



# Full year results presentation

Ric Traynor – Executive Chairman

July 2019

Nick Taylor – Group Finance Director

# About Begbies Traynor Group plc

## UK professional services consultancy

- business recovery
- financial advisory
- property services



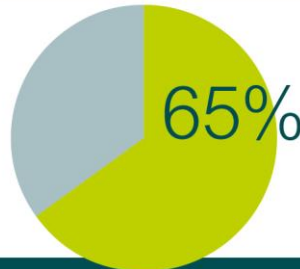
**CAGR of 14% in adjusted EPS in last four years**



**Comprehensive network of locations across the UK**



**650 staff and partners**



**65% of the group's activities are derived from counter-cyclical activities**



### **Professional staff include:**

- licensed insolvency practitioners
- accountants • surveyors

# Highlights - strong financial performance in line with upgraded expectations

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## REVENUE

**£60.1m (+15%)** (2018: £52.4m)

- Revenue growth of 15% (9% organic)
- Improved operating margin to 12.6% (2018: 11.6%)

## ADJUSTED PROFIT BEFORE TAX

**£7.1m (+27%)** (2018: £5.6m)

- Completed four acquisitions

## ADJUSTED EPS

**4.9p (+23%)** (2018: 4.0p)

- Strong cash generation:
  - reduction in net debt and leverage
- Second consecutive year of dividend growth
  - 9% compound growth

## PROPOSED TOTAL DIVIDEND

**2.6p (+8%)** (2018: 2.4p)

## NET DEBT

**£6.0m (-20%)** (2018: £7.5m)

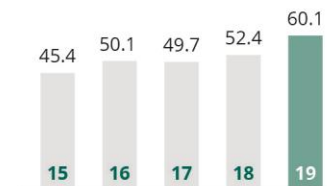
# Recent achievements - strong five year financial performance

- **Strategy to increase scale and quality of our businesses:**
  - Delivered consecutive years of profit and EPS growth over last four years
  - Compound growth of 14% in EPS since 2015, accelerated to 22% since 2017
- **Strong operating cash flow**
  - Funding investment
  - Reducing net debt and leverage
  - Funding increases in dividends in the last two years
- **2018 saw the first increase in insolvencies nationally since 2011**
- **Buy and build of property services into significant part of group**
  - Commenced with Eddisons acquisition in December 2014:
  - Consecutive years of segmental profit growth from £1.9m (in 2014) to £3.8m
  - Focussed on valuations; auctions and asset sales; property consultancy; planning and management

## REVENUE

£60.1m

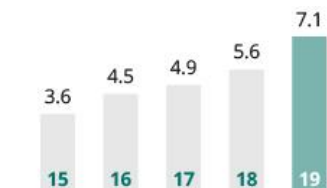
(2018: £52.4m)



## ADJUSTED PROFIT BEFORE TAX

£7.1m

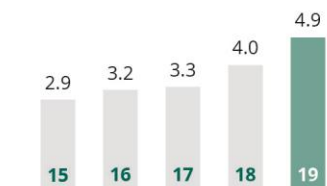
(2018: £5.6m)



## ADJUSTED BASIC EPS

4.9p

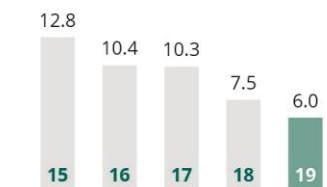
(2018: 4.0p)



## NET DEBT

£6.0m

(2018: £7.5m)



# The group today - better positioned than ever

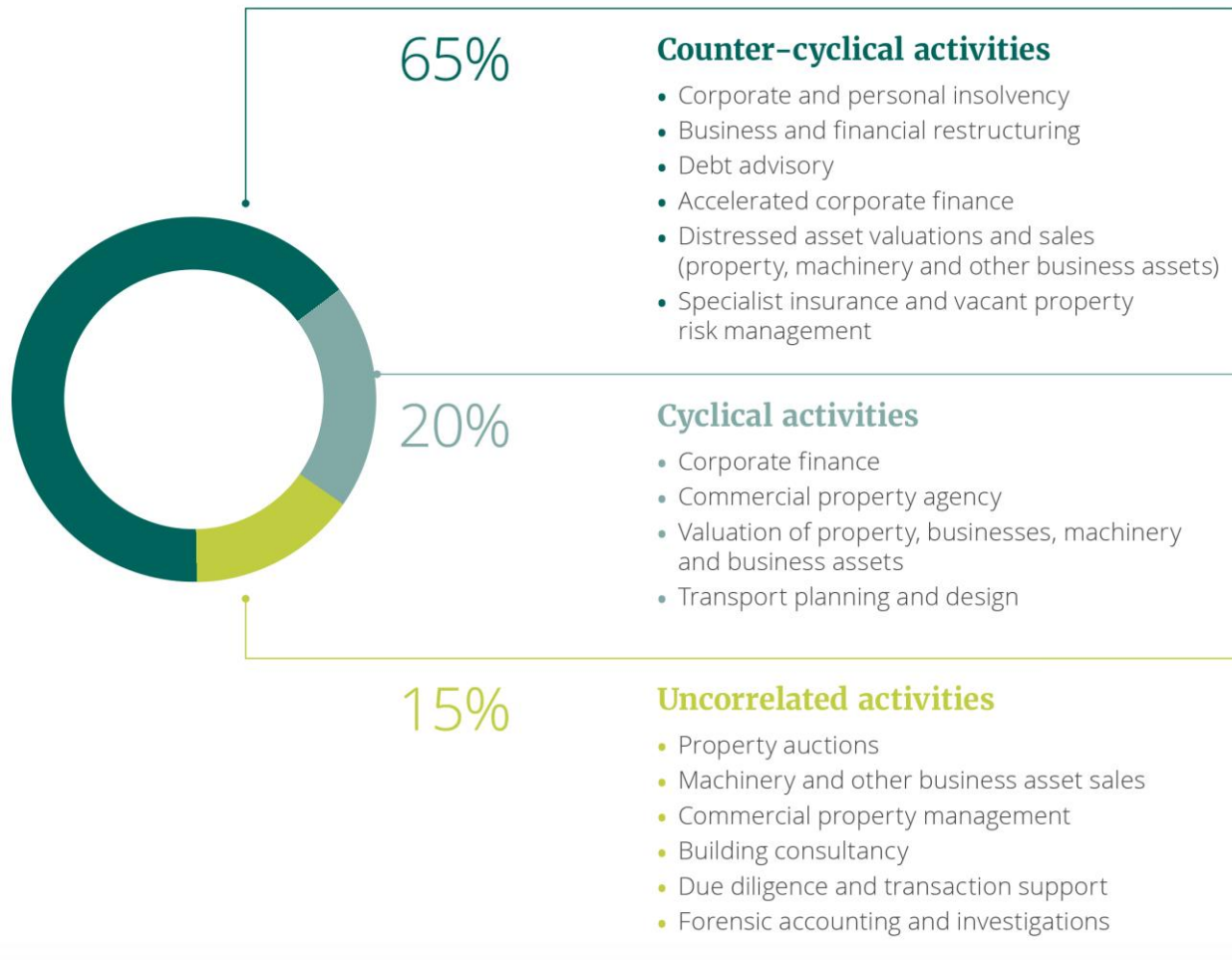
- **Range of service lines:**

- Multiple sources of growth potential
- Ability to grow across the economic cycle
- Strong financial platform

- **Counter-cyclical focus retained**

- **Service lines well positioned:**

- Strong operating margins
- Highly cash generative funding ongoing investment and dividends



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## Financial review

# Financial highlights

£m	2019	2018
Revenue	60.1	52.4
Operating profit (before amortisation and transaction costs)	7.6	6.1
<i>Margin</i>	<b>12.6%</b>	11.6%
Adjusted profit before tax	7.1	5.6
Adjusted basic EPS	<b>4.9p</b>	4.0p
Dividend per share	<b>2.6p</b>	2.4p
Net debt	<b>6.0</b>	7.5

- Revenue increase of 15% in the year (9% organic and 6% acquired)
- Operating profit increase of 25%
- Adjusted profit before tax increase of 27% due to increased operating profits (interest costs in line with prior year)
- Adjusted tax rate of 22% (2018: 22%)
- Adjusted basic EPS growth of 23%
- Proposed increase in dividend of 8%

# Segmental analysis

£m	2019	2018
<b>Revenue</b>		
Business recovery and financial advisory	<b>43.3</b>	38.3
Property services	<b>16.7</b>	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>52.4</b>
<b>Operating profit</b>		
Business recovery and financial advisory	<b>8.7</b>	7.6
<i>Margin</i>	<b>20.0%</b>	19.8%
Property services	<b>3.8</b>	3.1
<i>Margin</i>	<b>22.5%</b>	22.1%
<b>Segmental result</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>
<i>Margin</i>	<b>20.7%</b>	20.4%
Shared and central costs	<b>(4.9)</b>	(4.6)
<b>Operating profit (before amortisation and transaction costs)</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>
<i>Margin</i>	<b>12.6%</b>	11.6%

- Central costs reduced as % of revenue to 8.1% (2018: 8.8%)



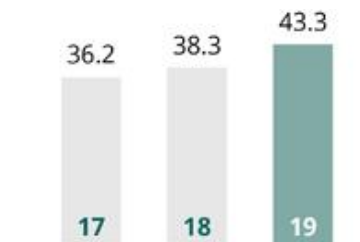
# Business recovery and financial advisory

- **Revenue growth of 13%:**
  - Organic growth initiatives
  - Increased market activity levels
  - Prior year acquisition of Springboard
- **Cost increase from organic investments, increased people costs and prior year acquisition**
- **Margins increased to 20.0% (2018: 19.8%)**
- **Increase in national insolvency numbers**
  - 10% increase in calendar 2018 to 16,106 (2017: 14,630)
  - Maintained market share taking largest number of corporate appointments in the UK
- **Strengthened insolvency team through:**
  - Acquisition of two boutique practices in Newcastle and Stoke - seven partners and staff integrated with existing teams
  - Recruitment of work-winning senior people and continued to develop existing teams
- **Successful first full year performance from Springboard Corporate Finance**
- **Headcount increased to 364 (2018: 351, 2017: 337)**

## REVENUE (£M)

£43.3m

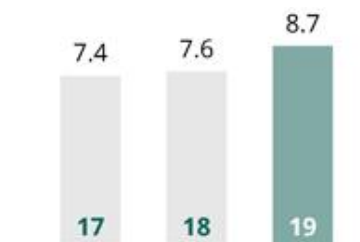
(2018: £38.3m)



## SEGMENTAL PROFITS (£M)

£8.7m

(2018: £7.6m)



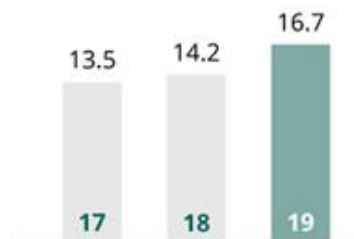
# Property services

- **Revenue growth of 18%:**
  - Organic growth initiatives and distressed property sale completions
  - Current and prior year acquisitions
- **Cost increase from organic investments and acquired businesses**
- **Margins increased to 22.5% (2018: 22.1%)**
- **Completed several long-running distressed property disposals which enhanced in-year margin**
- **Invested in valuations team through recruitment of experienced surveyors with improved geographical coverage**
- **Asset disposal teams performed well**
  - Property auction levels broadly in line with the prior year; on-line sales platform introduced in the year
  - Machinery and business asset activity levels increased following CJM acquisition in the prior year
- **Building consultancy had a very successful year with increase in instructions from education sector**
- **Two acquisitions (Croft and BSM) completed in the year extending expertise and geographical coverage**
- **Headcount increased to 245 (2018: 182, 2017: 170)**

## REVENUE (£M)

£16.7m

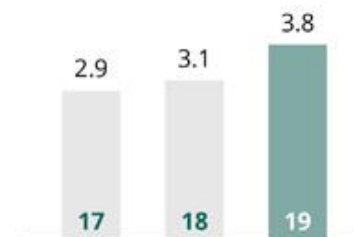
(2018: £14.2m)



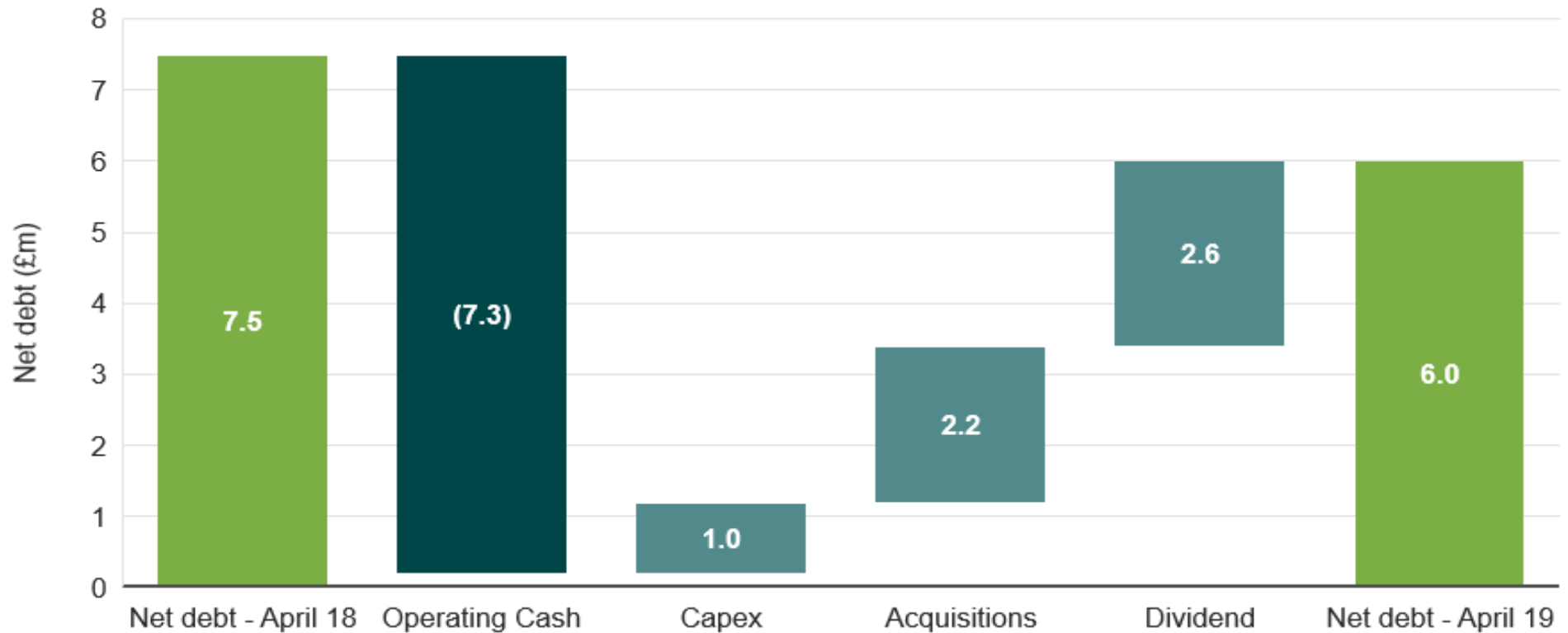
## SEGMENTAL PROFITS (£M)

£3.8m

(2018: £3.1m)



## Strong cash flow: funding investment and deleveraging



- Facilities:
  - £25m unsecured committed RCF and £5m uncommitted acquisition facility
  - Agreed extension to facilities in the year – now committed to 2023
- Strong financial position with leverage improved to 0.7x (2018: 1.1x)

# Net assets

£m		
30 April 2018		59.1
Post-tax adjusted earnings	5.5	
Dividends	(2.6)	
		2.9
Issue of new shares – principally re acquisitions		2.2
Adoption of IFRS 9 and IFRS 15		(1.4)
Post-tax impact of acquisition-related transaction and amortisation costs		(3.1)
30 April 2019		59.7

- IFRS 9 'Financial instruments' and IFRS 15 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' introduced from 1 May 2018
- Adopted using retrospective application method: adjustment to retained earnings on 1 May 2018 rather than restatement of prior periods
- Reduction in net current assets of £1.8m and increase in deferred tax asset of £0.4m
- Minimal impact on reported revenue, profit and EPS

# Acquisitions

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- **Property services**
  - ***Croft – 31 January 2019***
    - Initial consideration of £1.5m (£1.125m cash and £0.375m shares) with estimated contingent consideration of £1.2m, maximum £2.5m
    - Pre acquisition trading: revenue £1.8m and pre-tax profit £0.7m
  - ***Barker Storey Matthews – 5 April 2019***
    - Initial consideration of £1.6m (£1.067m cash and £0.533m shares) with estimated contingent consideration of £0.9m, maximum £1.4m
    - Pre acquisition trading: £3.1m and pre-tax profit £0.6m
- **Business recovery and financial advisory**
  - ***KRE (North East) – 13 February 2019***
    - Initial consideration of £0.45m (cash) with contingent consideration of up to £0.15m
    - Pre acquisition trading: £0.4m and pre-tax profit £0.1m
  - ***Dunion & Co – 1 March 2019***
    - Initial consideration of £0.1m (cash) with contingent consideration of up to £0.1m
    - Pre acquisition trading: £0.3m and pre-tax profit £0.1m
- **Cash outflow in year £1.2m: £2.7m consideration payments net of £1.5m cash acquired**
- **Deferred consideration payments in the year of £1.0m**
- **All performing in line with expectations and integration progressing well**

# FY20 guidance

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- Good start to new financial year
- Business recovery and advisory
  - Return on FY19 investments with enhanced margins as a result
  - Potential further upside from continuing market growth
- Property
  - Benefit from FY19 acquisitions
  - Anticipate organic revenue growth will mitigate the completion of long-running property disposals that benefitted FY19
- Overall, confident of delivering current market expectations

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## Strategic overview

# Our vision

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To be leaders in our chosen professional services  
giving outstanding advice to our  
clients on establishing, protecting, enhancing  
and realising the value of their assets and  
businesses throughout the economic cycle



# Strategy

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- Be a trusted advisor to our clients, delivering innovative and entrepreneurial advice and solutions
- Increase the scale and quality of our businesses through both organic growth and acquisitions
- Deliver sustainable profit growth, enabling increased shareholder value
- Maintain strong financial position supporting investment in and the development of the group and its people

# Organic growth initiatives

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## **Business recovery and advisory**

- Recruitment of 10 partners and directors over last two years - joining from national firms and local boutiques
- Promoted seven existing fee earners to partner/director grade
- Increased focus on internet and direct marketing
- Market share increased to 8% (7% two years ago)
- Additional new recruits and promotions planned for FY20

## **Building consultancy - education sector initiative started in December 2016**

- Increased number of engagements from 12 (awarded Dec 16) to 55 (awarded Dec 18)
- Increase in professional team from 7 to 17
- Revenue increased from £0.6m (FY17) to £1.7m (FY19)
- Further growth anticipated in FY20

## **Property valuations - recruitment of experienced surveyors from leading firms**

- Increase in professional team from 21 to 38
- New recruits leveraging off existing bank panel positions
- Revenue growth from £2.7m (FY17) to £3.7m (FY19)
- Further growth anticipated in FY20

# Recent acquisitions

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## Property

- **BSM – acquired Apr 19 – revenue £3.1m, profit £0.6m, staff 38**
  - Develops geographical coverage - offices in Cambridge, Huntingdon, Peterborough and Bury St Edmunds
  - Service lines consistent with Eddisons:
    - commercial agency, property management, building consultancy, professional services (including valuations) and planning
- **Croft Transport Planning – acquired Jan 19 – revenue £1.8m, profit £0.7m, staff 10**
  - Develops professional services offering and widens Eddisons corporate client base
  - Highways, transport and traffic advice on commercial, residential and mixed use schemes
  - Corporate client base of developers, house builders and land owners
- **Pipeline of further opportunities to enhance expertise or geographical coverage**

## Insolvency

- **KRE (Newcastle) acquired Feb 19 and Dunion & Co (Stoke) acquired Mar 19**
- **Total revenue £0.7m, profit £0.2m, staff 7**
- **Strong pipeline of potential acquisitions to increase market share**

# Strong track record of integrating acquisitions

<p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>BSM</b> <b>(Chartered surveyors)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £3.1m Profit: £0.6m</p>	<p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>KRE and Dunion</b> <b>(Insolvency)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £0.7m Profit: £0.2m</p>	<p><b>2019</b></p> <p><b>Croft</b> <b>(Transport planning)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £1.8m Profit: £0.7m</p>
<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>Springboard</b> <b>(Corporate finance)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £2.3m Profit: £0.8m</p>	<p><b>2018</b></p> <p><b>CJM</b> <b>(Industrial plant and machinery disposal)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £1.2m Profit: £0.1m</p>	<p><b>2016</b></p> <p><b>Pugh</b> <b>(Property auctions)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £2.0m Profit: £0.8m</p>
<p><b>2015</b></p> <p><b>Taylors</b> <b>(Property and business valuations)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £1.5m Profit: £0.2m</p>	<p><b>2015</b></p> <p><b>Broadbents</b> <b>(Insolvency)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £0.6m Profit: £0.1m</p>	<p><b>2014</b></p> <p><b>Eddisons</b> <b>(Chartered surveyors)</b></p> <p>Revenue: £13.4m Profit: £1.3m</p>

\* Results represent financial trading at acquisition

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## Outlook

# Outlook

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- Group is better positioned than ever
  - Multiple sources of potential growth
  - Good pipeline of organic and acquisition opportunities
  - Strong financial platform
- Well placed to continue track record of growth with balance of:
  - Counter-cyclical activities
  - Breadth of services
- Entered new financial year with positive momentum
  - Confident of delivering current market expectations
- Trading update at AGM in September 2019

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## Appendix

# Business recovery

- **UK's leading independent business recovery practice**

- Handle the largest number of corporate appointments in the UK
- Typically serving the mid-market and smaller companies

- **Corporate insolvency:**

- Aim to rescue the business (where feasible) or realise the value of assets and distribute available funds to creditors
- Administrations, liquidations, receiverships, CVAs

- **Personal insolvency:**

- Provide advice to debtors and creditors on all aspects of personal insolvency
- Bankruptcy and IVAs (England and Wales); Trust deeds and sequestrations (Scotland)

- **All formal insolvency appointments require a licensed insolvency practitioner**

- **Sources of work:**

- Professional community
- Financial institutions
- Internet queries and direct communications
- Existing contacts of the firm

- **Basis of remuneration**

- Typically on the basis of hours worked with fees paid from asset realisations
- In limited occasions based on a percentage of asset realisations
- Fee basis and levels are approved by creditors



**£36m**  
fee income



**over 7,000**  
accountant contacts  
with no conflicts



**30**  
principal office locations



**334**  
staff  
including 60 licensed  
insolvency practitioners



**typical case length**  
2-3 years



**international capabilities**



# Insolvency market

## Competitors

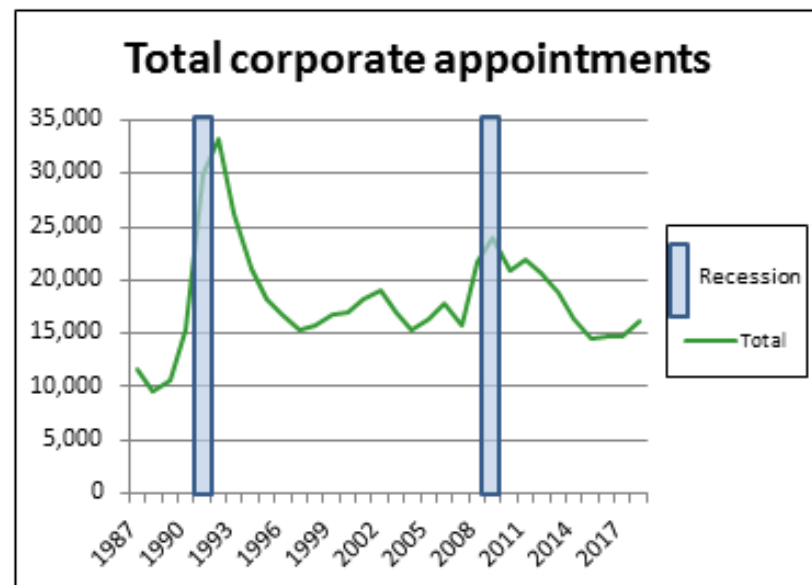
Number of corporate appointments	2018
Begbies Traynor	1,259
FRP	506
Leonard Curtis	472
Quantuma	344
TOTAL	16,090
Market share	8%

Source: London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes, Accountant in Bankruptcy, Companies House

## Other competitors

- Big 4 accountancy firms – focussed on larger engagements and advisory
- National full service accountancy firms
- Local boutique specialists

## Market



- Insolvencies last peaked at 24,000 in 2009
- Low interest rate environment since financial crisis contributed to low insolvency rate
- Benign attitude from both lenders and HMRC (creditor in majority of insolvencies)
- Increase in sources of capital (including new secondary lenders) provided additional sources of finance to financially stressed companies

# Financial advisory

- **Services:**

- Corporate finance - Buy and sell side private company transactions
- Forensic accounting and investigations - fraud and financial crime investigations, expert witness for dispute resolution
- Advisory - Debt advisory; accelerated corporate finance; business and financial restructuring and due diligence and transaction support

- **Complementary to business recovery**

- **Clients:**

- Businesses
- Legal and professional community
- Banks and financial institutions
- Investment community

- **Remuneration basis:**

- Typically: hours worked
- Corporate finance: fixed retainer fees with contingent success fee on completion of transaction



**£7m**  
fee income



**30**  
dedicated staff  
together with 20 staff working  
across insolvency and advisory



**15 transactions completed**  
in last year for gross value  
of £117m



**4**  
principal office locations

# Property services

- **Services**

- **Valuations**

- valuation of property, small to medium sized businesses, machinery and business assets;
- fixed charge property receiverships

- **Auctions and asset sales**

- sales of property, machinery and other business assets through physical and on-line auctions;
- commercial property agency in northern and eastern England

- **Consulting and advisory**

- Building and project consultancy: project management, surveys, dilapidations, space planning and fit out
- Commercial property management: rent, service charge and insurance collection; financial control; service charge management
- Commercial insurance services: insolvency, commercial and property investor insurance; vacant property risk management
- Transport planning and design: transport and highways advice

- **Clients**

- banks and financial institutions, insolvency practitioners, commercial property owners and occupiers, property agents, public sector bodies, property developers and land owners

- **Remuneration basis**

- Quoted fee for valuations, building and project consultancy, transport planning
- Percentage of asset realisations for auctions and asset sales; fixed charge property receiverships
- Commission on insurance policies written



# Ownership structure

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The group has 114.4m shares in issue. The ownership profile is:

Name	% holding
Ric Traynor	23.8%
Other management	6.6%
Major institutions:	
• Hof Hoorneman Bankiers	10.3%
• Fidelity International	7.9%
• OVMK Vermogensbeheer	6.1%
• Close Brothers	5.2%
• Allianz Global Investors	3.6%
• Nordea Asset Management	3.1%

# FY20 financial guidance

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- Confident of delivering current market expectations for the full year
- Business recovery and advisory
  - Revenue growth target of c5% from investments made in FY19 with margin enhancement to c22%
  - Potential further upside from continuing market growth
- Property – full year revenue benefit of FY19 acquisitions of c£4m with organic growth anticipated to offset lower insolvency revenue. Margins to revert to c20%
- Central costs to increase by c7%
- Adjusted tax rate 22% (FY19: 22%)
- Average shares in issue FY20 c118.1m; fully diluted c120.0m
- Transaction/amortisation costs:
  - Deemed remuneration £4.2m (FY19: £3.9m)
  - Amortisation £2.6m (FY19: £2.4m)
- Cash outflows - Anticipate net debt to increase by £2.0m-£2.5m
  - £0.5m deferred income reduction, £0.5m provisions outflow
  - Cap-ex of c£0.75m
  - Dividends (interim £0.9m paid May 2019, final £2.1m payable November 2019)
  - Deferred consideration payments of £2.5m and completion accounts payments of £1.0m
    - Future year anticipated payments of £3.3m



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Offices across the UK. [www.begbies-traynorgroup.com](http://www.begbies-traynorgroup.com)

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