Registration number: 08085503

Lincolnshire Gateway
Academies Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants
26 South Saint Mary's Gate
Grimsby
DN31 1LW

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Contents

Acronyms used in the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

CA Cleethorpes Academy
CEO Chief Executive Officer
CFO Chief Financial Officer
DfE Department for Education
DP Development Plan
ESFA Education & Skills Funding Agency
FMO Facilities Management Officer
HRO Human Resources Officer
ICO Information & Communications Officer
KA Kirton Academy
KD Key Deliverable
LA Louth Academy
LGAT Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust
MAT Trust
OfSTED Office for Standards in Education
PA Pilgrim Academy
PEP Primary Executive Principal
RA Reynolds Academy
RMP Risk Management Plan
SA Somercotes Academy
SAA Senior Academy Administrator
SEF Self-Evaluation Form
SEP Secondary Executive Principal
SIO School Improvement Officer
SoD Scheme of Delegation
SLT Senior Leadership Team
TA Theddlethorpe Academy
WTBA Waltham Toll Bar Academy

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Reference and administrative details

Members	Mrs J Aukett Mr P Bond Mr M Chilvers Mr M Draper Mr G Morris
Trustees (Directors)	Mr P Bond, Chair Mrs J Aukett, Vice Chair Mr C Brook Mr M Brown, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer Mr P Cornford Mrs A Hardy Mrs A Manders Mr S Woolsey
Company Secretary	Miss K Revell
Senior Management Team	Mr M Brown, CEO Ms K Davies, CFO Mrs A Davis, Human Resources Manager Mr K N Blake, Director of Estates and IT Services Mr M Shadbolt, Estates Operations Manager Mr R Middleton, Estates Projects Manager Mr P Dickinson, Executive Principal - Secondary Mr A Clark, Executive Principal - Primary Mr A Collins, Director of School Improvement
Principal and Registered Office	Gateway House North Holme Road Louth LN11 0HG
Company Registration Number	08085503
Auditors	Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants 26 South Saint Mary's Gate Grimsby DN31 1LW
Bankers	Lloyds Bank 50 - 52 Victoria Street West Grimsby DN31 1BL
Solicitors	Wilkin Chapman Cartergate House 26 Chantry Lane Grimsby DN31 2LJ

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Trustees' Report for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31/08/2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The Trust operates three primary and five secondary academies (one of which includes a sixth form), four in North East Lincolnshire, three in Lincolnshire and one in North Lincolnshire. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity of 6269 and had a roll of 5253 in the school census in summer 2024.

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 Trust. The Trustees of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust (LGAT) are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company Law. The charitable company operates as Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust.

Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative details on the previous page.

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 they are a member, or within one year after they ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

During the year the Multi Academy Trust had in place third party indemnity provisions for the benefit of the Multi Academy Trust's Members and Trustees.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

Members of the company, trustees and governors of the constituent academies are appointed as set out in the articles of association and Governance Arrangements (this includes both non-executive and executive schemes of delegation).

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The vice-chair of the Trust has responsibility for trustee induction and training.

Organisational structure

The constitution of the Board of trustees, and of constituent academies, is set out in the Articles of Association and in the Scheme of Delegation, a document that sets out in clear terms how decisions are made. Trustees appoint a Chief Executive to assure the strategic intentions of the Trust. The Chief Executive is the Accounting Officer. Trustees appoint Principals to take responsibility for the day-to-day management of constituent academies. The Executive Principals are responsible for overseeing their phase (secondary or primary). Trustees appoint a Governance Professional and Company Secretary.

Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

Arrangements are set out in the Trust’s Scheme of Delegation. See extract below.

Pay and Performance

Quorum
At least three trustees.

Constitution
Any trustee may be a member.
The Chair of the Finance Committee should normally be a member.

Terms of reference
To formulate and keep under review a pay policy that observes all statutory and contractual obligations, and which meets the needs of recruitment, retention and development of staff.
To receive reports from the CEO on the performance and pay of all staff in accordance with the Performance Management Policy and Procedures.
To receive reports from the CEO in relation to the performance of Principals of constituent academies and members of the Senior Executive Team.

Senior Staff Remuneration

Quorum
Three trustees

Constitution
The Chair of the Board, Chair of Finance and Chair of Audit.
Any other trustees.
The CEO should attend to advise on all matters other than his own remuneration.

Terms of reference
To receive reports from the CEO in relation to the performance of Principals of constituent academies and members of the Senior Executive Team.
To receive recommendations from the CEO in relation to the remuneration of Principals of constituent academies and members of the Senior Executive Team (other than the CEO).
To determine the remuneration of Principals of constituent academies and members of the Senior Executive Team.
To take evidence from the CEO in relation to his own performance.
To determine the remuneration of the CEO in the light of his performance, benchmark comparisons with similarly sized trusts, and the median level of pay across all other salaried staff in the Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust.

Trade union facility time

Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
8	7

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	1
51%-99%	-
100%	-

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
Provide the total cost of facility time	1,496
Provide the total bill	31,380,164
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) x 100	0.00005%

Paid trade union activities

Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
Time spent on paid trade union activites as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) x 100	0%

Trustees should refer to Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 328, The Trade Union Facility Time Publication Requirements Regulations 2017 for calculation details.

Connected organisations, including related party relationships

The Trust currently has a contract with IT@Spectrum Limited, in relation to printing services for three of the academies and central services within the Trust. This is a company in which Mr S Woolsey, a Trustee, is an employee. The contract was procured through a competitive tendering policy with value for money taken into consideration, and Mr S Woolsey was not involved in the decision making process and shall not be going forward. Mr S Woolsey does not personally benefit from this transaction and is neither a shareholder nor part of management for IT@Spectrum Limited.

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Board of Trustees consider the Trust's employees to be integral to its continued success. The Board of Trustees makes use of the Senior Leadership Teams throughout the Trust to ensure that all employees are kept up to date with key and relevant information which may concern them as employees. Each academy location consults its employees as necessary when making material decisions which may affect them. Employees are encouraged to have an interest in the performance and success of the Trust. The Trust invests heavily in training to allow staff members to meet the needs of the Trust and deliver on its obligations to the UK educational sector and the Secretary of state for Education.

The policy of the Trust is to support recruitment and retention of students and employees with disabilities. The Trust supports this by adapting the physical environment wherever possible, by making support resources available and through training and career development. New buildings and improvements to existing buildings all recognise the need to be fully DDA compliant.

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Academy Trust

The Board of Trustees continually consider key stakeholder relationships and develop them through the Senior Leadership Team. The Trust considers relationships with customers and suppliers on a local and national scale and maintains strong relationships at a local and national level.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The company operates for charitable purposes to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing schools which offer a broad and balanced curriculum.

Objectives, strategies and activities

Details of the Trust objectives, strategies and activities are included below within the Trust Development Plan.

Public benefit

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers or duties. The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's objectives and aims and in planning future activities. Given the activities in the Trust and the student population that it services, the Trustees consider that the Trust's aims are demonstrably to the public benefit.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

Below is a summary of our Key Performance Indicators for 2023-2024.

OFSTED INSPECTIONS

School	Ofsted status before joining Trust	Current Ofsted
Waltham Toll Bar Academy (secondary)	Outstanding (April 2008)	Outstanding (Nov 2013)
Cleethorpes Academy (secondary)	Inadequate (2010)	Good (May 2015 & Jan 2020)
Somercotes Academy (secondary)	Inadequate (2015)	Good (Nov 2018)
Louth Academy (secondary)	Inadequate (2017)	Good (Feb 2022)
Kirton Academy (secondary) (joined Trust in May 2024)	Inadequate (2022)	Awaiting Ofsted Inspection
Reynolds Academy (primary)	Requires improvement (2013)	Good (June 2015 & June 2019)
Theddlethorpe Academy (primary)	Inadequate (2016)	Good (July 2023)
Pilgrim Academy (primary)	Requires improvement (2017)	Good (Jan 2020)

RESULTS DATA

Secondary

Overview of GCSE Outcomes for all LGAT Secondary Academies

	Cleethorpes	Louth	Somercotes	Waltham Toll Bar	Kirton
Attainment 8 – average per student	43.06	42.87	40.62	46.41	34.92
Students Achieving 9-5 in English and Maths %	34.3	34.1%	19.8	42.7	22.86
Students Achieving 9-4 in English and Maths %	60.4	52.1%	51.6	66.7	38.1
Students achieving 5 Standard Passes inc EM %	53.3	49.7%	49.5	63.5	36.79
Students achieving 5 Strong Passes inc EM %	27.8	31.7%	19.8	40.5	22.86

Primary

Attainment

% reaching at least the expected standard	Pilgrim Academy	Reynolds Academy	Theddlethorpe Academy*	National 2024
KS2 Reading, Writing and Maths (combined)	70%	34%	15%	61%
KS2 Reading	77%	62%	54%	74%
KS2 Writing	77%	43%	31%	72%
KS2 Mathematics	81%	51%	23%	73%
KS2 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	80%	57%	31%	72%

Progress

There are no progress measures, individually or nationally for this year due to Covid-19 as there were no baseline KS1 tests for this cohort.

PUPIL ATTENDANCE DATA

Summary - Attendance 2023/24

	Waltham Toll Bar	Cleethorpes	Somercotes	Louth	Kirton	Reynolds	Theddlethorpe	Pilgrim
Attendance	91.69%	90.24%	89.73%	90.19%	86.20%	94.49%	94.06%	93.40%
Authorised	5.91%	7.3%	7.01%	6.23%	8.53%	3.82%	5.12%	4.9%
Unauthorised	2.4%	2.46%	3.26%	3.58%	5.27%	1.69%	0.82%	1.7%
Persistent Absence >=10%	424	280	165	267	370	52	13	62
AEA	1.03%	0.51%	1.15%	0.55%	1.26%	0.11%	1.03%	0.7%
Present						94.37%		
Lates	1.96%	2.79%	0.68%	1.66%	3.51%	3.54%	0.22%	0.77%

2023-2024 Development Plan - Operational Report and Key Performance Indicators

1 Develop our school improvement function with a focus on student progress

Since the appointment of a Director of School Improvement in January 2023 the Trust has been formalising its approach to school improvement. Our approach is that improvements to all aspects of teaching and learning across the trust should be focused on student progress. This priority seeks to ensure that staff at all levels are responsible for student progress and are accountable for progress outcomes.

	Strategies
1.1	Ensure there is a common understanding across the Trust for student progress
1.2	Introduce Trust-wide templates and systems for monitoring Academy student progress
1.3	Ensuring accountability for student progress at all levels
1.4	Build on our models of intervention to create sustainable plans to deliver increased student progress

2 Broaden governance to secure wider community representation

Our academies are at the heart of their local communities. Now that many of them are well established and successful there is no requirement for the experienced long-standing trustees of our outstanding hub school to be on the board. Therefore, the Trust is looking for representatives of the local community to be members of refreshed local governing bodies to add a local community dimension and to develop their skills to hold Principals to account for educational outcomes. This will allow trustees to hold LGBs, and their Chairs, to account for the overall performance of their academies.

	Strategies
2.1	Recruit new governors from the local communities that our academies serve
2.2	Training of new and existing governors/trustees to perform their duties effectively
2.3	Improve availability and support governors to access data/information for their academies
2.4	Identify and train potential Chairs to fulfil roles effectively

3 Define clear responsibilities for our central services

Over the past year the Trust has developed our central services to be more efficient with improved procedures and processes often using new software to help deliver improved delivery e.g. Every HR, Approval Max etc. Some of these developments require Academies to perform some administrative functions e.g. approving purchases, receiving goods, completing proformas for job adverts etc. This new way of working requires increased clarity in the roles Academies perform and the roles delivered by central teams.

	Strategies
3.1	Define clear responsibilities for all financial activity
3.2	Define clear responsibilities for all HR activities
3.3	Define clear responsibilities for all IT/Estates activities
3.4	Define clear responsibilities for school improvement work

4 Develop leadership with a focus on line management

A key part of the success of our Academies lies with supportive, productive and clear line management of staff. Staff at all levels need to be held accountable for their work whilst being supported to achieve their best. Some of the new HR processes place increased responsibility on line managers who will be more involved with areas such as absence as well as managing performance. This priority needs to be achieved without increasing work load or distracting staff from core activities e.g. teaching. Improved line management will also help deliver our focus on student progress with an increased responsibility and accountability for line managers.

	Strategies
4.1	Ensure all line managers have clarity for their role and responsibilities
4.2	Ensure line managers are adequately trained for their role
4.3	Ensure all line managers are effectively held to account
4.4	Ensure the Trust is able to quality assure the work of line managers

5 Reduce budget deficits (Additional priority)

The national picture for education funding is bleak. A number of trusts across the country are reporting budget deficits and reserves that will run out in the coming year. This is caused by significant cost increases caused by a teaching staff pay award that is only part funded, support staff pay award, minimum wage rises, high inflation causing price rises for all expenses including energy costs. The rise in funding is modest compared to these increasing costs. LGAT has prudently kept high reserves, despite criticism, for precisely this scenario. Whilst these reserves mean that our academies are secure financially, it is not desirable for these reserves to reach critically low levels in the years to come. Additionally, our academies may miss opportunities to spend reserves on capital or IT developments that are needed. In short, the current predicted budget deficits are too high and are not sustainable.

	Strategies
5.1	Improve the use of Curriculum Led Financial Planning and benchmarking tools to reduce expenditure
5.2	Ensure staffing is efficient and make reductions where possible
5.3	Request support of an SRMA and implement recommendations
5.4	Reduce central costs to assist Academy budgets

Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy 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 Statement of Accounting Policies.

Promoting the success of the academy

The Board of Trustees have considered the matters set out in section 172 (1) (a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006 when performing their duty to promote the success of the Trust.

The Board of Trustees continue to ensure that any business decisions consider the long-term impact on all key stakeholders. During the period there has been a strong focus on the continued integration with all academies within the Trust to ensure that the Trust continues to function in a single consistent manner going forward.

This integration promotes employee development and allows supplier and customer relationships to be elevated to a MAT level.

Environmental issues continue to be a major focus of the Trust and are a key consideration as the Board compiles its strategy. The Board of Trustees encourage sharing of best practices between all academies within the Trust to ensure it operates at the highest possible standard and endeavours for all members to be treated fairly.

The Board of Trustees meet regularly to oversee implementation of the Trust's strategy. This includes, but is not limited to, reviewing the performance against forecasts, authorising and monitoring capital investment, assessing compliance with regulations and maintaining a high level of active training to promote a safe working environment, all of which contribute directly to the long term success of the Trust.

In addition, the Board of Trustees consider the Trust's employees, suppliers and customers to be integral to its continued success. The Trustees have reported on engagement with suppliers, customers and others within the Structure, Governance and Management section of this report.

Financial review

Most of the Multi Academy Trust's income is obtained from the Department for Education in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the Department for Education during the year ending 31 August 2024 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure of this fund has supported the key objectives of the Multi Academy Trust as set out in the Objectives and Activities section of the Report of the Trustees.

The Multi Academy Trust also receives grants for Devolved Formula Capital for the purchase of fixed assets from the Department for Education. In accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts, such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

The in-period deficit for the restricted general funds plus the unrestricted funds is £147,000 (2023: £972,000 deficit) and the total reserves (restricted funds excluding pension reserves, plus unrestricted funds) are £9,699,000 at 31 August 2024 (2023: £9,846,000). The fixed asset reserves total £110,332,000 (2023: £104,472,000) of which £742,275 (2023: £285,518) is capital funding in reserve for future capital projects.

Under Accounting Standard FRS102, it is necessary to charge projected deficits or surpluses on the Local Government Pension Scheme, which are provided for support staff, to the restricted fund. This resulted in the pension fund showing a value of £Nil (2023: £610,000 asset).

Reserves policy

The Trustees have reviewed the reserves of the Trust. This review encompassed the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to align them with commitments, possible future cost increases and the nature of reserves.

When considering an appropriate level of reserves, the trustees considered:

•The risk of unforeseen emergency or other unexpected need for funds
•Covering unforeseen day-today operational costs, for example employing temporary staff to cover long term sickness absence or a large unexpected repair bill
•Potential falls in income such as due to projected pupil numbers
•A potential unfunded increase in staffing costs due to market factors or Government policy
•Planned commitments that cannot be met by future income alone, for example, plans for a major capital project or IT investment
•The need to fund potential deficits in a cash budget, for example money may need to be spent before a funding grant is received

The Trustees have reviewed the policy of reserves that should be held. It was agreed that the target level of free reserves should be set between 8% and 12% of GAG funding for each academy. The financial risks identified determine the amount of reserves the academy aims to hold. The Trust may request this amount to be higher or lower for individual academies depending on their risks.

Current reserves held by the Central Trust are £1,096,000. Reserves held by each academy are as follows:
•Waltham Tollbar Academy reserves held are £3,437,000 .
•Cleethorpes Academy reserves held are £1,735,000.
•Louth Academy reserves held are £1,928,000.
•Somercotes Academy reserves held are £435,000.
•Pilgrim Academy reserves held are (£54,000).
•Reynolds Academy reserves held are £476,000.
•Theddlethorpe Academy reserves held are £269,000.
• Kirton Academy reserves held are £376,000.

The Trust is carrying significant reserves. A proportion arose during Covid years when spend on IT investments were strategically delayed. The Trust is now moving forward with these IT capital investments. There is a great deal of financial uncertainty, in funding due to changes in the NFF, in staff costs and other general expenditure due to the cost of living crisis. The Trust therefore consider it sensible to try and maintain healthy reserves as contingency.

Investment policy

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust does not hold any long-term investments. Cash surpluses have been invested in short term deposits to attract a higher level of interest whilst ensuring the Trusts current bank account maintains an even cash flow across the year. The Trust's investment policy is to maximise income but from a low risk strategy.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The risks and strategies for their mitigation over the period 2023-2024 have been reviewed (see below) and a revised risk management plan for the period 2024-2025 has been completed.

Risk management plan

Each academy sets an annual development plan which is informed by a detailed evaluation of its current position and its future intentions. For each area of activity these academy plans propose measurable outcomes, known as key deliverables, and identifies possible threats to their achievement.

To enable and support academies in their work, the MAT executive team, at the centre of the organisation, sets its own development plan, with its own key deliverables and specifies possible threats to their achievement, and takes into account those identified at academy level.

The MAT priorities for 2023-2024 were:

1. Develop our school improvement function with a focus on student progress
2. Broaden governance to secure wider community representation
3. Define clear responsibilities for our central services
4. Develop leadership with a focus on line management
5. Reduce budget deficits (additional priority)

Three key deliverables for each priority area were agreed by the Board, who held the Executive to account for their achievement.

Set out below are the possible threats, their likelihood of occurrence, their impact, their calculated priority and the measures for mitigation. Together these form our risk register, risk matrix and risk management plan.

Principal Risks

Risk Log and Mitigation Strategies

1 Generic Principal Risks	L	I	R	Mitigation
Business Interruption	3	4	12	see business interruption plan
IT Failure	3	5	15	see IT rescue plan
Breaches of security / confidentiality or data control	3	4	12	see data security policy
Theft or fraud	2	4	8	see internal audit schedule
Conflicts of interest undeclared	1	4	4	see CoI policy
Undetected accounting errors	2	5	10	see internal audit schedule
Changes to the pattern of national & regional education provision	2	4	8	CEO involvement in networks
Pupil numbers fall	3	4	12	Three-year forward financial plan and rebrand
A serious incident damages the reputation of the MAT	2	4	8	see communications & PR policy
Key staff leave with no replacement available	3	4	12	see retention & recruitment policy

2 Overall risks to delivering our annual plan for 2023-24	L	I	R	Mitigation
The pay awards, inflationary pressures and national funding changes will inevitably have an impact at our academies.	5	3	15	Ensure proactive response to coping with funding difficulties. Ensure any cuts do not affect front line services.
Funding constraints impacts recruitment and capacity at Trust and Academy level.	4	3	12	Ensure central team is efficient – seek process/software solutions.
The Huntcliff project depletes resources centrally and at Louth Academy – due diligence may miss some risks.	3	3	9	Do not over commit at Huntcliff – if possible keep generous senior staffing at Louth. Continue due diligence up to signing of funding agreement.
Free Schools – pupil numbers and funding present significant risks for financial security and reputational harm.	3	3	9	Ensure long term funding agreement with LA to maintain viability of schools.
New Principals at Pilgrim, Somercotes and Huntcliff are ineffective	2	5	10	Ensure recruitment processes are robust. Support new Principals (EP, DSI and CEO)

3 Risks to achieving MAT1 success indicators	L	I	R	Mitigation
Capacity of Director of School Improvement/CEO cannot support initiative.	3	3	9	Appoint Principal at SA to free up DSI Ensure CEO has back up for commercial functions
Capacity of Academy staff/funding to support initiative.	3	3	9	Prioritise progress with staff at all levels. Fund intervention where possible.
Failure of policy to land with staff	2	4	8	Ensure quality of material/presentation and repeat/remind staff regularly of key messages.

4 Risks to achieving MAT2 success indicators	L	I	R	Mitigation
Failure to recruit new governors	4	3	12	Ensure all recruitment avenues explored. Publicity to support drive.
Governors are of insufficient quality	3	3	9	Governor training online and face to face
Governors lose interest or have limited capacity	1	3	4	Increase training and material available between meetings. Encourage active participation.

5 Risks to achieving MAT3 success indicators	L	I	R	Mitigation
Capacity to define Trust/Academy responsibilities and deliver training	4	4	16	Prioritise and insist department leads produce clear documentation.
Responsibilities not clearly understood at Trust or Academy level	2	4	8	Ensure documentation and explanation is clear and revisit regularly.

6 Risks to achieving MAT4 key deliverables	L	I	R	Mitigation
Failure to source or have capacity for training of line managers	2	4	8	Explore all training options and prioritise in staff inset programmes.
Reluctance of line managers to take on additional responsibilities	4	3	12	Ensure clarity of reasoning for increased line manager responsibilities – use PM to assist.
Quality of line managers results in limited improvement	3	3	9	Rigorous and robust PM to focus on line management.

Fundraising
The Multi Academy Trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	**1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024**	**1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023**
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	6,304,387	5,999,408
Energy consumption break down (kWh)		
Gas	3,782,615	3,494,796
Oil	297,235	325,058
Electricity	1,988,622	2,008,153
Transport fuel	235,915	171,401
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Gas consumption	680.87	629.06
Oil consumption	76.74	83.92
Owned transport - fleet vehicles	56.22	40.91
Total scope 1	813.83	753.89
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Purchased electricity	411.79	388.34
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	3.28	0.57
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	**1228.90**	**1142.80**
Intensity ratio		
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	**234.00**	**0.23**

Quantification and Reporting Methodology:
We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the Green House Gas (GHG) Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting. We have used an evidence based methodology, where verified data has been extracted from energy bills for buildings and vehicle fuel consumption records and staff mileage claims held by the Trust.

Intensity measurement
The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency
Continued installation of LED lighting upgrades and automatic lighting controls across all Academies. Continued lowering of ceilings in classrooms and circulation areas across all Academies. Continued upgrades to radiators and thermostatic controls across all Academies. Purchase of electric vehicle for the Fleet to replace older diesel vehicle. Continued scheme of energy efficiency improvement at Somercotes including the Salix funded installation of air source heat pumps, which when fully operational will replace the old inefficient oil boilers providing heating to the school. Scheme also includes installation of Solar PV system and upgrades to LED lighting.

Plans for future periods

Our themes and priorities for 2024/25

Working together for greater alignment and cohesion to unlock our collective potential

In line with our strategic plan 2020 – 2025, over the last four years the trust has encouraged a degree of autonomy in order to allow creativity and innovation. This has delivered, for some academies, rapid improvements in educational standards, innovative approaches and the freedom to create new opportunities for students. However, some academies need greater support, our new secondary academy recovering from an inadequate Ofsted judgement, our small academies and academies with new leadership. The thrust of this year's development plan is to ensure all of our academies and our staff are collaborating and sharing good practice to bring a consistency of high standards that benefits all of our students. We will achieve this through:

1. Putting our students progress first
2. Enhancing the performance and opportunities of our staff and
3. Maximising our collective resources

These will form our priorities for the year. A number of common strategies and themes will become areas of focus to allow us to achieve our priorities. These are:

1. Aligning and developing our curriculum
2. Developing and maximising use of IT
3. Sharing our expertise and
4. Developing a new SEND strategy.

As this is the final year of our strategic plan, a fourth priority to establish a new strategic plan will be actioned.

Overarching priority		
Working together for greater alignment and cohesion to unlock our collective potential:		
Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Putting our students progress first	**Enhancing the performance and opportunities of our staff**	**Maximising our collective resources**
We will achieve these priorities by focusing on:		
*Aligning and developing **our** curriculum*		
*Developing and maximising use of **our** IT systems*		
*Sharing **our** expertise*		
*Developing **our** new SEND strategy*		
Priority 4		
Establish our new strategic plan for 2025-30		

Priorities 2024/2025

This year we will:

Work together for greater alignment and cohesion to unlock our collective potential by

1. Putting **our** students' progress first
2. Enhancing the performance and opportunities of **our** staff
3. Maximising **our** collective resources

And to prepare for our next phase of development we will

4. Establish our new strategic plan for 2025 - 2030

1 Put our students' progress first

Students in all year groups deserve the best education we can provide. Whilst all academies have competing priorities including teacher workload, it is important to focus on the basics of education i.e. continuity of teaching throughout an academic year. We have to take great care when organising extra revision for GCSE/Year 6 or planning extra-curricular events that other students' education is not disrupted. Senior leadership including at MAT level needs to ensure meetings, events etc do not impact on the student experience.

	Strategies
1.1	Define what we mean by putting students' progress first with examples e.g. cover and ensure understanding of all staff
1.2	Develop with our new MIS provider reports to monitor aspects of a student's education e.g. lessons covered/timetable changes and act on outcomes
1.3	Develop improved mechanisms for assessing progress of students in all year groups
1.4	Ensure the new SEND strategy puts all students progress first.

2 Enhance the performance and opportunities of our staff

Our staff are our most vital resource. It is important that we act more strategically and with more cohesion as a trust to improve the performance of our staff. We need to ensure that we share expertise to collectively improve the performance of staff and offer opportunities for staff for professional development. We need to make better use of our subject networks to enhance the sharing of expertise.

	Strategies
2.1	Ensure the subject networks are dynamic and fulfilling their role to share expertise
2.2	Develop curriculum to gain greater alignment and consistency to bring efficiencies
2.3	Focus line managers on their important role as managers of performance
2.4	Ensure the new SEND strategy upskills staff to better support all learners.

3 Maximise our collective resources

There are considerable financial pressures on all of our academies, whether that is owing to funding, falling rolls or increased numbers of SEN students. It is therefore vital that we achieve greater efficiencies from our existing resources. This includes sharing expertise and staffing, aligning our activities to ensure efficiency and value for money and ensuring the central services provided to academies are as streamlined as possible and are focused on delivering positive educational outcomes for students.

	Strategies
3.1	Ensure all new IT developments are bringing improved efficiency and productivity
3.2	Develop school improvement service to support all academies.
3.3	Seek greater alignment between academies to assist in gaining efficiencies and increasing student progress
3.4	Review all MAT services to ensure value for money for academies and are focused on improving student progress

4 Establish our new strategic plan for 2025 – 2030

The current strategic plan comes to an end at the conclusion of the coming academic year. It is important that the new strategic plan whilst owned by the members and trustees is supported and values shared by as many stakeholders as possible to ensure as comprehensive as possible buy-in to the new plan. A staff, student and parent body that are aligned to the future development and direction of the trust will put the trust in a very strong position to succeed in the years up to 2030.

	Strategies
4.1	Consult with members, trustees, staff, students and parents on the direction for the trust in the next 5 years.
4.2	Using the feedback from the above work with members and trustees to formulate a new strategic plan.
4.3	Consult with members, trustees, staff, students and parents on the new strategic plan
4.4	Publish the new plan and communicate widely. Use the new plan to focus plans for next academic year.

Funds held as Custodian Trustee on behalf of others

The Trust does not hold funds on behalf of others.

Auditor

Insofar 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.

The trustees' report, incorporating a Strategic Report, was approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees, as the company Directors, on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

....
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Mr P Bond
Chair

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Governance Statement

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that Lincolnshire Gateway Academies 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 Chief Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust 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 formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Bond	4	4
Mrs J Aukett	4	4
Mr C Brook	4	4
Mr M Brown, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	4	4
Mr P Cornford	2	4
Mrs A Hardy	2	4
Mrs A Manders	2	4
Mr S Woolsey	3	4

Governance reviews

Formal self-evaluation of the constituent academies includes section on governance within the leadership and management section. Upon the CEO's appointment on 1 November 2020, he requested a review of the Governance Arrangements in light of the statutory guidance in the Academy Trust Handbook 2022. A consultant-led review was carried out and the new Governance Arrangements were approved by Trustees at their meeting in March 2021. This has since been updated and the document renamed Scheme of Delegation and approved by Trustees in March 2024.

Conflicts of interest

The Trust maintains a register of interests. 'Conflicts of interest' is a standing agenda item on every Trust Board and Committee meeting in order to give trustees and governors the opportunity to declare any interests and withdraw from any discussions as necessary.

The Finance Committee is a committee of the main Board of Trustees and meets generally on a monthly basis. Its terms of reference are as follows:

Quorum - Three trustees

Constitution
• Trustees form the majority on this Committee.
• The Board appoints a Chair and Vice Chair from the Non-Executive Trustees of the Board.
• Membership includes the CEO as trustee with normal voting rights, as well as the CFO, Executive Principal (Primary) and Executive Principal (Secondary) in a non-voting capacity.
• The Committee may invite any member of the of Senior Executive Team to attend.
• The Internal Auditor may be invited to attend meetings of the Committee.

Terms of reference
The Board delegates the regular detailed monitoring of budget income and expenditure to this Committee.
1. To meet at regular intervals (at least twice a term) to review in detail the budget monitoring reports of the MAT's central operations and its constituent academies along with associated papers presented by the CEO.
2. To agree all budget amendments including virements over the Chief Executive's delegated financial limits which are to be countersigned by the Chair of Finance.
3. To authorise the disposal of assets beyond the delegated limits to the CEO.
4. To deal with all matters pertaining to tendering for services, arranging quotations, letting contracts where the potential cost exceeds the limit delegated to the CEO and in accordance with the Tendering Policy.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr S Woolsey	7	8
Mrs J Aukett	8	8
Mr M Brown, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	8	8

J Stokes and R Coleman both attended 7 and 4 meetings as Local Governing Body members whilst K Vincent also attended 2 Finance Committee meetings during the year in a non-voting capacity.

The Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees.

The Audit & Risk Committee meets as appropriate. Its terms of reference are as follows:

Quorum - three non-executive trustees

Constitution
• No members of the Finance Committee may sit on this committee.
• The Board appoints a Chair and Vice Chair.
• The CEO and CFO should normally be invited.
• The Committee may invite any member of the of Executive Team to attend.
• The Internal Auditor should be invited to attend meetings of the Committee when required.
• The Board delegates the regular and detailed monitoring of internal controls.
• No Non-Executive Trustee members of the Finance Committee may sit on this committee.

Terms of reference
This is a statutory Committee responsible for providing assurance to the Board on the system of internal controls, risk management and financial probity.
1. To meet at least three times a year.
2. To monitor all internal controls.
3. To inform the work plan for the audit reviews.
4. To receive reports from the Internal Auditor on the effectiveness of the financial procedures and control of the centre and constituent academies.
5. To receive from the CEO the reports on the effectiveness of the financial procedures and control of the MAT in accordance with the MAT Financial Regulations and the current Academy Trust Handbook.
6. To advise the CEO on their preferred attitude to risk.

Attendance at meetings during the year was as follows:

Committee members	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr P Bond	3	3
Mr P Cornford	3	3
Mr M Draper	3	3
Mr M Brown, Chief Executive and Accounting Officer	3	3

Review of value for money
As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Multi Academy Trust delivers good value for money in the use of public resources. The Accounting Officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes 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 appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

• Modernising, rationalising and streamlining all functions of the Trust using IT solutions wherever possible.
• All contracts have been reviewed and more cost-effective solutions have been implemented where suitable.
• Staffing has been rationalised with a number of senior posts being removed from the structure of both the central MAT team and within the academies.
• Successfully gaining additional funding for projects including removal of fossil fuel based heating at an academy.
• The Estates team prioritise health and safety improvements and maintenance when considering projects using capital funding.

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 system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Multi Academy Trust 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 Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust for the year ended 31 August 2024 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 (see above) together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Audit & Risk Committee meet regularly to review risks and mitigations. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

The academy trust's system of internal control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the 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 purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks;

The Board of Trustees has decided to appoint Duncan & Toplis to provide an internal audit service. This option has been chosen because the auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period included:

1. Bank and petty cash
2. Expenditure
3. Fixed assets
4. Payroll
5. Budgets and financial monitoring
6. Income
7. Compliance
8. Governance
9. Strategic and operational

As part of the remit of the Audit & Risk Committee, who meet 3 times per year, the auditor reports to the Board of Trustees, through this Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and annually prepares an annual 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.

Duncan & Toplis have carried out and delivered their schedule of work as planned. The following areas were highlighted in their reports:

Visit 1:
Amber
• Compliance, SRMA report - self-assessment compliance checklist. Ms Davies agreed it would in future years be submitted before the deadline. Although it was submitted only 1 day late.

• Governance, register of interests - not enough detail of the nature of some interests. Miss Revell to provide guidance information sheet to accompany request to complete register of interests for staff, governors, etc. Information should also be further challenged to ensure all interests are fully recorded.

Green
• The gift register does not contain enough information. Ms Davies to ask for further clarification from the accountants.

Visit 2:
Green
• 5 instances from a sample of 10 where a contract had been issued but had not been signed by the employee (Kirton Academy tested). Advice was sought from Wilkin Chapman Solicitors who advised that no action was required as the contracts would be deemed accepted by custom and practice. Kirton Academy joined the Trust on 1 May 2024 and its employees Tupe'd across. The Trust has thorough processes in place to ensure all employee contracts are signed prior to commencement of employment.

• From a review of payroll control account reconciliations, there was no evidence of authorisation. Processes have been amended to ensure Ms Davies, CFO, initials and dates payroll account reconciliations.

There were no material control or other issues reported by the Internal Auditor to date.

Review of effectiveness
As Accounting Officer, the Chief Executive has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process or the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the Multi Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- the work of the external auditor;
- Correspondence from ESFA

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Committee to address areas highlighted to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Conclusion
Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the board of trustees is of the opinion that the Academy Trust has adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:
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Mr P Bond
Chair

DocuSigned by:
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Mr M Brown
Accounting Officer

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Statement of regularity, propriety and compliance

As accounting officer of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies 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 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 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the Trust Board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all 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 2023.

I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA.

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Mr M Brown
Accounting Officer

10 December 2024

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 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 financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements 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 financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 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 financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

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Mr P Bond
Chair

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust (the 'Academy Trust') for the year ended 31 August 2024, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust 's affairs as at 31 August 2024 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; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

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 responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements 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 financial statements 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 Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Other informaiton includes trustee's annual report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report), the governance statement, and the Accounting Officer's statement. Our opinion on the financial statements 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.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in 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 there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. 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.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust (continued)

Opinion 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' Annual Report (which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report prepared for the purposes of company law) for the financial for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and Directors' Report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception
In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and Directors' Report, included within the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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 financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Directors' 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 [set out on page 25], the Trustees (who are also the Directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements 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 financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, 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 Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements 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 financial statements.

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

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of non-compliance held.
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made within significant accounting estimates and judgements such as depreciation and the local goverment pension scheme liability.
- Testing of income, bank, purchases and payroll, systems and controls and providing conclusions on the regularity of samples chosen.
- Identification of key laws and regulations central to the academies operations and review of compliance with such laws including a review of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023 and correspondence with solicitors to identify any on-going litigation.
- Testing of journal entries and potential override of systems.

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. The 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.

Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust (continued)

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust'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 Academy Trust and the Academy Trust's members , as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

DocuSigned by:
Carrie Jensen
.......BDAEC37F17274BE.........

Carrie Anne Jensen ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants, Statutory Auditor

26 South Saint Mary's Gate
Grimsby
DN31 1LW

10 December 2024

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 20 August 2024 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust during the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust and the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we may state to Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust and the 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 Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust and the ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of the Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 19 October 2015 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2023, 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 2023 to 2024. 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 year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Evaluating the systems and control environment;
- Assessing the risk of irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance;
- Ensuring that the activities of the Academy Trust are in keeping with the Academy's framework and the charitable objectives; and
- Obtaining representations from the Accounting Officer and Key Management Personnel.

Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

DocuSigned by:
Carrie Jensen
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Carrie Anne Jensen ACA, Reporting Accountant
For and on behalf of Forrester Boyd Chartered Accountants, Chartered Accountants

26 South Saint Mary's Gate
Grimsby
DN31 1LW

10 December 2024

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and capital grants	2	281	-	9,345	9,626	1,433
Other trading activities	4	240	-	-	240	129
Investments	5	334	-	-	334	24
Charitable activities:						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	273	37,673	-	37,946	33,374
Total		1,128	37,673	9,345	48,145	34,960
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	44	-	-	44	21
Charitable activities:						
Academy trust educational operations	7	279	38,055	4,084	42,418	39,301
Total		323	38,055	4,084	42,462	39,322
Net income/(expenditure)		804	(382)	5,261	5,683	(4,362)
Transfers between funds		-	(600)	600	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	(580)	-	(580)	1,514
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		804	(1,562)	5,861	5,103	(2,848)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2023		1,149	9,307	104,472	114,928	117,776
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024		1,954	7,745	110,332	120,031	114,928

Comparative figures are shown in detail on page 32.

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and capital grants	2	16	-	1,416	1,433
Other trading activities	4	129	-	-	129
Investments	5	24	-	-	24
Charitable activities:					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	177	33,198	-	33,374
Total		346	33,198	1,416	34,960
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	21	-	-	21
Charitable activities:					
Academy trust educational operations	7	230	34,120	4,951	39,301
Total		251	34,120	4,951	39,322
Net income/(expenditure)		95	(922)	(3,535)	(4,362)
Transfers between funds		-	(551)	551	-
Other recognised gains and losses					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	25	-	1,514	-	1,514
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		95	41	(2,984)	(2,848)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 September 2022		1,054	9,266	107,456	117,776
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2023		1,149	9,307	104,472	114,928

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

(Registration number: 08085503)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	109,590	104,186
Current assets			
Debtors	13	1,431	1,030
Cash at bank and in hand	22	11,469	11,136
		12,900	12,166
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(2,267)	(2,034)
Net current assets		10,633	10,132
Total assets less current liabilities		120,223	114,318
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	(192)	-
Net assets excluding pension asset		120,031	114,318
Defined benefit pension scheme asset	25	-	610
Total net assets		**120,031**	**114,928**
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	16	7,745	8,697
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	110,332	104,472
Pension reserve	16	-	610
		118,077	113,779
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	16	1,954	1,149
Total funds		**120,031**	**114,928**

The financial statements on pages 31 to 61 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 10 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

DocuSigned by:

A86C1426A72D47C...

Mr P Bond
Trustee

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	19	(738)	(1,199)
Cash flows from investing activities	21	833	400
Cash flows from financing activities	20	238	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		333	(799)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		11,136	11,935
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	22	11,469	11,136

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

1 Accounting policies

General information
The Multi Academy Trust is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in the United Kingdom.

The address of its registered office is:
Gateway House
North Holme Road
Louth
LN11 0HG

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board on 10th December 2024.

Statement of accounting policies
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.

Basis of preparation
The financial statements 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 2023 to 2024 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the company and have been rounded to the nearest £'000.

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

The financial statements cover the individual entity, Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust.

Going concern
The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the 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 financial statements 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 financial statements.

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.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 year 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 spent on capital projects in line with the terms and conditions of the grant. Capital grants are recognised when there is entitlement and are not deferred over the life of the asset on which they are expended.

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.

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.

Transfer of existing academies into the trust

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

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 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 Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible fixed assets
Assets costing £2,000 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 requiring 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.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land and assets under construction, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset on a straight-line basis over its expected useful life, per the table below.

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Freehold Buildings	10 - 50 years straight line
Long Leasehold Land	Over the period of the lease
Long Leasehold Buildings	50 years straight line
Plant and Machinery	5 years straight line
Fixtures and Fittings	4 years straight line
Computer Equipment	3 years straight line

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.

Concessionary loans
Concessionary loans include those payable to a third party which are interest free or below market interest rates and are made to advance charitable purposes. All loans are measured at cost, less impairment.

Leased assets
Rentals under operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

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 transaction price less any provision for impairment. 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 transaction price. 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 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Pension 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.

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 of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. 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 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/(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.

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 Group.

Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 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 (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 25, 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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. 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.

The Trustees do not believe the asset value of the LGPS provided by the actuary can be recovered, either through reduced contributions in the future, or through refunds in the scheme, and the asset has therefore been restricted to £nil.

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Capital grants	-	1,095	1,095	1,416
Transfer from academy trust on conversion	264	8,250	8,514	-
Other donations	17	-	17	16
	281	9,345	9,626	1,433

3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Educational operations				
DfE/ESFA revenue grants				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	30,496	30,496	27,359
16-19 Allocation	-	1,106	1,106	985
Pupil Premium	-	1,714	1,714	1,621
Mainstream Schools Additional Grant	-	1,078	1,078	430
Other DfE/ ESFA Grants	-	1,559	1,559	1,200
	-	35,953	35,953	31,595
Other government grants				
Local Authority Grants	-	1,266	1,266	1,144
Other Grants	-	6	6	8
	-	1,272	1,272	1,152
Non-government grants and other income				
Other Income	273	66	339	260
Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)				
Recovery Funding	-	381	381	367
Total grants	273	37,673	37,946	33,374

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Hire of facilities	19	19	11
Catering income	137	137	63
Other sales	84	84	55
	240	240	129

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Short term deposits	326	326	8
Rent received	8	8	16
	334	334	24

6 Expenditure

		Non Pay Expenditure			
	Staff costs £ 000	Premises £ 000	Other costs £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Expenditure on raising funds					
Direct costs	-	-	9	9	14
Allocated support costs	-	-	35	35	7
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	26,395	2,700	2,559	31,653	28,529
Allocated support costs	5,485	3,243	2,038	10,765	10,772
	31,879	5,943	4,640	42,462	39,322

6 Expenditure (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Depreciation	3,582	3,413
Fees payable to auditor - audit	22	20
Fees payable to auditor - other audit services	4	4
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	(140)	-

7 Charitable activities

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Direct costs - educational operations	31,653	28,529
Support costs - educational operations	10,765	10,772
	42,418	39,301

	Educational operations £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000	2022/23 Total £ 000
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	5,485	5,485	5,085
Depreciation	882	882	819
Technology costs	64	64	129
Premises costs	2,361	2,361	2,878
Other support costs	1,918	1,918	1,813
Governance costs	55	55	49
Total support costs	10,765	10,765	10,772

8 Staff

Staff costs

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	23,862	21,176
Social security costs	2,265	1,922
Operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes	5,363	4,837
Apprenticeship levy	105	91
	31,594	28,027
Supply staff costs	32	30
Staff restructuring costs	36	36
Agency staff costs	217	469
	31,879	28,562

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Staff restructuring costs comprise:		
Severance payments	21	25
Other restructuring costs	16	11
	36	36

Severance payments

The Academy Trust trust paid 2 severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
0 - £25,000	2	2

Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £20,796 (2023: £24,637). Individually, the payments were:

Non-contractual payments £7,500

Non-contractual payments £3,084

Staff numbers

The average number of persons employed by the Academy Trust during the year was as follows:

	2023/24 No	2022/23 No
Teachers	339	327
Administration and support	391	347
Management	63	43
	793	717

8 Staff (continued)

Higher paid staff

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

	2023/24 No	2022/23 No
£60,001 - £70,000	19	15
£70,001 - £80,000	10	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	3
£90,001 - £100,000	1	2
£100,001 - £110,000	2	-
£130,001 - £140,000	-	1
£140,001 - £150,000	1	-

Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 2. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £846,388 (2023: £799,301). The average number of staff included in key management during the year was 8 (2023: 7).

9 Central services

The Academy Trust has provided the following central services to its academies during the year:

- Building and Resource Managemnt
- Finance
- ICT
- Human Resources
- School Improvement
- Marketing
- Governance

The Academy Trust charges for these services on the following basis:

We apportion all central costs to schools to maintain a breakeven position within the Central Trust. Schools are charged based on the proportion of their funding income to the Trust.

9 Central services (continued)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Cleethorpes Academy	620	625
Louth Academy	651	643
Pilgrim Academy	116	124
Reynolds Academy	180	184
Somercotes Academy	331	312
Theddlethorpe Academy	49	51
Waltham Tollbar Academy	1,217	1,237
Kirton Academy	126	-
	3,290	3,176

10 Related party transactions - Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from 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 members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their role as trustees. The value of Trustees’ remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

Mr M Brown (Chief Executive Officer and ex-officio Trustee):

Remuneration: £145,000 - £150,000 (2023 - £135,000 - £140,000)
Employer’s pension contributions: £35,000 - £40,000 (2023 - £30,000 - £35,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2024, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £1,402 (2023 - £416) were reimbursed or paid directly to 3 trustees (2023 - 3).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 26.

11 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Multi Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £5,000,000 on any one claim. The cost of this insurance is included in the total insurance cost.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £ 000	Long leasehold land and buildings £ 000	Furniture and equipment £ 000	Plant and Machinery £ 000	Computer equipment £ 000	2023/24 Total £ 000
Cost						
At 1 September 2023	79,453	40,625	1,432	1,789	2,497	125,796
Additions	156	5	58	114	422	756
Disposals	(20)	-	-	(15)	-	(34)
Transfers	-	8,413	314	20	236	8,982
At 31 August 2024	79,589	49,043	1,804	1,909	3,155	135,500
Depreciation						
At 1 September 2023	11,606	6,165	1,190	1,280	1,369	21,610
Charge for the year	1,907	792	124	131	627	3,582
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	(15)	-	(15)
Transfers	-	295	247	20	171	732
At 31 August 2024	13,513	7,253	1,561	1,416	2,167	25,910
Net book value						
At 31 August 2024	66,075	41,790	243	493	988	109,590
At 31 August 2023	67,846	34,460	241	510	1,128	104,186

The academy trust's transactions relating to land and buildings included:

• the disposal of the freehold on land at Louth upper school by the academy trust at a value of £19,911

Included within plant and machinery are motor vehicles with a net book value of £30,542 (2023: £33,477).

13 Debtors

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Trade debtors	73	4
VAT recoverable	162	152
Other debtors	8	10
Prepayments	720	579
Accrued grant and other income	470	286
	1,431	1,030

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Trade creditors	850	1,068
Other taxation and social security	700	524
Loans	46	-
Other creditors	3	12
Accruals	186	84
Deferred income	483	346
	2,267	2,034

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £8,520 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roofing project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 7 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £6,458 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the boiler project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 8 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £2,746 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the window project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £8,952 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the window project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 9 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £3,432 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £5,734 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £5,734 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 8 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £4,187 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Deferred income		
Deferred income at 1 September 2023	346	197
Resources deferred in the period	483	346
Amounts released from previous periods	(346)	(197)
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	483	346

Deferred income relates to monies received in advance for the 2024-25 academic year and is in relation to rates relief, UIFSM, SEN, Early Years Funding and Bursary.

15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2024 £ 000
Loans	192

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £12,783 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roofing project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 7 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £22,606 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the boiler project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 8 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £11,821 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the window project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £26,856 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the window project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 9 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £18,194 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £25,806 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £25,806 (2023: £Nil) from Salix for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: an interest free loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 8 years.

Included within concessionary loan is a loan of £48,440 (2023: £Nil) from the Department for Education for the roof project which is provided on the following terms: a 2.29% interest loan which will be repaid on a straight line basis over 10 years.

16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains, losses and transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £ 000
Restricted funds					
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	8,682	31,602	(32,033)	(600)	7,651
Other DfE/ ESFA Grants	15	3,018	(2,939)	-	94
Other Restricted Funds	-	1,339	(1,339)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,714	(1,714)	-	-
Total restricted general funds	8,697	37,673	(38,025)	(600)	7,745
Restricted fixed asset funds					
School Condition Allocation Grant	748	841	(642)	(205)	742
Assets acquired with PFS Grant	5,344	-	-	-	5,344
Other Fixed Assets on Conversion/ Acquired	97,424	8,250	(3,442)	805	103,036
Donated Assets	143	-	-	-	143
Other Capital Funding	814	254	-	-	1,067
Total restricted fixed asset funds	104,472	9,345	(4,084)	600	110,332
Pension reserve funds					
Pension Fund	610	-	(30)	(580)	-
Total restricted funds	113,779	47,018	(42,139)	(580)	118,077
Unrestricted general funds					
Unrestricted General Funds	1,149	1,128	(323)	-	1,954
Total unrestricted funds	1,149	1,128	(323)	-	1,954
Total funds	114,928	48,145	(42,462)	(580)	120,031

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £ 000	Incoming resources £ 000	Resources expended £ 000	Gains, losses and transfers £ 000	Balance at 31 August 2023 £ 000
Restricted funds					
Restricted general funds					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	9,749	28,344	(28,860)	(551)	8,682
Other DfE/ ESFA Grants	15	1,997	(1,997)	-	15
Other Restricted Funds	-	1,235	(1,235)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	1,621	(1,621)	-	-
Restricted fixed asset funds					
School Condition Allocation Grant	898	837	(1,538)	551	748
Assets acquired with PFS Grant	5,344	-	-	-	5,344
Other Fixed Assets on Conversion/ Acquired	100,837	-	(3,413)	-	97,424
Donated Assets	143	-	-	-	143
Other Capital Funding	234	579	-	-	814
Pension reserve funds					
Pension Fund	(498)	-	(406)	1,514	610
Total restricted funds	116,722	34,614	(39,072)	1,514	113,779
Unrestricted general funds					
Unrestricted General Funds	1,054	346	(251)	-	1,149
Total unrestricted funds	1,054	346	(251)	-	1,149
Total funds	117,776	34,960	(39,322)	1,514	114,928

16 Funds (continued)

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

General Funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the objects of the Trust at the discretion of the Trustees. These are not currently designated for particular purposes.

General Annual Grant is made up of a number of different funding streams all of which are to be used to cover the running costs of the Trust. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG that it could carry forward at 31 August 2024.

Other DfE/ ESFA Restricted Funds represent funding received from the ESFA for specific projects.

Other restricted funds represent all other restricted funds received which must be used for the purpose intended.

Pension reserves represents the current deficit balance of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Assets aquired with PFS Grant represents the net book value of the property and computer equipment purchased to date using PFS funding.

Devolved Formula Capital and School Condition Allocations Grants represents funding received for capital projects which remains unspent at the end of the period. Assets purchased out of Devolved Formula Capital and School Condition Allocation funding are transferred to other fixed assets acquired.

Other fixed assets on conversion/ acquired represents the net book value of all other assets acquired including assets acquired on conversion or transfer.

16 Funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Cleethorpes Academy	1,735	1,773
Louth Academy	1,928	1,887
Pilgrim Academy	(54)	133
Reynolds Academy	476	504
Somercotes Academy	435	293
Theddlethorpe Academy	269	239
Waltham Tollbar Academy	3,437	3,402
Kirton Academy	376	-
Central services	1,096	1,615
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	9,699	9,846
Restricted fixed asset fund	110,332	104,472
Pension reserve	-	610
Total	120,031	114,928

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £ 000	Other support staff costs £ 000	Educational supplies £ 000	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £ 000	Total 2024 £ 000
Cleethorpes Academy	4,771	647	139	1,596	7,153
Louth Academy	5,190	607	129	1,616	7,542
Pilgrim Academy	1,199	230	41	409	1,879
Reynolds Academy	1,683	264	44	470	2,461
Somercotes Academy	2,571	310	81	920	3,882
Theddlethorpe Academy	518	105	42	182	847
Waltham Tollbar Academy	8,867	1,088	304	3,140	13,399
Kirton Academy	847	136	35	720	1,737
Central services	749	2,030	2	944	3,725
Academy Trust	26,395	5,418	817	9,997	42,626

16 Funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £ 000	Other support staff costs £ 000	Educational supplies £ 000	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £ 000	Total 2023 £ 000
Cleethorpes Academy	4,582	659	106	1,982	7,329
Louth Academy	4,528	532	118	1,690	6,867
Pilgrim Academy	1,179	251	54	328	1,813
Reynolds Academy	1,541	286	37	348	2,211
Somercotes Academy	2,503	317	59	1,071	3,950
Theddlethorpe Academy	458	97	36	151	743
Waltham Tollbar Academy	8,316	891	447	2,147	11,801
Central services	370	1,669		2,159	4,198
Academy Trust	23,477	4,702	859	9,876	38,913

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	Total Funds £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	109,590	109,590
Current assets	1,954	9,966	980	12,900
Current liabilities	-	(2,221)	(46)	(2,267)
Creditors over 1 year	-	-	(192)	(192)
Total net assets	1,954	7,745	110,332	120,031

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

	Unrestricted Funds £ 000	Restricted General Funds £ 000	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £ 000	Total Funds £ 000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	104,186	104,186
Current assets	1,149	10,731	286	12,166
Current liabilities	-	(2,034)	-	(2,034)
Pension scheme liability	-	610	-	610
Total net assets	1,149	9,307	104,472	114,928

18 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024 £ 000
Amounts due within one year	6
Amounts due between one and five years	4
	10

The total amount of lease payments recognised as an expense during the year was £Nil (2023: £Nil).

19 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Net income/(expenditure)	5,683	(4,362)
Depreciation	3,582	3,413
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,095)	(1,416)
Interest receivable	(334)	(24)
Interest payable		-
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	67	383
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(37)	23
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(402)	81
Increase in creditors	188	703
Profit on disposal of tangible fixed assets	(140)	-
Fixed assets transferred on conversion into Trust	(8,250)	-
Net cash used in Operating Activities	(738)	(1,199)

20 Cash flows from financing activities

	2024 £ 000
Repayments of borrowing	(5)
Cash inflows from new borrowing	243
Net cash provided by financing activities	238

21 Cash flows from investing activities

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	334	24
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(756)	(1,040)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	159	-
Capital funding received from DfE group	1,095	1,416
Net cash provided by investing activities	833	400

22 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Cash in hand and at bank	11,469	11,136
Total cash and cash equivalents	11,469	11,136

23 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £ 000	Cash flows £ 000	At 31 August 2024 £ 000
Cash	11,136	333	11,469
Loans due within 1 year	-	(46)	(46)
Loans due in over 1 year	-	(192)	(192)
	11,136	95	11,231
Total	11,136	95	11,231

24 Member 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 they are a member, or within one year after they ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10 for the debts and liabilities contracted before they cease to be a member.

25 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. Both are multi-employer defined benefit schemes.

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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 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.

25 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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifics 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 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI.

The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £4,118,184 (2023: £3,328,696).

A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website (https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2019/04/teachers-pensions-valuation-report.aspx).

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 schemes
East Riding Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £1,109,000 (2023 - £1,031,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £783,000 (2023 - £755,000) and employees' contributions totalled £326,000 (2023 - £276,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 14.4 - 19.7 per cent for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by East Riding Pension Fund.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust 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.

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.70	3.00
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.70	3.00
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.00	5.20

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

Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

	2024	2023
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	20.50	21.10
Females retiring today	23.50	24.00
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.20	21.90
Females retiring in 20 years	25.00	25.50

Sensitivity analysis

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
0.1% increase in Real Discount Rate	(437)	(321)
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	16	30
1 year decrease in member life expectancy	430	298
1 year increase in member life expectancy	776	578

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Equities	17,395	12,313
Other bonds	3,761	2,907
Property	1,881	1,539
Cash and other liquid assets	470	342
Total market value of assets	23,507	17,102

The actual return on scheme assets was £2,374,000 (2023 - (£702,000)).

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Current service cost	1,002	1,174
Interest income	(963)	(682)
Interest cost	936	683
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	975	1,175

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
At start of period	14,437	15,496
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	3,385	-
Current service cost	1,002	1,174
Interest cost	829	683
Employee contributions	326	276
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(67)	(2,901)
Benefits paid	(506)	(291)
At 31 August	19,406	14,437

Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
At start of period	15,047	15,687
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	3,428	-
Interest income	963	682
Actuarial gain/(loss)	1,411	(7)
Employer contributions	783	755
Employee contributions	326	276
Benefits paid	(506)	(291)
Asset ceiling restriction	(2,046)	(2,055)
At 31 August	19,406	15,047

Lincolnshire Pension Fund

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2024 was £485,000 (2023 - £443,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £401,000 (2023 - £367,000) and employees' contributions totalled £84,000 (2023 - £76,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 24.6 per cent for employers and 5.5 -12.5 per cent for employees. The scheme is managed by Lincolnshire Pension Fund.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an academy trust 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.

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.90	3.90
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.90	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.10	5.30

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

	2024	2023
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	19.50	19.50
Females retiring today	22.70	22.60
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	20.70	20.80
Females retiring in 20 years	24.10	24.00

Sensitivity analysis

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
0.1% increase in Real Discount Rate	5,704	5,220
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	(5,919)	(5,413)
1 year decrease in member life expectancy	5,990	(5,157)
1 year increase in member life expectancy	(5,636)	5,478
0.1% increase in Salary Increase Rate	5,814	5,320
0.1% decrease in Salary Increase Rate	(5,806)	(5,311)
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate	5,918	5,411
0.1% decrease in the Pension Increase Rate	(5,705)	(5,222)

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2024 £ 000	2023 £ 000
Equities	3,471	3,428
Other bonds	880	730
Property	449	412
Cash and other liquid assets	211	189
Infrastructure	267	211
Absolute return fund	1,054	581
Total market value of assets	6,332	5,551

The actual return on scheme assets was £299,000 (2023 - (£84,000)).

25 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
Current service cost	247	325
Interest income	(299)	(235)
Interest cost	289	257
Admin expenses	2	6
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	239	353

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations were as follows:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
At start of period	5,315	6,024
Current service cost	247	325
Interest cost	276	257
Employee contributions	84	76
Actuarial (gain)/loss	188	(1,330)
Benefits paid	(300)	(37)
At 31 August	5,810	5,315

Changes in the fair value of academy's share of scheme assets:

	2023/24 £ 000	2022/23 £ 000
At start of period	5,315	5,335
Interest income	299	235
Actuarial gain/(loss)	299	(419)
Employer contributions	401	367
Employee contributions	84	76
Benefits paid	(300)	(37)
Administration expense	(2)	(6)
Asset ceiling restriction	(286)	(236)
At 31 August	5,810	5,315

26 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year, other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 10.

27 Transfer of existing academies into the academy trust

Kirton Academy

	Value reported by transferring academy trust £ 000	Fair value adjustments £ 000	Transfer in recognised £ 000
Tangible fixed assets			
Leasehold land and buildings	5,366	2,751	8,118
Furniture and equipment	132	-	132
	5,499	2,751	8,250
Other assets			
Debtors due after one year	270	-	270
Cash in bank and in hand	1,003	-	1,003
	1,274	-	1,274
Liabilities			
Creditors due in less than one year	(811)	-	(811)
Creditors due in more than one year	(199)	-	(199)
	(1,009)	-	(1,009)
Net assets	5,763	2,751	8,514