### Manager's Annual Report

# F&C UK Alpha Fund



### **Review Period:**

For the 12 months ended 30 April 2013 www.fandc.com



Fund Manager: Peter Lees

### **UK Alpha Fund**

The Fund aims to achieve medium to long term growth of capital through investment mainly in UK equities. Some companies may have overseas earnings as part of their trading profits.

The Fund invests mainly in a broad spread of UK equities. Although a large proportion will usually be invested in leading stocks there will often be included some investments in medium and smaller stocks.

### **Fund Facts**

| Lead Fund Manager       | Peter Lees                     |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Deputy Fund Manager     | Phil Doel                      |
| Sector                  | UK All Companies               |
| Benchmark               | FTSE All-Share Index           |
| Launch date             | 24 April 1970                  |
| Fund size at 30 April   | 12 £232.45m                    |
| at 30 April             | 13 £202.46m                    |
| Minimum<br>Investments  | £1,000 lump sum, £50 per month |
|                         | 0.50% (1 Acc), 1.20% (2 Acc),  |
| Historic Yield          | 0.90% (3 Acc), 2.00% (4 Acc)   |
| Share type              | Accumulation                   |
| Number of stocks        | 58                             |
| Initial charge          | 5.00%                          |
| Annual charge           | 1.50%                          |
| Ongoing                 | 1.71% (1 Acc), 0.86% (2 Acc),  |
| charges                 | 1.65% (3 Acc), 0.05% (4 Acc)   |
| Account dates (interim) | 31 October                     |
| (annual)                | 30 April                       |
| Distribution date       | 30 June                        |
|                         |                                |

### **Market review**

UK shares made a solid gain over the twelve months under review despite the fact that the economy was constantly either in or on the brink of recession. In an effort to support economic activity, the Bank of England announced further tranches of stimulus funds through its quantitative easing programme and kept interest rates anchored at 0.5%. However, this failed to filter down to the hard-pressed consumer as lending remained tight. A recovery of the service sector and a return to economic growth in the first quarter gave some cause for optimism as the period drew to a close. Shares rallied as investors became more confident that central banks would continue to keep monetary policy loose.

### **Fund strategy**

Early in the period we started a number of new holdings, including Genus which is a play on protein development and the company is rapidly building a business in China. We also bought the engineering company Weir, which we believe to be a great way to gain exposure to fracking. There were two major switches in the first half of the period. The first was out of Rio Tinto and into BHP Billiton. The aim was to dilute iron ore exposure and thus gain greater diversity in the mining sector. However, towards the end of the twelve months we reduced BHP, amongst others, to lessen the Fund's exposure to cyclical stocks. The second switch was to sell Royal Bank of Scotland and buy Barclays. In the latter half of the period we added CRH which is a play on the recovering US housing market and Inchcape after an excellent management meeting. Existing positions in Dechra Pharmaceuticals and Prudential were topped up. We took profits in ARM Holdings after a run of strong performance, sold Kingfisher as we became nervous about future prospects and Carnival as we feared the brand was beginning to suffer. Two months drove the underperformance for the period; June 2012 and April 2013, with the oil & gas producers and mining sectors detracting the most. Within the resources sector it was the small and mid-cap companies which experienced a total crisis of liquidity. We reduced the Fund's weight to mining during the period but we did not believe the magnitude of falls would happen as guickly as they did. The final month of the period saw short-term investor sentiment drive down the share price of stocks where our long-term thesis remains very much intact.

### Market outlook

Global economic growth expectations for 2013 have held up in recent months, despite the negative impact of budget cuts and tax hikes in the US. The recent crisis in Cyprus, however, reminds us that the eurozone remains fragile and this along with ongoing austerity measures continues to dampen UK economic growth prospects. Companies remain cautious despite increased market optimism created by central banks' provision of liquidity. Whilst equities now look less cheaply valued in isolation, they remain attractively priced relative to other asset classes, although after the performance of the last nine months a period of consolidation is likely. We are encouraged by the apparent reopening of the UK new issue market in recent months. This is a sign of broader investor confidence in UK equities.

# Summary Fund Performance

| Year | Share Class    | Highest Share Price (£) | Lowest Share Price (£) | Distribution<br>per Share (pence) |
|------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2013 | 1 Accumulation | 27.84                   | 25.13                  | 16.8102                           |
| 2013 | 2 Accumulation | 30.61                   | 27.59                  | 41.2564                           |
| 2013 | 3 Accumulation | 32.28                   | 29.08                  | 40.0335                           |
| 2013 | 4 Accumulation | 33.19                   | 29.87                  | 68.2545                           |

# Net Asset Value Record

| Share Class | Share Type   | Net Asset Value as at<br>30 April 2012 (£) | Net Asset Value as at<br>30 April 2013 (£) |
|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| 1           | Accumulation | 25.23                                      | 26.14                                      |
| 2           | Accumulation | 27.55                                      | 28.78                                      |
| 3           | Accumulation | 29.02                                      | 30.28                                      |
| 4           | Accumulation | 29.66                                      | 31.23                                      |

# Distributions for the period

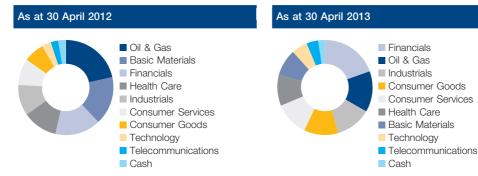
| Share Class<br>(Income/Accumulation) | Distribution paid / payable | Distribution period | Distribution Date |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Accumulation                       | 16.8102                     | Final               | 30/06/2013        |
| 2 Accumulation                       | 41.2564                     | Final               | 30/06/2013        |
| 3 Accumulation                       | 40.0335                     | Final               | 30/06/2013        |
| 4 Accumulation                       | 68.2545                     | Final               | 30/06/2013        |

# **Top Ten Holdings**

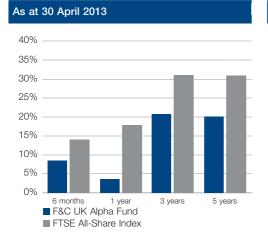
| As at 30 April 2012 | %     |
|---------------------|-------|
| BG                  | 6.30  |
| GlaxoSmithKline     | 6.03  |
| Shire               | 5.01  |
| Rio Tinto           | 4.84  |
| Tullow Oil          | 4.48  |
| Standard Chartered  | 3.87  |
| Xstrata             | 3.37  |
| Prudential          | 3.35  |
| Melrose             | 3.30  |
| Diageo              | 3.17  |
| Total               | 43.72 |

| As at 30 April 2013   | %     |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Standard Chartered    | 4.63  |
| Prudential            | 4.48  |
| Shire                 | 4.04  |
| Inmarsat              | 4.02  |
| Diageo                | 3.98  |
| Barclays              | 3.95  |
| WPP                   | 3.77  |
| Compass               | 3.04  |
| Babcock International | 2.84  |
| BHP Billiton          | 2.79  |
| Total                 | 37.54 |

### Portfolio Breakdown



### **Fund Performance**



# As at 30 April 2013 40% 30% 20% 10% 0% -10% -20% -30% -40% % Growth Cum TR ExD GBP from 30/04/2008 to 30/04/2013 — F&C UK Alpha Fund — FTSE All-Share Index

### Standardised Performance

| 30 April 2008 to | 30 April 2009 to | 30 April 2010 to | 30 April 2011 to | 30 April 2012 to |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 30 April 2009    | 30 April 2010    | 30 April 2011    | 30 April 2012    | 30 April 2013    |
| -26.06%          | 34.37%           | 22.62%           | -4.78%           | 3.60%            |

Past Performance is not a guide to future performance.

Source: Lipper, percentage growth total return (UK net tax), mid to mid, with no initial charges. Share Class 1 accumulation shares. For past performance data for the full range of F&C Funds visit www.fandc.com

# **Risk Profile**

Smaller companies risk: smaller companies carry a higher degree of risk and their value can be more sensitive to market movement.

**Derivative Risk:** derivative values rise and fall at a greater rate than equities and debt instruments. Losses can be greater than the initial investment.

## **Report and Accounts**

Copies of the annual and half yearly Reports and Accounts for the F&C Investment Funds ICVC, which include this Fund are available free of charge on request to the ACD or can be downloaded from our website **www.fandc.com**.

### **Other information**

The information in this report is designed to enable shareholders to make an informed judgement on the activities of the Fund during the period it covers and the results of those activities at the end of the period. For more information about the activities and performance of the Fund during this and previous periods, please contact the Authorised Corporate Director.

### Authorised Corporate Director

F&C Fund Management Limited, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2NY Telephone: 0800 0852 752 Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **Investment Adviser**

F&C Managers Limited, Exchange House, Primrose Street, London EC2A 2NY

### Depositary

State Street Trustees Limited, 20 Churchill Place, London E14 5HJ

#### Administrator and Registrar

International Financial Data Services (UK) Limited, IFDS House, St Nicholas Lane, Basildon, Essex, SS15 5FS

#### **Independent Auditor**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, Erskine House, 68-73 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 4NH

### Fund Accounting and Unit Pricing

State Street Bank and Trust Company, 525 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2AW

#### Legal Advisers

Eversheds LLP, One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS

The F&C UK Alpha Fund is a sub-fund of the F&C Investment Funds ICVC (IC36). Applications may only be made on the basis of the current Prospectus. Calls may be recorded. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The Authorised Corporate Director (ACD) of the ICVC is F&C Fund Management Limited, a subsidiary of F&C Asset Management plc, Authorised (no 121940) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Registered Office; Exchange House, London EC2A 2NY. Registered in England No. 2170242. A registered company, limited by shares. A copy of the Key Investor Information Document is available from www.fandc.com.



UK Alpha 08/13