

19 January 2022

City of London Investment Group*

CLIG LN

Financials

Stability & special dividend

City of London Investment Group's interims trading update reveals solid investment performance in difficult markets, encouraging net inflows and strong balance sheet. Key points include:

- Group Funds Under Management "FuM" at end 2021 of US\$11.1bn (£8.2bn), including 2Q net inflows of US\$59m.
- Solid relative investment performance across investment strategies.
- **CLIG continues to maintain an active pipeline** across all its major products.
- Income net of third-party commissions currently accrues £4.9m a month (we FY22 forecast £5m) and overheads at £1.6m (we forecast £1.625m).
- Sterling has strengthened from below \$1.25 to £1 to over \$1.35 now.
- Net cash of £24.5m on 31 December 2021.
- 11.0p interim DPS and 13.5p Special DPS declared.

CLIG's interims will be published on 18 February, with the interim and special DPS going ex on 25 February and paid in late March.

Zeus view: We maintain our revenue and profit forecasts, but increase our DPS to include the 13.5p special DPS.

We expect the Special DPS to cost £6.8m, so reduce forecast net cash accordingly.

Valuation: At 494p CLIG shares are trading on 10.4x PER and 9.4% dividend yield including the 13.5p Special DPS.

CLIG has a strong balance sheet with no debt and substantial net cash. On our new forecast underlying EPS and using the group's "target dividend cover of 1.2x" and a 6.0% dividend yield, the valuation would be 650p a share.

Over the past 5 years CLIG has delivered annualised Total Shareholder Returns (TSR) of 16% CAGR, with dividends providing 8%, earnings growth c 6% CAGR. Over the next five years, we expect CLIG to continue to deliver a TSR of over 10% pa, of which half comes from dividends and the other half comes from a combination of earnings growth and multiple expansion.

Price		494p
Market Cap		£250m
Shares in Issue		51m
12m Trading Rai	nge	453p to 560p
Free float		61%
Next Event	Interims ?	18 February 2022

Price Performance (p)



Source: Fidessa

Financial Forecasts

Yr end June (£m)	2020A	2021A	2022E	2023E
Revenue	33.3	52.5	60.0	61.5
y.o.y growth (%)	4.4	57.7	14.3	2.5
Op profit	18.6	35.8	41.0	41.5
Profit margin (%)	56	68	68	67
Underlying PBT #	11.5	26.9	30.0	30.4
Underlying EPS (p) #	38.0	48.1	47.3	47.9
DPS (p)	30.0	33.0	46.5	33.0
Avg FuM (\$B)	5.7	9.7	11.4	11.4
Net cash	14.6	25.5	24.0	31.8
P/E	13.0	10.3	10.4	10.3
Div Yield (%)	6.1	6.7	9.4	6.7

Source: Audited Accounts and Zeus Capital estimates

Forecasts include KIM acquisition from 1 October 2020

excludes £2.9m KIM deal costs: £1.2m in FY20 & £1.7m in FY21 amortisation of intangibles and investment gains

*City of London Investment Group is a Broking client of Zeus Capital Limited

Analyst:

Robin Savage	+44 20 3829 5611
robin.savage@zeuscapital.co.uk	

Specialist sales: Mike Cuthbert

mike.cuthbert@zeuscapital.co.uk

+44 20 3829 5621

Zeus Capital Contacts: Dominic King	+44 20 3829 5607
Ben Robertson	+44 20 3829 5625
Victoria Ayton	+44 20 3829 5603
Rupert Woolfenden	+44 20 3829 5623
Emma Ayton	+44 20 3829 5622
Gregor Paterson	+44 131 370 3705
Nick Searle	+44 20 3829 5633
Email: firstname.surname@zeus	capital.co.uk

Disclaimer: This research is intended for institutional investors only. It is not intended for retail customers and any retail customer should seek professional, independent advice before investing. For FCA purposes this marketing communication has not been prepared in accordance with legal requirements to promote the independence of investment research. Zeus Capital is not subject to any prohibition on dealing ahead of the dissemination of such investment research.

Company guidance

Movement in KPIs (FuM, income, operating expenses)

CLIG reports its KPIs on its website on a monthly, quarterly, half yearly and annual basis.

In 2021, CLIG Funds under Management has remained close to US\$11 billion (Exhibit 1) and its income at £5m a month (i.e. £60m p.a.). In the current financial year (to June 2022) operating expenses have been well controlled.

Exhibit 1: CLIM Funds Under management ("FUM") & operating profitability



Source: https://www.clig.com/funds-under-management.php

Today's announcement updates Exhibit 1, as follows:

- FuM of US\$11.1 billion
- FuM of £8.2 billion
- Income of £4.9m per month
- Operating expenses of £1.6m per month

This is in line with Zeus forecasts.

Movement in FuM

Exhibit 2 sets out the movement in CLIG's FUM.

1Q net outflows, to September 2021, of (1Q), US\$172m: 75% related to Emerging Market funds, where clients were rebalancing after very strong gains over the past year. Karpus Investment Management "KIM" experienced no net outflows.

2Q showed encouraging net inflows of US\$59m, including US\$265m from International.

Investment performance across investment strategies was good against benchmarks.

Exhibit 2: Movement in CLIG's FUM, US\$m

1Q of FY22 Actual	2Q of FY22 Actual	2HE Forecast	YE June, \$m	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22E Forecast	FY23E Forecast
11,449	10,918	11,100	Opening FUM	5,389	5,503	11,449	11,449
(172)	59	123	Net inflows	338	(752)	236	451
(359)	123	-	Performance & Market	(224)	3,120	(236)	-
-	-	-	Acquisition of KIM	-	3,578	-	-
10,918	11,100	11,449	Closing FUM	5,503	11,449	11,449	11,900
			Growth in FUM (%)	2.1	109.0	-	3.9
			Average FUM	5,730	9,679	11,443	11,671

Source: Company (historic); Zeus Capital (forecasts)

Key assumptions

CLIG's interims trading update repeats the comment made in 1Q IMS in October 2021, which said: "Business development will focus on EM, International, Opportunistic Value strategies and KIM balanced mandates, where additional capacity is now available for prospects."

We continue to forecast unchanged FUM this year.

Our forecast for FY22E and FY23E is based on:

- Markets being flat overall for 2H of the current year and next
- CLIM and KIM continuing to attract net inflows of c US\$60m a quarter and having 4% FuM growth for June 2023.

Group Financials

Exhibit 3: Group P&L, £m

	FY20 June	1H21 Dec	2H21 June	FY21 June	FY22E June	FY23E June
Revenue (gross fees)	33.3	23.7	31.4	55.1	62.5	64.0
Finder's commissions	(0.2)	(0.4)	(0.7)	(1.1)	(1.0)	(1.0)
Administrative expenses *	(14.5)	(8.7)	(9.4)	(18.1)	(20.5)	(21.5)
Interest	-	-	(0.1)	(0.1)	-	-
Operating profit	18.6	14.6	21.2	35.8	41.0	41.5
Profit share & EIP charge	(7.0)	(3.4)	(5.5)	(8.9)	(11.0)	(11.1)
Underlying PBT	11.6	11.2	15.7	26.9	30.0	30.4
Investment gain/(loss)	(0.9)	0.4	-	0.4	-	-
KIM deal costs	(1.3)	(1.7)	-	(1.7)	-	-
KIM intangibles amortisation	-	(1.1)	(2.2)	(3.3)	(4.4)	(4.4)
Profit before tax *	9.4	8.8	13.5	22.3	25.6	26.0
Minority interest	0.2	-	-	-	-	-
Тах	(2.0)	(2.2)	(3.1)	(5.3)	(6.1)	(6.2)
Profit after tax *	7.6	6.6	10.4	17.0	19.5	19.8

Source: Company (historic); Zeus Capital (forecasts) * including custody fees of c £1.5m pa and share based payments

We assume financial markets remain at current levels.

Exhibit 4: Movement in shareholders' equity, £m

	FY20 June	1H21 Dec	2H21 June	FY21E June	FY22E June	FY23E June
Shareholders' equity at opening	18.9	18.9	122.0	18.9	120.1	118.0
Profit after tax	7.6	6.6	10.4	17.0	19.5	19.8
Other comprehensive income	-	(0.2)	(6.5)	(6.7)	-	-
PY Final dividend paid	(4.5)	(5.0)	-	(5.0)	(9.4)	(10.7)
Interim dividend paid	(2.5)	-	(4.7)	(4.7)	(5.4)	(5.4)
Special dividend paid	-	-	-	-	(6.8)	-
Purchase of KIM for 24.1m shares	-	101.8	-	101.8	-	-
Net issue/(purchase) of shares	(2.0)	(0.4)	(1.3)	(1.7)	-	-
SBP & EIP	1.2	0.7	0.7	1.4	-	-
Share issue costs & other	0.2	(0.4)	(0.5)	(0.9)	-	-
Shareholders' equity at year end	18.9	122.0	122.0	120.1	118.0	121.7

Source: Company (historic); Zeus Capital (forecasts)

The FY21E DPS payable to KIM shareholders is time apportioned to reflect the period post completion and a third of the annual dividend is paid after interim accounts are published.

19 January 2022

Exhibit 5: Group Cash Flow, £m

Period end	FY20 June	1H21 Dec	2H21 June	FY21 June	FY22E June	FY23E June
Profit before tax	9.4	8.8	13.5	22.3	25.6	26.0
Amortisation of intangible assets	-	1.1	2.2	3.3	4.4	4.4
Non-cash items & working cap adj	3.5	2.1	1.1	3.2	(2.2)	2.9
Cash generated from operations	12.9	12.0	16.8	28.8	27.8	33.3
Interest received/(paid)	-	-	-			
Tax paid	(2.0)	(1.7)	(4.1)	(5.8)	(7.2)	(7.3)
Net cash generated from op's	10.9	10.3	12.7	23.0	20.6	26.0
Net cash used in investing	(1.2)	(1.8)	2.7	0.9	(0.5)	(0.5)
Net cash flow before financing	9.7	8.5	15.4	23.9	20.1	25.5
Share issue costs	· ·	-	-	-	(6.8)	-
Special dividend paid	-	-	(1.0)	(1.0)	-	-
Ordinary dividends paid	(7.0)	(5.0)	(4.7)	(9.7)	(14.8)	(16.1)
Net issue/(purchase) of shares	(2.0)	(0.4)	(1.3)	(1.7)	-	-
Lease financing	(0.2)	(0.1)	(0.4)	(0.5)	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	0.5	3.0	8.0	11.0	(1.5)	7.8
Cash & equivalents at start of period	13.8	14.6	17.5	14.6	25.5	24.0
FX & other adjustments	0.3	(0.1)	-	(0.1)	-	-
Cash & equivalents at period end	14.6	17.5	25.5	25.5	24.0	31.8

Source: Company (historic); Zeus Capital (forecasts)

CLIG maintains a very healthy net cash position.

Exhibit 6: Group Balance Sheet, £m

	Mid-FY20 Dec 2019	FY20 June 2020	1H21 Dec 2020	FY21 June 2021	FY22E June 2022	FY23E June 2022
Non-current assets	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Intangibles	-	-	110.3	101.0	96.6	92.2
Available for sale assets	7.7	4.0	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.4
Right of use assets	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.8	2.8	2.8
Lease liabilities	(2.0)	(2.0)	(1.9)	(2.7)	(2.7)	(2.7)
Working capital	1.4	0.3	(1.3)	(1.3)	1.3	0.5
Cash & equivalents	12.5	14.6	17.5	25.5	24.0	31.8
Tax payable	(0.9)	(0.8)	(2.1)	(1.4)	(1.4)	(1.4)
Deferred tax liability	-	-	-	(8.7)	(7.6)	(6.5)
Net assets	21.8	19.1	122.2	120.4	118.2	121.9
Non-controlling interest	(3.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)	(0.2)
Shareholders' equity	18.6	18.9	122.0	120.1	118.0	121.7

Source: Company (historic); Zeus Capital (forecasts)



19 January 2022

DISCLAIMER

Robin Savage is the author of this Investment Research. Robin Savage is an Investment Research Analyst and has been employed by Zeus Capital to produce this research. There is no planned update to this research recommendation. The previous recommendation for City of London Investment Group was Positive and published 29/11/2021.

Zeus Capital Limited is contractually engaged and paid by to produce research on an ongoing basis and as such, this research constitutes a minor non-monetary benefit. This research is made available at the time that it is first published to all professional clients and eligible counterparties via numerous research aggregators.

Unless otherwise stated any share prices used in this document are taken after market close on the business day prior to the date of publication. The date of completion and first dissemination of this research recommendation are the same and are as per the date-time displayed at the top of the document, unless otherwise stated. If the document references views of analysts other than the author named above then please refer to the price chart or rating history table for the date/time of completion and first dissemination with respect to that view.

This document is issued by Zeus Capital Limited (Incorporated in England & Wales No. 4417845), which is authorised and regulated in the United Kingdom by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") for designated investment business, (Reg No. 224621) and is a member firm of the London Stock Exchange.

This document is for information purposes only and neither the information contained, nor the opinions expressed, within this document constitute or are to be construed as an offer or a solicitation of an offer to buy or sell the securities or other instruments mentioned in it. It or any part of it does not form the basis of and should not be relied upon in connection with any contract. Subject to the nature and contents of the document, the investments described herein are subject to fluctuations in price and/or value and investors may get back less than originally invested. Certain high-volatility investments can be subject to sudden and large falls in value that could equal the amount invested. Certain investments contained in the document may have tax implications for private customers whereby levels and basis of taxation may be subject to change. Zeus Capital Limited does not provide tax advice and investors should seek advice from a tax adviser.

Zeus Capital Limited uses reasonable efforts to obtain information from sources which it believes to be reliable but the contents of this document have been prepared without any substantive analysis being undertaken into the companies concerned or their securities and it has not been independently verified. No representation or warranty, either express or implied, is made nor responsibility of any kind is accepted by Zeus Capital Limited, its directors or employees either as to the accuracy or completeness of any information stated in this document.

Opinions expressed are the current opinions of Zeus Capital Limited as of the date appearing on this material only. The information and opinions are provided for the benefit of Zeus Capital Limited clients as at the date of this document and are subject to change without notice. Opinions and information disclosed in this publication may have been disclosed to the issuer prior to publication and subsequently amended. There is no regular update series for research issued by Zeus Capital Limited.

The document is not to be construed as a solicitation or recommendation of investment advice and no personal recommendation is being made to you; the securities referred to may not be suitable for you and should not be relied upon in substitution for the exercise of independent judgement. You should make your own investment decisions based upon your own financial objectives and financial resources. Neither past performance nor forecasts are a reliable indication of future performance and Investors may realise losses on any investments, including possible loss of the principal amount invested. Products are not insured by any government or government agencies and are neither guaranteed, insured, nor a deposit account or other obligation of any depository institution.

Zeus Capital Limited and any company or person connected with it (including its officers, directors and employees) may have a position or holding in any investment mentioned in this document or a related investment, and such positions or holdings may be inconsistent with this research recommendation, and may from time to time dispose of any such securities or instrument. In the last 12 months Zeus Capital Limited may have been a manager, or co-lead manager, in the underwriting or placement of securities to the issuers of securities mentioned in this document within the last 12 months, or may have had corporate finance mandates or may have received compensation for investment banking services from such companies. Zeus, Capital Limited may be, or may have been, party to an agreement with the issuer of the securities mentioned in this document relating to the production of this recommendation. Zeus Capital Limited may receive or may intend to seek compensation for investment banking services from such companies within the next 3 months. A senior executive or director of Zeus Capital Limited or a connected person may be an officer, director or adviser of any issuer of securities mentioned in this document. Accordingly, recipients of this document should not rely on this document being impartial and information may be known to Zeus Capital Limited or persons connected with it which is not reflected in its material.

Zeus Capital Limited had in place a number of mechanisms for identifying and managing potential conflicts which include:

Policies and procedures to identify, consider, manage and monitor potential conflicts of interests.

Internal guidance and training regarding the identification of possible conflicts before they arise.

Procedures to ensure that potential conflicts are escalated to the appropriate level within Zeus Capital Limited.

Internal arrangements (including physical separation and other information barriers) for regulating the flow of information between and within business areas.

Zeus Capital Limited shall not be liable for any direct or indirect damages, including lost profits arising in any way from the information contained in this material. This material is for the use of intended recipients only and only for distribution to professional and institutional investors, i.e. persons who are authorised persons or exempted persons within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 of the United Kingdom, or persons who have been categorised as professional customers or eligible counterparties under the rules of FCA. It is not intended for retail customers.

This document is being supplied to you solely for your information and may not be reproduced, re-distributed or passed to any other person or published in whole or in part for any purpose. This material is not directed at you if Zeus Capital Limited is prohibited or restricted by any legislation or regulation in any jurisdiction from making it available to you and persons into whose possession this material comes should inform themselves about, and observe any such restrictions.

Important Disclosures for United States Persons

Zeus Capital Limited may distribute research, in reliance on Rule 15a-6(a)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), directly to persons in the United States ("U.S.") that are "major US institutional investors" as defined pursuant to Rule 15a-6(b)(4) (each an "MII"). With respect to any distribution of this report to a U.S. person, the information contained in this report (i) is intended solely for use by MII, (ii) was prepared by the analyst named on the cover of this report, who is a non-U.S. research analyst and, as such, may not be subject to all requirements applicable to U.S.-based analysts, (iii) is not subject to all of the independence and disclosure standards applicable to research reports prepared for retail investors, and (iv) may not be used or relied upon by anyone that is not a MII for any purpose. Any U.S. person receiving this report represents and agrees, by virtue of its acceptance thereof, that it is a MII and that it understands the risks involved in executing transactions in such securities.

City of London Investment Group*

19 January 2022

Zeus Capital

Any MII that is the recipient of this research and wishes to discuss or receive additional information regarding any security or issuer mentioned herein, or engage in any transaction to purchase or sell or solicit or offer the purchase or sale of such securities, should contact a registered representative of Beech Hill Securities, Inc. (a U.S. broker-dealer registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and a Member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc.) via telephone at +1 (212) 350-7200 or at its offices at 880 Third Avenue, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10022. Any transaction by such persons (other than a registered U.S. broker-dealer or bank acting in a broker-dealer capacity) must be effected with or through Beech Hill Securities, Inc.

Neither the report nor any analyst who prepared or approved the report is subject to the full scope of U.S. legal or regulatory requirements pertaining to research reports or research analysts. Zeus Capital Limited is neither registered as a broker-dealer under the Exchange Act nor a member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. or any other U.S. self-regulatory organization.

To the extent this report relates to non-U.S. securities, note that investing in non-U.S. securities may entail particular risks. Such securities may not be registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the issuer of such securities may not be subject to U.S. reporting and/or other requirements. Financial statements included in a research report with respect to such securities, if any, may have been prepared in accordance with non-U.S. accounting standards that may not be comparable to the financial statements of U.S. companies. Available information regarding the issuers of such securities may be limited, and such issuers may not be subject to the same auditing and reporting standards as U.S. issuers. Fluctuations in the values of national currencies, as well as the potential for governmental restrictions on currency movements, can significantly erode principal and investment returns. Market rules, conventions and practices may differ from U.S. markets, adding to transaction costs or causing delays in the purchase or sale of such securities. Securities of some non-U.S. companies may not be as liquid as securities of comparable U.S. companies.

The information contained herein may include forward-looking statements within the meaning of U.S. federal securities laws that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Factors that could cause a company's actual results and financial condition to differ from expectations include, without limitation: political uncertainty, changes in general economic conditions that adversely affect the level of demand for the company's products or services, changes in foreign exchange markets, changes in international and domestic financial markets and in the competitive environment, and other factors relating to the foregoing. All forward-looking statements contained in this report are qualified in their entirety by this cautionary statement.

Neither Beech Hill Securities, Inc. nor any affiliate thereof accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct or consequential loss of any kind arising out of the use or reliance on the information given. Research does not take into account the specific investment objectives and financial situation of any recipient, nor does it provide individually tailored investment advice or offer tax, regulatory, accounting or legal advice. Prior to entering into any proposed transaction, recipients should determine, in consultation with their own investment, legal, tax, regulatory and accounting advisors, the economic risks and merits, as well as the legal, tax, regulatory and accounting characteristics and consequences, of any transaction. Investors seeking to buy or sell any financial instruments discussed or recommended in any research report should seek independent financial advice relating thereto. The products discussed in this report are not FDIC insured, may lose value and are not guaranteed by any Beech Hill Securities, Inc. or Zeus Capital Limited party.

Analyst Certification

Each of the analysts identified in this report certifies, with respect to the companies or securities that the individual analyses, that (1) the views expressed in this report reflect his or her personal views about all of the subject companies and securities and (2) no part of his or her compensation was, is or will be directly or indirectly dependent on the specific recommendations or views expressed in this report.

Additional Disclosures

This material was produced by Zeus Capital Limited solely for information purposes and for the use of the recipient. It is not to be reproduced under any circumstances and is not to be copied or made available to any person other than the recipient.

This document does not constitute an offer of, or an invitation by or on behalf of Zeus Capital Limited or its affiliates or any other company to any person, to buy or sell any security. The information contained herein has been obtained from published information and other sources, which Zeus Capital Limited or its Affiliates consider to be reliable. Zeus Capital Limited does not accept any liability or responsibility whatsoever for the accuracy or completeness of any such information. All estimates, expressions of opinion and other subjective judgments contained herein are made as of the date of this document. By accepting this document you agree that you have read the above disclaimers, acknowledge them and agree to be bound by all of the foregoing limitations, restrictions and provisions.

- 1. Zeus Capital Limited or its Affiliates have not recently been the beneficial owners of 1% or more of the securities mentioned in this report.
- 2. Zeus Capital Limited or its Affiliates have not managed or co-managed a public offering of the securities mentioned in the report in the past 12 months.
- Zeus Capital Limited or its Affiliates have received compensation for investment banking services from the issuer of these securities in the past 12 months.
- 4. However, one or more person of Zeus Capital Limited, or its affiliates may, from time to time, have a long or short position in any of the securities mentioned herein and may buy or sell those securities or options thereon either on their own account or on behalf of their clients.
- 5. As of the publication of this report Zeus Capital Limited, does not make a market in the subject securities.
- 6. Zeus Capital Limited, or its Affiliates may, to the extent permitted by law, act upon or use the above material or the conclusions stated above or the research or analysis on which they are based before the material is published to recipients and from time to time provide investment banking, investment management or other services for or solicit to seek to obtain investment banking, or other securities business from, any entity referred to in this report.



Zeus London Office 10 Old Burlington Street London W1S 3AG Tel: +44 20 3829 5000 Zeus Manchester Office 82 King Street Manchester M2 4WQ Tel: +44 161 831 1512 Zeus Birmingham Office 3 Brindleyplace Birmingham B1 2JB Tel: +44 121 231 7210 Zeus Edinburgh Office 58 North Castle Street Edinburgh EH2 3LU Tel: +44 131 370 3704