **Minutes of meetings**

1. The secretary shall minute the proceedings and resolutions of all meetings of the Committee, including recording the names of those present and in attendance.

2. The secretary shall ascertain, at the beginning of each meeting, the existence of any conflicts of interest and minute them accordingly.
3. Minutes of Committee meetings shall be circulated promptly to all members of the Committee and, once agreed, to all members of the board.

### **Annual General Meeting and engagement with Shareholders**

1. The Committee Chair should attend the annual general meeting to answer any shareholder questions on the Committee's activities. In addition, the Committee Chair should seek engagement with shareholders on significant matters related to the Committee's areas of responsibility.

### **Duties**

The Committee should carry out the duties below for the Company as appropriate.

#### **1. Financial Reporting**

- The Committee shall monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, including its annual and half yearly reports, preliminary results' announcements and any other formal announcement relating to its financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting issues and judgements which they contain. The Committee shall also review summary financial statements and any financial information contained in certain other documents, such as announcements of a price sensitive nature.
- The Committee shall review and challenge where necessary:
  - the consistency of, and any changes to, accounting policies both on a year on year basis and across the Company;
  - the methods used to account for significant or unusual transactions where different approaches are possible;
  - whether the Company has followed appropriate accounting standards and made appropriate estimates and judgements, taking into account the views of the external auditor;
  - the clarity of disclosure in the Company's financial reports and the context in which statements are made; and
  - all material information presented with the financial statements, such as the corporate governance statement (insofar as it relates to the audit and risk management);
- The Committee shall provide advice (where requested by the Board) on whether the annual report and accounts, taken as a whole, is fair, balanced and understandable, and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the company's position and performance, business model and strategy;

#### **2. Internal Controls and Risk Management Systems**

- The Committee shall, with effect from the financial year ending 28 February 2027:
  - keep under review the effectiveness of the Company's risk management and internal control framework, covering all material controls including financial, operational, reporting and compliance controls;
  - conduct at least annually a review of the effectiveness of the risk management and internal control framework and report the findings of that review to the Board;
  - review and approve the statements to be included in the annual report concerning risk management and internal controls, including: (i) a description of how the Board has monitored and reviewed the effectiveness of the framework; (ii) a declaration of effectiveness of the material controls as at the balance sheet date; and (iii) a description of any material

- controls which have not operated effectively as at the balance sheet date, the action taken or proposed to improve them, and any action taken to address previously reported issues; and
- advise the Board on what constitutes a material control for the purposes of the above, recognising that this will be specific to the Company's size, maturity, complexity and strategic objectives.

### 3. External Audit

The Committee shall follow the Audit Committees and the External Audit: Minimum Standard as published by the Financial Reporting Council, as updated from time to time.

- The Committee shall:
  - 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 new auditors and if an auditor resigns the Committee shall investigate the issues leading to this and decide whether any action is required.
  - oversee the relationship with the external auditor including (but not limited to):
    - approval of 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;
    - approval of their terms of engagement, including any engagement letter issued at the start of each audit and the scope of the audit;
    - 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 any non-audit services;
    - 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);
    - agreeing with the Board a policy on the employment of former employees of the Company's auditor (if appropriate), then monitoring the implementation of this policy;
    - monitoring the auditor's compliance with relevant ethical and professional guidance on the rotation of audit partners, 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
    - assessing annually their qualifications, expertise and resources and the effectiveness of the audit process which shall include a report from the external auditor on their own internal quality procedures.
  - meet the external auditor or receive a report from the external auditor at least once a year, to discuss their remit and any issues arising from the audit.
  - review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure that it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement.
  - review the findings of the audit with the external auditor. This shall include but not be limited to, the following:
    - a discussion of any major issues which arose during the audit;
    - any accounting and audit judgements, and

- levels of errors identified during the audit.
- The Committee shall also review the effectiveness of the audit.
  - review any representation letter requested by the external auditor before they are signed by management;
  - review any management's response (if appropriate) to the auditor's findings and recommendations; and
  - 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.
- The Committee shall conduct the tender process and make recommendations to the Board, about the appointment, reappointment and removal of the external auditor.

#### 4. Reporting Responsibilities

- The Committee Chairman shall report formally to the Board on its proceedings after each meeting on all matters within its duties and responsibilities.
- The Committee shall make whatever recommendations to the Board it deems appropriate on any area within its remit where action or improvement is needed.
- The Committee shall compile a report to shareholders on its activities to be included in the Company's annual report, covering the matters set out in the Audit Committees and the External Audit: Minimum Standard.
- The Committee shall report to the Board regarding work undertaken by the Committee to establish formal and transparent policies, as well as to ensure the independence and effectiveness of the external audit function.

#### 5. Other matters

- The Committee shall:
  - have access to sufficient resources in order to carry out its duties, including access to the company secretary for assistance as required;
  - 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;
  - give due consideration to laws and regulations, the provisions of the AIC Corporate Governance Code and the requirements of the UK Listing Authority's Listing Rules as appropriate;
  - be responsible for co-ordination of the external auditors; and
  - oversee any investigation of activities which are within its terms of reference and act as a court of the last resort.

#### 6. Authority

- The Committee is authorised:
  - to seek any information it requires from any employee of the Company in order to perform its duties;
  - to obtain, at the Company's expense, outside legal or other professional advice on any matter within its terms of reference; and
  - to call any employee of either the Investment Manager or Administration Manager to be questioned at a meeting of the Committee as and when required.