

**THIS CIRCULAR IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.** If you are in any doubt as to the action you should take, you should consult an appropriate independent financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 immediately. If you have sold or transferred all your Ordinary Shares in the Company, please forward this Circular together with the Form of Proxy to the purchaser, transferee, stockbroker or other agent through whom the sale or transfer was effected for transmission to the purchaser or transferee.

Notice of a general meeting of the Company to be held at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020 is set out on pages 6 to 8 of this Circular. A Form of Proxy for use at the meeting is attached. To be valid, Forms of Proxy should be completed and returned in accordance with the notes to the Notice of Meeting and the Form of Proxy itself.

# ***Northern Venture Trust PLC***

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Time Central 32 Gallowgate Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4SN

T 0191 244 6000 F 0191 244 6001 E [nvt@nvm.co.uk](mailto:nvt@nvm.co.uk)

Registered in England no 3090163

Directors:

Simon Constantine, *Chairman*

Nigel Beer

Richard Green

Tim Levett

David Mayes

Hugh Younger

4 December 2019

Dear Shareholder

## **PROPOSED PUBLIC SHARE OFFER AND EXTENSION OF THE LIFE OF THE COMPANY**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this Circular is to provide further information about, and seek your consent to, proposals to issue new Ordinary Shares under a public share offer by the Company and to extend the life of the Company.

A General Meeting, at which Shareholders will be asked to approve the proposals referred to in the first paragraph above, is to be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS. The formal Notice of General Meeting is set out on pages 6 to 8 of this Circular, which includes a map showing the location of the offices of Reed Smith LLP.

Further information on the proposals is set out below. In addition, explanatory notes on all the business to be considered at the General Meeting appear on pages 4 and 5 of this Circular.

You will also find enclosed with this Circular a letter dated 4 December regarding the proposed transfer of the Company's management from NVM to Mercia Asset Management.

### **Share Offer**

Your Board has considered the likely funding requirements of the Company, taking into account the strong pipeline of potential investment opportunities (including follow-on investments into the current portfolio), and proposes that there should be a public share offer by the Company to raise a total of up to £13,333,334 for future investment. On 10 October 2019 the Company announced that it intends, in conjunction with Northern 2 VCT PLC ("N2VCT") and Northern 3 VCT PLC ("N3VCT"), to launch a joint prospectus offer of new Ordinary Shares for subscription in the 2019/20 tax year (the "Offer"). It is envisaged that the Offer will seek to raise a total of £40,000,000, of which £13,333,334 will be for the Company, £13,333,333 for N2VCT and £13,333,333 for N3VCT. Subject to obtaining the requisite approvals, including Shareholder approval at the General Meeting, it is expected that a prospectus will be issued in January 2020.

Applications for the new Ordinary Shares will be dealt with on a "first come first served" basis. It is envisaged that the Offer will remain open until 5 April 2020, unless fully subscribed at an earlier date and subject to your Board's right to close the Offer at any time.

The new Ordinary Shares will be issued at a premium to the most recent NAV published prior to the allotment date, such that the net proceeds per new Ordinary Share, after deducting issue costs, will be equivalent to the NAV attributable to the existing Ordinary Shares.

All new Ordinary Shares will rank equally in all respects with the existing Ordinary Shares and will rank for all dividends which are both declared and paid following Admission. Application will be made for the Admission of any new Ordinary Shares allotted and it is proposed that Admission will be effected at the earliest practicable opportunity.

### **Extension of the life of the Company**

The Articles currently require that a resolution for the continuation of the Company be put to the annual general meeting of the Company held in 2023 and, unless defeated, at five-yearly intervals thereafter. The proposed amendment to the Articles requires the continuation resolution to be considered at the annual general meeting of the Company expected to be held in 2025 and every five years thereafter. This amendment will have the effect of postponing the continuation resolution until after a period of five years has elapsed from the allotment of Ordinary Shares under the Offer, five years being the minimum holding period to ensure that investors retain the initial income tax relief on their subscription.

### **Action to be taken by Shareholders**

If you would like to vote on the Resolutions but cannot attend the General Meeting, please complete the Form of Proxy attached to this Circular and return it to the Company's registrars, Equiniti Limited, at Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing BN99 6DA as soon as possible. They must receive it no later than 2.30pm, on Friday 3 January 2020. Completion and return of the Form of Proxy will not preclude you from attending the General Meeting and voting in person should you so wish.

### **Recommendation**

Your Board considers that all the Resolutions to be put to the meeting are in the best interests of the Company and its Shareholders as a whole and are most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its Shareholders, and unanimously recommends that you vote in favour of the Resolutions. Your Directors will be voting in favour of the Resolutions in respect of their own shareholdings and unanimously recommend that you do so as well.

Yours sincerely



**Simon Constantine**  
Chairman

## DEFINITIONS

In this letter, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions bear the following meanings:

Act	the Companies Act 2006
Admission	admission of the Ordinary Shares to the Official List and to trading on the premium segment of the London Stock Exchange's market for listed securities
Articles	the articles of association of the Company as amended from time to time
Circular	this document dated 4 December 2019, addressed to the Shareholders
Company	Northern Venture Trust PLC
Directors or Board	the directors of the Company, whose names are set out on page 1 of this Circular, or any duly authorised committee thereof
FCA	the Financial Conduct Authority of the United Kingdom or any successor authority
Form of Proxy	the form of proxy for use at the General Meeting
General Meeting	the general meeting of the Company to be held at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020
NAV	net asset value in pence per Ordinary Share
Listing Rules	the listing rules published from time to time by the Financial Conduct Authority acting in its capacity as the United Kingdom Listing Authority under Part VI of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (as amended from time to time)
Offer	has the meaning set out on page 1 of this Circular
Official List	the Official List of the FCA
Ordinary Shares	ordinary shares of 25p each in the capital of the Company
Resolutions	resolutions 1 to 4 to be proposed at the General Meeting and each such resolution shall be a "Resolution"
Shareholders	registered holders of Ordinary Shares

## EXPLANATION OF THE BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE GENERAL MEETING

All Resolutions will be proposed as ordinary resolutions, unless otherwise mentioned. For an ordinary resolution to be passed, more than half of the votes cast (in person or by proxy) must be in favour of the Resolution. For a special resolution to be passed, at least three-quarters of the votes cast (in person or by proxy) must be in favour of the Resolution.

### Resolution 1: Specific authority to allot shares

In addition to the authority conferred on the Directors at the AGM in respect of 10% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company at 18 November 2019 being the date of the notice convening the AGM, Shareholders are being asked, under the Act, to grant the Directors authority to allot Ordinary Shares in the Company up to a maximum nominal value of £6,250,000 representing approximately 18.01% of the issued ordinary share capital of the Company at the date of the notice convening the General Meeting. No shares are currently held in treasury. The authority granted by Resolution 1 is intended to be used solely for the purposes of the Offer.

This authority will be effective until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company (expected to be held in December 2020) or, if earlier, 31 March 2021 except insofar as commitments to allot shares have been entered into before that date.

### Resolution 2: Specific disapplication of pre-emption rights

This Resolution supplements the Directors' specific authority to allot shares in the Company given to them by Resolution 1 and authorises the Directors to allot equity Ordinary Shares, or sell treasury shares, for cash (otherwise than pro rata to existing Shareholders) up to an aggregate nominal value of £6,250,000 (representing approximately 18.01% of the Company's issued ordinary share capital at the date of the notice convening the General Meeting). The authority is intended to be used for the purposes of the Offer.

This authority will be effective until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company (expected to be held in December 2020) or, if earlier, 31 March 2021, save that the Company may before this power expires make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted or treasury shares to be sold after the power expires.

Resolution 2 will be proposed as a special resolution.

### Resolution 3: Extension of the life of the Company

The Articles presently require that a resolution for the continuation of the Company be put to the annual general meeting of the Company held in 2023 and, unless defeated, at five-yearly intervals thereafter. The proposed amendment to Article 146 requires the continuation resolution to be considered at the annual general meeting of the Company expected to be held in 2025 and every five years thereafter. This amendment will have the effect of postponing the continuation resolution until after a period of five years has elapsed from the allotment of Shares under the Offer, five years being the minimum holding period to ensure that investors retain the initial income tax relief on their subscription. Article 146 of the Articles in its current form is set out below:

146 *At the annual general meeting of the Company held in 2023 and, if the Company has not then been liquidated, unitised or reconstructed, at each fifth subsequent annual general meeting of the Company convened by the Directors thereafter, the Directors shall propose a resolution that the Company should continue as a venture capital trust for a further five year period, on which resolution the vote shall be decided on a show of hands unless on declaration of the result of the show of hands a poll is duly demanded. A poll may be demanded only by those persons set out in Article 63. For the purpose of this Article only, the resolution that the Company should continue as a venture capital trust shall not be passed only where the vote is held on a poll and the votes against the resolution:*

- a) constitute a majority of the votes cast in respect of the resolution (votes withheld shall be ignored); and*
- b) represent not less than 25 per cent of the total number of votes then exercisable in respect of that resolution by the holders of the issued share capital of the Company.*

*If such resolution is not passed, the Directors shall draw up proposals for the voluntary liquidation, unitisation or other reorganisation of the Company for submission to the members of the Company at an extraordinary general meeting to be convened by the Directors for a date not more than nine months after the date of the meeting at which such ordinary resolution was not passed. The Directors shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that such proposals for the liquidation, unitisation or reorganisation of the Company as are approved by special resolution are implemented as soon as is reasonably practicable after the passing of such resolution.*

Resolution 3 will be proposed as a special resolution.

#### **Resolution 4: Cancellation of share premium account**

This resolution seeks approval for the cancellation of the share premium account which will arise on the issue of the new Ordinary Shares in connection with the Offer. Subject to the approval of the Court, this will create additional distributable reserves in order to facilitate the buyback of the Company's own shares and/or the payment of dividends.

Resolution 4 will be proposed as a special resolution.

# Northern VCT PLC

## Notice of General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that a general meeting of the Company will be held at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS, at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020 for the following purposes:

### RESOLUTIONS

- 1 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as an ordinary resolution:  
“That in addition to the authority conferred on the Directors at the annual general meeting held on 18 December 2019, the Directors be generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 (the “Act”) to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares in the Company up to a maximum nominal amount of £6,250,000 in connection with the Offer (as defined in the circular to shareholders dated 4 December 2019 (the “Circular”)) for a period expiring (unless previously renewed, varied or revoked by the Company in general meeting) on the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company after the passing of this resolution or, if earlier, 31 March 2021, save that the Company may before expiry of this authority make an offer or agreement which would or might require shares to be allotted, or rights to subscribe for or to convert any security into shares to be granted, after expiry of this authority and the Directors may allot shares, or grant rights to subscribe for or convert any security into shares, in pursuance of that offer or agreement as if this authority had not expired.”
- 2 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:  
“That, subject to the passing of Resolution 1 above and in addition to the authority conferred on the Directors at the annual general meeting held on 18 December 2019, the Directors may:
  - (a) allot equity securities (as defined in Section 560 of the Act) pursuant to the authorisation for the purposes of Section 551 of the Act conferred by Resolution 1 above; and
  - (b) sell equity securities which immediately before the sale are held by the Company as treasury shares, in each case as if Section 561(1) of the Act (existing shareholders’ right of pre-emption) did not apply to the allotment or sale, provided that the power conferred by this resolution shall be limited to the allotment or sale of equity securities up to an aggregate nominal value of £6,250,000 in connection with the Offer (as defined in the Circular) and shall expire on the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Company after the passing of this resolution or, if earlier, 31 March 2021, save that the Company may before this power expires make an offer or agreement which would or might require equity securities to be allotted or treasury shares to be sold after the power expires.”
- 3 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:  
“That the articles of association of the Company be amended in the first sentence of Article 146 by deleting the date ‘2023’ and substituting the date ‘2025’.”
- 4 To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following resolution as a special resolution:  
“That, subject to the confirmation of the Court, the amount standing to the credit of the share premium account of the Company following the conclusion of the Offer be cancelled and the amount so cancelled be credited to a special reserve of the Company.”

By order of the Board  
**J K Bryce**

Secretary  
Time Central  
32 Gallowgate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 4SN

4 December 2019

## NOTES

- 1 A member entitled to attend and vote at this meeting is entitled to appoint another person as his or her proxy to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, to speak and, both on a show of hands and on a poll, to vote in his or her stead at the meeting. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. The appointment of a proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting in person at the meeting should he or she subsequently decide to do so. A form of proxy which may be used is attached.
- 2 A member may appoint more than one proxy in relation to a meeting, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by him or her.
- 3 To be valid, a form of proxy together with, if applicable, the power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed, or a certified copy thereof, must be received by Equiniti Limited at Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing BN99 6DA not later than 2.30pm on Friday 3 January 2020.
- 4 The Company, pursuant to Regulation 41 of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001, specifies that only those Shareholders registered in the register of members of the Company as at 6.30pm on Friday 3 January 2020 shall be entitled to attend or vote (whether on a show of hands or on a poll) at the meeting in respect of the number of shares registered in their name at the time. Changes to entries on the register after 6.30pm on Friday 3 January 2020 (or after 6.30pm on the day which is two working days before any adjourned meeting) shall be disregarded in determining the rights of any person to attend or vote at the meeting.
- 5 As at Tuesday 3 December 2019 (being the last business day prior to the date of this notice) the Company's issued share capital consisted of 138,773,612 ordinary shares each carrying one vote per share. Accordingly the total number of voting rights in the Company as at Tuesday 3 December 2019 was 138,773,612.
- 6 CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies for the meeting or any adjournment thereof by utilising the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so by following the procedures described in the CREST Manual ([www.euroclear.com](http://www.euroclear.com)). CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members and those CREST members who have appointed a voting service provider(s) should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s), who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.

In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited's (EUI) specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST Manual. The message, regardless of whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy, must, in order to be valid, be transmitted so as to be received by the issuer's agent (ID RA19) by the latest time(s) for receipt of proxy appointments specified in this notice. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Application Host) from which the issuer's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointee through other means.

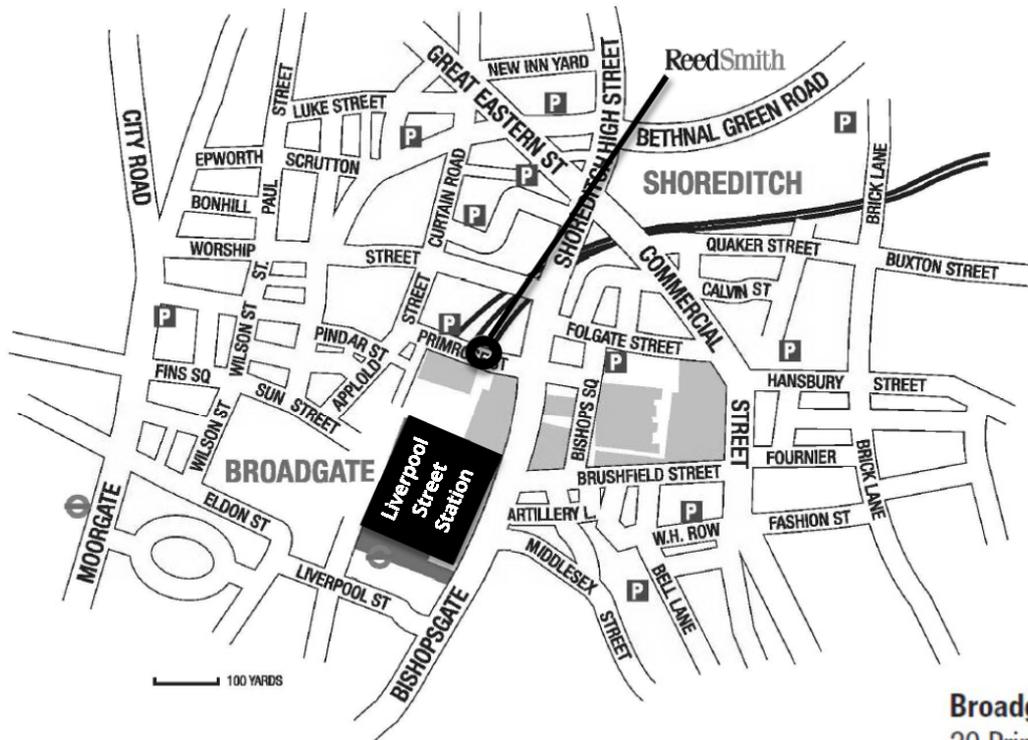
CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service providers should note that EUI does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular message. Normal system timings and limitations will therefore apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member or sponsored member or has appointed (a) voting service provider(s), to procure that his or her CREST sponsor or voting service provider(s) take(s) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service provider(s) are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST Manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings.

The Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction in the circumstances set out in Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001.

- 7 The above statement as to proxy rights does not apply to a person who receives this notice of meeting as a person nominated to enjoy "information rights" under Section 146 of the Act. If you have been sent this notice of meeting because you are such a nominated person, the following statements apply: (a) you may have a right under an agreement between you and the member of the Company by whom you were nominated to be appointed or to have someone else appointed as a proxy for the General Meeting; and (b) if you have no such right or do not wish to exercise it, you may have a right under such an agreement to give instructions to that member as to the exercise of voting rights.
- 8 A copy of this notice, and the other information required by Section 311A of the Act, can be found at [www.nvm.co.uk/investor-area/nvt/](http://www.nvm.co.uk/investor-area/nvt/).
- 9 Any member attending the meeting has the right to ask questions. Section 319A of the Act requires the Directors to answer any question raised at the General Meeting which relates to the business of the meeting, although no answer need be given (a) if to do so would interfere unduly with the proceedings of the General Meeting or involve disclosure of confidential information; (b) if the answer has already been given on the Company's website; or (c)

if it is undesirable in the best interests of the Company or the good order of the General Meeting that the question be answered.

- 10 You may not use any electronic address provided either in this Notice or any related documents (including the Form of Proxy) to communicate with the Company for any purposes other than those expressly stated.
- 11 If the total number of voting rights that the Chairman will be able to vote (taking into account any proxy appointments from Shareholders over which he is given discretion and any voting rights in respect of his own Shares) is such that he will have a notifiable obligation under the Disclosure and Transparency Rules of the Financial Conduct Authority (the "DTRs"), the Chairman will make the necessary notifications to the Company and the Financial Conduct Authority. Therefore, any member holding 3% or more of the voting rights in the Company who grants the Chairman a discretionary proxy in respect of some or all of those voting rights and so would otherwise have a notification obligation under the DTRs, need not make a separate notification to the Company and to the Financial Conduct Authority. However, any member holding 3% or more of the voting rights in the Company who appoints a person other than the Chairman as proxy will need to ensure that both the member and the proxy comply with the respective disclosure obligations under the DTRs.
- 12 The General Meeting will be held at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS, shown on the location map below.



**Broadgate Tower**  
20 Primrose Street  
London EC2A 2RS  
T: 0203 116 3000

**ReedSmith**





# Northern Venture Trust PLC

## Form of Proxy for the General Meeting on 7 January 2020

I/We .....  
(block capitals please)

of .....  
being a member of Northern Venture Trust PLC, hereby appoint (see notes 1 and 2)

.....  
or failing him/her the chairman of the meeting to be my/our proxy and exercise all or any of my/our rights to attend, speak and vote for me/us in respect of my/our voting entitlement on my/our behalf at the general meeting of the Company to be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020, notice of which was sent to shareholders on 4 December 2019, and at any adjournment thereof. The proxy will vote as indicated below in respect of the Resolutions set out in the notice of meeting:

<b>Resolution number</b>		<b>For</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Vote Withheld</b>
1	To authorise the Directors to allot shares pursuant to Section 551 of the Companies Act 2006 for the purposes of the Offer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	To disapply Section 561 of the Companies Act 2006 in relation to allotments of equity securities for the purposes of the Offer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	To amend the articles of association to extend the life of the Company	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	To approve the cancellation of the share premium account arising on the issue of Ordinary Shares pursuant to the Offer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate by placing an **X** in this box if this proxy appointment is one of multiple appointments being made (see note 2 below).

### Please refer to the notes overleaf

Signed: ..... Date: .....2019/2020

### Attendance indication

Shareholders who intend to attend the general meeting are requested to place a tick in the box below in order to assist with administrative arrangements.

I/we intend to attend the general meeting of the Company to be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2020 at the offices of Reed Smith LLP at The Broadgate Tower, 20 Primrose Street, London EC2A 2RS.

Signed: ..... Date: .....2019/2020

**NOTES RELATING TO FORM OF PROXY**

- 1 Every member has the right to appoint some other person(s) of his/her choice, who need not be a member, as his/her proxy to exercise all or any of his/her rights to attend, speak or vote on his/her behalf at the meeting. A member wishing to appoint a person other than the chairman of the meeting as proxy should insert the name of such person in the space provided. If the proxy is being appointed in relation to less than your full voting entitlement, please enter alongside the proxy holder's name the number of shares in relation to which they are authorised to act as your proxy. If left blank your proxy will be deemed to be authorised in respect of your full voting entitlement (or if this proxy form has been issued in respect of a designated account for a shareholder, the full voting entitlement for that designated account). Any alteration or deletion must be signed or initialled.
- 2 A member may appoint more than one proxy in relation to a meeting, provided that the proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by him/her. To appoint more than one proxy, please contact Equiniti Limited on 0800 028 2349 for (an) additional form(s), or you may photocopy this form. Please indicate alongside the proxy holder's name the number of shares in relation to which the proxy holder is authorised to act as your proxy. Please also indicate by placing an **X** in the box provided if the proxy instruction is one of multiple instructions being given. All forms must be signed and returned together in the same envelope.
- 3 Use of the form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting in person.
- 4 Where the form of proxy is executed by an individual it must be signed by that individual or his or her attorney.
- 5 Where the form of proxy is executed by joint shareholders it may be signed by any of the members, but the vote of the member whose name stands first in the register of members of the Company will be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders.
- 6 Where the form of proxy is executed by a corporation it must be either under its seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised.
- 7 If the form of proxy is signed and returned without any indication as to how the proxy shall vote, the proxy will exercise his/her discretion as to whether and how he/she votes, as he/she will on any other matters to arise at the meeting.
- 8 To be valid, the form of proxy, together with, if applicable, the power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed, or a certified copy thereof, must be received by Equiniti Limited at Aspect House, Spencer Road, Lancing BN99 6DA not later than 2.30pm on Friday 3 January 2020.
- 9 The "vote withheld" option is provided to enable a member to abstain from voting on the resolution; however, it should be noted that a "vote withheld" is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of the votes "for" and "against" the resolution.