Real Estate - Residential



Higher rent growth supports profitability

- High profitability: Having updated our estimates for Grand City Properties (GCP) to incorporate last year's better-than-expected profitability, we increase our price target to €12.50 from €11.50. Although the company's portfolio size decreased last year to c63,300 units following the sale of about 1,000 apartments in several transactions, GCP's adjusted EBITDA margin remained stable at 77.7%. As we assume this year's lfl rental growth to reach at least a similar level as in 2023, at 3.3%, and with the vacancy rate reaching an all-time low in December at 3.8%, we would expect GCP's profitability to improve even slightly further. The company's bottom line is also set to benefit from GCP's still low average in-place cost of debt of 1.9%, with the only larger debt expiries upcoming in 2026 and 2027. The hedge ratio currently stands at 78%.
- Priorities unchanged: On our recent corporate roadshow to Paris, GCP's management stressed that it is remaining focused on maintaining high liquidity for the time being to be prepared for the debt expiries from 2026 onwards. As of year-end 2023, the company reported a liquidity position of €1.2bn, up from about €0.5bn one year ago. Hence, GCP intends to take up additional secured debt after having raised about €0.6bn in the last year. We think that GCP's approach is reasonable and achievable, especially as its portfolio appears to be even more suitable as collateral given the increased occupancy levels and as demand for affordable rental apartments remains high. Operationally, GCP confirmed the guidance for this year's funds from operations (FFO I) as the adjusted net profit of €175m-185m. Our forecast of €178m is closer to the lower end of this guidance.
- Trading at a discount: Although GCP's share price has been outperforming its sector peers, with it up by 2% since the beginning of the year, it is still trading at an earnings yield of around 10% and at an above-average discount to the adjusted net asset value per share of around 50%. Also, our price target implies a discount of 42% to the expected net asset value per share for this year. We welcome that GCP recently successfully completed a tender offer of two outstanding perpetual hybrid bonds and intends to issue a new €440m perpetual hybrid bond. Still, we would assume that the capital markets would in general prefer the company to reduce the exposure to perpetual hybrid bonds, which for the time being is unlikely to happen soon. Still, as current valuations still imply a too high scepticism about the company's balance sheet ratios and underappreciate the earnings resilience, we reiterate our Buy rating for the time being.

Y/E 31/12, EURm	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net rents	396	411	397	399	404
EBIT (inc revaluation)	367	-630	-246	322	480
EBIT (excl revaluation)	252	251	284	281	280
Net profit (IFRS, reported)	108	-562	-278	173	296
Funds From Operations (FFO I)	192	184	178	169	158
EPS (IFRS, reported)	0.64	-3.26	-1.61	1.00	1.72
FFO per share	1.14	1.07	1.03	0.98	0.92
DPS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Adjusted NAV per share	26.97	23.25	21.41	22.41	24.07
EV/adjusted EBITDA	20.8	19.1	16.8	16.3	15.1
FFO yield	12.4%	10.5%	9.9%	9.4%	8.8%
P/FFO	8.1	9.5	10.1	10.7	11.3
Dividend yield	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
P/adjusted NAV per share	-66%	-56%	-51%	-53%	-57%
Net gearing	64%	62%	64%	58%	49%
Loan-to-value (LTV)	44%	43%	47%	45%	42%
Implied rental yield	7.6%	8.6%	8.3%	8.7%	9.5%
Source: Company data. Berenberg					

11 April 2024



Current price EUR10.38

Price target EUR12.50

11/04/2024 XETRA Close

Market cap (EURm) 1,838
Reuters GYC.DE
Bloomberg GYC GY

Changes made in this note

Rating: Buy (no change) Price target: EUR12.50 (11.50)

Estimates changes

	2024E		202	5E	2026E		
	old	Δ %	old	Δ %	old	Δ %	
Rents	390	1.8	392	1.9	397	1.8	
EBIT	255	11.2	250	12.2	248	13.0	
FFO/s hare	0.93	10.8	0.89	9.6	0.87	5.1	

Source: Berenberg estimates

Share data

Shares outstanding (m) 176 Enterprise value (EURm) 4,761 Daily trading volume 200,000



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Current price Price target EUR10.38 EUR12.50

11/04/2024 XETRA Close

Non-institutional shareholders

Aroundtown via Edolaxia Group: 61% Treasury shares: 2%

Business description

Grand City Properties (GCP) focuses on German residential property, with a portfolio of c63,000 apartments, mainly in North Rhine-Westphalia, Berlin and Saxony.

Reuters	GYC.DE
Bloomberg	GYC GY

 Market cap (EURm)
 1,838

 EV (EURm)
 4,761

 Trading volume
 200,000

 Free float
 37.0%

Share performance

High 52 weeks	EUR10.60
Low 52 weeks	EUR6.82

Performance relative to

SXXP	MUAX
9.2%	6.8%
4.3%	8.3%
43.3%	56.9%
	9.2%

Investment thesis

- GCP has a track record of improving its portfolio quality by increasing occupancy levels and rents.
- GCP's apartments are in high demand from tenants due to affordable rental levels, good locations and an overall shortage of affordable residential properties in Germany.
- The company has widened its regional diversification by sourcing selected newly built rental properties in London.
- GCP has always sought to maintain reasonably low financial leverage.
- Our valuation is based on return on net asset value, a discounted cash flow model and a dividend discount model.

Profit and loss summary

EURm	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net rental income	273	286	298	299	301
Total revenues	399	403	409	409	410
Revaluation result	115	-881	-530	41	200
Total operating expense	24	26	27	27	28
EBITDA (IFRS)	367	-630	-246	322	480
Adjusted EBITDA	252	251	284	281	280
Financial result	-184	-143	-68	-78	-82
EBT (IFRS)	183	-773	-314	244	397
Net profit (IFRS)	108	-562	-278	173	296
Funds from operations	192	184	178	169	158
FFO/share	1.14	1.07	1.03	0.98	0.92
Year-end shares	176	176	176	176	176
DPS	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Cash flow summary

EURm	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
FFO	192	184	178	169	158
CF operating activities	253	222	251	245	236
Payments (acquisitions)	268	117	0	0	0
Income (asset disposals)	101	265	249	192	131
Change in debt position	-488	479	-239	-133	89
Dividend paid	81	25	40	40	48
Capital measures	0	0	0	0	0

Growth and margins

	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Rental growth	3.2%	4.7%	4.2%	0.1%	0.9%
Adj. EBITDA growth	-18.9%	-0.1%	13.0%	-1.1%	-0.4%
FFO growth	3.2%	-4.3%	-3.2%	-5.3%	-6.0%
Adj. EBITDA margin	63.5%	61.1%	71.6%	70.4%	69.3%
FFO margin	70.3%	64.3%	59.7%	56.5%	52.6%

Key ratios

	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net debt	3,610	3,014	2,923	2,733	2,398
Net debt/equity	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5
LTV	44%	43%	47%	45%	42%
Net gearing	64%	62%	64%	58%	49%
Interest cover	6.3	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.9
Dividend cover	-	-	-	-	-
Payout ratio	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Valuation metrics

2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
8.1	9.5	10.1	10.7	11.3
-66%	-56%	-51%	-53%	-57%
12.4%	10.5%	9.9%	9.4%	8.8%
0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
20.8	19.1	16.8	16.3	15.1
	8.1 -66% 12.4% 0.0%	8.1 9.5 -66% -56% 12.4% 10.5% 0.0% 0.0%	8.1 9.5 10.1 -66% -56% -51% 12.4% 10.5% 9.9% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%	8.1 9.5 10.1 10.7 -66% -56% -51% -53% 12.4% 10.5% 9.9% 9.4% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0% 0.0%

Key risks to our investment thesis

- There is still some uncertainty about how much property values could fall in response to higher interest rate levels.
- Historically, the share prices of real estate securities have shown a
 weak performance when interest rates have started to rise. S&P and
 Moody's have lowered the outlook on the credit rating from stable to
 negative.

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ESG tearsheet

Net-zero ambition								
Medium-term targets	Target reduction	Baseline year	Target year	Required rate of reduction pa		f reduction Historica reduct		Progress
Scope 1 & 2	-40%	2018	2030	-4.2%		-22.0%		Ontrack
	No target set	n/a	n/a	n/a		n	/a	n/a
Long-term targets	Net-zero		n-neutral nly	Emissions scope	Target year	Net-zero roadmap	SBTi near- term	SBTi net-zero
	×		✓	Scope 1 and 2	2050	×	n/a	n/a

Key environmental and social KPIs								
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Change versus first available year		
33.3	73.8	83.1	28.4	61.7	50.9	+53.1%		
434.0	395.8	438.7	451.9	557.0	548.0	26.3%		
53.1%	52.0%	50.8%	51.0%	52.0%	52.0%	-1.1 ppt		
40.0%	39.0%	41.0%	34.0%	40.0%	40.0%	Oppt		
131.5	135.7	139.0	134.9	144.6	130.3	-0.9%		
30.0	29.0	25.2	25.4	36.1	40.4	+34.6%		
1971490	2276599	2255370	n/a	1499871	1480683	-24.9%		
1.2	1.3	1.2	n/a	1.8	1.8	+45.5%		
	33.3 434.0 53.1% 40.0% 131.5 30.0 1971490	2017 2018 33.3 73.8 434.0 395.8 53.1% 52.0% 40.0% 39.0% 131.5 135.7 30.0 29.0 1971490 2276599	2017 2018 2019 33.3 73.8 83.1 434.0 395.8 438.7 53.1% 52.0% 50.8% 40.0% 39.0% 41.0% 131.5 135.7 139.0 30.0 29.0 25.2 1971490 2276599 2255370	2017 2018 2019 2020 33.3 73.8 83.1 28.4 434.0 395.8 438.7 451.9 53.1% 52.0% 50.8% 51.0% 40.0% 39.0% 41.0% 34.0% 131.5 135.7 139.0 134.9 30.0 29.0 25.2 25.4 1971490 2276599 2255370 n/a	2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 33.3 73.8 83.1 28.4 61.7 434.0 395.8 438.7 451.9 557.0 53.1% 52.0% 50.8% 51.0% 52.0% 40.0% 39.0% 41.0% 34.0% 40.0% 131.5 135.7 139.0 134.9 144.6 30.0 29.0 25.2 25.4 36.1 1971490 2276599 2255370 n/a 1499871	2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 33.3 73.8 83.1 28.4 61.7 50.9 434.0 395.8 438.7 451.9 557.0 548.0 53.1% 52.0% 50.8% 51.0% 52.0% 52.0% 40.0% 39.0% 41.0% 34.0% 40.0% 40.0% 131.5 135.7 139.0 134.9 144.6 130.3 30.0 29.0 25.2 25.4 36.1 40.4 1971490 2276599 2255370 n/a 1499871 1480683		

Governance						
Metric	Current	Does [Company Name] have?	√/x			
Board structure	2 independent directors (of 3)	At least six board members, more than half of whom are independent	×			
Male/female board representation	67%/33%	At least 40% female board representation	×			
Senior board positions held by women	None	At least one senior board position held by a woman	×			
Average board tenure	7.3	Average board tenure of 2-7 years	×			
Separate chairperson/CEO	Yes	Separate CEO and chairperson	✓			
Shareholder structure	Largest 60%, treasury 2%, Other 38%	Largest shareholder <50% voting rights	×			
CEO-to-worker pay ratio	n/a	CEO-to-worker pay ratio <100	✓			
Board committees	No	Board sustainability committee	×			
Management shareholdings	None	CEO shareholding >0.5%	×			
Management remuneration linked to ESG?	No	Management remuneration linked to disclosed ESG KPIs	×			

^{*(}increase or decrease in % revenue exposure over next 4 years) For more info please visit https://research.berenberg.com/esg/sdg

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Financials

Profit and loss account

Year-end December(EUR m)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Net rents	396	411	397	399	404
Direct property expenses	123	125	98	100	103
Net operating income	273	286	298	299	301
Earnings from property disposals	3	-9	12	10	7
Earnings from project developments	0	0	0	0	0
Earnings from other property activities	0	0	0	0	0
Other operating income	0	0	0	0	0
Total revenues	399	403	409	409	410
Revaluation result from investment properties (net)	115	-881	-530	41	200
Total income	514	-479	-121	450	610
Administrative expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Personnel expenses	24	26	27	27	28
Other operating expenses	0	0	0	0	0
Total operating expenses	24	26	27	27	28
EBITDA	367	-630	-246	322	480
EBITDA excl revaluation result (net)	252	251	284	281	280
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of goodwill	0	0	0	0	0
Amortisation of intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Impairment charges	0	0	0	0	0
EBIT (incl revaluation result net)	367	-630	-246	322	480
EBIT excl revaluation result	252	251	284	281	280
Interest income	0	0	0	0	0
Interest expenses	47	57	68	78	82
Depreciation of financial investment	137	86	0	0	0
Investment income	0	0	0	0	0
Financial result	-184	-143	-68	-78	-82
Earnings before taxes (incl revaluation result)	183	-773	-314	244	397
Total taxes	50	-86	-11	47	63
Net income from continuing operations (incl revaluation result)	133	-687	-303	198	334
Income from discontinued operations (net of tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Extraordinary items (net of tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Cumulative effect of accounting changes (net of tax)	0	0	0	0	0
Net income (incl revaluation result net)	133	-687	-303	198	334
Minority interest	25	-124	-25	25	38
Net income (net of minority interest, incl revaluation result)	108	-562	-278	173	296
Funds from operations (FFO)	192	184	178	169	158

Source: Company data, Berenberg estimates

Real Estate - Residential



Balance sheet

Year-end December (EUR m)	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Intangible assets	0	0	0	0	0
Investment properties	9,530	8,677	7,849	7,699	7,518
Development assets	0	0	0	0	0
Property, plant and equipment	77	16	16	16	16
Financial assets	316	298	298	298	298
Other non-current assets	21	21	0	0	0
Deferred tax assets	54	66	59	58	56
FIXED ASSETS	9,997	9,078	8,223	8,071	7,889
Properties held for sale	344	196	196	196	196
Inventories	102	101	101	101	101
Accounts receivable	363	414	489	566	646
Accounts receivable and other assets	363	414	489	566	646
Liquid assets	325	1,129	1,288	1,478	1,812
CURRENT ASSETS	1,134	1,841	2,073	2,341	2,755
TOTAL ASSETS	11,131	10,918	10,296	10,412	10,644
Subscribed capital	18	18	18	18	18
Surplus capital	0	0	0	0	0
Additional paid-in capital	175	177	177	177	177
SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	4,021	3,478	3,209	3,392	3,690
MINORITY INTEREST	1,893	1,752	1,717	1,683	1,649
PROVISIONS AND ACCRUED LIABILITIES	152	200	200	200	200
short-term liabilities to banks	5	10	0	0	0
Bonds (long-term)	3,612	3,271	3,365	3,382	3,399
long-term liabilities to banks	319	863	845	828	812
other interest-bearing liabilities	0	0	0	0	0
Interest-bearing liabilities	3,935	4,143	4,211	4,211	4,211
Accounts payable	225	254	229	206	185
Current liabilities	341	683	370	349	330
Deferred income	0	0	0	0	0
Deferred taxes	789	662	589	577	564
LIABILITIES	5,065	5,488	5,170	5,137	5,105
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY	11,131	10,918	10,296	10,412	10,644

Source: Company data, Berenberg estimates

Cash flow statement

EUR m	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Cash flow from operating activities	253	222	251	245	236
Cash flow from investing activities	-215	104	210	153	93
Cash flow from financing activities	-569	454	-279	-173	42
Cash flow from operating activities	253	222	251	245	236
Increase/decrease in liquid assets	-531	781	182	226	372

Source: Company data, Berenberg estimates

Ratios

Ratios	2022	2023	2024E	2025E	2026E
Security					
Net debt	3610	3014	2923	2733	2398
Debt / equity	98%	119%	131%	124%	114%
Net gearing	64%	62%	64%	58%	49%
Interest cover	6.3	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.9
EBITDA / interest paid	6.3	5.4	4.7	4.1	3.9
Dividend payout ratio	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dividend cover	-	-	-	-	-
Loan-to-value (LTV)	44%	43%	47%	45%	42%
Return on net asset value	4.8%	5.3%	5.5%	5.0%	4.3%

Source: Company data, Berenberg estimates

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Disclosures in respect of Article 20 of Regulation (EU) No. 596/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on market abuse and the UK Market Abuse Regulation (market abuse regulation – MAR)

Company	Disclosures
Grand City Properties SA	2

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Production of the recommendation completed: 11.04.2024, 17:01 GMT

Historical price target and rating changes for Grand City Properties SA in the last 12 months

Date	Price target - EUR	Rating	First dissemination GMT	Initiation of coverage
07 July 23	9.00	<u>Buy</u>	<u>2023-07-07 05:38</u>	07 November 13
<u>11 January 24</u>	<u>11.50</u>	<u>Buy</u>	<u>2024-01-11 06:35</u>	
11 April 24	<u>12.50</u>	<u>Buy</u>		

<u>Click here</u> for a list of all recommendations on any financial instrument or issuer that were disseminated during the preceding 12-month period.

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Buy	68.83	%	16.82	%
Sell	1.02	%	0.00	%
Hold	30.15	%	2.11	%

Valuation basis/rating key

The recommendations for companies analysed by Berenberg's Equity Research department are made on an absolute basis for which the following three-step rating key is applicable:

Buy: Sustainable upside potential of more than 15% to the current share price within 12 months;

Sell: Sustainable downside potential of more than 15% to the current share price within 12 months;

Hold: Upside/downside potential regarding the current share price limited; no immediate catalyst visible.

NB: During periods of high market, sector, or stock volatility, or in special situations, the recommendation system criteria may be breached temporarily.

Competent supervisory authority

Financial Conduct Authority, 12 Endeavour Square, London E20 1JN, United Kingdom; Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin) - Federal Financial Supervisory Authority, Graurheindorfer Straße 108, 53117 Bonn and Marie-Curie-Str. 24-28, 60439 Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

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Only that part of the research note is made available to the issuer (who is the subject of this analysis) which is necessary to properly reconcile with the facts. Should this result in considerable changes a reference is made in the research note.

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The following internet link provides further remarks on our financial analyses:

https://www.berenberg.de/uploads/web/Investment-Bank/Research/Hinweise_zu_Finanzanalysen_ENG.pdf

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Company	Disclosures
Grand City Properties SA	no disclosures

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