

## **Pillar III Disclosures**

31 December 2021

The purpose of this document is to set out the Pillar III disclosures of Big Society Capital Limited as at 31 December 2021. The firm reports on a solo basis.

The Capital Requirements Directive (CRD) was implemented on 1 January 2007. It comprises three 'pillars':

- **a. Pillar I** is the calculation of minimum regulatory capital requirements which firms are required to keep for credit, market and operational risk.
- **ii. Pillar II** requires an Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP) by firms to assess whether additional regulatory capital should be held by the firm in addition to Pillar I based on the risks faced by the firm, the risk management processes and stress testing.
- iii. Pillar III sets disclosure requirements which allow market participants to assess a firm's capital, risk exposures and risk management processes.

In accordance with the requirements of Pillar III, this document is intended to disclose information relating to Big Society Capital's risk and control framework and capital position.

The Capital Requirements Directive ('the Directive') established a revised regulatory capital framework across Europe governing the amount and nature of capital that investment firms must maintain. In the United Kingdom, the Directive has been implemented by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') in its regulations through the General Prudential Sourcebook ('GENPRU') and the Prudential Sourcebook for Banks, Building Societies and Investment Firms ('BIPRU'). All disclosures are in line with BIPRU 11.

The Oversight Trust - Assets for the Common Good (the Oversight Trust), formerly known as The Big Society Trust, is the ultimate parent company in the Big Society Group. Big Society Capital is its subsidiary and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Big Society Capital's object is to act as a social impact investment wholesaler and to promote the development of the social impact investment marketplace in the UK. It also seeks to achieve and maintain financial self-sufficiency over the longer term and to have a material positive impact on society and the environment through its business and operations.

From 1 January 2022, Big Society Capital is subject to the Investment Firms Prudential Regime (IFPR). This results in changes to how Big Society Capital considers its risks, how capital requirements are calculated and certain governance changes, including group structure from a regulatory perspective. It is not expected to materially change the amount of capital the firm is required to hold or reduce the significant surplus of capital the firm holds. From 2023, Big Society Capital's regulatory disclosures will also change accordingly.

## Risk management objectives and policies

The Big Society Capital Board is responsible for the overall risk strategy of the firm, which includes ensuring that there are adequate systems of risk management. The systems and processes aim to identify, measure and report risks. Risk is controlled through a system of procedures, checks, reports and responsibilities.

# **Big Society Capital Board**

The composition of the Big Society Capital Board reflects its purpose and includes directors with financial and/or social sector expertise. The Board comprises a majority of non-executive directors (including one who is nominated by the shareholder banks), and, from August 2021, one executive director, being the Company CEO.

The Principles for Appointments, to the Big Society Capital Board, agreed between Big Society Capital and the Oversight Trust specify that appointments of board members shall be made on merit and shall not be made on any basis of discrimination.

Big Society Capital commits to the Oversight Trust that appointments to its Board shall take account of specified principles detailed in the UK Corporate Governance Code published by the Financial Reporting Council (June 2010 edition). This includes adoption of a formal, rigorous and transparent procedure for appointment of new directors. The search for board candidates should be conducted, and appointments made, on merit, against objective criteria and with due regard for the benefits of diversity on the board, including gender. Under the Big Society Capital Articles, one director is appointed by the shareholder banks.

There is specific reference in the Articles of Big Society Capital for the need to maintain "an even balance of board appointed directors with experience of the financial and social sectors of the economy".

After each Board appointment, the Nominations and Remuneration Committee sends a brief paper explaining the reason for their choice of candidate to the Chair of the Oversight Trust.

Details of Big Society Capital board members are available on its website (<a href="http://www.bigsocietycapital.com">http://www.bigsocietycapital.com</a>). The firm's board at 31 December 2021 had eleven members, four of whom were women.

Additional non-executive and executive director roles (excluding directorships held as part of an executive role such as the CEO) and including charity trusteeships and members of educational governing boards held by the directors total 47. Big Society Capital maintains a Register of Interests of all current Directors which is regularly updated.

#### **Committee Structures**

Big Society Capital has two Board Committees each comprising a majority of non-executive directors with external members providing specific expertise:

#### **Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee**

The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee (ARCC) is responsible for overseeing management processes and other arrangements to ensure the appropriateness and effectiveness of systems and controls, including risk management.

#### **Nominations and Remuneration Committee**

The Nominations and Remuneration Committee is responsible for making recommendations concerning the appointment of directors, particularly for ensuring that there is: an even balance on the Board between individuals with the appropriate depth of skills, experience and expertise in the financial and social sectors; and Board diversity. It also has responsibilities for setting levels of executive remuneration and monitors activities related to Big Society Capital's People Strategy.

### **Big Society Capital has three other operational committees:**

#### **Executive Committee**

Big Society Capital is run by an Executive Committee which meets on a monthly basis and leads the six key areas of the business: investments; strategy and market development; financial sector engagement; social sector engagement; finance, legal and operations; and communications. It is chaired by the CEO of Big Society Capital. The Executive Committee has a quarterly Risk Management meeting to review Big Society Capital's risk framework, risk appetite and key risks. The conclusions of this are then reported to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee. As part of this meeting, the Executive Committee also identifies its key risks for the next quarter. Risks arising in the interim are discussed during the monthly Executive Committee meetings and, where deemed necessary, escalated to the Board or the relevant Board Committee.

#### **Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee meets on a fortnightly basis, and comprises Board, Executive Committee and (suitably qualified) other members responsible for making investments, the performance of Big Society Capital's portfolio of investments, and reporting its activities to the Board. It is chaired by the CEO of Big Society Capital or delegated to an alternative member of the Committee (normally the Deputy Chair of the Investment Committee). There is a separate Investment Committee established purely in respect of the portfolio management for the Schroder BSC Social Impact Trust (SBSI).

Each investment made by the firm is reviewed and approved by the Investment Committee. Before investments are reviewed by the Investment Committee significant due diligence is completed by the Investment Team including an assessment of the risk of the investment, financial sustainability, social impact and market development impact. In addition, legal and regulatory due diligence is completed. All investments over £10 million also require approval by the Board.

#### **Valuation and Performance Committee**

The Valuation and Performance Committee, meets on a quarterly basis, and its role is to agree the valuation of social investments made by the company (Valuation) and to review how Big Society Capital's portfolio of investments is performing against the original investment thesis from an overall, financial, impact on people and systems change perspective (Performance). This includes identifying key risks and issues within Big Society Capital's investment portfolio and where investments need particular attention because of concerns related to financial or impact returns. As the basis for discussion, the Investment Team complete an analysis of valuation for each investment utilising data provided by the investees. The Valuation and Performance Committee comprises Board and Executive Committee members. It is chaired by the CFO of Big Society Capital (who is not a member of the Investment Committee). Members of ARCC and company auditors

are invited to observe meetings of the Valuation and Performance Committee. The Committee also meets at least twice yearly, for a separate, closed session to discuss the Valuation of assets within the SBSI portfolio.

#### **Internal Control**

The Board is responsible for overall corporate governance, which includes ensuring that there are adequate systems of risk management. The systems and processes aim to identify, measure and report risks. Risk is controlled through a system of procedures, checks, reports and responsibilities. The Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee examines management processes and other arrangements to ensure the appropriateness and effectiveness of systems and controls, including risk management.

The Board is responsible for the internal controls system and for reviewing its effectiveness. The following reporting is used in this assessment:

- The Finance Team prepare monthly management reporting which includes: a section on FCA Capital monitoring, showing the surplus of Capital Resources over the firm's Pillar II capital requirement; as well as KPIs, financial performance, balance sheet and investment portfolio and treasury data.
  - These management accounts are provided to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee and the Board on a quarterly basis.
- Following the quarterly risk meeting of the Executive Committee, the Chief Financial Officer prepares a report summarising 'Key Risks' and presents this for approval by the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee. The Key Risks Summary is also presented to the Board for noting on a six monthly basis. Additionally, the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee also reviews, twice yearly, of longer term emerging/ horizon type risks that could affect future results and performance.
  - A quarterly Progress Update is presented to the Board by members of the Executive Committee. This details investment performance and activity, including: product development; pipeline; approvals, signings and drawdowns; co-investment; use of capital; and returns.
- The Head of Compliance presents a quarterly report to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee, in which any regulatory or operational compliance issues are raised.
- The Money Laundering Reporting Officer presents an annual report to the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee on the anti-money laundering and fraud prevention (financial crime) measures in place within the firm.

- The Finance Team complete an annual budgeting / long term forecasting process, which is presented to the Board.
- An ICAAP report providing an assessment of the capital required to support the business is presented to, and approved by, the Board annually. This includes a series of stress tests designed to address the potential impact of the material risks facing the firm. From 2022 this report will be replaced by an annual ICARA exercise in line with IFPR requirements.
- Big Society Capital has engaged an external regulatory adviser to provide on-going support and expertise to the firm and to perform reviews of the internal compliance monitoring processes.
- A rolling programme of outsourced Internal Audit services, provided by a leading accountancy firm, commenced during 2021.

### **Key risks faced by Big Society Capital**

#### **Big Society Capital Risk Framework and Approach**

In order to achieve its mission Big Society Capital is required to take risks from a strategic, financial return and social impact perspective. The overall Risk Framework supports the decision making and risk assessment process and includes a Risk Appetite statement (approved annually by the Board) and key risk appetite criteria with key indices that are monitored quarterly.

Big Society Capital assesses risk under four Principal Risk headings as set out below. Within this overall risk framework, actual risk is monitored by the Board on a semi-annual basis, and by the Executive Committee and the Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee on a quarterly basis. The Board is responsible for determining the appropriate tolerance approach to risks faced by the firm.

The four Principal Risk areas are:

Risk	Definition	BSC Risk Management
Strategic	This assesses the risk that	A strong governance
	Big Society Capital is	framework
	unable to meet its strategic	The setting of clear
	objectives together with	strategic goals
	risk that the firm's	An active programme of
	reputation is damaged and	engagement with key
	therefore its ability to fulfil	stakeholders.
	its mission is reduced.	

Performance	This assesses the risk that	These risks are mitigated
	the social impact investment portfolio as a whole does not perform within its intended social impact or financial parameters. Risks associated with future liquidity and achievement of investment exits become more significant as Big Society Capital's Social Impact Investment Portfolio grows.	through the Investment Committee and Valuation Committee frameworks, which consider investments from financial, social impact and systems change perspectives and through concentration thresholds on fund managers and allocation judgements for product types.  Liquidity and related exit- type risks are mitigated through twice yearly reviews of long-term liquidity requirements, including consideration of stress-type scenarios, together with identification of possible liquidity mitigants. In addition, the Board has approved a policy that projected available liquidity should exceed 80% of Big Society Capital's undrawn social impact investment
		commitments.
External	This assesses the risk that macroeconomic factors and policy changes outside the firm's control impact Big Society Capital's ability to fulfil its mission.	Mitigation of these risks is achieved through the diversified nature of the company's portfolio and low correlation of elements of the portfolio with wider market performance factors.
Operational and Preventable	This assesses the risks that Big Society Capital does not operate within its financial control and regulatory parameters together with	These types of risk are mitigated by having policies, processes, controls and procedures in place, together with

risks associated with the staffing and operational infrastructure of the organisation.

suitably qualified and experienced staff in place to oversee these. In order to provide a stronger level of external assurance in respect of the adequacy and effectiveness of key internal controls, a rolling programme of internal audit reviews by a specialist external provider commenced in 2021. To mitigate its people risks, the company has developed comprehensive People support Strategy to attraction and retention of talent, with particular focus staff development, on onboarding, wellbeing and development of supportive and enabling culture

Further enhancements to Big Society Capital's risk framework which have been developed during 2021, include:

- For the most significant risks scored as Red, a pathway to Amber scoring is considered and reported on.
- A 'Risk Universe' showing all risks that Big Society Capital considers it faces has been developed and is shared quarterly with ARCC to give greater context to the spectrum of risks faced by Big Society Capital.
- Additionally, a risk policy has been developed in respect of Big Society Capital's role as delegated Portfolio manager for SBSI.

In December 2020, Big Society Capital became the delegated Portfolio Manager for SBSI. As a result, the firm has now had its first full year of operations with a professional client. The impact of this change on Big Society Capital's risks and its regulatory capital requirement has been limited and is substantially in the area of

client risk, where the most significant risk is that of not treating its client fairly. The firm has developed policies to mitigate these risks.

### Material financial risks on the Social Impact Investment and Treasury portfolios

#### **Credit Risk**

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss from a counterparty's failure to settle financial obligations as they fall due. The firm is exposed to credit risk principally from investments in unlisted funds, debt securities held, loans and receivables and cash deposits.

Investments in unlisted funds and loans included in fixed asset investments are all social impact investments. Debt securities, showing as current asset investments, are held within the treasury portfolio. Cash deposits are either held for operational purposes or as part of the treasury portfolio.

Cash deposits that can be withdrawn at any time without notice and without penalty or that have a maturity or period of notice of not more than 24 hours, or one working day are shown as cash at bank and in hand. All other deposits with a maturity of up to one year are shown as investments held as current assets.

Within the treasury portfolio the firm has set a maximum exposure limit for each counterparty. The treasury policy seeks to minimise the exposure to counterparties with perceived higher risk of default by specifying an average credit rating for the portfolio. The treasury portfolio is managed externally and counterparty exposure limits and average credit rating are monitored by the external managers. The firm receives monthly treasury reports.

The firm's maximum exposure subject to credit risk at the balance sheet date is represented by the respective carrying amounts of the relevant financial assets in the balance sheet. As detailed in the firm's audited Financial Statements credit risk exposure at 31 December 2021 was:

	Exposure value	Risk weight	Risk weighted exposure amount
	£000's	5	
Fixed asset investments - Social Investment Portfolio	354,026	150%	531,039
Other debtors and accrued income	693	150%	1,040
Other debtors and accrued income	272	100%	272
Other debtors and accrued income	760	20%	152
Investments held as current assets -Social Bond/ Equity/ Multi Asset Funds	32,643	100%	32,643
Investments held as current assets - Listed debt securities	37,798	100%	37,798
Investments held as current assets - Listed debt securities	102,817	50%	51,409
Investments held as current assets - Listed debt securities	26,275	20%	5,255
Investments held as current assets - Listed debt securities	29,634	0%	-
Cash deposits - Cash at bank and in hand	51,343	20%	10,269
Maximum exposure to credit risk at the balance sheet date	636,261		669,876

#### **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that cash may not be available to pay obligations. The firm's policy is to ensure it has sufficient funds to fulfil liabilities as they fall due, including investment commitments approved by the Investment Committee. Big Society Capital's liquidity risk is managed within the firm's Liquidity Risk Management Framework.

The firm's financial assets include loans, unlisted equity investments, investments in unlisted funds and investments in social impact bonds, which are generally illiquid.

The firm's investments in listed debt securities are considered to be readily realisable as they are actively traded. All cash deposits held as current assets have a maturity of less than 12 months.

The firm updates its long range liquidity forecast quarterly. The forecast ensures the long term sustainability of the business and is used to guide strategy and board level decision making.

The firm's operational liquidity is monitored on a daily basis and sufficient cash retained within the firm's operational bank account and the treasury portfolio.

#### **Regulatory Risk**

The firm is authorised and regulated by the FCA. In addition to meeting a range of regulatory obligations Big Society Capital is required to regularly assess the amount of regulatory capital needed to be in compliance with prudential rules and operational

requirements. The Firm is committed to hold regulatory and liquid capital in excess of requirements.

The firm has, at all times during the period under regulatory supervision, held sufficient capital to meet its regulatory capital requirements.

#### **Own Funds**

Big Society Capital's own funds are set out below and reflect 2021 audited results.

	£000's
Tier 1 Share capital	626,345
Previous years' losses	(21,867)
Current year profits	16,125
Total deductions	(47,200)
Total own funds net of deductions	573,403

Deductions consist of holdings of common equity tier 1, deducted in accordance with the relevant regulations.

## **Capital requirements**

#### Pillar I

The firm has adopted the standardised approach to credit risk. The firm has limited exposure to market risk (foreign exchange risk), from its holdings in non-GBP denominated treasury assets which are hedged with currency forward contracts in accordance with the firm's investment management mandate (see Pillar II description below) and a small non-GBP denominated holding in its social impact investment portfolio.

The figures below reflect 2021 audited results. The capital requirement figures reflect 8% of the calculated risk weighted exposure amounts. This includes a risk weighted exposure for off balance sheet commitments (undrawn social impact investment commitments).

	£000's
(a) Capital requirement amounts for credit risk	59,054
(b) Capital requirement amounts for market risk	44
(c) Sum of (a) and (b)	59,098
(d) Fixed overhead requirement	1,862
Own funds requirement (higher of (c) or (d))	59,098

#### Pillar II

The firm's overall approach to assessing the adequacy of our internal capital is set out in its Internal Capital Adequacy Assessment Process (ICAAP).

In addition to the minimum level of Pillar I requirements, the firm must also hold sufficient capital, and maintain sufficient liquidity, that senior management deem necessary based on the risks faced by the business.

#### Credit and Counterparty Risk:

The firm has considered the credit risk requirement under Pillar II and has come up with its own internal calculation based on projected results for 2021. For its social impact investment portfolio, the firm has assigned a risk exposure weighting based on the Pillar I requirement for exposures to assets 'associated with particularly high risks' and increased this further by a write down ratio of 1.38% (annualised gross write downs/ net drawn down investments). The firm has adopted this more prudent approach as a proxy for credit losses/ impairments given the high-risk nature of Big Society Capital's social impact investment portfolio, coupled with the relatively illiquid nature of the portfolio. For its treasury portfolio the firm applies an average risk weighting across all treasury and cash assets, being an approximation of the credit risk requirement calculated under Pillar I.

#### Operational Risk:

The firm has considered the impact of operational risk as part of its own internal Pillar II calculation. There is no history of operational losses on which the firm can base its assessment. It has therefore considered situations that could result in losses and applied risk weighting against the size of its largest investment commitment in order to allocate

internal capital for organisational risk. Should losses be incurred in the future the firm will use these as a basis for calculating any future capital allocation.

### Foreign Exchange Risk:

The firm does not face significant foreign exchange risk on its treasury investments. The largest portion of the treasury portfolio is managed by a third party investment manager with an investment management mandate that permits up to 25% of the investment portfolio to be invested in securities denominated in US Dollars and/or Euros.

The mandate requires that any such non-GBP investments must be hedged back to GBP with a requirement for the investment manager to maintain the hedge ratio between the band of 98% to 102% of the net asset value of the total investment portfolio.

The permitted derivatives that the investment manager may utilise are over the counter currency contracts for the purposes of hedging any non-base currency exposures in the investment portfolio back to GBP and bond futures to hedge non-GBP interest rate risk.

The firm has calculated, for the purpose of its Pillar II requirement, an exposure risk based on 2% of the net asset value of the treasury investment portfolio, being the tolerance detailed above.

The firm has also invested in a foreign currency denominated fund in its social impact investment portfolio – currently the size of this investment is too low for a hedging process to be cost effective and in addition the fund also holds GBP denominated assets which partially mitigate the exposure.

#### Risk Approach

The firm has considered its exposure to credit, market and liquidity risks. In most cases it has been determined that these risks are captured in the regulatory capital calculations and that there are adequate and appropriate mitigating controls as well as substantial equity capital in place. Where this has not been considered sufficient, the credit risk calculation described above, has been applied to ensure that adequate internal capital is allocated against this.

In addition, as part of its ICAAP process Big Society Capital undertakes scenario/stress testing in line with FCA guidance, including the scenario of a major economic downturn and resultant significant impairment of the social investment portfolio. The scenarios tested demonstrate that Big Society Capital will continue to have sufficient surplus capital in the event of these crystallising.

The firm is exposed to operational and reputational risks as a result of its business model and potential stakeholder interest. These risks are considered in detail in the firm's Key Risk Summary and Risk Register. The firm has allocated internal capital for operational risk, as detailed above.

If for any reason the firm were to become unviable at any point, due to the materialisation of significant unexpected issues, the Board would take actions appropriate to the circumstances to reduce costs. An assessment of the requirement to wind down the business is set out in the firm's financial projections.

#### **Overall Capital Required**

	£000's
(a) Capital requirement amounts for credit risk	63,507
(b) Capital requirement amounts for operational risk	7,294
(c) Capital requirement amounts for market risk	463
(d) Sum of (a) and (b) and (c)	71,264
Own funds requirement	71,264
Surplus - Own funds less Pillar II requirement	502,139

Under the approach described above, the Pillar II requirement at the time of preparing the firm's ICAAP was £71.3m, compared to the 31 December 2020 Pillar I requirement of £59.0m. Both the Pillar I and the Pillar II requirements were higher than the business risk (wind down) requirement.

The firm's Board ensures that its own funds exceed the Pillar II requirement. Internally, own funds are monitored against the Pillar II requirement on a monthly basis. This monitoring is presented to the board on a quarterly basis.

# **Annual Report Disclosure**

Big Society Capital's 2021 Report and Financial Statements are available from the firm's website, (http://www.bigsocietycapital.com).

# **Remuneration Policy**

Details of Big Society Capital's remuneration policy are provided in the Remuneration Report on pages 44 - 45 of its 2021 Report and Financial Statements.