

## **Gore Street Energy Storage Fund plc**

### **Terms of Reference**

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#### **For the Audit and Risk Committee (the “Committee”)**

**Last reviewed: 12 December 2022**

#### **Role**

1. The role of 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 ideally with a professional qualification from one of the professional accountancy bodies. A quorum shall be two members.
3. The Chair of the Committee, who shall not be the chair of the board, shall be appointed by the board.
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 interim 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. It has the right to publish in the Company's annual report, details of any issues that cannot be resolved between the Committee and the board.

## **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 issues and judgements, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate;
- (b) to advise the board on the contents of the annual report and accounts, and 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;
- (c) to review and, if appropriate, recommend to the board, the Company's annual and half-yearly reports;

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

- (d) 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;
- (e) 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 consider 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 Controls and Risk Management**

- (f) 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, as well as the assessment of principal risks and uncertainties, and emerging risks;
- (g) to monitor and review annually whether an internal audit function is required;
- (h) to monitor the Company's accounting and financial internal control systems, and to monitor the internal control systems of the Company's service providers and to make recommendations on any improvements to such systems;
- (i) 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**

- (j) to discuss any matters arising from the audit and recommendations made by the auditors;
- (k) to review and approve the annual audit plan and ensure that it is consistent with the scope of the audit engagement;
- (l) 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;
- (m) 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;
- (n) to review any representation letter(s) requested by the external auditor before they are entered into by the board of directors;
- (o) 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, and 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;
- (p) 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;

**Independent valuer**

- (q) to appoint an independent valuer for the purpose of at least annually (or at such frequency as the Committee deem appropriate) valuing the assets of the company and determining their fair value; and
- (r) meet with the valuers at least once each financial year and shall review and approve the year-end net asset valuation. If requested by the board the Committee shall review the other quarterly valuations.

#### **Reporting Procedures**

- 12. The Committee Chair, or in their absence the elected chair 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 Chair of the Committee shall attend the AGM and shall answer questions, through the chair of the board, on the Committee's activities and its responsibilities.

#### **Disclosures to Shareholders in the Annual Report**

- 15. To ensure that the Annual Report describes the activities of the Committee in discharging its responsibilities in accordance with the requirements of the UK Corporate Governance Code, or AIC Code of Corporate Governance.

#### **Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") Disclosures**

- 16. The Committee shall review the Company's ESG disclosures and receive assurance on those disclosures from the service providers and advisers preparing those disclosure son behalf of the board .

#### **Whistleblowing**

- 17. The Committee shall, from time to time, review the arrangements by which staff of the Investment Manager 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 review the Company's systems and controls for the prevention of bribery and receive reports on non-compliance from its service providers