Forward thinking
Straight talking

Interim results
Six months ended 31 October 2020

# Presentation team



Neil Smith FCCA Finance Director



Rod Waldie
Chief Executive Officer



Nick Smith
Acquisitions Director

# Overview & Outlook

## Overview

- Resilient, diversified business model
- Robust financial performance in line with H1 20
- > Embedded operational agility arising from new ways of working
- Cultural strength, excellent people reaction
- Platforms further enhancing market appeal

# Outlook

#### Outlook

- Continually improving activity levels aligned to strong H2 21 pipeline; means that:
  - assuming no significant deterioration in macro-trading conditions;
  - reforecast FY 21 numbers are deliverable;
  - bonus payments will be made to staff and dividend declared in line with existing policy

## Our vision

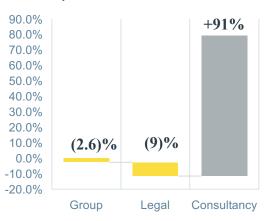
#### **Our vision**

- An inclusive growth mission for our people supporting:
  - further diversification through acquisitions; creating
  - an expanded Platforms offering with leading positions in legal and consultancy services; becoming
  - > indispensable to our clients; and
  - scaling to a compelling investment in professional services

# Financial Summary

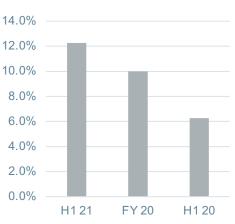
# H1 Financial highlights

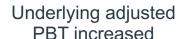
#### Group revenue movements



- H1 21 supported by acquired revenue
  - £3.9m in H1 21 (H1 20: £0.4m)
- Organic revenue movement (9.5%)
  - Legal decrease (9.8%)
  - Consultancy decrease (4.9%)

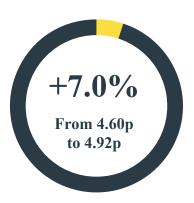








Underlying diluted EPS increased



Net assets increased

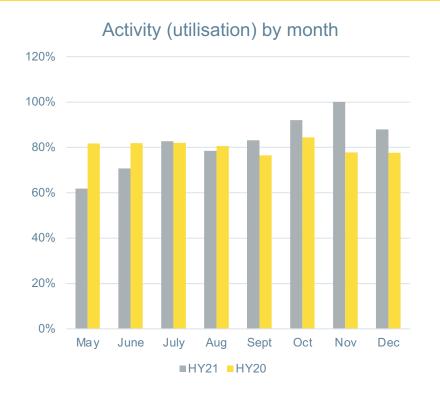


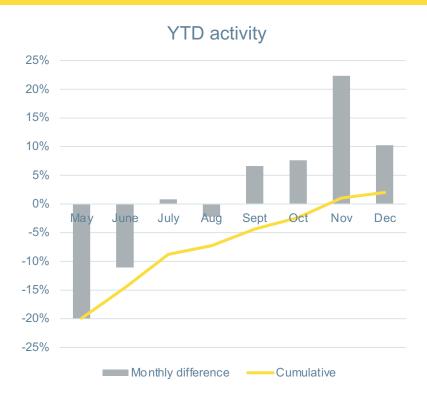
#### Net cash/(debt)



Dividends and bonuses to return to stakeholders following a successful FY21 full year outcome

# **Utilisation / Activity levels**





#### **Key points**

- Q2 & Q3 to date very strong vs negative Q1
- Strategic decision to maintain capacity

# Strict adherence to Group financial metrics

#### **Financial metric targets**

- One profit
- > Payroll costs at 60% of revenue
- Underlying overheads at 25% of revenue
- Underlying adjusted PBT margin target of 15%
- Strong cash generation/free cashflow 100% of PAT
- Dividend pay out ratio of 70% of PAT Yield of 4%+
- WIP and Debtor days combined <150 days</p>
- Low debt

#### **Benefits**

- Cultural alignment
- Cost control and certainty
- Investment mindset
- Risk mitigation in downturn
- Focus on profit and cash generation
- Evenly distributed rewards

## Cash focus

| Cashflow £m                             | H1 21<br>(£m) | H1 20<br>(£m) | Variance |
|---|---------------|---------------|----------|
| Operating cashflows before wc movements | 10.5          | 9.2           |          |
| Net working capital movement            | 2.4           | (0.9)         |          |
| Cash generated from operations          | 12.9          | 8.3           |          |
| Profit after tax                        | 4.8           | 4.4           |          |
| Cash generation                         | 271%          | 190%          | +43%     |
|   |               |               |          |

| Repayment of lease liabilities | (1.2) | (0.4) |      |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|------|
| Net interest                   | (0.6) | -     |      |
| Tax paid                       | (0.4) | (1.7) |      |
| Capital expenditure            | (0.1) | (0.9) |      |
| Free cash flows                | 10.6  | 5.4   | +97% |

| WIP days           | 55  | 49  | +6 |
|--------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Debtor days        | 94  | 99  | -5 |
| Total lock up days | 149 | 148 | +1 |

- Excellent cash generation from operations
  - Cautious approach throughout pandemic
  - Focus on debt collection
- Strong free cashflow enabling investment and growth in H2/FY22 without overexposure to debt
- Lock up days steady throughout pandemic
  - Increase WIP days
  - Reduced debtor days
- Targeting further reductions in H2

# Financial outlook

#### H1 21 year-to-date summary (@ Sept 20)

- Swift action taken to:
  - Realise cost savings
  - Conserve cash
- Ample facilities in place
- Utilised government support to avoid redundancies where it aligns with staff protection intent
- > KPI trends improving monthly
- All key metrics ahead of post-pandemic expectations
- Looking to maximise operational gearing opportunities
- Revenue difficult to forecast due to current uncertainty however expecting resilience from balance of legal and consultancy offering

#### Post period end / Looking forward (@ Jan 21)

- Margin improvement as adjusted cost-base continues into H2
- Return to organic growth in H2
- Forecasts re-instated FY21 to FY23
- Proven agile working model, increased headcount capacity
- Further centralisation of processes
- Strong cash generation, low debt creating significant facility headroom for growth/expansion
- Dividends and bonuses expected to be announced post year end

# Our People

# People

- Health & Wellbeing
- Staff survey
- The future

Our diversity, inclusion and wellbeing network groups provide support for our people through a number of initiatives and activities:









#### Connecting with our people during lockdown

**Employee newsletter** – 85% readership

**Leadership** – CEO business update videos; Workplace Wednesdays

**2020 Gateley Team Spirit Awards** – 300 colleagues nominated, virtual ceremony in October

**Board annual roadshow** – virtual employee update across all offices in November

A whole host of thrive programmes and a Red Letter/Well-Being day awarded to staff

## Culture

- Service style Partner-led, national service team lines, commercial and pragmatic
- Numerous "trusted advisor" relationships
- > "One team"
- Focus on one profit
- Excellence in client service delivery, generated in latest surveys;
  - Client feedback 99% good/excellent
  - Net promoter score +68
  - Employee engagement uptake 82%
- Alignment with investors Over 50% of staff are shareholders

# Platforms Update

# Our "Platforms"

- > Grouping professionals facing common markets/sectors
  - deeper understanding
  - a differentiated, compelling proposition
  - seamless multi-disciplinary service delivery
  - cross-selling opportunities

# Platform composition

**Property** 

# **Platform**

**Gateley Legal** 

**Gateley Capitus** 

**Gateley Hamer** 

Persona Associates

**Gateley Vinden** 

**Human Capital** 

## **Platform**

**Gateley Legal** 

Kiddy & Partners

t-three

Entrust

International Investment Services

under construction

Corporate

# Platform

**Gateley Legal** 

**Gateley Capitus** 

International Investment Services

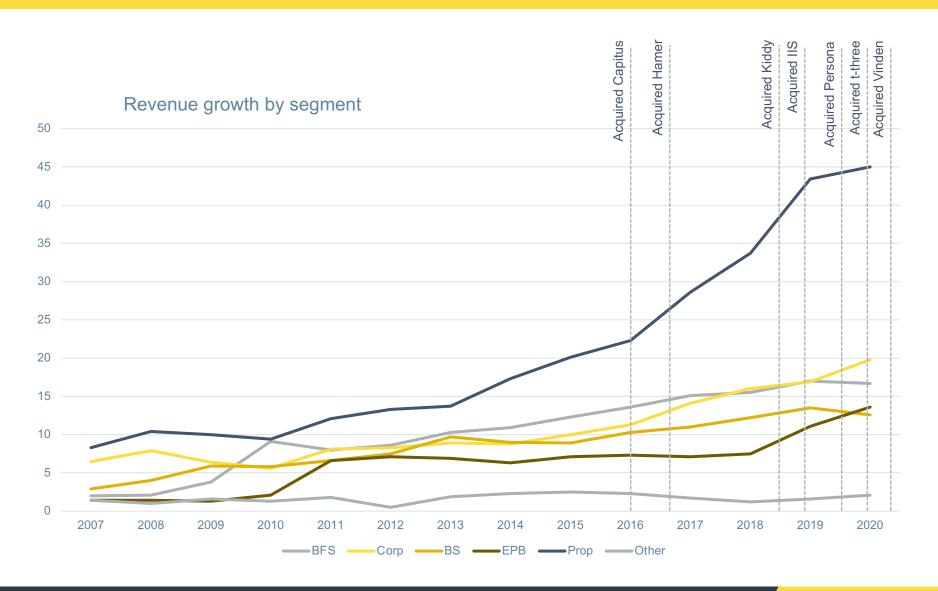
under construction

**Business Services** 

Platform

**Gateley Legal** 

# Growth enhanced by our Platforms



# Update on Platform progress

- Property Platform
  - Largest housebuilding team development scheme that will introduce our full suite of property consultancy services
  - Gateley Hamer/Vinden/Capitus:
    - Development compensation claim (Vinden/Hamer)
    - > HS2 relocation and Capital Allowances (Hamer/Capitus)
  - Sateley Vinden:
    - > Fire Safety Notification
    - Housebuilder forensic expert services, litigation solution (Legal/Vinden)
    - National self-storage developer, planning appeal (Vinden/Legal)

# **Corporate Platform**

- International Investment Services (IIS)
  - Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority's (CPCA) "new economic growth programme" regional inward investment & development programme
  - > Cloud technology solutions provider (US) European roll-out
  - Sustainability tech (Switzerland) UK/EU roll-out
  - Petcare tech (Aus) UK/EU roll-out
  - Revenue +38% y-o-y
  - Cross-sales YTD +100%

# Acquisitions Update

# Acquisition pipeline

- Logic never more compelling
- Inevitable, temporary pause as the pandemic took hold
- Four prior-year acquisitions in integration in any case
- Discussions continue and targets progressed

# Summary & questions?



gateleyplc.com