

Parent Company accounting policies

for the year ended 30 September 2008

Introduction

The significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the separate financial statements of the Company are set out below:

A Accounting convention and basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (UK GAAP) and the Companies Act 1985 using the historical cost convention modified for the revaluation of certain financial instruments.

B Exemptions

The Company's financial statements are included in the Compass Group PLC consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008. As permitted by section 230 of the Companies Act 1985, the Company has not presented its own profit and loss account. The Company has also taken advantage of the exemption from presenting a cash flow statement under the terms of FRS 1 'Cash Flow Statements'. The Company is also exempt under the terms of FRS 8 'Related Party Disclosures' from disclosing transactions with other members of Compass Group.

The Compass Group PLC consolidated financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2008 contain financial instrument disclosures which comply with FRS 29 'Financial Instruments: Disclosures'. Consequently, the Company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 29 not to present separate financial instrument disclosures for the Company.

C Change in accounting policies

The Company has not applied any accounting standards for the first time in the year ended 30 September 2008.

D Investments in subsidiary undertakings

Investments are stated at cost less provision for any impairment. In the opinion of the directors the value of such investments are not less than shown at the balance sheet date.

E Foreign currency

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into Sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the year end. Gains and losses arising on retranslation are included in the income statement for the period.

F Borrowings

Borrowings are recognised initially at fair value, net of transaction costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently stated at amortised cost unless they are part of a fair value hedge accounting relationship. Borrowings that are part of a fair value hedge accounting relationship are measured at amortised cost plus or minus the fair value attributable to the risk being hedged.

G Derivatives and other financial instruments

The Company uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposure to fluctuations in foreign exchange rates and interest rates. Derivative instruments utilised include interest rate swaps, currency swaps and forward currency contracts. The Company and Group policy is disclosed in the accounting policies to the consolidated financial statements.

H Dividends

Dividends are recognised in the Company's financial statements in the year in which they are approved in general meeting by the Company's shareholders. Interim dividends are recognised when paid.

I Deferred tax

Deferred tax is provided at the anticipated rates on timing differences arising from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in tax computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is regarded as more likely than not that they will be recovered.

J Share-based payments

The Group issues equity-settled and cash-settled share-based payments to certain employees. Equity-settled share-based payments are measured at fair value (excluding the effect of non market-based vesting conditions) at the date of grant. The fair value determined at the grant date of the equity-settled share-based payments is expensed on a straight-line basis over the vesting period, based on the Group's estimate of the shares that will eventually vest and adjusted for the effect of non market-based vesting conditions.

Fair value is measured using either the binomial distribution or Black-Scholes pricing models as is most appropriate for each scheme. The expected life used in the models has been adjusted, based on management's best estimate, for the effects of exercise restrictions and behavioural considerations.

For cash-settled share-based payments, a liability equal to the portion of the goods or services received is recognised at the current fair value determined at each balance sheet date.

The issue of share incentives by the Company to employees of its subsidiaries represents additional capital contributions. An addition to the Company's investment in Group undertakings is reported with a corresponding increase in shareholders' funds. For details of the charge see note 26 to the consolidated financial statements.