Acorn Group Limited

Strategic Report, Report of the Directors and

Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Sterling House
97 Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7QF

Contents of the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Page
Company Information	1
Strategic Report	2
Report of the Directors	3
Report of the Independent Auditors	4
Income Statement	6
Other Comprehensive Income	7
Balance Sheet	8
Statement of Changes in Equity	9
Notes to the Financial Statements	10

Company Information for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

DIRECTORS: M P Hammond

S J Mills M A K Styles D Y Vickers R T Vickers

REGISTERED OFFICE: Cannock Road

Chase Terrace Burntwood Staffordshire WS7 1JS

REGISTERED NUMBER: 00462543 (England and Wales)

AUDITORS: Haines Watts

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors

Sterling House 97 Lichfield Street

Tamworth Staffordshire B79 7QF

BANKERS: Barclays Bank PLC

Barclays Business Centre

28 Lichfield Street

Tamworth Staffordshire

Strategic Report for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

The directors present their strategic report for the year ended 31 December 2018.

REVIEW OF BUSINESS

The company recorded another year of good progress with turnover increasing by 12% to £26.5m and gross profitability increasing by 8% to £1.4m. Competitive market conditions, however, resulted in an operating profit 8% lower than the previous year at £173,866.

The principal risks within the Motor Industry continue to be surrounded by uncertainty regarding the outcome of the Brexit talks and the general move towards electric vehicles.

The company was sold in January 2019 to VM Automotive Limited.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

S J Mills - Director

6 September 2019

Report of the Directors for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2018.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The principal activity of the company in the year under review was that of the sale and servicing of new and used vehicles and that of contract hire.

DIVIDENDS

No dividends will be distributed for the year ended 31 December 2018.

EVENTS SINCE THE END OF THE YEAR

Information relating to events since the end of the year is given in the notes to the financial statements.

DIRECTORS

M P Hammond , S J Mills , M A K Styles , D Y Vickers and R T Vickers were appointed as directors after 31 December 2018 but prior to the date of this report.

J Abnett , D C Larkin , M Sparkes and A J D Wilkinson ceased to be directors after 31 December 2018 but prior to the date of this report.

DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, the Report of the Directors and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

STATEMENT AS TO DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

So far as the directors are aware, there is no relevant audit information (as defined by Section 418 of the Companies Act 2006) of which the company's auditors are unaware, and each director has taken all the steps that he ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Haines Watts, will be proposed for re-appointment at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

S J Mills - Director

6 September 2019

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Acorn Group Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2018 which comprise the Income Statement, Other Comprehensive Income, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2018 and of its profit for the year then ended:
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast
- significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the Strategic Report and the Report of the Directors, but does not include the financial statements and our Report of the Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Strategic Report and the Report of the Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Report of the Directors have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report or the Report of the Directors.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Acorn Group Limited

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the Directors' Responsibilities Statement set out on page three, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue a Report of the Auditors that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Report of the Auditors.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in a Report of the Auditors and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Stephen Butler BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor) for and on behalf of Haines Watts
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Sterling House
97 Lichfield Street
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B79 7QF

6 September 2019

Income Statement for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017
	Notes	£.	L
TURNOVER	3	26,498,904	23,672,817
Cost of sales		25,123,065	22,402,034
GROSS PROFIT		1,375,839	1,270,783
Administrative expenses		1,118,520	991,505
OPERATING PROFIT	5	257,319	279,278
Interest receivable and similar income		107	747
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION		257,426	280,025
Tax on profit	6	84,560	(11,375)
PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR		172,866	291,400

Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Notes	2018 £	2017 £
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR		172,866	291,400
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	₹		_ 291,400

Balance Sheet 31 December 2018

		201	8	201	7
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7		441,519		432,007
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	8	2,663,426		2,358,941	
Debtors	9	3,162,252		3,761,093	
Cash at bank		558,343		532,872	
		6,384,021		6,652,906	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	10	3,245,084		3,529,309	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			3,138,937		3,123,597
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			3,580,456		3,555,604
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one					
year	11		(669,004)		(839,766)
			,		, ,
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES	14		(52,105)		(29,357)
NET ASSETS			2,859,347		2,686,481
CAPITAL AND RESERVES					
Called up share capital	15		196,704		196,704
Capital redemption reserve	16		5,044		5,044
Retained earnings	16		2,657,599		2,484,733
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS			2,859,347		2,686,481

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 6 September 2019 and were signed on its behalf by:

S J Mills - Director

D Y Vickers - Director

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

	Called up share capital £	Retained earnings £	Capital redemption reserve £	Total equity £
Balance at 1 January 2017	196,704	2,193,333	5,044	2,395,081
Changes in equity Total comprehensive income	-	291,400	_	291,400
Balance at 31 December 2017	196,704	2,484,733	5,044	2,686,481
Changes in equity Total comprehensive income Balance at 31 December 2018		172,866 2,657.599	- 5.044	172,866 2,859,347

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Acorn Group Limited is a private company, limited by shares, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Financial Reporting Standard 102 - reduced disclosure exemptions

The company has taken advantage of the following disclosure exemption in preparing these financial statements, as permitted by FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland":

the requirements of Section 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets other than freehold land are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Land and buildings freehold Plant and machinery Fixtures, fittings & equipment Petrol pumps and storage tanks Computer Leasehold improvements 2% Straight line 50% Straight line 20%, 33%, and 50% Straight line 20% Straight line on a monthly basis 50% Straight line on a monthly basis Straight line over the term of the lease

Investment property

Investment property is shown at most recent valuation. Any aggregate surplus or deficit arising from changes in fair value is recognised in profit or loss.

Stocks

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out method and includes all purchase, transport, and handling costs in bringing stocks to their present location and condition.

Tayation

Taxation for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the Income Statement, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Page 10 continued...

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Deferred tax

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit and loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Finance leases are leases under which the lessee is given the benefit of ownership of the assets which remain the property of the lessor. Assets acquired by the company under such agreements have been capitalised and the capital amounts outstanding on such agreements are included in creditors as net obligations under finance lease and hire purchase contracts.

Where the company is the lessor, the assets are not included within fixed assets, as is normal practice but the capital repayments receivable and the residual values of the vehicles are included as debtors.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

3. TURNOVER

The turnover and profit before taxation are attributable to the one principal activity of the company.

An analysis of turnover by geographical market is given below:

		2018 £	2017 £
	United Kingdom	26,498,904	23,672,817
		26,498,904	23,672,817
			·
4.	EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS		
		2018	2017
		£	£
	Wages and salaries	1,369,541	1,341,353
	Social security costs	140,157	124,812
	Other pension costs	46,564	38,748
	- -	1,556,262	1,504,913
	The average number of employees during the year was as follows:		
		2018	2017
	Salesmen	12	11
	Mechanics	12	12
	Parts Department	4	4
	Other	14	11
	Administration	11	17
		53	55

Page 11 continued...

4.	EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS - continued		
		2018	2017
	Directors' remuneration Directors' pension contributions to money purchase schemes	£ 257,891 <u>29,445</u>	£ 236,887 <u>28,894</u>
	Information regarding the highest paid director is as follows:	2018	2017
	Emoluments etc Pension contributions to money purchase schemes	£ 97,884 <u>15,658</u>	£ 80,355 <u>12,677</u>
5.	OPERATING PROFIT		
	The operating profit is stated after charging/(crediting):		
		2018 £	2017 £
	Other operating leases Depreciation - owned assets Profit on disposal of fixed assets Auditors' remuneration	110,103 56,606 - 10,165	111,439 28,913 (62,283) 9,275
	During the year the turnover relating to vehicle leasing amounted to £1,755,684 (2017: £1,82		
6.	TAXATION		
	Analysis of the tax charge/(credit) The tax charge/(credit) on the profit for the year was as follows:		
		2018 £	2017 £
	Current tax: UK corporation tax Prior year adjustment	61,812 -	82,228 (105,058)
	Total current tax	61,812	(22,830)
	Deferred tax Tax on profit	22,748 84,560	<u>11,455</u> (11,375)
	UK corporation tax has been charged at 19% (2017 - 19.25%).		

6. TAXATION - continued

Reconciliation of total tax charge/(credit) included in profit and loss

The tax assessed for the year is higher than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK. The difference is explained below:

Profit before tax	2018 £ 257,426	2017 £
Profit multiplied by the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 19% (2017 - 19.246%)	48,911	53,894
Effects of: Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	-	52
Depreciation in excess of capital allowances	12,901	39,737
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous periods	-	(105,058)
Deferred tax	22,748	<u>-</u>
Total tax charge/(credit)	84,560	(11,375)

7. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST				
At 1 January 2018	426,249	106,181	500,189	1,032,619
Additions	52,670	10,843	2,605	66,118
At 31 December 2018	478,919	117,024	502,794	1,098,737
DEPRECIATION				
At 1 January 2018	37,246	86,676	476,690	600,612
Charge for year	27,985	14,650	13,971	56,606
At 31 December 2018	65,231	101,326	490,661	657,218
NET BOOK VALUE				
At 31 December 2018	413,688	15,698	12,133	441,519
At 31 December 2017	389,003	19,505	23,499	432,007

Included in cost of land and buildings is freehold land of £ 16,009 (2017 - £ 16,009) which is not depreciated.

8. STOCKS

Vehicles	2018 £ 2,614,383	2017 £ 2,316,246
Work in progress and other stocks Spare parts and accessories	2,084 46,959 2,663,426	3,078 39,617 2,358,941

Page 13 continued...

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

9.	DEBTORS		
٥.	DED TORRO	2018	2017
		£	£
	Amounts falling due within one year:		
	Trade debtors	451,404	794,177
	Contract hire	1,663,677	1,719,247
	Tax Proportion and approach income	53,280	9,443 86,534
	Prepayments and accrued income	2,168,361	2,609,401
		2,100,001	2,000,401
	Amounts falling due after more than one year:		
	Contract hire	993,891	1,151,692
	Aggregate amounts	3,162,252	3,761,093
10.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		
10.	CREDITORO. AMOUNTO I ALLINO DOL WITHIN ONE TEAR	2018	2017
		£	£
	Hire purchase contracts (see note 12)	814,077	925,142
	Trade creditors	1,513,463	1,962,128
	Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	56,006
	Tax	61,812	82,228
	Social security and other taxes VAT	42,646 181,885	34,562 37,533
	Maintenance account	347,071	114,623
	Accruals and deferred income	284,130	317,087
		3,245,084	3,529,309
11.	CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR	0040	0047
		2018 £	2017 £
	Hire purchase contracts (see note 12)	669,004	839,766
	Timo paronado contrada (doe noto 12)		
12.	LEASING AGREEMENTS		
	Minimum lease payments under hire purchase fall due as follows:		
	William Todoo paymonto andor tillo paronoso tall ado do followo.		
		2018	2017
		£	£
	Gross obligations repayable:	000 000	4 050 050
	Within one year Between one and five years	923,928 669,004	1,056,956 839,766
	between one and live years	1,592,932	1,896,722
		1,002,002	1,000,722
	Finance charges repayable:		
	Within one year	109,851	<u> 131,814</u>
	Net obligations repayable:	01/1077	025 142
	Within one year Between one and five years	814,077 669,004	925,142 839,766
	Both on one and have yours	1,483,081	1,764,908
			.,. 5 .,000

13.	SECURED DEB	TS			
	The following se	cured debts are included within creditors:			
				2018	2017
	Hire purchase co	ontracts		£ 1,483,081	£ 1,764,908
	The hire purchas	ses are secured over by the assets themselves.			
14.	PROVISIONS F	OR LIABILITIES			
				2018 £	2017 £
	Deferred tax Accelerated ca	pital allowances		52,105	29,357
		,			Deferred
					tax
	Balance at 1 Jar	nuary 2018			£ 29,357
		ne Statement during year			22,748
	balance at 5 i D	ecember 2016			<u>52,105</u>
15.	CALLED UP SH	IARE CAPITAL			
	Allotted, issued	and fully paid:			
	Number:	Class:	Nominal	2018	2017
	196,704	Ordinary	value: £1	£ 196,704_	£ 196,704
16.	RESERVES				
			Retained	Capital redemption	
			earnings	reserve	Totals
			£	£	£
	At 1 January 20		2,484,733	5,044	2,489,777
	Profit for the year At 31 December		<u>172,866</u> <u>2,657,599</u>	5,044	172,866 2,662,643
	VEO I DECEIUDE	2010	2,001,000		2,002,043

17. **CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

The company is subject to a composite agreement with the group bankers, secured upon the assets of the group. At the year end £911,760 (2017: £1,039,763) was secured on group assets, total cash balances amounted to £1,972,924 (2017: £3,134,286).

Amounts secured on group assets relate to long term loans being repaid by installment. The directors feel there is no uncertainty regarding reimbursement or the timing of cashflows in this respect.

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

18. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

The company has taken advantage of exemption, under the terms of Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', not to disclose related party transactions with wholly owned subsidiaries.

During the year the company was charged £20,925 (2017: £17,125) by Andrew Wilkinson & Co for consultancy services. A company director, A Wilkinson, has an interest in the partnership.

19. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

After the Balance Sheet date, but prior to the signing of these statutory accounts the entire share capital of Acorn Group Limited was purchased by VM Automotive Limited, a company registered in England & Wales. With effect from 22 January 2019 all existing Company Directors resigned and were replaced with a new Executive Board.

20. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

At the balance sheet date the company was an immediate subsidiary of Weldon and Waring Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. Group financial statements are prepared by the parent company and copies may be obtained from The Registrar of Companies, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff, CF4 3UZ.

The ultimate controlling party is Armox Trust situated in Guernsey.

21. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

During the financial year the Company transferred the ownership of Motor Contracts Limited, a wholly owned dormant subsidiary, to Weldon & Waring Limited. This investment had already been fully written down to nil and no consideration was received.

This document was delivered using electronic communications and authenticated in accordance with the registrar's rules relating to electronic form, authentication and manner of delivery under section 1072 of the Companies Act 2006.