

# Schroder BSC Social Impact Trust plc

## Terms of Reference

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### For the Audit and Risk Committee

#### Role

1. The role of the Audit and Risk Committee (the "Committee") is to ensure that the Company maintains the highest standards of integrity in financial reporting and internal control.

#### Membership

2. The Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall consist of not less than three members all of whom shall be independent non-executive directors of the Company. At least one member of the Committee should be considered by the Board to have recent and relevant financial experience. A quorum shall be two members.
3. The Chairman of the Committee, who shall not be the Chairman of the Board, shall be appointed by the Board. The Chairman of the Board may be a member of the Committee.
4. Membership of the Committee shall be reviewed by the Board from time to time.
5. The Committee may invite such persons as it deems appropriate to attend meetings.

#### Meetings

6. The Committee shall meet at least twice a year inter alia to consider the half-yearly and annual reports.
7. Meetings may be held more frequently if the Committee deems necessary or if required by the Company's auditors.
8. The Company's auditors will be advised of the timing of Committee meetings and invited to meetings when appropriate and the Committee will have access to the auditors at any time if it so requires.

#### Secretary

9. The Company Secretary shall be the secretary of the Committee and shall attend all meetings of the Committee.

## **Authority**

10. The Committee is authorised by the Board to investigate any activity within its terms of reference and seek any information it may require. It is authorised to obtain outside legal or other independent professional advice and to secure the attendance of outsiders with relevant experience and expertise if it considers this necessary.

## **Role and responsibilities**

11. The responsibilities of the Committee shall be:-

### **Financial statements**

- (a) to monitor the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, and any formal announcements relating to the Company's financial performance, reviewing significant financial reporting judgements contained in them;
- (b) to monitor reports from any independent valuer appointed by the Company to value its investments;
- (c) to advise the Board on the contents of the annual report and accounts, in particular whether, taken as a whole, it is fair and balanced and provides the information necessary for shareholders to assess the Company's performance, business model and strategy;
- (d) to review and, if appropriate, recommend to the Board, the Company's annual and half-yearly reports;

### **Dividend**

- (e) To review the Company's dividend policy and make recommendations to the Board in respect of the policy and the Company's dividend payments.

### **Going concern and viability assessment**

- (f) To review the position and make recommendations to the Board in relation to whether it considers it appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing its annual and half-yearly financial statements, and identification of any material uncertainties to the Company's ability to continue to do so over a period of at least twelve months from the date of approval of the financial statements;
- (g) to review the position and make recommendations to the Board in relation to viability assessment and related disclosures in the Company's annual report. In making its recommendations, the Committee will take into account the Company's current position and principal risks. The Committee will make recommendations with regards to the explanation in the annual report as to how the Board has assessed the prospects of

the Company, over what period it has done so, why it considers that period to be appropriate and 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 over the period of their assessment, drawing attention to any qualifications or assumptions as necessary;

#### **Internal control**

- (h) to establish a process for identifying, assessing, managing and monitoring emerging and principal risks of the Company;
- (i) to ensure that there is a robust assessment of the Company's emerging and principal risks and that a confirmation from the Board of directors of the Company in its annual report that this assessment has been completed, including a description of its principal risks, what procedures are in place to identify emerging risks, and an explanation of how these are being managed or mitigated;
- (j) to keep under review the adequacy and effectiveness of the Company's systems of internal control and risk management and to review and approve the disclosures made in the Annual Report concerning such systems;
- (k) to monitor the Company's accounting and financial internal control systems, and to monitor the internal control systems of the AIFM, Portfolio Manager and/or Depositary and to make recommendations on any improvements to such systems;
- (l) to monitor the Company's procedures for ensuring compliance with regulatory and financial reporting requirements and its relationship with the relevant regulatory authorities;

#### **External audit and relationship with the external auditor**

- (m) to discuss any matters arising from the audit and recommendations made by the auditors;
- (n) to review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure that it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement;
- (o) to make recommendations to the Board, for it to put to the shareholders for their approval in general meeting, in relation to the appointment, re-appointment and removal of the external auditor and to approve the remuneration and terms of engagement of the external auditor;
- (p) to review and monitor the external auditor's independence and objectivity and the effectiveness of the audit process, taking into consideration the qualification, expertise and resources of the external auditor, which shall include a report from the external auditor on its own internal quality procedures, as well as relevant UK professional and regulatory requirements;

- (q) to review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are entered into by the Board of directors;
- (r) to develop and implement policy on the engagement of the external auditor to supply non-audit services, taking into account relevant ethical guidance regarding the provision of non-audit services by the external audit firm and means of determining whether auditor independence and objectivity have been safeguarded, such services to be approved by the Committee in advance of any work being commenced;
- (s) to report to the Board, identifying any matters in respect of which it considers that action or improvement is needed and making recommendations as to the steps to be taken;
- (t) to periodically review the need to tender audit services and to ensure that at least once every 10 years the audit services contract is put to tender; and
- (u) to consider other topics, as requested and defined by the Board.

### **Reporting procedures**

- 12. The Committee Chairman, or in his absence the elected chairman of the relevant meeting, shall report on the issues raised at the meeting to the Board at the earliest opportunity and, at the meeting at which the Annual Report is considered, report to the Board on how it has discharged its responsibilities during the previous year.
- 13. The Secretary shall produce and circulate the minutes of meetings of the Committee to all members of the Board.
- 14. The Chairman of the Committee shall attend the AGM and shall answer questions, through the chairman of the Board, on the Committee's activities and its responsibilities.

### **Whistleblowing**

- 15. The Committee shall, from time to time, review the arrangements by which staff of the AIFM, the Portfolio Manager, the Company Secretary and Administrator and other service providers as the Committee sees fit may, in confidence, raise concerns about possible improprieties in matters of financial reporting or other matters and satisfy itself that arrangements are in place for the proportionate and independent investigation of such matters and for appropriate follow-up action.

### **Disclosures to shareholders in the annual report**

- 16. To ensure that the Annual Report describes the activities of the Committee in discharging its responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of the FRC's UK Corporate Governance Code.

Amended: 23 March 2023