

BLME Holdings plc<sup>1</sup> 2017 Annual Financial Results

London, 21st March 2018– BLME Holdings plc announces 2017 annual financial results.

All statements in this release relate to that time period, unless otherwise indicated.

	2017	2016
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>£1 billion</b> (\$1.4 billion <sup>2</sup> )	<b>£1 billion</b> (\$1.3 billion <sup>3</sup> )
<b>Total operating income</b>	<b>£37.8 million</b> (\$51.2 million)	<b>£46.9 million</b> (\$57.9 million)
<b>Operating profit/loss before impairment charges and loss on disposal of group company</b>	<b>£2.5 million</b> (\$3.4 million)	<b>-£1.3 million</b> (-\$1.6 million)
<b>Net operating profit/(loss) before tax</b>	<b>£5.8 million</b> (\$7.9 million)	<b>-£18.9 million</b> (-\$23.3 million)
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year after tax</b>	<b>£5.7 million</b> (\$7.8 million)	<b>-£21.4 million</b> (-\$26.4 million)

**Adel Al Majed, Chairman of BLME, commented on the results:**

*“BLME has been transformed over the past 18 months and is now on track to embedding the Wealth Management focussed strategy. This is reflected in the results as BLME returns to profit and becomes a more efficient and successful Bank.”*

**Giles Cunningham, CEO of BLME, commented on the results:**

*“We set ourselves the challenge of fundamentally changing our business model; to become a lower risk and more focussed bank, whilst delivering a return to profit following a disappointing 2016. We have successfully delivered across all key objectives, which is a great achievement given the backdrop of uncertain economic conditions.”*

*“We drew a line under the legacy issues that have cast a long shadow over the bank in recent years. We have built strong foundations, and can now focus on growing the bank.”*

**Results overview**

BLME announces a record profit after tax of £5.7 million, compared to a loss of £21.4 million the year before. Throughout 2017, financing assets remained stable and the balance sheet was maintained at £1 billion. The Bank lowered costs by 27% leading to a reduction in the cost to income ratio. BLME maintains a conservative risk appetite and saw a decrease in Non-Performing Loans from 7.8% the previous year to 5.5% in 2017, as well as a reduction in impairment charges.

<sup>1</sup> In this press release, the expression “the Company” refers to BLME Holdings plc which is the ultimate parent company of the BLME Group and is listed on Nasdaq Dubai. The expression “BLME”, “the Group” or “the BLME Group” refers to BLME Holdings plc and its subsidiaries.

<sup>2</sup> For ease of reference, we have quoted US dollar amounts for pro forma information purposes. For 2017 the closing exchange rate as a 31<sup>st</sup> December of \$1.3527 was used. (2016: \$1.2358)

**Strategy**

Wealth Management is integral to the future success of BLME. Last year BLME launched a range of new wealth products, strengthened the team and received an approval in principle to upgrade the DIFC (Dubai International Financial Centre) licence to further improve distribution capabilities. The Investment Solutions team purchased their first investment property with other opportunities already lined up for 2018.

The Bank's Leasing and Trade Finance offerings are well established and the Bank continues to remain proactive in the UK mid-market. BLME Real Estate successfully diversified the financing portfolio. The Treasury team launched a new savings product, the BLME Notice Account, which provides shorter term savings opportunities at a lower minimum deposit.

**Corporate Governance**

BLME has invested in a robust governance framework, completing targeted recruitment with a new Deputy MLRO, Head of Internal Audit and enhanced resourcing in the Compliance team. BLME maintains prudent capital adequacy, liquidity and leverage ratios. Adherence to all regulatory requirements is regularly reported to the Prudential Regulatory Authority.

For a full copy of BLME's 2017 Financial Results go to:

<https://www.blme.com/about-blme/investor-relations/financial-results-and-reporting/>

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Statutory accounts

The information in this press release does not constitute statutory accounts within the meaning of section 434 of the Companies Act 2006. The statutory accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies in England and Wales in accordance with section 447 of the Companies Act 2006. The auditors have reported on those accounts. The report was unqualified; did not include a reference to any matters to which the auditors drew attention by way of emphasis without qualifying the report; and did not contain a statement under section 498(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006.

The full 2017 Financial Statements are available <http://www.blme.com/#/page/financial-information>

### About BLME

BLME is an independent Sharia'a compliant bank based in London. BLME received FSA authorisation in July 2007 and is one of the largest of its peers in Europe. Led by a management team that brings together a combination of experienced international bankers and leading experts in Islamic finance, BLME has three key business areas: Wealth Management, Commercial Finance Banking and Treasury.

**Website:** [www.blme.com](http://www.blme.com)