

Compass Annual Report

2018

Compass Annual Report 2018

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Compass
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Compass is a home for those who want to build and be a part of a Good Society; one where equality, sustainability and democracy are not mere aspirations, but a living reality.

We are founded on the belief that no single issue, organisation or political party can make a Good Society a reality by themselves so we have to work together to make it happen. Compass is a place where people come together to create the visions, alliances and actions to be the change we wish to see in the world.

WEBSITE

www.compassonline.org.uk

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/CompassGoodSociety

TWITTER

[@CompassOffice](https://twitter.com/CompassOffice)

A better way

The last two years have been tough at Compass but bright light is at the end of the tunnel.

The 2017 election result pumped up the two big parties – and we helped that happen through the Progressive Alliance. We don't regret our efforts to stop a Tory landslide and prefigure a new non-tribal way of doing politics, but knowing that the New Labour hold had to be broken is different from thinking that the Corbyn leadership would herald a new collaborative political culture. Its brittleness will be its undoing. We have to show there is a better way.

OUR ANALYSIS IS THIS:

On the one hand, the old politics of gaining a monopoly of control of power, to pull the levers and deliver change to the people, is disappearing in the rear view mirror of history. On the other, precisely because of the failure of this model and the free market, people everywhere are finding new ways to make collaborative change happen. The job of politics is to work out how the state can support and accelerate examples of the good society happening everywhere.

This insight, combined with limited ability to influence the small tight Labour leadership circle, meant we had to go long and deep. The problem isn't just this or that policy – the problem is the political system. But around us are examples of the 'right' system. Hence the Common Platform: an attempt at local and national level to develop, out of emerging practice, a new governing philosophy for our increasingly networked society to replace the old machine and market models.

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."

– Richard Buckminster Fuller

The Common Platform is still developing as a concept – the publication of 45° Change shifts the debate. The emergence of the Independent Group, which disrupts the system but fails to offer a new politics, and the way Brexit is breaking down old party allegiances, are changing the landscape. Cracks are opening up. We have been talking to scores of organisations and local councils about how we can work with them in this new space. Nationally, we have been mapping the huge range of organisations that are working in this participation and new democracy field.

Meet the team

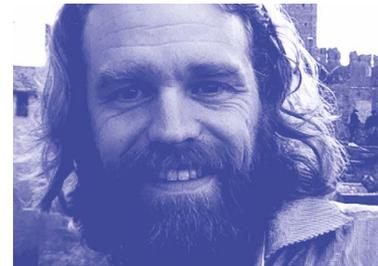
NEAL LAWSON



Working with the Management Committee and the staff, Neal helps direct Compass. He has long believed that politics needs a new way of thinking, organising and being - he wants Compass to be it. Neal was author of *All Consuming* (Penguin, 2009), he is an advisor to We own It!, is a Contributing Editor of the social democracy journal *Renewal* and is an Associate Member at the Bauman Institute at Leeds University. He writes regularly for the *Guardian* and the *New Statesman*. In the past he worked as a trade union researcher, an advisor to Gordon Brown and ran a communications company. As well as his role with Compass he works on issues and projects for Jericho Chambers.

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REMCO VAN DER STOEP



Remco has been part of the Compass team since the 2017 general election campaign. Initially his work concentrated on membership and finance, but his involvement rapidly expanded into Compass' campaigning and strategy activity. He ran Compass' member consultations on Brexit and on our own governance, and helps with our citizens' assembly campaign and the organisation of various events. His professional background is in public engagement: opening up decision-making beyond those who hold power.

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GERRY MITCHELL

Gerry joined Compass at the beginning of 2019. She has worked and volunteered with organisations on each side of the 45° fault line between top-down and bottom-up. She helps plan and run projects, campaigns and events and is the point of contact for Compass local groups (and also for members interested in setting up new groups!). Gerry has a background in social policy research and currently works on our social solidarity research project, in collaboration with TASC.



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JACK JEFFREY

Jack has recently joined Compass after completing an MA in the History of Political Thought. He helps organising events and provides support for Compass campaigns, as well as looking after the day-to-day work in the office. Jack is keen to talk to members and potential members, so please don't hesitate in contacting him if you want to find out about, or get involved with, Compass' work. Jack is looking to get younger members connected - do get in touch if you think you qualify.



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Special thanks to Sam Alston, Felix Kusch and Grace Barnett for their work as office volunteers during the summer.

We are helped in everything we do by the Management Committee, the Associates, local group organisers and many more volunteers and advisors. Compass has always been a huge collective enterprise.

Progressive Alliance

If 2017 was the year of the Progressive Alliance, 2018 was the year after. It gave us plenty of opportunities to reflect on (a) how important and influential the Progressive Alliance had been in its undeniable contribution to the general election result that saw the Conservatives lose their parliamentary majority, and (b) how much better the political situation would have been if political leaders had properly embraced the Progressive Alliance in 2017.

In short, if it wasn't for the Progressive Alliance, the Tories would have taken their drive for austerity and Hard Brexit much further than they have now; but if all progressives had supported the alliance, none of this would have happened and we'd be two years into a progressive Government.

In the run-up to the 2018 local elections, Neal wrote an influential piece, of which an extract was published in the Guardian, titled ***Beyond Monopoly Socialism***. The article argued that Labour's rejection of pluralism would eventually harm the party, and that where progressives from different traditions are open to working together, they are much better placed to transform society.

And the Progressive Alliance lived on in 2018. In the London Borough of **Richmond-upon-Thames**' local elections, the collaboration between Liberal Democrats and Greens, which originated in the 2016 Richmond Park by-election, continued. Thanks to their alliance, both parties made impressive gains, and the Tories, who had led the council up until 2018, lost two-thirds of their council seats.

Another place where the Progressive Alliance has become part of the local fabric is **South West Surrey**. Campaigners and politicians, originating from all progressive parties, continue their collaboration there and are hopeful to make a further breakthrough into the county council in the 2019 local elections. This year saw the publication of their book *A New Way of Doing Politics* - detailing how locally-powered progressive alliances can make a difference.

In 2019 and beyond, we will be investigating how a Progressive Alliance approach can work in the inevitably changed circumstances of the next election.



Common Platform

After the Progressive Alliance campaign during the 2017 general election, it was time for Compass to direct its energy to something different: the Common Platform. We sometimes speak of the Common Platform as the Progressive Alliance in peacetime, because both projects have the creation of a Good Society as their ultimate goal.

But where the Progressive Alliance concentrated on the immediate circumstance of a general election held under the rotten first-past-the-post system, the Common Platform takes a long-term view and wants to address the deeper issues, to lay a foundation for a Good Society.

To do that, the Common Platform needs to offer the space and the perspective for progressives of all backgrounds, places and traditions to come together and work together. And by helping to create mutual respect and meaningful relationships, it can also prepare the ground for the Progressive Alliance 2.0.

The essence of the Common Platform is this:

There are moments when society shifts, and it's never the same again. We need such a shift now – to a modern society that values all its people and the planet.

But to build a good society we must change the culture, nature and structure of our politics.

Nothing less will do. To address climate breakdown and the acceleration of right-wing populism, we need a new collaborative organising principle for our society to supersede the remote state and the untamed market.

The Common Platform brings together individuals, communities, companies, NGOs, academics, politicians and other interested parties to create a shared and common vision for a more equal, democratic and sustainable society.

COMMON PLATFORM ACTIVITY

The beginning: Dartington Hall

In November 2017, Compass brought together a diverse group of 24 individuals, including campaigners, organisers, writers and politicians, at Dartington Hall in Devon, the place where Labour's transformational 1945 manifesto was conceived.

We spent a whole weekend thinking and talking about what the Common Platform should do, how it should be organised, and how it could be defined and presented. The weekend inspired participants to lay the foundations of strands for a Good Society, a New Economy and a New Democracy, as well as an initial plan for the development of the Common Platform.

Not only was the Dartington Hall weekend a productive time, it also saw people from very different (political) traditions work together and warm to each other - exactly in the way that we envisage the Common Platform to work on a larger scale.

EXPLORING THE COMMON PLATFORM

In the spring of 2018 we held three exploration sessions with groups of experts on the three strands that were central to the early thinking on the Common Platform.

- We gathered a varied group of thinkers and practitioners to explore the **Good Society** strand, by identifying where and how the Good Society was already manifesting itself, and then reflecting on what the state could do to better support and replicate such practices.
- We brought together a room full of experts and innovators to think about what a **New Economy** should look like, starting from an overview of current academic thinking, provided by Jules Peck from the Next Systems Project.
- And we spent an afternoon with practitioners and thinkers to discuss how this could all be enabled by a **New Democracy** - with the 'everyday democracy' work by Nick Mahony and Frances Foley providing essential input.

PUBLICATIONS

All of the work above, plus countless conversations with Compass members and associates, have fed into the **Common Platform prospectus** that we published in the summer. It's a clear and concise document that sets out the philosophy of the Common Platform as well as our ideas about how to put it into practice.

The prospectus invites individuals and organisations to join the Common Platform, and it has had some success in doing so, linking us up with excellent people who were looking out for something like the Common Platform to emerge, and who are now bringing their expertise to the project.

Along with the prospectus, we launched a **Common Platform website**, produced by Small Axe, which over time will develop into a hub of information, activity and collaboration.

In early 2019, two further Compass papers were published to provide further underpinning of the Common Platform:

- Firstly, Neal Lawson's **45° Change** provides a theory of change central to the project: that in our 21st-century networked society people don't need the state to provide the ideas and plans for progress in society. On the contrary, they have the ideas and they need a state that helps them grow, connect and replicate the practices they develop in their communities.
- Secondly, **Common Platforms** by Ken Spours, Frances Foley and Nick Mahony explores the political context, setting out why and how the 45° Change theory and the practice of Common Platforms can be influential in today's political moment and in the near future.

MAKING STUFF HAPPEN

We are getting ready now to run a number of local Common Platforms locally - working with local councils, and we are preparing a major event to bring the new democracy sector together.

In addition we are working with a number of groups to develop thinking in the light of the 45° Change document - a **Community Development** group, led by Colin Miller, amongst others, is working on grassroots issues, but we will also be publishing on the implications in terms of technology, culture and globalisation. Finally we will be looking at what 'the party' of the 21st century looks like.

Brexit

At Compass' 2017 AGM, a few members requested that we do more to find out what the broader membership think of Brexit, and whether this would require Compass to revisit its approach.

MEMBERS' CONSULTATION

In response to this, we consulted our members in early 2018. First of all, we held an **online survey** open to all Compass members, asking them to express their own views on Brexit as well as their views on the approach that Compass should take.

More than 300 members responded. The survey taught us two things: (1) that an overwhelming majority of those who responded had voted Remain in the 2016 EU referendum and favoured 'No Brexit' as the desired outcome of the negotiations, and (2) that members were divided about how Compass could best contribute to the debate. Some thought Compass should take on an anti-Brexit profile while others felt that the existing approach of not taking a binary view on the Leave or Remain question was appropriate.

We invited 20 Compass members who had participated in the online survey to join us for a **deliberative session** to address Compass' Brexit dilemma. At the end of a lively afternoon, members concluded that Compass would be best able to make meaningful contributions to the debate if it remained able to work with people on both sides of the Brexit-divide, which meant continuing the approach of not taking a binary position.

It was also concluded that Compass should reaffirm its commitment to internationalism where possible, that it should make clear its opposition to a Tory Hard Brexit, and that it would regularly review whether its Brexit approach needed to change.

CAUSES AND CURES

With support of the Open Society Foundations London and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung we produced the publication *The Causes and Cures of Brexit* in the autumn of 2018. It brings together the perspectives of 25 thinkers and politicians on what brought the UK electorate to vote in majority to leave the EU, and how the factors that delivered this result could be addressed.

The report was launched at a fringe meeting at the Labour party conference in Liverpool, with speeches by Jon Trickett MP and others. Several chapters of the publication made their way into the media, and Neal Lawson published a separate opinion piece on *openDemocracy*, which was well-received by many in the political commentatorate.

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY CAMPAIGN

Compass played a central part in a big push, starting in late 2018, to resolve the parliamentary deadlock on Brexit through a citizens' assembly - a deliberative forum of citizens randomly selected by sortition that interrogates arguments and evidence before deciding on its recommendations.

We brought together a range of high-profile individuals to sign a **letter to the Guardian** demanding that Westminster considers giving citizens a say, now that politicians were proving themselves unable to agree any solution to move forward. Along with the letter, the Guardian published Neal's article making the case for a citizens' assembly and continued to support the idea in numerous editorials.

We started an **online petition** on the change.org website to give further impetus to the campaign. More than 75,000 people signed it in the first month.

In January 2019, we organised a public event in parliament with MPs Lisa Nandy, Caroline Lucas and Stella Creasy, as well as Prof Graham Smith, to discuss the merits of a citizens' assembly on Brexit. More than 80 people attended and contributed to a wide-ranging and constructive discussion.

We continue to be involved in discussions and alliance-building on this topic and depending on events in parliament, the campaign may continue for months to come. Even if the opportunity for a citizens' assembly on Brexit ends up not materialising, we will still argue for innovative, deliberative ways of reviving our democracy - and citizens' assemblies are part of that.

Other campaigns and projects

SOCIAL SOLIDARITY RESEARCH

Since the beginning of 2018, Compass has been working together with the Dublin-based think tank TASC to carry out an international research project into attitudes to social solidarity among the top-ten percent of earners in Europe. The project combines evidence from major surveys, findings from interviews with individuals in the top-ten bracket and insights gained through round-table conversations with different types of experts. Research is carried out in four European countries, with Compass leading on the UK work.

In May 2018, we organised a series of round-table meetings in London, with politicians, academics, business people, trade unionists and others. We attended similar meetings in Stockholm and Dublin. We're in the middle of doing interviews with high earners across England. The research will continue into 2019, with a report expected to launch in the autumn.

CITIZENS' INCOME

For many years, Compass has been advocating the principle of a universal basic income (UBI) or citizens' income, actively contributing to the debate on the issue and helping politicians engage with it. This year, Neal has spoken about UBI at several events, as well as in the media, participating for example in a BBC Radio 4 programme on the issue.

Working with academics Howard Reed and Stewart Lansley, with funding from the Friends Provident Foundation, Compass carried out a major project to explore how a citizens' income could be introduced immediately and how it could be funded. The project saw us organising a round-table session with experts and critics to reflect on the initial findings of the research.

The final report *Basic Income for All: From Desirability to Feasibility* was launched in March 2019. The report's findings provide an excellent basis to continue our campaigning in favour of a swift introduction of a UBI.

21ST-CENTURY POWER

Together with the Centre for Towns and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, we organised two events on the theme of 21st-century power, one in London and one in Manchester. The events had a pamphlet on that topic by Lisa Nandy MP as their starting point, with a range of other high-profile speakers adding their perspectives to it. Both events were well-attended and generated healthy debate among those in the room.

THE STATE OF GLOBAL SOCIAL DEMOCRACY

Collaborating with Labour Together, we examined the state of social democracy around the world, investigating how the traditional parties of the mainstream left are responding to the political challenges of the 21st century. We brought together views from within the social-democratic movement from a variety of countries, and collected them in our publication *What's Left* - which also reflects on how the UK Labour movement can draw lessons from the experiences of fellow parties elsewhere.

GOOD LONDON

The Good London project was largely carried out in 2016, in the context of the London Assembly and Mayoral elections, but the final report was launched late 2017. Several London Assembly members and other contributors to the project attended the launch at City Hall. We have sent the report to decision-makers in London and elsewhere, with mayors of other UK cities taking interest in the process and its outcomes.

GREEN NEW DEAL

We have started working with Clive Lewis MP, as well as Green Party politicians and the Rapid Transition Alliance, to boost political support for radical action to mitigate climate breakdown. We are looking to work with our political allies to accelerate further alliance-building on climate and environment issues.

We hope and foresee that our Common Platform project (see above) will encompass many initiatives centring on averting catastrophic climate change and ecological disaster.

POLITICS AND POETRY

In April 2018 Compass organised an exclusive evening in the Soho Theatre in London, where Luke Wright performed his acclaimed one-man show *Frankie Vah*. After the show, a panel, with Hilary Wainwright, Jon Lansman and others, reflected on whether or not the Labour party's challenges from the 1980s were a lesson for how the party should address the current political moment.

Compass around the country

LOCAL GROUPS

Compass groups around the country have had another full year of launches, campaigns, discussions and deliberations.

In 2018 we celebrated the launch of **Calderdale Compass for West Yorkshire**. The first meeting - to a full house on a Saturday morning in March - gathered together progressives from across the region - and from then on it's been one event after another. Calderdale have organised events on proportional representation in New Zealand, a shorter working week for all, what next with Brexit, and greening the economy. A big thanks to Jane Speller and Elaine Hey and all the team for getting the group off the ground and creating the space for such a rich conversation.

Salisbury Compass has also been busy hosting events. Known for their wide range of topics, this year saw them take on themes as varied as land taxes, universal credit, the right to offend, inequality and mental health and representation versus personal conscience in a parliamentary system. The Democracy Cafe in Salisbury is a space which hosts regular lively discussions - so if you're in the area, do drop by and be part of the conversation.

Last year also saw a second Democracy Cafe springing up due to popular demand in **Oxford**, hosted by the local Compass group. Based on the successful model of Salisbury, the group got stuck right in from the start, with their first meeting taking on the challenge - "shouldn't there be more to the democratic process than voting?" The Cafe went on to look at participation in a democracy, delved into citizens' assemblies and how they might support and extend representative democracy, and explored the role of political parties in a modern democracy. The space is fully open and inclusive - just the sort of place to test out ideas, explore new concepts and ask some big questions.

In **Liverpool**, the local Compass group has also been focusing on the big question of devolved powers and what they may mean for the region, with a series of events around local power, democratic input and the new role of Metro Mayor, even bringing the mayor in himself, Steve Rotherham, after one year in post, to tell his story.

Southwest Surrey (SWS) Compass continues to grow both in size and in ambition. Over the past year, a number of the SWS team co-wrote a book on their experiences of progressive alliance-building at the General Election. Not satisfied with getting one message out in print, the group have now launched their own local media platform. Called The Godalming Compass, the publication, produced regularly, seeks to keep its readers updated on everything happening in progressive politics locally. SWS co-convenor Steve Williams has also been reliably on hand to help any local Compass members interested in kicking off their own local groups.

In **Cambridge**, a local group associated with Compass have held a successful series of *Imagine* events over the last few years, focusing participants on positive and constructive solutions to some of the biggest political challenges of our times: media reform, housing, AI, climate change and circular economy. The series culminated in an open forum event, facilitated by our own Frances Foley, to convert some of the ideas to action.

Bringing together all the energy and wisdom from local groups, we held a **Local Groups Congress** in July, the first in a while. The session was a chance for local group organisers from around the country to meet one another, exchange ideas, strategise and extend the network, and also provided the chance for Compass staff to discuss the organisation's plans for the year ahead and get some thoughts and wisdom. Thanks to everyone who travelled from far and wide to be there - on one of the hottest days of the year!

If you'd like to get involved with Compass locally - either by participating in an existing group, or launching your own - get in touch with Remco or Gerry at the office.

CONFERENCES

Compass was active and present at various party conference in the past year, connecting with members, organising fringe meetings, and campaigning for pluralist politics.

At the **Social Liberal Forum**, the gathering of the left-wing of the Liberal Democrats, Neal Lawson participated in a panel on Universal Basic Income and Compass was present with a stall.

At the **Labour** party conference in Liverpool in September, Compass organised a fringe event with Lisa Nandy, Clive Lewis, Hilary Wainwright and Laura Parker, exploring how the party could move beyond a culture dominated by factions and tribes. We also hosted a panel discussion in Liverpool to launch the publication *The Causes and Cures of Brexit*, in collaboration with OSF London.

Compass was also present at the **Green Party** conference in Bristol in October, where we hosted a fringe event about the Common Platform. In a packed room, we had frank and constructive conversations about the Progressive Alliance and its aftermath - acknowledging and exploring the mixed feelings members had about the outcomes: the Greens enabled many local progressive alliances, but were not always recognised by those who benefited.

Within Compass

CHANGES TO OUR GOVERNANCE

Compass embarked on an introspective journey in 2018 to review whether it was still fit for purpose at the age of 15. We decided to open up that conversation as much as we could, and collected the views of many people within and outside Compass to get the clearest idea of what we were doing well and where we were missing a trick.

Led by our associate Michael Freedman, we asked a range of **people who know Compass** well, both within and outside the organisation, to give us their in-depth views on how we could change to be more effective and more influential.

We asked **our members** too. They were invited to respond to an online survey about how Compass is organised and how it engages with members - more than 180 members gave us their views.

To conclude this listening exercise, we organised a **workshop** with people from all the groups who had expressed their views, including a few members who had completed the survey.

The Management Committee (MC) took the recommendations from the process and developed **proposals for a new governance structure for Compass** (and a new legal structure). The proposed new governance structure will see the following changes:

- Introduction of an Executive Board of around 9 individuals selected on the basis of their skills, responsible for ongoing overall management of Compass' activity and finances
- Introduction of a Council of up to 40 or so individuals representing strategic partners and allies, including a number of Compass members selected by sortition
- These new bodies would replace the elected Management Committee and its sub-committees
- Compass to become a limited company instead of an unincorporated membership organisation.

The Compass AGM on the 6th of April 2019 will decide whether the above proposals will come into effect.

CHANGES TO THE TEAM

After more than two years at Compass, where she led our strategic work and campaigns, including the Progressive Alliance, **Frances Foley** left the team in February 2019 to go and work at the Citizens' Convention for UK Democracy. Compass MC members credit Frances with bringing great energy and positivity to the organisation, as well as great skill and important insights. The same is true for the team - we will miss Frances and we wish her well in her new job. We are hopeful that our paths will keep crossing.

Following Frances' departure, Compass hired Gerry Mitchell and Jack Jeffrey on temporary contracts. Both are working part-time for Compass. Compass' staffing needs will be reviewed when a new Board has taken the reins.

MEMBERSHIP

Recent years have seen Compass work to improve its membership infrastructure, aiming to increase communications with members, to support member-led activities and to make membership administration accurate and effective. We are continuing this work and are ambitious about next steps, especially in terms of bringing members into Common Platform activity.

Compass currently has 1,630 members. Membership numbers have been more or less stable since 2017. In the past year, we have launched a new 'join' page and changed our online subscription systems to make it as easy as possible for new members to join. Plans that we are making in collaboration with Small Axe will see us try to attract more members to Compass, helping us to have a stable financial base and an even greater network of people who can make a difference where they are.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES

Compass is exploring how it can work more effectively with specialist partners in, for example, communications, technology and publishing. We have a strong and fruitful working relationship with campaigning and technology consultants **Small Axe** which we want to maintain and, where possible, intensify. Compass will also look to intensifying its collaboration with one or more publishing agencies.

We continue to nourish, where we can, our political alliances with many organisations on the progressive side of the political spectrum, through supporting each other's campaigns, events and political projects, where these are in line with Compass' pluralist and transformative politics. Parties and groups we have worked with in the past year include:

- Labour
- Green Party
- Social Liberal Forum (Liberal Democrats)
- Scottish National Party
- Women's Equality Party
- Plaid Cymru
- Momentum
- Labour Together
- Make Votes Matter
- We Own It.



The year ahead

2019 and beyond could be the biggest yet for Compass. We have huge ambitions to grow the influence of the organisation – to double the membership, strike new partnerships with agencies and publishers, a new expert board, the new council.

Finances

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH

	2018 (£)	2017 (£)
Member income	255,735	77,170
Event income	8,035	13,711
Grant income	61,137	193,654
Other income	1,390	1,031
Total Income	326,297	285,566
Staff costs		
Payroll costs	38,543	68,490
Consultancy – Chair’s service	53,000	57,000
VAT on Consultancy	10,600	11,400
Other staff costs	24,617	11,151
Office costs	32,748	23,424
Activity costs		
Event costs	10,945	9,821
Publication costs	5,280	3,610
Project Costs	130,130	44,432
Other costs		
Bank Charges	7,472	5,874
Fundraising costs	10,418	416
Total Expenditure	323,753	235,618
Surplus/(deficit) for year	2,544	49,948

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH

	2018 (£)	2017 (£)
Debtors and accrued income	–	6,363
Cash	61,681	44,646
Total Assets	61,681	51,009
Creditors	10,437	2,309
Total Liabilities	10,437	2,309
Net Assets	51,244	48,700
Representing:		
General Fund	51,244	48,700
Net Assets	51,244	48,700

TREASURER'S REPORT

The unexpected general election early in 2017-18 had a major impact on Compass' finances during the year. The Progressive Alliance campaign generated a large amount of one-off donations which were, of course, spent in a short period.

The focus on the election meant that less grant funded activity took place during the year. Even so, we managed to achieve a modest surplus during the year and ended with a reasonable bank balance.

Since the year-end we have begun the long-term project on the Common Platform, and been preparing for a major membership development project, for which much of our reserves are earmarked.

Thank you to everyone who contributed during the year. We depend on members for much of our income, and your support is what keeps Compass working for a good society.

Mark Cooke
Treasurer

DONATIONS OF OVER £5,000 RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR

Donor	Amount	Purpose
Alexander Wright	£20,000	Progressive Alliance
Friends Provident Foundation	£13,000	Universal Basic Income
Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust Ltd	£10,000	Progressive Alliance
Martin Taylor	£20,000	Core Funding
Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation	£9,500	Common Platform
Gordon Roddick	£20,000	Core Funding
Ruth Lister	£20,000	Development

2019 is gearing up to be a decisive year in politics. The very foundations of our political system and our democracy are under pressure. Old parties are wavering and new ones are looking for a breakthrough, while the UK's place in the world and its own integrity are no longer a given.

Disruption brings threats, but opportunity too. Our mission remains to explore and promote the radical changes that will make a Good Society possible. To do this, we will work with anyone who shares our values. On Common Platforms, in Progressive Alliances and Citizens' Assemblies – join us! We need each other.