

Company registration number 07484717 (England and Wales)

**THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

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THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Members: | A Shaw R Russel-Fisher* G Brady |
| Trustees: | M Thompson (Chair of trustees) T Gartside *# (Accounting officer) D Battman A Shaw# J Bottomley R Green* S Forster* M Hyman M Boulton J Kinney |

* Members of finance committee

Subscribers to the memorandum of association

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Senior leadership team: | Altrincham Grammar School for Boys: |
| Executive head | T Gartside |
| Principal | G Wright |
| Deputy head | E Hall |
| Assistant head | M Soulsby |
| Assistant head | S Weil |
| Assistant head | T Murray |
| Assistant head | E Thomas |
| Assistant head | A Cathcart |
| CFOO (Trust) | J Jackson |
| Finance & Planning Manager | J Lacon |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | North Cestrian School: |
| Executive head | T Gartside |
| Principal | L Bergin |
| Deputy head | M Bell |
| Academic director | S Askey |
| Pastoral director | A Brown |
| Head of SEN | H Holmes (until 31/12/22) |
| Head of SEN | Ashley Stuart (from 17/04/23) |
| CFOO (Trust) | J Jackson |
| Finance & Planning Manager | J Lacon |

Registered office & academy site The Hamblin Education Trust, Marlborough Road, Bowdon, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 2RS

Company registration number 07484717

Auditors DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited, Bridge House, 157A Ashley Road, Hale, Altrincham, WA14 2UT

Bankers Lloyds Bank Plc, King Street, Manchester

Solicitors Eversheds, 70 Great Bridgewater St, Manchester, M1 5ES

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the multi-academy trust for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The trust operates across two schools (Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and North Cestrian School), for pupils aged 11 to 18 serving a catchment area identified by post code or road. In 2022/2023 the academies had:

| | Pupil capacity as at 31 Aug 2023 | Pupils on roll as at 31 Aug 2023 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Altrincham Grammar School for Boys | 1,420 | 1,353 |
| North Cestrian School | 750 | 761 |

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy.

The trustees of The Hamblin Education Trust are also directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law. The charitable company operates as The Hamblin Education Trust.

Details of the trustees who served throughout the year except as noted are included in the reference and administrative details on page 1.

The structure of governance comprises a board of trustees and two local governing bodies for Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and North Cestrian School.

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Two trustees are nominated by the governing bodies of Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and North Cestrian School for consideration by members. Others are drawn from the local community based on the skills and experience they can contribute to the trust board.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

On appointment all trustees receive an induction pack containing minutes of recent meetings, details of trust finances, the current development plans of the schools and other information relevant to the time of appointment.

Next they meet with the executive head and chair of the trust, discuss strategic issues and how they view their role. They receive a tour of the schools seeing key issues and possibilities.

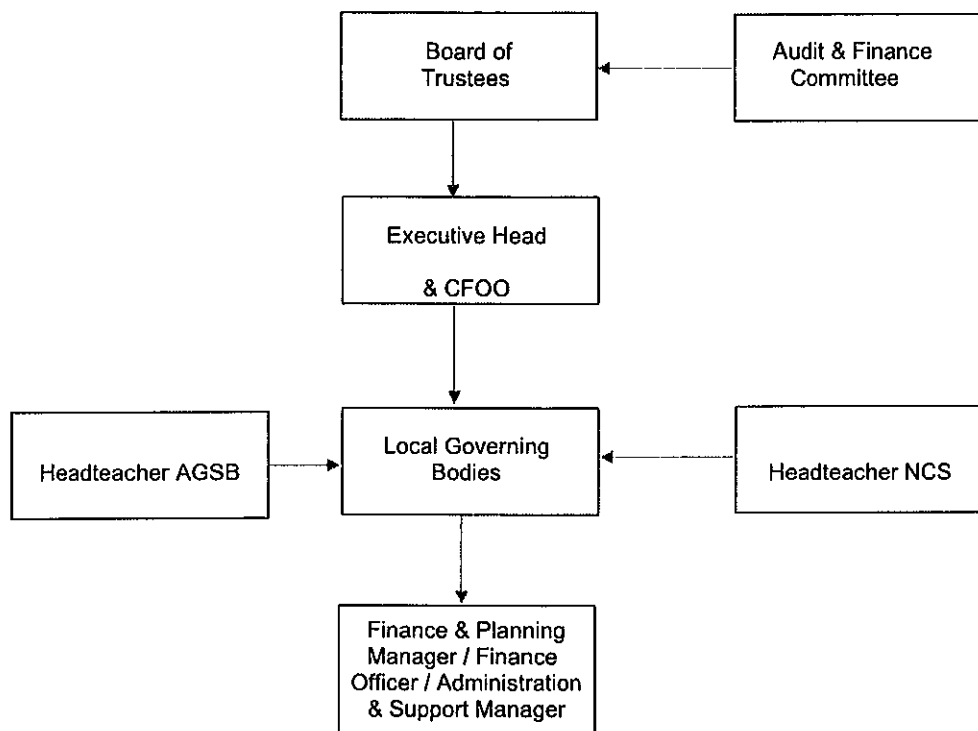
The trust has a service level agreement with Trafford local authority for trustees' training and for training governors of the local governing bodies. All trustees (but especially new trustees) are encouraged to attend training courses relevant to their needs.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Organisational structure



Decision making process

Decisions made are ratified by the full trustees if required by the scheme of delegation, and communicated via the executive head, CFOO (chief financial operating officer) and senior management team of the schools.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

The arrangements for setting the pay of the senior management team are in line with the School Teachers' Pay and Condition Document. Senior leaders are paid on the Leadership Group Range as per the calculation set out in the STPCD in relation to school size. The Pay Review Committee which meets annually has approved the group ranges and pay decisions.

Pay and remuneration of all personnel within the school is based upon the performance management process. Pay increases are based upon a successful performance management review.

Senior leaders within the school have performance management targets based upon pupil progress targets and leadership and management targets.

All senior leaders, other than the headteacher, are performance managed by the headteacher. The head makes recommendations to the Pay Review Committee of the local governing body to whom decisions on remuneration at this level have been delegated by the trustees.

The headteachers' performance management is carried out by school governors and the executive head.

The headteachers' performance management is reviewed by trustees and the executive headteacher who then makes a recommendation on pay to the trustees' Pay Review Committee. The decision on the headteacher's pay is then taken by the Pay Review Committee.

Although the trust is not obliged to follow the School Teachers' Pay and Condition Document, the trustees do use the structures and recommendations within this document to inform pay decisions for all the senior leaders at the school.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the academy is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, provision of facilities and other operational areas of the academy. The trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess risks that the academy faces, especially in the operational areas (e.g. in relation to teaching, health and safety, bullying and school trips) and in relation to the control of finance. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of school grounds and internal financial controls (see below) in order to minimise risk. Where significant financial risk still remains they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover. The academy has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the governance statement.

Trade Union facility time

Relevant union officials:

| Number of Employees who were relevant Union Officials during the period | FTE |
|---|-----|
| 2 | 2 |

% time spent on facility time:

| % of Time | Number of Employees |
|-----------|---------------------|
| 0% | |
| 1% - 50% | 2 |
| 51% - 99% | |
| 100% | |

% of total pay paid on facility time

| | |
|---|------------|
| Total Cost of Facility Time | £2,202 |
| Total Payroll | £5,628,146 |
| % of Total Payroll spent on Facility Time | 0.04% |

Paid Trade Union activities

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Time spent on paid Trade Union activities as a % of Total paid facility time hours | 0 (None Paid) |
|--|---------------|

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

| Related/connected party | Disclosure |
|--|--|
| <u>Trafford Community Leisure Trust & Altrincham Grammar School for boys</u> | <p>Trafford Community Leisure Trust holds the contract for the management of "The Grammar" sports facility out of school hours. The partnership was established in 2008 and in 2013 was reviewed by trustees and extended for a further five years. On 30 September 2015 the contract transferred to Trafford Leisure Trust and the current agreement runs to August 2023.</p> <p>In Year the agreement was reviewed and renewed to August 2024.</p> |
| <u>Altrincham Grammar School Developments Limited & Altrincham Grammar School for Boys</u> | <p>The school is related to Altrincham Grammar School Developments Limited, a company in which Mr G Wright, Mr Russel Fisher and Mr Green are directors. From time to time this company makes donations to the school for the purpose of furthering its principal objective.</p> |
| <u>Manchester Grammar School</u> | <p>Pupils of the trust attend and participate in a schools wide Model United Nations event hosted by Manchester Grammar School on an annual basis, a school for which a HET Trustee, Martin Boulton is the Headmaster.</p> |
| <u>Withington Girls School</u> | <p>Pupils of the trust attend and participate in a schools wide Model United Nations event hosted by Withington Girls School on an annual basis, a school for which a HET Trustee, John Kinney is a Governing Body member.</p> |

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The trust engages with its employees continuously and in a number of ways throughout the year. This includes:

- Headteacher, heads of department and line manager briefings.
- Regular all staff communications via email.
- Staff well-being groups.
- Weekly bulletins and newsletters – employees are actively encouraged to contribute to the content of newsletters.
- Employee social media groups.
- The chair of the trust board and executive head hold and attend regular meetings with the ELG (Executive Leadership Group) as well as actively participate in steering / learning groups such as IT to support employee engagement and empowerment and school improvement.

Details of the financial and economic factors affecting the performance of the trust are shared with all employees at the appropriate time using the methods listed above. In addition, all results are published on the trust's website for availability.

We provide opportunities for employees to give their feedback to the trust in a number of ways, from team meetings to confidential surveys. In addition, regular JCC (Joint Consultative Committees) are held which include representatives from all relevant unions and at which all policies and changes in regards to staff terms are discussed and at which feedback can be given.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The principal object and activity of the charitable company is the operation of The Hamblin Education Trust providing education for pupils between the ages of 11 and 18.

In accordance with the articles of association the charitable company has adopted a "Scheme of Governance" approved by the Secretary of State for Education.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The main aims and objectives of the trust are summarised below:

- to ensure that each student at each school within the trust achieves his/her full potential by receiving teaching and learning opportunities of the highest standard. We aim to provide an education that helps them to attain their maximum potential and which develops well rounded individuals with strong values;
- to develop the learning environment by investment in new facilities and refurbishment of existing areas;
- to promote learning within a disciplined and respectful environment. The trust schools aim to work together to ensure a safe, happy environment in which to live and work. The schools must encourage the highest standards of behavior and good manners and build excellent relationships between staff and students; and
- to promote the recruiting, developing, retaining and rewarding of employees to enable us to achieve our objectives. The trust aims to create a positive working environment providing opportunities to develop or enhance skills for individuals who wish to progress.

Objectives, strategies and activities

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys is a selective grammar school and offers all pupils a broad curriculum. The pupils who attend live mainly in the local area although some travel from further afield.

North Cestrian School is a non-selective mixed 11 to 16 school and offers all pupils a broad curriculum. The pupils who attend live mainly within its designated catchment area although some travel from further afield.

Progress will be collaboratively measured and analysed across the schools within the Trust. The Trust believes that by working across schools this will help to reinforce strengths and identify and eliminate weaknesses. Data in common will also be used to analyse pupil progress and attainment.

- Between 2021/22 and 2023 all HET schools will achieve at least national standards for progress and attainment.
- All schools with Sixth Forms will secure at least 'good' progress from GCSE to A level using national measures.
- All schools will be Ofsted rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding'.

Public benefit

All pupils at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys gain a place at the school based upon academic aptitude tests following the school's admissions policy which is reviewed annually. Entry is not based upon ability to pay or any criteria which discriminate against particular social groups.

All pupils at North Cestrian School gain a place based upon the admissions criteria set out within its admissions policy. The policy is reviewed annually.

The sports facilities at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys are used at the weekends and evenings by the wider community. An extensive programme of extra-curricular classes is offered to the wider community. Facilities of North Cestrian School are available for use at weekends and evenings.

In setting the objectives and planning the activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

In 2022/23 the schools achieved examination results as follows:-

| | Measure | Altrincham Grammar School for Boys % Attainment | North Cestrian % Attainment |
|---------|--|---|-----------------------------|
| GCSE | A* - C including English & Maths Grade 9-4 | 100% | 74.6% |
| | Attainment 8 | 79.89 | 50.2 |
| | Progress 8 | +1.14 | +0.08 |
| A Level | Entries at A*/A/B | 85% | N/A |
| | Entries at A* | 28% | N/A |

Key performance indicators

These are:

| <u>KPI</u> | <u>Achievement</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of applications for entry into the schools | AGSB - 2021/2022 - 455 - 2022/2023 - 481 NCS - 2021/2022 - 921 - 2022/2023 - 1183 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The progress made by the students between entry into the school and GCSE | Please see achievement and performance above |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The attainment of pupils at GCSE at the schools | Please see achievement and performance above |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance and retention rates at the schools | AGSB – 93.49% in 22/23 (96.3% in 21/22) 5 leavers between 2022 and 23 not including year 13 NCS – 93.4% in 22/23 (93.56% in 21/22) 31 leavers between 2022 and 23 not including year 11 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The level of exclusions (both fixed + permanent) at the school | AGSB – 1 (22/23) NCS – 2 permanent & 35 fixed (22/23) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Altrincham Grammar School for Boys the progress and retention rates of students in the 6th form (16 – 19 age range) | Sixth form numbers at AGSB remain strong with a target remaining of 400 pupils. In 22/23 the school was just short of this target at 385. |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| <u>KPI</u> | <u>Achievement</u> |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both schools review their development plans which contain other KPI's | <p>All schools within the Trust review their schools specific SIP (School Improvement Plans) on an annual basis. This includes any areas for development in the current year and going forward. Individual school KPI's may be amended to reflect changes in focus or achievement. And include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil development • Curriculum development • Facilities development • Staff development |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both schools annually review their self-evaluation documents against Ofsted criteria | <p>AGSB has retained an Ofsted rating of "outstanding" in 2022/23, following an Ofsted review in September 2022.</p> <p>NCS has remained Ofsted rating "Good" for 2022/23.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Restricted Income v Budget - Staff Costs v Budget - Non Staff Costs v Budget - Cashflow | <p>4.2% upside against budget 2.5% increase against budget 7.5% increase against budget £2.871m – including CIF Grant monies</p> |

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies note of the financial statements.

Financial review

The majority of the trust's income is obtained from the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA during the year ended 31 August 2023 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the statement of financial activities.

Both Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and North Cestrian School receive income on a lagged funding basis. Funding is based on prior year pupil numbers as defined in the Autumn census. Both schools remain in a pupil growth position and for the foreseeable future, based on lagged funding, the schools will receive income in arrears for pupil growth until such time as they reach capacity. Expenditure will therefore be managed to match income.

To assist in the management of costs to income during a period of growth, the Trust has participated in an SRMA exercise supported by the DFE to identify efficient use of funds. The SRMA report has looked at and advised upon pupil numbers, class sizes, teaching costs and non-education expenditure as well as considering the future plans of the Trust. This is to help ensure pupils continue to receive a high standard of support and resources whilst pupil numbers continue to grow.

The trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA, and from other government bodies. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' (SORP 2019), such grants are shown in the statement of financial activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund.

During the year ended 31 August 2023, there was total expenditure of £13,574,000 largely covered by recurrent grant funding from the ESFA together with other incoming resources.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The excess of income over expenditure for the year was £936,000. At 31 August 2023 the net book value of fixed assets was £15,627,000. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy.

Under Accounting Standard FRS102, it is necessary to charge projected deficits on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which is provided for support staff, to the unrestricted fund. This resulted in the pension fund showing a deficit of £380,000 which has been carried forward to 2022/23. It should be noted that this does not present a liquidity problem for the academy and that we are reviewing contributions to the pension scheme in order to see a reduction in the pension deficit in future years. If the pension deficit and related charges were taken out, the general restricted fund would show a balance of nil.

Total unrestricted funds for the trust are net of a deficit of £398,000 for North Cestrian School. The deficit arose primarily from the deficit inherited on conversion and the impact of a move from estimated funding to lagged funding during an ongoing period of significant growth in pupil numbers. North Cestrian continues to move through a period of growth, both in terms of pupil numbers but also in terms of examination achievements. As such it had invested in anticipation of future growth, in several teaching staff. Throughout 2022/23 North Cestrian introduced a 6 period day with a revised staffing structure. In addition, it continues to look to improve aspects of the school's estates to not only accommodate more pupils but improve the condition of the older parts of its buildings. The result of the changes made and a catch up in funding is shown in 2022/23 in an improved position in unrestricted funds for the current year.

Going forward, the school is able to demonstrate a balanced budget when fully funded, the expectation of which is in the year 2023/2024, in addition to implementing further actions around pupil growth as recommended by the SRMA report.

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

The objective of the trust's policy is to be aware of the principal risks and to develop strategies to manage such risks through monitoring or, if necessary, direct intervention.

Reserves policy

The trustees review the reserve levels of the trust annually and as part of the management accounts presented on a monthly basis. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure stream, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves.

The trustees have determined that the appropriate level of free reserves should be equivalent to 1 month of the General Annual Grant (GAG), approximately £769,000. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

The trust's current levels of reserves are:-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Unrestricted Reserves (Free reserves) | £346,000 |
| Restricted Reserves | £278,000 |
| Fixed Asset Reserve* | £15,926,000 |
| Pension Reserve** | (£380,000) |
| Total Reserves | £16,170,000 |

*The Fixed Asset Reserve can only be realized by disposing of tangible fixed assets.

**A surplus or deficit position of the pension scheme would generally result in a cash flow effect for the academy trust in the form of an increase or decrease in employers' pension contributions over a period of years.

The trust's current level of free reserves (total funds less the amount held in fixed assets restricted fund and the pension reserve fund deficit) is £346,000. The reason that the current level of free reserves does not equate to approximately one month of the General Annual Grant (GAG) is that North Cestrian School continues to have a deficit fund position that was inherited on conversion, in addition to the impact of a change from estimated funding to lagged funding at North Cestrian in 2021/22. The school remains in a period of growth and has worked through an SRMA exercise to begin the recovery of reserves.

In addition, the trust holds £36,000 of restricted fixed asset reserves as at 31 August 2023 in relation to fundraising activity for the "Sport for All" campaign. This represents the surplus funds generated through donations received in year less the implementation cost of Phase 1 of the project completed in year.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Investment policy

The trust aims to generate and maintain surplus cash to support working capital whilst maintaining a robust reserves policy and applying effective cash management.

Any investment of surplus cash is given careful consideration and the risk / benefit of any transaction reviewed. Any investments are undertaken on the basis of:-

- Risk avoidance
- Low risk and short term (6 months maximum) with ready access to funds
- Should be considered in terms of yield, liquidity and security
- Interest rates are readily reviewed

Where agreed, funds are held on six week and three month corporate market investments with Lloyds.

Principal risks and uncertainties

A review of principal risks and uncertainties highlighted:

- reductions in GAG funding
- increases to teachers and support staff pay scales
- the impact of inflation on non-educational costs
- employer's national insurance and pensions contributions as the most significant risks.

The trust continues where possible to make cuts in a number of budget areas which may in the longer term affect educational standards and reduce its reserves.

Fundraising

The trust looks to fundraising as part of their duty to maintain a high standard of education supported by funding. To raise this funding the trust will on occasion lease or hire out parts of the school buildings for various activities. This activity is performed outside of school hours and with the approval of the Finance and Estates Committees. The trust has not received any complaints relating to this fundraising over the 2022-23 period.

Any fundraising the trust undertakes for the benefit of the school fund is completely optional. This is always shared with the school community through letters and other forms of social media. The trust has not received any complaints relating to this fundraising over the 2022-23 period.

In August 2021, Altrincham Grammar School for Boys in addition to its existing fundraising efforts, engaged the services of a private consultant, Hutt & Co. This was done for the specific purpose of engaging the parents of the school and the local community in raising funds to improve and enhance the sports facilities for pupils and for community use. The campaign is called "Sport for All". No public or restricted monies has been used to support this project or subsequent project spend.

The trust through the governing board has agreed only to support legally recognised charities locally and/or nationally. Which charities are supported is reviewed each year and a limit of charities supported is agreed for each term of the academic year.

Monies raised are recorded and can be checked if requests are made.

Fundraising approach

The academy approaches fundraising through its active Parents and Teachers' Association (PTA) group. This runs as a voluntary organisation associated with the academy that follows PTA standards. There are no direct commercial participators that work with the PTA and there have been no fundraising complaints within the period of 2022-23. The academy monitors the fundraising carried out on its behalf in monthly meetings, with a member of the SLT present, that are minuted to ensure that the PTA acts reasonably in its fundraising approaches confirming that it does not unduly pressure the community to donate.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Plans for future periods

Trustees and local governing bodies have contributed to Trust Vision which aims to maintain the highest standards of education whilst developing facilities for the benefit of pupils and staff. Focus for the Trusts vision is on:

- Teaching & Learning
- IT
- Financial resilience
- Health & Safety including Safeguarding
- Estates
- Developing people

In the longer term the trust will consider further expansion of the number of schools within the trust, but its immediate priority is to develop a structure of leadership and management appropriate for the two schools within the trust.

Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others

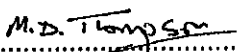
These funds are held on behalf of pupils for advance payments in respect of forthcoming visits/trips and are held in a Lloyds Bank bank account.

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

This trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on ~~7 Dec 23~~ ^{7 Dec 23}..... and signed on its behalf by:


.....
M Thompson
Chair of trustees

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that The Hamblin Education Trust has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

As trustees, we have reviewed and taken account of the guidance in DfE's Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the head master of each school within the trust, for ensuring that financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Altrincham Grammar School for Boys and North Cestrian School and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the trustees' report and in the statement of trustees' responsibilities. The board of trustees has met 5 times during the year. Attendance during the meetings of the full board of trustees was as follows:

Board Attendance Log

| 2022-23 | 13.10.22 | 08.12.22 | 23.02.23 | 11.05.23 | 06.07.23 |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Andrew Shaw | ✓ | ■ | ✓ | ✓ | ■ |
| Tim Gartside | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Duncan Battman | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| John Kinney | ■ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Richard Green | ■ | ✓ | ■ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Jill Bottomley | ✓ | ✓ | ■ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sharon Forster | ✓ | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ✓ |
| Juliette Jackson | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Robin Russell-Fisher | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ■ | ✓ |
| Sir Graham Brady | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| Martin Boulton | x | ■ | ✓ | ✓ | ■ |
| Michael Hyman | ✓ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ✓ |
| Michael Thompson | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

✓ Attended
 ■ Apologies
 x Absent

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The finance committee is a sub-committee of the main board of trustees. Its purpose is to report to the full board of trustees on a timely basis the finances of the academy.

| Attendee | Number of meetings held | Number of meetings attended |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Richard Green (trustee) | 3 | 3 |
| Robin Russell-Fisher (member) | 3 | 2 |
| Sharon Forster (trustee) | 3 | 1 |
| Tim Gartside (trustee) | 3 | 1 |
| Nick Evans | 3 | 2 |

The full board of trustees meets twice each term (once every half-term). At the first meeting of each term the executive headmaster presents a report on the main developments of the past few months and highlights strategic issues for discussion. In addition as standard the Board receive the following reports at each meeting to inform their decision making and is intended to cover Teaching & Learning, Financial performance, Capital Projects, Risk and Strategic Initiatives:-

- Executive Head report – this includes performance of Teaching & Learning in the period, performance against key targets for the year, and any risks associated with current performance.
- CFOO report – this includes:
 - Management accounts YTD and forecast for the year
 - Balance sheet and cashflow movements
 - Capital investment and progress of major projects
 - Progress against cost efficiency actions and measures in place
 - Financial risk
- In addition annually the board receive a budget report.

The board is confident in the data provided due to the competence of the finance team and the robust controls in place.

The committees in each school are:

- Estates
- Finance
- Admissions
- Personnel
- Health and safety
- Curriculum and pupil welfare

Each committee meets at least once a term to discuss agenda items, receive and discuss reports requested from teaching or administrative staff and to discuss in more detail strategic issues highlighted by the board of trustees.

The outcome of such discussions is fed back to the local governing bodies and at the second trustee meeting in the term (or as required). The representative of the local governing body on the trust board reports on discussions which took place.

Governance review

Following feedback and a review of the structure of the board of trustees, the board has strengthened its spread of skills by introducing:

- Additional educational expertise in the form of the chair of the board (former headmaster) and a further trustee, a current headmaster of a local independent school
- Introduced a board member to take ownership of and coordinate with all schools within the trust, all health and safety matters

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The introduction of greater expertise in education has assisted in supporting schools within the trust in implementing effective and robust learning. In addition, a focal point for health and safety matters has ensured ongoing scrutiny of all Health & Safety and safeguarding measures to support all pupils and staff. Compliance with guidance and detailed risk assessments are consistent and in place at both schools.

The board of trustees aims to review the structure and effectiveness of its governance on an annual basis as well as ensuring it has the correct spread of skills amongst its trustees by performing a skills audit.

In addition in 2022/23 the board began an independent review of its Governance structure.

Conflicts of interest

The HET board of trustee's recognise that they have an obligation to act in the best interests of the trust and in accordance with its Articles of Association in order to avoid situations where there may be a conflict of interest. The board also recognises that the schools within the trust have governors, parents and staff who have a strong presence within the local community and potential situations may arise where family interests or loyalties conflict with those of the trust.

As a result, the HET board of trustees employ a strict conflict of interests policy which ensures that all members, trustee's, governors and staff understand what constitutes a conflict of Interest and that they have a responsibility to identify and declare any conflicts that may arise.

The HET board aims to:

- Identify any conflicts of interest early through annual declarations of interests and at the start of every meeting held. These are recorded and where a potential conflict is noted, a conflict of interests form is completed and reviewed.
- Register of all Interests are held centrally and on the trust's website and reviewed by the board of Trustees.
- Any related party transactions reported as per the ESFA requirements.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the executive head has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to educational and wider societal outcomes, as well as estates safety and management, achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- The trust has commissioned by competitive tender the most efficient services for accounting. It has revised staffing in its administration, estates, English and Sixth Form departments at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, to ensure the most efficient use of resources. In addition, it has reviewed it's staffing requirements at NCS in line with an SRMA review based on curriculum planning. In addition, the trust is working with both schools to build a plan over the course of 3 years to improve the % ratio of staffing costs to income received.
- At North Cestrian School the trust continues to ensure efficient use of resources during a period of growth in pupil numbers.
- In 2014/2015 we responded to feedback from local primary schools about local authority ICT services and have offered our own service level agreement for maintenance of ICT systems and the purchase of ICT equipment. A total of six primary schools have decided to take advantage of the trusts ICT services up to August 2023. Our ICT staff continue to enjoy the challenge of providing such services and have enhanced their experience and skills as a result. In addition, revenue generated as a result of the services provided has come into the AGSB ICT department to improve services to our pupils.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Hamblin Education Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the trust's significant risks and that this process has been in place for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

Leadership has identified key areas of strategic, financial, health and safety and reputational risk. Trustees review these areas periodically either at board or local governing body level.

Staff receive regular training on days set aside for development as appropriate. Specialist staff receive regular updating on safeguarding, first aid and other health and safety issues. Staff attend courses appropriate to their roles provided by external agencies (for example, on the latest changes to legislation on HR and financial matters).

The risk and control framework

The trust's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchases plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties; and
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided:

- To appoint a 3rd party to act as internal auditor, Coife Ltd. The independent responsible officer will report bi-annually to the trust's Audit & Finance Committee and it will include independent reviews of financial information and process, risk and compliance. This option has been chosen to provide the trust board with independent assessment and recommendations against which they can measure progress, improvement and risk in their Financial and Governance procedures.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

- Testing of transactional procedures in relation to PO's.
- Testing of treatment of capital grants and expenditure in the accounts.
- Testing of control account / bank reconciliations.

On a bi-annual basis, the auditor reports to the board of trustees, through the audit and risk committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. The auditor prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

- The Audit & Finance Committee's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performs a range of checks on the academy's financial systems and recommendations for improvement.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the executive head has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- At each full board of trustees meeting the CFOO and the chair of finance update the trustees on the trust's finances and reports to them any breaches of financial regulation. We have had no breach of financial regulation in this trust. The Finance Committee within each school is familiar with and adheres to the policies and procedures set out in the Academies Financial Handbook.
- The Finance Committee has reviewed on a regular basis the school's financial policies, systems and procedures to ensure they are compliant with the Academies Financial Handbook and the academy's own Internal Finance Handbook. There are no significant internal control issues.
- DJH Mitten Clarke Limited carries out an annual audit of the academy's accounts. An annual audit is also conducted on the Teachers' Pensions Agency contributions by DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance committee and a plan to address weaknesses, if relevant, and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 7 DEC 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Thompson
Chair of trustees



.....
T Gartside
Accounting officer

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

As accounting officer of The Hamblin Education Trust, I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust's board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the board of trustees and ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA:

The academy trust has not prepared monthly management accounts for 6 of the 12 months in the year ended 31 August 2023. This is due to the loss of a key resource within the finance team at the start of 2023, and an inability to recruit a suitable backfill for 6 months. Whilst limited management accounts were produced during this period, to ensure continued appropriate review of the financial position of the trust, regular meetings between the CFOO, accounting officer and chair of the FAC were held, and any subsequent actions discussed as part of the board meetings.



T Gartside
Accounting officer

Date: 7th December 2023

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Hamblin Education Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the trustees must not approve the accounts unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period.

In preparing these accounts, the trustees are required to:

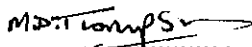
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring that grants received from ESFA/DfE have been applied for the purposes intended.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 7 DEC 23 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Thompson
Chair of trustees

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Hamblin Education Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the 'Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the academy trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the accounts themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the trustees' report including the incorporated strategic report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the group's or the parent charitable company's financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the trustees.
- Identify and test journal entries, in particular any journal entries posting with unusual account combinations.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the group's or parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the group or parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation (ie. gives a true and fair view).
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Ltd.

Candice Beynon FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Bridge House

Ashley Road

Hale

Altrincham

WA14 2UT

Date *7/12/23*

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 2 October 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Hamblin Education Trust during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to The Hamblin Education Trust and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to The Hamblin Education Trust and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Hamblin Education Trust and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of The Hamblin Education Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Hamblin Education Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 January 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance, and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountant of Academy Trusts issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity.

A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

Our engagement includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the regularity and propriety of the academy trust's income and expenditure.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the academy trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.
- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the academy trust are within the academy trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the academy trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the academy trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the academy trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the board of trustees, and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the board of trustees and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the academy trust's charitable objects.

Conclusion

In the course of our work, except for the matters listed below, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

The academy trust has not prepared monthly management accounts for 8 of the 12 months in the year ended 31 August 2023.


.....
DJH Mitten Clarke Audit Limited
Reporting Accountant

Date: 7/11/23.....

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds: General £000 | Fixed asset £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|--|----------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 3 | 34 | - | 1,221 | 1,255 | 383 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Funding for educational operations | 4 | - | 12,446 | - | 12,446 | 11,445 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 804 | - | - | 804 | 559 |
| Investments | 6 | 5 | - | - | 5 | - |
| Total | | 843 | 12,446 | 1,221 | 14,510 | 12,387 |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 678 | 4 | - | 682 | 374 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | | |
| - Educational operations | 9 | 98 | 12,307 | 487 | 12,892 | 12,892 |
| Total | 7 | 776 | 12,311 | 487 | 13,574 | 13,266 |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 67 | 135 | 734 | 936 | (879) |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | (4) | (96) | 100 | - | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 20 | - | 944 | - | 944 | 4,379 |
| Net movement in funds | | 63 | 983 | 834 | 1,880 | 3,500 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | 283 | (1,085) | 15,092 | 14,290 | 10,790 |
| Total funds carried forward | | 346 | (102) | 15,926 | 16,170 | 14,290 |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AND STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| Comparative year information Year ended 31 August 2022 | Notes | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds: General £000 | Fixed asset £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|---|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Income and endowments from: | | | | | |
| Donations and capital grants | 3 | 74 | 117 | 192 | 383 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | |
| - Funding for educational operations | 4 | - | 11,445 | - | 11,445 |
| Other trading activities | 5 | 559 | - | - | 559 |
| Total | | <u>633</u> | <u>11,562</u> | <u>192</u> | <u>12,387</u> |
| Expenditure on: | | | | | |
| Raising funds | 7 | 303 | 71 | - | 374 |
| Charitable activities: | | | | | |
| - Educational operations | 9 | 256 | 12,108 | 528 | 12,892 |
| Total | 7 | <u>559</u> | <u>12,179</u> | <u>528</u> | <u>13,266</u> |
| Net income/(expenditure) | | 74 | (617) | (336) | (879) |
| Transfers between funds | 18 | (151) | (73) | 224 | - |
| Other recognised gains/(losses) | | | | | |
| Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes | 20 | - | 4,379 | - | 4,379 |
| Net movement in funds | | (77) | 3,689 | (112) | 3,500 |
| Reconciliation of funds | | | | | |
| Total funds brought forward | | <u>360</u> | <u>(4,774)</u> | <u>15,204</u> | <u>10,790</u> |
| Total funds carried forward | | <u>283</u> | <u>(1,085)</u> | <u>15,092</u> | <u>14,290</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Notes | 2023 | | 2022 | |
|---|-------|---------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 13 | | 15,627 | | 15,064 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 14 | 450 | | 365 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 2,871 | | 1,408 | |
| | | 3,321 | | 1,773 | |
| Current liabilities | | | | | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 15 | (1,767) | | (1,194) | |
| Net current assets | | | 1,554 | | 579 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 17,181 | | 15,643 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year | 16 | | (631) | | (227) |
| Net assets excluding pension liability | | | 16,550 | | 15,416 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme liability | 20 | | (380) | | (1,126) |
| Total net assets | | | 16,170 | | 14,290 |
| Funds of the academy trust: | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 18 | | | | |
| - Fixed asset funds | | | 15,926 | | 15,092 |
| - Restricted income funds | | | 278 | | 41 |
| - Pension reserve | | | (380) | | (1,126) |
| Total restricted funds | | | 15,824 | | 14,007 |
| Unrestricted income funds | 18 | | 346 | | 283 |
| Total funds | | | 16,170 | | 14,290 |

The accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 7 Dec 23 and are signed on their behalf by:

M. Thompson

M Thompson
Chair of trustees

Company registration number 07484717 (England and Wales)

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | Notes | 2023 £000 | £000 | 2022 £000 | £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | | | |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 21 | | 1,127 | | 478 |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | | | |
| Dividends, interest and rents from investments | | 5 | | - | |
| Capital grants from DfE Group | | 966 | | 79 | |
| Capital funding received from sponsors and others | | 255 | | 113 | |
| Purchase of tangible fixed assets | | (1,050) | | (388) | |
| Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities | | | 176 | | (196) |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | | | |
| Loan repayments | | (47) | | - | |
| Government loan received | | 209 | | 173 | |
| Finance costs | | (2) | | (1) | |
| Net cash provided by financing activities | | | 160 | | 172 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period | | | 1,463 | | 454 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year | | | 1,408 | | 954 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year | | | 2,871 | | 1,408 |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

The Hamblin Education Trust is a charitable company. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

A summary of the principal accounting policies adopted (which have been applied consistently, except where noted), judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty, is set out below.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charitable company to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the accounts and have concluded that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern. Thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

1.3 Income

All incoming resources are recognised when the academy trust has entitlement to the funds, the receipt is probable and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants are included in the statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of meeting any performance-related conditions there is not unconditional entitlement to the income and its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income until the performance-related conditions are met. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

Capital grants are recognised in full when there is an unconditional entitlement to the grant. Unspent amounts of capital grants are reflected in the balance sheet in the restricted fixed asset fund. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

Donations

Donations are recognised on a receivable basis (where there are no performance-related conditions) where the receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Other income

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the period it is receivable and to the extent the academy trust has provided the goods or services.

Donated goods, facilities and services

Goods donated for resale are included at fair value, being the expected proceeds from sale less the expected costs of sale. If it is practical to assess the fair value at receipt, it is recognised in stock and 'Income from other trading activities'. Upon sale, the value of the stock is charged against 'Income from other trading activities' and the proceeds are recognised as 'Income from other trading activities'. Where it is impractical to fair value the items due to the volume of low value items they are not recognised in the accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

1.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

Expenditure on raising funds

This includes all expenditure incurred by the academy trust to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Charitable activities

These are costs incurred on the academy trust's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the academy trust apportioned to charitable activities.

1.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the balance sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a [straight-line/reducing balance] basis over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Leasehold/freehold land | 125 years straight line/Nil |
| Leasehold/freehold buildings | 50 years straight line |
| Building improvements | 20-25 years straight line |
| Computer equipment | 3 years straight line |
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 4 years straight line |
| Motor vehicles | 4 years straight line |

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of any fixed asset may not be recoverable. Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts are recognised as impairments. Impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.6 Liabilities

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably. Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the academy trust anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

1.7 Leased assets

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

1.8 Financial instruments

The academy trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the academy trust and their measurement basis are as follows.

Financial assets

Trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost. Prepayments are not financial instruments.

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition.

Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.9 Taxation

The academy trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the academy trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Pensions benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the academy trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ('TPS') and the Local Government Pension Scheme ('LGPS'). These are defined benefit schemes and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary based on quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. The TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions are recognised in the period to which they relate.

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the academy trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to net income or expenditure are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the statement of financial activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.11 Fund accounting

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the academy trust at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are resources which are to be applied to specific capital purposes imposed by funders where the asset acquired or created is held for a specific purpose.

Restricted general funds comprise all other restricted funds received with restrictions imposed by the funder/donor and include grants from the Department for Education.

1.12 Agency arrangements

The academy trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in note 25.

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

Accounting estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The academy trust makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates and assumptions will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

(Continued)

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 20, will impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement

The trustees have considered the apportionment of depreciation between direct and support costs. The majority of fixed assets are almost entirely used for the provision of education and only a small part for support services. Therefore a 90% direct cost and 10% support cost apportionment is considered appropriate.

3 Donations and capital grants

| | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Capital grants | - | 966 | 966 | 79 |
| Other donations | 34 | 255 | 289 | 304 |
| | <u>34</u> | <u>1,221</u> | <u>1,255</u> | <u>383</u> |

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations

| | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| DfE/ESFA grants | | | | |
| General annual grant (GAG) | - | 11,475 | 11,475 | 10,734 |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants: | | | | |
| - Pupil premium | - | 142 | 142 | 175 |
| - Teachers pay grant | - | 1 | 1 | 27 |
| - Teachers pension grant | - | 81 | 81 | 76 |
| - Supplementary grants | - | 422 | 422 | - |
| - Others | - | 74 | 74 | 207 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>12,195</u> | <u>12,195</u> | <u>11,219</u> |
| Other government grants | | | | |
| Local authority grants | - | 251 | 251 | 196 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>251</u> | <u>251</u> | <u>196</u> |
| COVID-19 additional funding | | | | |
| DfE/ESFA | | | | |
| Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding | - | - | - | 30 |
| | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>30</u> |
| Total funding | <u>-</u> | <u>12,446</u> | <u>12,446</u> | <u>11,445</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

4 Funding for the academy trust's educational operations (Continued)

The academy trust received £251,000 (2022: £196,000) from the local authority in the year, being high needs funding £176,000, SEN funding £58,000 and LA contribution to a school £17,000.

There were no unfulfilled conditions or other contingencies in respect of government grant funding.

5 Other trading activities

| | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Hire of facilities | 1 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Catering income | - | - | - | 160 |
| Other income | 803 | - | 803 | 398 |
| | <u>804</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>804</u> | <u>559</u> |

6 Investment income

| | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Short term deposits | 5 | - | 5 | - |
| | <u>5</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>5</u> | <u>-</u> |

7 Expenditure

| | Staff costs £000 | Non-pay expenditure | | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Premises £000 | Other £000 | | |
| Expenditure on raising funds | | | | | |
| - Direct costs | - | - | 682 | 682 | 374 |
| Academy's educational operations | | | | | |
| - Direct costs | 8,894 | 438 | 710 | 10,042 | 9,554 |
| - Allocated support costs | 1,568 | 810 | 472 | 2,850 | 3,338 |
| | <u>10,462</u> | <u>1,248</u> | <u>1,864</u> | <u>13,574</u> | <u>13,266</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

7 Expenditure (Continued)

| Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes: | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operating lease rentals | 19 | 3 |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | 487 | 528 |
| Fees payable to auditor for: | | |
| - Audit | 14 | 13 |
| - Other services | 16 | 11 |
| Bank and loan interest | 2 | 1 |
| Net interest on defined benefit pension liability | 50 | 84 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

8 Central services

The academy trust has incurred expenditure on the following central services on behalf of its academies during the year:

- legal and professional services
- wage and salary costs of the CEO and CFO.

Recharges of the cost incurred this year have been made to the schools in proportion to their use of the services.

| The amounts charged during the year were as follows: | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| North Cestrian School | 90 | 68 |
| Altrincham Grammar School for Boys | 175 | 159 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | 265 | 227 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

9 Charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds £000 | Restricted funds £000 | Total 2023 £000 | Total 2022 £000 |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Direct costs | | | | |
| Educational operations | 59 | 9,983 | 10,042 | 9,554 |
| Support costs | | | | |
| Educational operations | 39 | 2,811 | 2,850 | 3,338 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | 98 | 12,794 | 12,892 | 12,892 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| 9 Charitable activities | (Continued) | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
| Direct costs | | |
| Teaching and educational support staff costs | 8,894 | 8,431 |
| Staff development | 19 | 23 |
| Depreciation | 438 | 476 |
| Technology costs | 52 | 65 |
| Educational supplies and services | 271 | 255 |
| Examination fees | 257 | 210 |
| Educational consultancy | 57 | 29 |
| Other direct costs | 54 | 65 |
| | <u>10,042</u> | <u>9,554</u> |
| Support costs | | |
| Support staff costs | 1,568 | 1,901 |
| Depreciation | 49 | 52 |
| Maintenance of premises and equipment | 159 | 136 |
| Cleaning | 218 | 208 |
| Energy costs | 187 | 218 |
| Rent, rates and other occupancy costs | 145 | 148 |
| Insurance | 52 | 53 |
| Security and transport | 15 | 12 |
| Catering | 61 | 268 |
| Interest on defined benefit pension scheme | 52 | 85 |
| Legal costs | 86 | 82 |
| Other support costs | 202 | 131 |
| Governance costs | 56 | 44 |
| | <u>2,850</u> | <u>3,338</u> |
| 10 Staff | | |
| Staff costs | | |
| Staff costs during the year were: | | |
| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
| Wages and salaries | 7,583 | 7,148 |
| Social security costs | 803 | 771 |
| Pension costs | 1,798 | 2,204 |
| | <u>10,184</u> | <u>10,123</u> |
| Staff costs - employees | 10,184 | 10,123 |
| Agency staff costs | 278 | 114 |
| Staff restructuring costs | - | 95 |
| | <u>10,462</u> | <u>10,332</u> |
| Staff development and other staff costs | 19 | 23 |
| | <u>10,481</u> | <u>10,355</u> |
| Total staff expenditure | <u>10,481</u> | <u>10,355</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

10 Staff (Continued)

| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Staff restructuring costs comprise: | | |
| Severance payments | - | 95 |

Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the academy trust during the year was as follows:

| | 2023 Number | 2022 Number |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Teachers | 118 | 125 |
| Administration and support | 96 | 83 |
| Management | 15 | 15 |
| | <u>229</u> | <u>223</u> |

Higher paid staff

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs and employer national insurance contributions) exceeded £60,000 was:

| | 2023 Number | 2022 Number |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| £60,001 - £70,000 | 6 | 3 |
| £70,001 - £80,000 | 2 | 3 |
| £80,001 - £90,000 | 1 | 1 |
| £90,001 - £100,000 | 1 | 1 |
| £100,001 - £110,000 | 1 | - |

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,339,658 (2022: £1,326,323).

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust.

The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff, and not in respect of their services as trustees. Other trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the academy trust in respect of their role as trustees.

The value of trustees remuneration was as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| T Gartside (CEO and trustee) | £20,001 - £25,000 | (2022: £20,001 - £25,000) |
|------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|

The value of trustees pension contributions was as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|
| T Gartside (CEO and trustee) | £nil | (2022: £nil) |
|------------------------------|------|--------------|

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel and subsistence expenses of £337 (2022: £nil) were reimbursed to 1 trustee.

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in the related parties note.

12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

The academy trust has opted into the Department for Education's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA), an alternative to insurance where UK government funds cover losses that arise. This scheme protects trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy trust business, and provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

13 Tangible fixed assets

| | Land and buildings £000 | Assets under construction £000 | Computer equipment £000 | Fixtures, fittings & equipment £000 | Motor vehicles £000 | Total £000 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Cost | | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 17,044 | 19 | 1,019 | 1,016 | 98 | 19,196 |
| Additions | 280 | 658 | 29 | 76 | 7 | 1,050 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 17,324 | 677 | 1,048 | 1,092 | 105 | 20,246 |
| Depreciation | | | | | | |
| At 1 September 2022 | 2,377 | - | 857 | 838 | 60 | 4,132 |
| Charge for the year | 302 | - | 103 | 71 | 11 | 487 |
| At 31 August 2023 | 2,679 | - | 960 | 909 | 71 | 4,619 |
| Net book value | | | | | | |
| At 31 August 2023 | 14,645 | 677 | 88 | 183 | 34 | 15,627 |
| At 31 August 2022 | 14,667 | 19 | 162 | 178 | 38 | 15,064 |

The net book value of land and buildings comprises £13,225,000 freehold and £1,420,000 long leasehold.

14 Debtors

| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Trade debtors | 29 | 40 |
| VAT recoverable | 145 | 16 |
| Other debtors | 4 | 53 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 272 | 256 |
| | 450 | 365 |

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Government loans | 67 | 46 |
| Trade creditors | 837 | 154 |
| Other taxation and social security | 190 | 200 |
| Other creditors | 201 | 461 |
| Accruals and deferred income | 472 | 333 |
| | 1,767 | 1,194 |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|
| Government loans | 368 | 227 |
| Other creditors | 263 | - |
| | <u>631</u> | <u>227</u> |
| | 2023 | 2022 |
| | £000 | £000 |
| Analysis of loans | | |
| Wholly repayable within five years | 435 | 273 |
| Less: included in current liabilities | (67) | (46) |
| | <u>368</u> | <u>227</u> |
| Amounts included above | <u>368</u> | <u>227</u> |
| Loan maturity | | |
| Debt due in one year or less | 67 | 46 |
| Due in more than one year but not more than two years | 67 | 46 |
| Due in more than two years but not more than five years | 161 | 118 |
| Due in more than five years | 140 | 63 |
| | <u>435</u> | <u>273</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year (Continued)

The academy trust had the following loans at the start of the financial year:

Government loans through its SSEF funding £100,000. The loan is repayable by equal monthly instalments over a period of 5 years. Interest is payable at 1.81% per year.

CIF loan of £30,050. The loan is repayable by equal monthly instalments over a period of 10 years. Interest is payable at 1.95% per year.

Salix loan of £149,891. The loan is repayable by equal 6 monthly instalments over a period of 7 years. The loan is interest free.

Salix loan of £13,920. The loan is repayable by equal 6 monthly instalments over a period of 8 years. The loan is interest free.

The academy trust received the following loans during the financial year:

CIF loan of £131,758. The loan is repayable by equal monthly instalments over a period of 10 years. Interest is payable at 1.49% per year.

CIF loan of £77,314. The loan is repayable by equal monthly instalments over a period of 10 years. Interest is payable at 1.49% per year.

The other creditor due after 1 year relates to the deficit on conversion of North Cestrian School which is not due for repayment until a set level of financial reserves are held. The deficit is not forecast for repayment within the next 12 months.

17 Deferred income

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Deferred income is included within: | | |
| Creditors due within one year | 334 | 121 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Deferred income at 1 September 2022 | 121 | 139 |
| Released from previous years | (121) | (139) |
| Resources deferred in the year | 334 | 121 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Deferred income at 31 August 2023 | 334 | 121 |
| | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Deferred income comprises £nil (2022: £3,000) in respect of Primary SLA income received in advance, £262,000 (2022: £47,000) in relation to trip income received in advance, £nil (2022: £7,000) for bursary income received in advance, £4,000 (2022: £11,000) uncertain appeals income, £15,000 (2022: £nil) pupil premium income for trip support, and £53,000 (2022: £53,000) in respect of sponsorship and other income received in advance.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

| | Balance at 1 September 2022 £000 | Income £000 | Expenditure £000 | Gains, losses and transfers £000 | Balance at 31 August 2023 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 11,475 | (11,416) | (59) | - |
| Pupil premium | - | 142 | (142) | - | - |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants | - | 496 | (267) | - | 229 |
| Other government grants | - | 251 | (251) | - | - |
| Teachers' pay grant | - | 1 | (1) | - | - |
| Teachers' pension grant | - | 81 | (32) | - | 49 |
| Fundraising campaign | 41 | - | (4) | (37) | - |
| Pension reserve | (1,126) | - | (198) | 944 | (380) |
| | <u>(1,085)</u> | <u>12,446</u> | <u>(12,311)</u> | <u>848</u> | <u>(102)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Inherited on conversion | 9,970 | - | (223) | - | 9,747 |
| DfE group capital grants | 3,712 | 966 | (155) | - | 4,523 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 834 | - | (26) | 59 | 867 |
| Private sector capital sponsorship | 576 | 255 | (83) | 41 | 789 |
| | <u>15,092</u> | <u>1,221</u> | <u>(487)</u> | <u>100</u> | <u>15,926</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>14,007</u> | <u>13,667</u> | <u>(12,798)</u> | <u>948</u> | <u>15,824</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | 283 | 843 | (776) | (4) | 346 |
| Total funds | <u>14,290</u> | <u>14,510</u> | <u>(13,574)</u> | <u>944</u> | <u>16,170</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Restricted general funds are those that have been designated restricted by the grant provider in meeting the objects of the academy and are restricted to both the day to day running of the academy and capital expenditure.

Unrestricted funds are those which the board of trustees may use in the pursuance of the academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted fixed asset funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the academy used in delivering the objects of the academy. The balance on the fund represents the net book value of fixed assets of £15,627,000 plus unspent capital income of £299,000.

£59,000 was transferred from restricted general annual grant funds to restricted fixed asset funds to cover fixed asset additions not covered by capital grants.

£4,000 was transferred from unrestricted funds to restricted fixed asset funds to cover fixed asset additions funded by unrestricted income.

£37,000 was transferred from restricted general funds (fundraising campaign) to restricted fixed asset funds to carry forward unspent capital income within restricted fixed asset funds.

Included within unrestricted funds is a deficit balance of £398,000 in respect of North Cestrian School, arising primarily from a deficit brought over on conversion. Included within unrestricted funds is a deficit of £150,000 in central services. The actions being taken by the trust to return these funds to surplus are detailed in the trustees report.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2023.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

18 Funds

(Continued)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

| | Balance at 1 September 2021 £000 | Income £000 | Expenditure £000 | Gains, losses and transfers £000 | Balance at 31 August 2022 £000 |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|---|---|
| Restricted general funds | | | | | |
| General Annual Grant (GAG) | - | 10,734 | (10,661) | (73) | - |
| Pupil premium | - | 175 | (175) | - | - |
| Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding | - | 30 | (30) | - | - |
| Other DfE/ESFA grants | - | 310 | (310) | - | - |
| Other government grants | - | 98 | (98) | - | - |
| Teachers' pay grant | - | 27 | (27) | - | - |
| Teachers' pension grant | - | 76 | (76) | - | - |
| Fundraising campaign | - | 112 | (71) | - | 41 |
| Pension reserve | (4,774) | - | (731) | 4,379 | (1,126) |
| | <u>(4,774)</u> | <u>11,562</u> | <u>(12,179)</u> | <u>4,306</u> | <u>(1,085)</u> |
| Restricted fixed asset funds | | | | | |
| Inherited on conversion | 10,193 | - | (223) | - | 9,970 |
| DfE group capital grants | 3,835 | 79 | (202) | - | 3,712 |
| Capital expenditure from GAG | 666 | - | (17) | 185 | 834 |
| Private sector capital sponsorship | 510 | 113 | (86) | 39 | 576 |
| | <u>15,204</u> | <u>192</u> | <u>(528)</u> | <u>224</u> | <u>15,092</u> |
| Total restricted funds | <u>10,430</u> | <u>11,754</u> | <u>(12,707)</u> | <u>4,530</u> | <u>14,007</u> |
| Unrestricted funds | | | | | |
| General funds | <u>360</u> | <u>633</u> | <u>(559)</u> | <u>(151)</u> | <u>283</u> |
| Total funds | <u>10,790</u> | <u>12,387</u> | <u>(13,266)</u> | <u>4,379</u> | <u>14,290</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|---------------|
| 18 | Funds | (Continued) | |
| | Total funds analysis by academy | | |
| | | 2023 | 2022 |
| | Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows: | £000 | £000 |
| | North Cestrian School | (398) | (589) |
| | Altrincham Grammar School for Boys | 1,172 | 1,056 |
| | Central services | (150) | (143) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve | 624 | 324 |
| | Restricted fixed asset fund | 15,926 | 15,092 |
| | Pension reserve | (380) | (1,126) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total funds | <u>16,170</u> | <u>14,290</u> |

Included within unrestricted funds is a deficit balance of in respect of North Cestrian School, arising primarily from a deficit brought over on conversion. The actions being taken by the trust to return these funds to surplus are detailed in the trustees report. There is also a deficit in respect of the central services arising primarily from costs not being recharged. The trust intends into recharge costs to each academy in the future.

Total cost analysis by academy

Expenditure incurred by each academy during the year was as follows:

| | Teaching and educational support staff | Other support staff costs | Educational supplies | Other costs excluding depreciation | Total 2023 | Total 2022 |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| North Cestrian School | 3,332 | 583 | 134 | 625 | 4,674 | 4,800 |
| Altrincham Grammar School for Boys | 5,536 | 882 | 182 | 1,529 | 8,129 | 7,714 |
| Central services | 26 | 103 | - | 155 | 284 | 224 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | <u>8,894</u> | <u>1,568</u> | <u>316</u> | <u>2,309</u> | <u>13,087</u> | <u>12,738</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted | Restricted funds: | | Total |
|--|--------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Funds | General | Fixed asset | Funds |
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 15,627 | 15,627 |
| Current assets | 346 | 2,676 | 299 | 3,321 |
| Current liabilities | - | (1,767) | - | (1,767) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (631) | - | (631) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | (380) | - | (380) |
| Total net assets | 346 | (102) | 15,926 | 16,170 |
| Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | - | - | 15,064 | 15,064 |
| Current assets | 283 | 1,462 | 28 | 1,773 |
| Current liabilities | - | (1,194) | - | (1,194) |
| Non-current liabilities | - | (227) | - | (227) |
| Pension scheme liability | - | (1,126) | - | (1,126) |
| Total net assets | 283 | (1,085) | 15,092 | 14,290 |

20 Pension and similar obligations

The academy trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016, and that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £192,000 (2022: £189,000) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

Introduction

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for teachers in academy trusts. All teachers have the option to opt out of the TPS following enrolment.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both the member and employer makes contributions, as a percentage of salary. These contributions are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2016. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 5 March 2019.

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,319,000 (2022: £1,270,000).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The academy trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contributions are as noted below. The agreed employers contribution rates for future years are 18.2% in North Cestrian School and 19.4% in Altrincham Grammar School for Boys. The agreed contribution rate for employees is 5.5% -12.5%.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

| Total contributions made | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Employer's contributions | 321 | 279 |
| Employees' contributions | 111 | 97 |
| Total contributions | <u>432</u> | <u>376</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

20 Pension and similar obligations (Continued)

| Principal actuarial assumptions | 2023 % | 2022 % |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| Rate of increase in salaries | 3.75-3.80 | 3.80-3.95 |
| Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation | 2.95-3.00 | 3.05-3.20 |
| Discount rate for scheme liabilities | 5.20 | 4.25 |

The current mortality assumptions include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates. The assumed life expectations on retirement age 65 are:

| | 2023 Years | 2022 Years |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Retiring today | | |
| - Males | 19.9-20.1 | 20.3 |
| - Females | 24.3-24.4 | 23.2 |
| Retiring in 20 years | | |
| - Males | 20.5-20.6 | 21.6 |
| - Females | 25.8-26.0 | 25.1 |

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

Altrincham Grammar School for Boys:

| Change in assumptions at 31 August 2023 | Approximate % increase to employer liability | Approximate monetary amount £000 |
|--|--|--|
| 0.1% decrease in real discount rate | 2% | 85 |
| 1 year increase in member life expectancy | 4% | 171 |
| 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate | 0% | 7 |
| 0.1% increase in the pension increase rate | 2% | 79 |

North Cestrian School:

| Change in assumptions at 31 August 2023 | Approximate % increase to employer liability | Approximate monetary amount £000 |
|--|--|--|
| 0.1% decrease in real discount rate | 3% | 32 |
| 1 year increase in member life expectancy | 4% | 48 |
| 0.1% increase in the salary increase rate | 0% | 2 |
| 0.1% increase in the pension increase rate | 3% | 31 |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--------------------|-------------------|
| 20 | Pension and similar obligations | (Continued) | |
| | The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | Fair value | Fair value |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Equities | 3,557 | 3,284 |
| | Bonds | 711 | 666 |
| | Cash | 407 | 381 |
| | Property | 407 | 428 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total market value of assets | 5,082 | 4,759 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | The actual return on scheme assets was £(1,000) (2022: £60,000). | | |
| | Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Current service cost | 469 | 926 |
| | Interest income | (209) | (75) |
| | Interest cost | 259 | 159 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | Total operating charge | 519 | 1,010 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | At 1 September 2022 | 5,885 | 9,195 |
| | Current service cost | 469 | 926 |
| | Interest cost | 259 | 159 |
| | Employee contributions | 111 | 97 |
| | Actuarial gain | (1,154) | (4,394) |
| | Benefits paid | (108) | (98) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | At 31 August 2023 | 5,462 | 5,885 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |
| | Changes in the fair value of the academy trust's share of scheme assets | 2023 | 2022 |
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | At 1 September 2022 | 4,759 | 4,421 |
| | Interest income | 209 | 75 |
| | Actuarial loss | (210) | (15) |
| | Employer contributions | 321 | 279 |
| | Employee contributions | 111 | 97 |
| | Benefits paid | (108) | (98) |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | At 31 August 2023 | 5,082 | 4,759 |
| | | <hr/> <hr/> | <hr/> <hr/> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

21 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

| | Notes | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|--|-------|--------------|--------------|
| Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities) | | 936 | (879) |
| Adjusted for: | | | |
| Capital grants from DfE and other capital income | | (1,221) | (192) |
| Investment income receivable | 6 | (5) | - |
| Finance costs payable | | 2 | 1 |
| Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable | 20 | 148 | 647 |
| Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost | 20 | 50 | 84 |
| Depreciation of tangible fixed assets | | 487 | 528 |
| (Increase)/decrease in debtors | | (85) | 382 |
| Increase/(decrease) in creditors | | 815 | (93) |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | | 1,127 | 478 |

22 Analysis of changes in net funds

| | 1 September 2022 £000 | Cash flows £000 | 31 August 2023 £000 |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Cash | 1,408 | 1,463 | 2,871 |
| Loans falling due within one year | (46) | (21) | (67) |
| Loans falling due after more than one year | (227) | (141) | (368) |
| | <u>1,135</u> | <u>1,301</u> | <u>2,436</u> |

23 Long-term commitments

Operating leases

At 31 August 2023 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

| | 2023 £000 | 2022 £000 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Amounts due within one year | 27 | 14 |
| Amounts due in two and five years | 71 | 17 |
| Amounts due after five years | 4 | 7 |
| | <u>102</u> | <u>38</u> |

THE HAMBLIN EDUCATION TRUST

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

24 Capital commitments

| | 2023 | 2022 |
|---|------|-------|
| | £000 | £000 |
| Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts | 450 | 1,108 |

At the balance sheet date the academy trust had commitments of £219,785 relating to the heating infrastructure system and £230,048 relating to external safeguarding works.

25 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

Expenditure related party transactions

Withington Girls School - a party in which J Kinney (a trustee) has an interest:

- The academy trust made a payment of £242 (2022: £414) relating to 'Model United Nations Competition' attended by delegates of the trust.
- There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).
- The academy trust made the purchase at arms' length in accordance with its financial regulations, which J Kinney neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

Manchester Grammar School - a party in which M Boulton (a trustee) has an interest:

- The academy trust made a payment of £360 (2022: £78) relating to a Model United Nations Event held by Manchester Grammar School on behalf of schools.
- There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).
- The academy trust made the purchase at arms' length in accordance with its financial regulations, which M Boulton neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook.

Income related party transactions

During the year Altrincham Grammar School Developments Limited, a company of which R Russel-Fisher and R Green are directors, donated £119,285 (2022; £119,675) to the academy trust.

26 Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before he or she ceases to be a member.

27 Agency arrangements

The academy trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the accounting period ending 31 August 2023 the trust received £15,247 (2022: £12,914) and disbursed £22,109 (2022: £10,288) from the fund. An amount of £249 (2022: £6,613) is included in creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to the ESFA.