

**LANCASTER & MORECAMBE
COLLEGE**

**Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2024**

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Key Management Personnel, Board of Governors and Professional Advisers

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the College Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2023/24:

W Johnson	Principal and CEO; Accounting Officer (resigned on 31 August 2023)
D Braithwaite	Principal and CEO; Accounting Officer (appointed 18 September 2023)
P France	Vice Principal: Finance & Resources
C Rawes	Vice Principal: Progress & Performance
I Parkinson	Director of Curriculum & Innovation
A Bathgate	Director of HR Strategy & Support

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on pages 10 to 12 of these financial statements.

O Cushen acted as Clerk to the Corporation throughout the period.

Professional Advisers

Financial Statements auditors and reporting accountants:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Bluebell House
Brian Johnson Way
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 5PE

Internal Auditors:

icca Education Training and Skills Ltd
Charles House, 3rd Floor
Great Charles Street
Queensway
Birmingham
B3 3HT

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc
Barclays Business Centre
49/51 Northumberland Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 7AF

Lloyds Bank Plc
25 Gresham Street
London
EC2V 7HN

Santander Corporate Banking
298 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 4HH

Solicitors:

Stone King LLP
One Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5HN

Harrison Drury
76 Church Street
Lancaster
LA1 1ET

Pickford Solicitors
4 Mitre Court
38 Litchfield Road
Sutton Coldfield
B74 2LZ

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

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LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report

NATURE, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The governing body present their report and the audited financial statements of Lancaster & Morecambe College (the College) for the year ended 31 July 2024.

LEGAL STATUS

The Corporation was established under The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting the affairs of Lancaster & Morecambe College. The corporation was incorporated as Lancaster & Morecambe College on 1 April 1993. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

“Creating opportunities and building partnerships across our community; empowering individuals, business and the environment to thrive”.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

Lancaster & Morecambe College is an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016 is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on pages 10 to 12.

In setting and reviewing the College’s strategic objectives, the Governing Body has had due regard for the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its purpose statement, the College provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- Placed-based curriculum;
- Opportunity for all;
- Clear career pathways;
- Safer College Community;
- Supporting local business;
- Lifelong flexible learning.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN

During the year the Corporation monitored the College against its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan which covered the period from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2026. The Strategic Plan is updated each year and contains targets across the following core strategies:

- Safer College Community
- Clear Career Pathways
- Opportunity for all
- Growing Local Partnerships
- Lifelong flexible learning
- Place-based curriculum
- Supporting local business
- Technology and digital development
- Local sectors for growth.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

FINANCIAL PROSPECTS

The college aims to achieve a health rating of 'Good' and generate a positive EBITDA – education specific greater than 1% of income in the year to 31 July 2024. The current ratio will remain above 1.5 and the College will have no long term borrowings.

Financial Objectives

The College's overriding financial objective is to achieve a financial health grade of 'Good'.

The College's key performance indicators, targets and results included:

Key performance indicator	Measure/Target	Actual for 2023/24
EBITDA position	At least 1%	1.6%
Total borrowing	Restricted to 0% of total annual income	0% of total annual income
Current ratio	At least 1.5	1.45

The College met all of the above targets.

FINANCIAL POSITION

FINANCIAL RESULTS

The College generated an operating deficit in the year of £354k (2023 : £1,009k), with total comprehensive deficit of £479k (2023 : £484k).

At 31 July 2024 the College had accumulated reserves of £18,040k (2023 : £18,519k) and cash balances of £2,607k (2023 : £4,198k). The cash balances will be used to fund investment in, the College estate, IT and teaching resources and also as a contingency for unforeseen risks.

The College has no subsidiary companies.

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £2,026k.

SOURCES OF INCOME

The College has significant reliance on the education sector funding bodies for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2023/24 ESFA provided 68.8% of the College's total income.

TREASURY POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES

Treasury management is the management of the College's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place.

Short term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes is authorised by the Accounting Officer. All other borrowing requires the authorisation of the Corporation and shall comply with the requirements of the Financial Memorandum.

CASH FLOWS AND LIQUIDITY

At £298k (2022/23 £1,095k), operating cash inflow was in line with expectations.

The College has no borrowings.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

STUDENT NUMBERS

In 2023/24 the College has delivered activity that has produced £8,753k in funding body main allocation funding (2022/23 : £7,630k). The College had 2,992 (2022/23 : 3,118) funded and 908 (2022/23 : 1,083) non-funded students.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENTS

The College rigorously reviews and plans its curriculum offering each year on a course by course basis. Individual courses are assessed for quality, fulfilment of learner needs, financial viability and contribution to government targets.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Students continue to prosper at the College. Education and Training Achievement rates remained high at 86.7% , which was 2.5% above the national average.

PAYMENT PERFORMANCE

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998, requires colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95%. During the accounting period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 the College paid 73.2 per cent of its invoices within 30 days. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There were no significant post Balance Sheet events.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

For 2024/25 the College has received funding allocations from the ESFA of £1,314k for its adult provision and £201k for 24+ loan funded learners. Apprenticeships will be funded through a combination of allocations and through the Digital Account Service. The ESFA has also confirmed the College's allocation of £9,577k for 16-18 provision (including some 19-24 learners with high learning support needs).

The College will continue to upgrade its campus based on a full condition survey that was undertaken in 2016/17 and an ESFA commissioned survey in 2019/20. The Corporation approved a new five year Property Strategy during the year which set out plans to improve the overall building condition, improve utilisation of space and to reduce the impact of the College estate on the environment.

The College is undertaking a full review of its curriculum offering to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the local economy and address local skill need.

RESOURCES

The College has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives.

Tangible resources include the main college site and excellent industry standard teaching facilities equipment and IT.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

FINANCIAL

The College has £18,040k of net assets (including £14k pension liability). It has no debt at all.

The College has cash reserves of £2,607k. The Corporation has resolved to upgrade the College's IT infrastructure, curriculum resources and estate whilst retaining sufficient cash balances to maintain appropriate levels of cash days in hand.

PEOPLE

The College employs 340 people (expressed as average headcount), of whom 116 are teaching staff.

REPUTATION

The College has a good reputation locally and nationally. Maintaining a quality brand is essential for the College's success at attracting students and external relationships.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The College has undertaken further work during the year to develop and embed the system of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the College's assets and reputation.

Based on the strategic plan, the Risk Management Group undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the College is exposed. They identify systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal will review their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the Risk Management Group will also consider any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the College.

A risk register is maintained at the College level which is reviewed three times a year by the Audit Committee and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Outlined below are examples of the principal risk factors that may affect the College. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

- Failure to meet funding targets. The College prepares a detailed curriculum plan that will deliver learner number and funding targets. Learner number and funding performance against targets are closely monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and action is taken where necessary.
- Failure to achieve planned student achievement success rates. The College has embedded quality systems and action is taken to address under-performing courses.

GOING CONCERN

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance, are set out in the Members Report. The financial position of the College, its cash flow and liquidity are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying notes. The College had a cash balance of £2,607k (2023 : £4,198k), net current assets of £1,271k (2023 : £1,501k), and total net assets of £18,040k (2023 : £18,519k) at the year end and it currently has no borrowings. Provision has been made for the clawback of £177K Adult Education Budget funding. The College is forecasting to generate a positive EBITDA – education specific in 2024/25 and maintain an ESFA financial health rate of 'Good'.

Accordingly, the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other colleges and with Universities, Lancaster & Morecambe College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students;
- Staff;
- Local employers (with specific links);
- Local Authorities;
- Education sector funding bodies;
- FE Commissioner;
- Government Offices/ Regional Development Agencies/LEPs;
- The local community;
- Other FE institutions;
- Trade unions;
- Professional bodies.

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through the College Internet site and by meetings.

TRADE UNION FACILITY TIME

Under the provisions of the Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017, where a public authority (including FE colleges) has more than 49 full time equivalent employees throughout any 7 months within the accounting period, it must include information included in Schedule 2 of the Regulations. The information to be published consists of four tables covering:

Number of trade union representatives employed during the year ended 31 July 2024	2
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Percentage of time spent on facility time	Number of employees
0%	-
1-50%	2
51-99%	-
100%	-

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

Total cost of facility time	£4k
Total pay bill	£9,330k
Percentage of total bill spent on facility time	0.04%

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	100%
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EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The College has a comprehensive Single Equality Scheme and firmly believes that individuals are entitled to the same rights and responsibilities, regardless of race, colour, gender, age, religious belief, language, disability/learning difficulty, sexuality, culture or marital status.

The College has set targets for equality and diversity within the strategic key performance indicators which are monitored on a frequent basis.

DISABILITY EQUALITY

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010. The college published its Single Equality Scheme in June 2010. This is available on request in Braille, large print, audio tape and is published on the college website and intranet.

The College considers all applications from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the College continues. The College's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are, as far as possible, identical to those for other employees.

GENDER EQUALITY

The College has a legal duty to positively promote gender equality and its Single Equality Scheme was published on the college website and intranet in June 2010 and is available on request in Braille, large print and audio tape.

RACE EQUALITY

As a result of the Race Relations Act 1976 (as amended by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2001) the College has developed a comprehensive Single Equality Scheme and procedures to ensure that individuals and communities have equal access to our learning programmes and facilities. This is available on request in Braille, large print or audio tape, and is published on the college website and intranet.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Strategic Report (continued)

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

The members who held office at the date of approval of this report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the College's auditors are unaware; and each member has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the College's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 3rd December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

H Fordham
Chair

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- i. in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership); and
- ii. in full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges Code of Good Governance (“the Code”); and
- iii. having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector.

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance and, in particular, the College has adopted and complied with the Code. The College has not adopted and, therefore, does not comply with the UK Corporate Governance Code. The College has reported, however, on its Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code it considers to be relevant to the Further Education sector and best practice. In addition, the College has reviewed any relevant policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the new Managing Public Money requirements following reclassification and has established systems and processes to identify and handle any transactions for which approval from the Department for Education is now required.

In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Further Education Code of Good Governance, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2024. The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes full account of the Further Education Code of Good Governance issued by the Association of Colleges, which it formally adopted in May 2024.

The College is an exempt charity within the meaning of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The Governors, who are also the Trustees for the purposes of the Charities Act 2011, confirm that they have had due regard for the Charity Commission’s guidance on public benefit and that the required statements appear elsewhere in these financial statements.

THE CORPORATION

The Governors who served on the Board during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as follows:

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of appointment	Committees Served	Meeting Attendance
Mrs H Fordham	07 November 2023	4 years		Chair of Corporation w.e.f. 01 August 2024 Independent Member	Remuneration Search	100%
Ms L Price	01 November 2019 Re-Appointed 01 November 2023	4 years		Independent Member Interim Chair of Corporation w.e.f 28 June 2023 – 31 July 2024	Remuneration Search	85%
Mrs S-J Fletcher	19 October 2022	4 years		Vice-Chair of Corporation w.e.f. 29 October 2024 Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance Remuneration	67%

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of appointment	Committees Served	Meeting Attendance
Mr S Wood	18 September 2018 Re-appointed 19 September 2022	4 years		Acting Vice-Chair of Corporation w.e.f. 05 December 2023 Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance	91%
Mr D Braithwaite	18 September 2023	Not Applicable		Staff Member (Ex-Officio) (Principal)	Search In Attendance: Audit and Risk Assurance (November meeting only) Remuneration	100%
Ms A Byrne	19 November 2024	2 years		Student Governor	Not Applicable	100%
Mr T Cross	01 September 2019	4 years	31 August 2023	Independent Member	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Mrs B Davenport	27 February 2024	4 years		Staff Member (Academic)	Not Applicable	100%
Ms A Estkowska	07 November 2023	4 years		Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance	88%
Mr A Garner	07 November 2023	2 years	17 February 2024	Student Member	Not Applicable	67%
Mr W Johnson	01 April 2017	Not Applicable	31 August 2023	Staff Member (Ex-Officio) (Principal)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
Mr L Lawson	01 May 2024	4 years		Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance	100%
Mrs B Martindale	02 March 2022	4 years		Staff Member (Support)	Search	91%
Mr Y Patel	18 September 2018 Re-appointed 19 September 2022	4 years		Independent Member	Remuneration Search	77%
Mr J Powell	07 November 2023	4 years		Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance	63%
Mr E Taylor	07 November 2023	2 years	28 October 2024	Student Member	Not Applicable	50%

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of appointment	Committees Served	Meeting Attendance
Professor J Taylor	11 December 2019 Reappointed 11 December 2023	4 years		Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance Remuneration Search	100%
Mr G White	23 November 2022	4 years		Independent Member	Audit and Risk Assurance	82%
Mr R Williams	11 December 2019	4 years	01 December 2023	Staff Member (Academic)	Not applicable	0%
Oona Cushen acted as Governance Adviser and Clerk.						

The Corporation conducts its business within a revised governance structure. In 2023, there was Audit and Risk Assurance, Remuneration and Search Committees. Following approval by Corporation on 29 October 2024, there will only be two committees moving forward, Audit and Risk Assurance plus a combined Governance, Remuneration and Search Committee. Appeals and Special Committees will only be called as and when required. The Corporation meets for a minimum of six meetings per year plus a full Strategic Planning Day, held annually in March.

It is the Corporation's responsibility to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources and standards of conduct.

The Corporation is provided with regular and timely information on the overall financial performance of the College, against funding targets, proposed capital expenditure, quality matters, teaching and learning performance and personnel-related matters such as health and safety and environmental issues.

Agendas and full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available for inspection on the College's website or from the Governance Adviser at:

Lancaster & Morecambe College
 Morecambe Road
 Lancaster
 LA1 2TY

The Governance Adviser maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Governors, senior and middle managers. The full register is available for inspection at the above address.

All Governors are able to take independent professional advice in furtherance of their duties at the College's expense and have access to the Governance Adviser and Clerk, who is responsible to the Board for ensuring compliance with all applicable procedures and regulations. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Governance Adviser and Clerk are matters for the Corporation as a whole.

Formal agendas, papers and reports are supplied to Governors in a timely manner, prior to Board meetings. Briefings are also provided on an ad hoc basis.

The Corporation has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Corporation considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement.

There is a clear division of responsibility in that the roles of the Chair and Accounting Officer are separate.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CORPORATION

Members of the Corporation are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years (two years for Student Members), but can be re-appointed for a further four years; eight years maximum (four years maximum for Student Members). In exceptional circumstances, this may be extended for a limited time, subject to annual review. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole.

SEARCH COMMITTEE

In 2023/24, the Search Committee, comprised of five members of the Corporation and was responsible for the selection and nomination of any new members for the Corporation's consideration. From 06 November 2024, this Committee was dissolved as a standalone committee and will form part of the new combined Governance, Remuneration and Search Committee. The rules and remit of the Governance, Remuneration and Search Committee are published on the College's website.

CORPORATION PERFORMANCE

An External Review of Governance was conducted in June and July 2024, by Rockborn. This external review replaced the requirement for a 2023/24 self-assessment. The methodology included a review of key documentation, an online survey, conversations with the Governance Adviser, observation of key committee and Board meetings, individual meetings with the incoming and outgoing Chair, committee Chairs and other key Governor, the Principal and other senior managers. The review considered the previous self-assessments, compliance with the sector Code of Governance and other governance improvement activities. The scope met the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE)'s Guide on External Governance Reviews in Further Education and the Post-16 Education and Skills Act.

The review concluded that governance at LMC has many areas of strength, particularly in terms of culture, skills, shared vision and values, the student focus, financial oversight and the robustness of underlying processes. There were no significant areas of concern.

The key strengths identified were:

- Well run and well managed governance arrangements.
- Governors bring a broad and diverse range of skills, knowledge and perspectives to the Boardroom, including excellent local knowledge and links. These add value to discussions and support informed decision making.
- Governor recruitment and succession planning is pro-active and well managed.
- Governors are well supported with a comprehensive induction and ongoing training.
- The governance culture is positive, open and constructive and is based on honesty and trust.
- The meetings observed were well chaired, well organised, good humoured, focused, productive and inclusive.
- The new Principal has been well supported by the Chair and the wider Board and has worked hard to establish positive relationships and ways of working.
- Strategic planning is well organised and effective. Governors are knowledgeable and highly committed to the College vision and values, its students, and were fully engaged in the review of the Strategic Plan.
- Governors understand the strengths and weaknesses of teaching, learning and the student experience. Students feature prominently in Board discussions, including those relating to finance and resources.
- The Governance Adviser is effective, influential and highly valued, The 'triumvirate' with the Chair and Principal works well.
- There is an ongoing commitment to managing the time demands on Governors.
- There is strong oversight of finance, resources, estates and associated risk.
- The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee is effective and provides strong assurance to the Corporation. Risk management is robust.

Key themes to emerge from the review as areas for further development can be grouped as follows:

- Strengthening the skills mix of the Board around FE and finance.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- Managing change on the Board – providing support for the new Chair and new Governors to develop the governance team further, whilst preserving the current positive culture.
- Gaining buy-in from all to strengthening Governor engagement in College life.
- Reducing the time burden on Governors and the Senior Leadership Team by further streamlining reporting and processes.

For full openness and transparency, Governors agreed that the full report should be published on the College website, along with an associated action plan.

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2024, the College's Remuneration Committee was comprised of four members of the Corporation. From 06 November 2024, this Committee was dissolved as a standalone committee and will form part of the new combined Governance, Remuneration and Search Committee. The rules and remit of the Governance, Remuneration and Search Committee are published on the College's website.

Members of the Committee are appointed annually by the Corporation through its review of the Standing Orders for the Corporation and its Committees, taking into consideration individual members' skills and expertise. Membership included the Chair of the Corporation, but excluded the Principal, staff and student members. Other members (excluding staff and student members) may attend as observers as appropriate and the Committee may co-opt members onto the Committee, as and when required.

Members who served on the Remuneration Committee during the 2023/24 period were:

- Lindsay Price (Acting Chair of the Board, until 31 July 2024)
- Sarah-Jane Fletcher
- Yak Patel
- Jane Taylor

The Principal and Governance Adviser and Clerk were in attendance at all meetings and the Governance Adviser acted as Clerk to the Committee.

There was a minimum of two scheduled meetings per year. Quorum was set at three members and all meetings during the year were quorate. Meetings were held on: 21 November 2023 and 04 June 2024. The meetings were chaired by Jane Taylor. All Governors met the required attendance level, as set out below.

	2023/24 Possible	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 (%)
Sarah-Jane Fletcher	1	1	100%
Yak Patel	2	2	100%
Lindsay Price	2	1	50%
Jane Taylor	2	2	100%
Average Committee Attendance	7	6	86%

The Committee's sole responsibilities were to consider and advise the Corporation on the appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of the pay and conditions of service of the holders of senior posts, including, where the Governance Adviser and Clerk is, or is to be appointed as, a member of staff, the Governance Adviser and Clerk's appointment, grading, suspension, dismissal and determination of pay in the capacity of a member of staff. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee took full account of the Association of Colleges (AoC)'s 'Senior Postholder Remuneration Code', which was formally adopted by the Corporation on 24 September 2019, as well as all rules and regulations around senior pay controls contained within the Managing Public Money framework. In addition, the Committee ensured that objectives were set annually for senior post holders and the Chair of the Remuneration Committee, along with the Interim Chair of the Corporation and, subsequently, Chair of the Corporation, undertook an annual and mid-year review of performance against these objectives.

Senior Post Holders are appointed by the Corporation. Lancaster & Morecambe College has four designated senior posts:

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- Governance Adviser and Clerk
- Principal and Chief Executive
- Vice Principal Finance and Resources and nominated Deputy Principal
- Vice Principal Progress and Performance

The Corporation, through its Remuneration Committee, had a responsibility to ensure that senior post holders receive fair, appropriate and justifiable levels of remuneration, whilst recognising the importance of recruiting and retaining the best staff to deliver the College's strategic aims and the best outcomes for students, the community and employers. At its meeting held on 20 October 2020, the Corporation approved the adoption of the Senior Post Holder Remuneration Policy, which brought together the existing guidance and practice in use by the Remuneration Committee and Corporation, to ensure decisions taken in relation to senior post holder remuneration demonstrated transparency, fairness, equality, affordability and value for money, reflected the level of responsibility and skills required and were in line with the requirements of the Association of Colleges 'Senior Postholder Remuneration Code'.

The Corporation, through its Remuneration Committee, reviewed senior post holder salaries against sector benchmarks at both regional and national level. Comparative pay data was drawn from the Association of Colleges' Senior Pay Survey 2022, published on 03 July 2023. The census date was 01 September 2022 and was based on responses from 166 colleges (68% (113) of those being general further education colleges). Comparison data, based on income bands, relating to all colleges nationally and all colleges in the North region, was considered by the Committee. The median salary point (North) is the previously approved benchmark comparison for Lancaster and Morecambe College. The general staff pay award is normally reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team with a proposal to Governors; senior post holders were awarded the same cost of living award as other staff, although this does not have to be the case.

In regard to staff recruitment and retention, the College operates in a very competitive environment; there are currently seven secondary schools and two universities operating within the locality, as well as three general Further Education colleges and one land based college within a 30-mile radius. Staff retention and recruitment is challenging, particularly against higher local administrative salaries, higher teaching salaries in the school sector and against high industry wages. The College does, however, continue to benefit from a stable, dedicated and well established staff team.

When considering any whole College pay award, the Corporation was mindful of the balance between recruiting, retaining and rewarding the best staff possible to deliver the best outcomes for students, society and the economy whilst ensuring financial sustainability, value for money and effective use of resources. The College does not operate any performance related pay or bonus schemes, nor does it provide any other additional benefits for senior staff that are not also available to all staff. The College offers access to either the Teachers' Pension Scheme or the Local Government Pension Scheme, whichever is the relevant scheme to the nature of employment.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Committee took full account of the Association of Colleges 'Senior Postholder Remuneration Code' and the HM Treasury Managing Public Money framework and the HM Treasury Guidance for Approval of Senior Pay, alongside the following factors:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion, ensuring there were no biases pertaining to gender or any other protected characteristic.
- The context in which the College operated, its market position and any 'market forces' that would cause salaries to deviate from national benchmarks.
- The context of the College's approach to rewarding all its staff, including how senior post holder salaries compare with median average earnings at the College.
- The College's ability to recruit and retain key senior staff, ensuring any salary offer was fair and competitive, particularly where specialist skills or expertise were required.
- External comparison with salaries from similar colleges in the sector (through the data provided in the Association of Colleges' Annual Pay Survey at the median point and Lancashire colleges data, where available).
- Affordability and the overall financial health of the College.
- Decision making processes that were fair, transparent and accountable.
- Any cost of living / inflation increases.
- Changes in the level of responsibility.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Severance Payments

Any severance payment made to a Senior Post Holder will be reasonable, appropriate and justifiable. Where severance payments are under consideration, advice will be taken from the external auditor to ascertain the legitimacy of any proposed payment. In line with the funding agreement, the Corporation must draw any such

payments to the attention of the College's regularity auditor and, where required, seek approval under the HM Treasury's Senior Pay Controls process. There were no severance payments for Senior Post Holders in 2023/24.

Income Derived from External Activities

The College recognises that it is important that senior staff represent the College on various bodies and boards and carry out academic and civic responsibilities at other organisations, e.g. non-executive director roles. The College includes an exclusivity of service clause in its employment contracts, which requires all staff to devote their full time, attention and abilities to their duties during their working hours and to act in the best interests of the Corporation at all times.

Accordingly, senior post holders must not, without the written consent of the Corporation, undertake any employment or engagement, whether remunerated or not, that might interfere with the performance of their duties or conflict with the interests of the Corporation, including any which commenced prior to their appointment. Permission may be refused if doing so would have an adverse effect on their ability to perform their College duties or would result in a conflict of interests. Remuneration for any private work completed outside of College time and without using College resources, will belong to the individual, otherwise the remuneration must be paid to the College.

The Principal served on the following external bodies in his capacity as Principal of Lancaster & Morecambe College:

- Member of The Lancashire Colleges (TLC);
- Director of The Lancashire Colleges' (TLC) Consortium Ltd
- Director for the Lancaster and Morecambe Chamber of Commerce.

None of the senior postholders received any remuneration or expenses from external bodies for the year ended 31 July 2024. The Principal is a part-time Ofsted inspector required to undertake a minimum of 16 days' inspection per year, for which the College is remunerated directly.

The Principal is the College's Accounting Officer and is the highest paid member of staff. In accordance with the Association of Colleges 'Senior Postholder Remuneration Code', the Corporation is required to disclose the current value of the pay multiple of the Principal's earnings against the median of all staff. The census data is 31 March 2024, using the same data set as for the Gender Pay Gap reporting.

- Basic salary divided by the median pay of all other Corporation employees and total emoluments divided by the median pay of all other Corporation employees (all on a full-time equivalent basis).

The College's median pay for all other Corporation employees in 2023/24 was £27,926 (with on-costs £36,221) per annum. This is an increase from £26,222 (with on-costs £33,699) in 2022/23.

The current Principal started employment with the College on 18 September 2023 and, therefore, the 2022/23 comparative data relates to the former postholder:

	Annual Salary	Pay Multiple of Staff Median (FTE Only)
2022/23	£105,295	4.02
2023/24	£117,150	4.19

All expenses paid to senior postholders are solely in reimbursement of expenses incurred in furtherance of the business of the College and comply with the College's financial regulations. Senior post holders' expenses claimed from Lancaster and Morecambe College for the year ended 31 July 2024 are:

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- Former Principal: £179.70 (paid in August 2023)
- Current Principal: £508.59
- Vice Principal: Finance and Resources - £0.00
- Vice Principal: Progress and Performance - £174.20
- Governance Adviser and Clerk - £32.88

AUDIT AND RISK ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee comprised of four members of the Corporation (excluding the Chair of the Corporation, Staff Governors and the Accounting Officer). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee meets at least on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal auditors, financial statements auditors and regularity auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of College management. The Committee also receives and considers reports from the main FE funding bodies as they affect the College's business.

The College's internal auditors review the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and internal audit undertakes periodic follow up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee met termly in the year to 31 July 2024. Quorum was set at three members and all meetings during the year were quorate. Meetings were held on: 28 November 2023, 12 March 2024 and 25 June 2024. The meetings were chaired by Steve Wood. All Governors met the required attendance level, as set out below.

	2023/24 Possible	2023/24 Actual	2023/24 (%)
Sarah-Jane Fletcher	3	2	67%
Jane Taylor	1	1	100%
Gary White	3	3	100%
Steve Wood	3	3	100%
Average Committee Attendance	10	9	90%

The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of internal auditors and financial statements and regularity auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Corporation.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Corporation has its own training budget, which enables Governors and the Governance Adviser and Clerk to have access to Continued Professional Development (CPD). In addition, a full induction programme is offered to all new Governors. From 2021/22 and in compliance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency's Funding Agreement, the Corporation is required to report on activities undertaken over the year to develop Governors and the Governance Adviser and Clerk.

In addition to the formal meetings, Governors attended:

- A range of curriculum self-assessment validation meetings.
- A range of Assessment Boards, including Apprenticeships, and Notice to Improve Assessment Boards.
- The Bicentennial celebrations, Open Evenings and Community Open Day.
- Student Conference.

In 2023/24, individual Governors undertook the following training and development activities:

- In-house training on what highly effective teaching looks like.
- In-house and external training on safeguarding and Prevent.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- Ofsted inspection training.
- Association of Colleges (AoC) annual conference.
- Association of Colleges (AoC) Governor Inductions.
- Association of Colleges (AoC) finance masterclasses;
 - Interpreting college management accounts;
 - Introduction to college finance for Governors;
 - Funding and data;
 - Financial health grades and FE Commissioner financial benchmarks; and
 - Managing cash.

In addition, all Governors have been enrolled onto the Education and Training Foundation (ETF)'s Governance Development Programme, an online modular programme which Governors can work through at their own pace. All Governors are required to undertake, at least every three years, mandatory training on safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion, anti-bribery and health and safety.

Throughout 2023/24, the Governance Adviser and Clerk undertook the following training and development activities:

- Association of Colleges (AoC)'s North West Governance Professionals termly network meetings.
- Association of Colleges (AoC) Annual Conference and National Governance Professionals' Conference.
- Kay White Mentoring Programme
- College training, including safeguarding and Prevent, plus fire safety awareness.
- Multiple webinars from various providers:
 - Maximise Your Board Committee Effectiveness (Chartered Governance Institute)
 - Funding and Accountability System Reforms (Department for Education (DfE))
 - College Financial Handbook (RSM)
 - Changes in Data Protection (Muckle LLP)

INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of responsibility

The Corporation is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. Such a system, however, 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.

The Corporation has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal, as Accounting Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which he is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to him in the Funding Agreement between Lancaster & Morecambe College and the funding bodies. He is also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

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 ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College 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 Lancaster & Morecambe College for the year ended 31 July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls and arrangements for compliance with legal and regulatory matters including those relating to the regularity and propriety of the use of public funding that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2024 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

The risk and control framework

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

- comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget, which is reviewed and agreed by the governing body;
- regular reviews by the governing body of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined capital investment control guidelines;
- the adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

Lancaster and Morecambe College has an internal audit service, which operates in accordance with the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency's (ESFA) Post 16 Audit Code of Practice. The work of the internal audit service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and annual internal audit plans and a programme of assurance are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Corporation on the recommendation of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee was provided with regular internal audit reports on this assurance activity. The areas audited in 2023/24 were:

- Marketing Strategy

This was a strong report with substantial assurance provided and only one advisory recommendation.

- 14-16 Provision

This was a strong report with substantial assurance provided and only one medium recommendation relating to application and compliance.

- Additional Learning Support and High Needs Students

This was an adequate report with reasonable assurance provided. There was one high recommendation in relation to the review and improvement of control checks to ensure that assessments of support needs were in place for all students in a detailed support plan with sample checks undertaken, and that evidence is held to support delivery of Learning Support on a regular basis in line with the period for which funding is claimed, against sample checks to verify this. In addition, there were also three medium, one low and two advisory recommendations.

- External Student Activities

This was a strong report with substantial assurance provided and only one low recommendation.

Other external assurance was provided through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Tuition Fund Audit. This was a Department for Education (DfE) audit, focused on the extra funding allocation that colleges received, following Covid, to help those students that had fallen behind in their studies to catch up, partly in maths and English but also on other elements of their study programmes. The audit was undertaken by a Department for Education (DfE) auditor and only one error was identified, which resulted in the College having to reimburse £20 back into the fund.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. His review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control is informed by:

- the work of the internal auditors;
- the work of the senior managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework;
- comments made by the College's financial statements auditors and the reporting accountant for regularity assurance in their management letters and other reports.

The Accounting Officer has been advised on the implications of the result of his review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit and Risk Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditor and other sources of assurance, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The Senior Leadership Team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Principal and Senior Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit and other sources of assurance, which include recommendations for improvement. The Audit and Risk Assurance Committee's role in this area is confined to a high level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the Senior Leadership Team and the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

At its meeting on 03 December 2024, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2024 by considering documentation from the Senior Leadership Team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31 July 2024.

Based on the advice of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and the Accounting Officer, the Corporation is of the opinion that the College has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control, and has fulfilled its statutory responsibility for "the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the body and the safeguarding of their assets".

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 03 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



H Fordham
Chair



D Braithwaite
Accounting Officer

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement on the College's Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As accounting officer, I confirm that the corporation has had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, and the requirements of the college's accountability agreement, funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and DFE and has considered its responsibility to notify the ESFA of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with those authorities and terms and conditions of funding.

I confirm, on behalf of the Corporation, that after due enquiry, and to the best of my knowledge, I am able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the Corporation, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities and the terms and conditions of funding under the college's accountability funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and DFE or any other public funder. This includes the elements outlined on the "Dear Accounting Officer" letter of 29 November 2022 and ESFA's bite size guides.

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



D Braithwaite
Accounting Officer

Date: 3rd December 2024

Statement of the chair of governors

On behalf of the corporation, I confirm that the accounting officer has discussed their statement of regularity, propriety and compliance with the board and that I am content that it is materially accurate.



H Fordham
Chair

Date: 3rd December 2024

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The members of the Corporation who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the College are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

The law applicable to charities in England and the terms and conditions of the college's accountability agreement, funding agreement and contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Department for Education (DfE), the corporation is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the College for that period. Corporations must also prepare a strategic report which includes an operating and financial review for the year. The bases for the preparation of the financial statements and strategic report are the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, ESFA's College Accounts Direction and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

In preparing the financial statements, the corporation is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- assess whether the corporation is a going concern, noting the key supporting assumptions, qualifications or mitigating actions, as appropriate
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the College will continue in operation.

The corporation is also required to prepare a strategic report, in accordance with paragraphs 3.23 to 3.27 of the FE and HE SORP, that describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the corporation.

The Corporation is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Corporation, and enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, the Charities Act 2011 and relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking steps that are reasonably open to it in order to safeguard its assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The maintenance and integrity of the College website is the responsibility of the Corporation of the College; the work carried out by the auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly, the auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Members of the Corporation are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from ESFA, DFE, and any other public funds, are used only in accordance with the accountability agreement, funding agreements and contracts and any other conditions, that may be prescribed from time to time by ESFA, or any other public funder, including that any transactions entered into by the corporation are within the delegated authorities following the reclassification of college corporations on 29 November 2022. Members of the corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the corporation are responsible for securing economic, efficient and effective management of the corporation's resources and expenditure so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from ESFA, DFE and other public bodies are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 3 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



H Fordham
Chair

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Independent Auditors' Report to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lancaster & Morecambe College (the "College") for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the college statement of comprehensive income, the college statement of changes in reserves, the college balance sheet, the college statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 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 College's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of the College's deficit of income over 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 Accounts Direction 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's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the college 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 governors' 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 college'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 governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The governors are responsible for the other information contained within the Report and Financial Statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Independent Auditors' Report to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College
(Continued)**

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

o report in respect of the following matters where the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations required for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporation's Responsibilities set out on page 22 the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation 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 Corporation is responsible for assessing the College'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 Corporation either intend to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's 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 the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the College operates in and how the college are complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Independent Auditors' Report to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College (Continued)

- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;
- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Further and Higher Education SORP and the College Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those which are in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the college is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence and inspected correspondence with licensing or regulatory authorities.

The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls income recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates and inspecting funding agreements and allocations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at <http://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 Corporation, as a body, in accordance with the Funding Agreement published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and our engagement letter dated 19 July 2024. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation, as a body, those matters we are engaged 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 Corporation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



RSM UK AUDIT LLP
Chartered Accountants
Bluebell House
Brian Johnson Way
Preston
Lancashire
PR2 5PE

Date: 05/12/24

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2024 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2023 £'000
INCOME			
Funding body grants	2	9,889	9,259
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	2,497	2,736
Other grants and contracts	4	274	475
Other income	5	1,559	1,017
Investment income	6	155	82
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL INCOME		14,374	13,569
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	7	9,330	9,081
Other operating expenses	8	4,184	4,210
Depreciation	11	1,214	1,257
Interest and other finance costs	9	-	30
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		14,728	14,578
		<hr/>	<hr/>
DEFICIT BEFORE TAX		(354)	(1,009)
Taxation	10	-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR		(354)	(1,009)
Actuarial (loss)/gain in respect of pension scheme	21	(125)	1,493
		<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		(479)	484
		<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The Income and Expenditure Account is in respect of continuing activities.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

College Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income and expenditure account £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total £'000
BALANCE AT 1 AUGUST 2022	12,582	5,453	18,035
(Deficit) from the income and expenditure account	(1,009)	-	(1,009)
Other comprehensive income	1,493	-	1,493
Transfer between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	194	(194)	-
	678	(194)	484
BALANCE AT 31 JULY 2023	13,260	5,259	18,519
(Deficit) from the income and expenditure account	(354)	-	(354)
Other comprehensive income	(125)	-	(125)
Transfer between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	194	(194)	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	(285)	(194)	(479)
BALANCE AT 31 JULY 2024	12,975	5,065	18,040

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 JULY

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Tangible assets	11	22,936	22,124
		22,936	22,124
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade and other receivables	12	1,470	1,157
Cash and cash equivalents	16	2,607	4,198
		4,077	5,355
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	13	(2,806)	(3,854)
		1,271	1,501
NET CURRENT ASSETS			
		24,207	23,625
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(6,153)	(5,106)
		18,054	18,519
PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES			
Defined benefit pension schemes	15	(14)	-
		18,040	18,519
TOTAL NET ASSETS			
UNRESTRICTED RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account		12,975	13,260
Revaluation reserve		5,065	5,259
		18,040	18,519
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED RESERVES			
		18,040	18,519
TOTAL RESERVES			

The financial statements on pages 26 to 51 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 3 December 2024 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:

H Fordham



Chair

D Braithwaite



Accounting Officer

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
(Deficit) for the year		(354)	(1,009)
ADJUSTMENT FOR NON-CASH ITEMS			
Depreciation		1,214	1,257
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors		(313)	(119)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors due within one year		(1,048)	987
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors due after one year		1,047	(262)
Pension costs less contributions payable		(93)	293
ADJUSTMENT FOR INVESTING OR FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Investment income		(155)	(82)
Interest payable		-	30
		<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		298	1,095
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investment income		137	82
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(2,026)	(743)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		(1,889)	(661)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Interest paid		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		-	-
		<hr/>	<hr/>
(DECREASE)/INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		(1,591)	434
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,198	3,764
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		2,607	4,198

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the financial statements.

General information

Lancaster & Morecambe College is a corporation established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 as an English general college of further education. The address of the College's principal place of business is given on page 12. The nature of the College's operations is set out in the Strategic Report.

Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (F & HE SORP 2019), the College Accounts Direction for 2023 to 2024 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland” (FRS 102) under the historical cost convention. The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented unless otherwise stated.

The preparation of financial statements in compliance with FRS 102 requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the College's accounting policies.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention as modified by the use of previous valuations as deemed cost at transition for certain non-current assets.

The financial statements are presented in sterling which is also the functional currency of the College.

Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest whole £1,000, except where otherwise indicated.

Going concern

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance, are set out in the Members Report. The financial position of the College, its cash flow and liquidity are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying notes. The College had a cash balance of £2,607k (2023 : £4,198k), net current assets of £1,271k (2023 : £1,501k), and total net assets of £18,040k (2023 : £18,519k) at the year end and it currently has no borrowings. Provision has been made for the clawback of £177k Adult Education Budget funding. The College is forecasting to generate a positive EBITDA – education specific in 2024/25 and maintain an ESFA financial health rate of ‘Good’.

Accordingly, the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES (CONTINUED)

Recognition of income

Revenue grant funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under or over achievement for the Adult Skills Budget is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the income and expenditure account. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end, and the results of any funding audits. For 2023-24 the ESFA have confirmed that the tolerance level will remain at 97% for clawback of AEB, and the over -delivery threshold will be increased to 150%. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments and is recognised when receivable.

Grants (including research grants) from non-government sources are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the income and performance related conditions have been met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the balance sheet and released to income as the conditions are met.

Capital grant funding

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the Balance Sheet and released to income as conditions are met.

Fee income

Income from tuition fees is stated gross of any expenditure which is not a discount and is recognised in the period for which it is received.

Investment income

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain discretionary support funds. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the income and expenditure of the College where the College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Other income

Income from the supply of services is recognised at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents the value of services to the extent there is a right to consideration.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

Post-employment benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS). These are multi-employer defined benefit plans, which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES (CONTINUED)

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College 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 on the basis of valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is a multi employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

Lancashire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme, and the assets of the scheme are held separately. Pension schemes are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. The net interest cost on the net defined benefit liability/asset is charged to comprehensive income and included within finance costs. Re-measurement comprising actuarial gains and losses, the effect of the asset ceiling and the return on scheme assets (excluding amounts include in net interest on the net defined benefit liability) are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

The LGPS assets are managed by the scheme trustees at scheme level, and the determination / allocation of assets to each individual employer in the scheme is managed by the scheme actuary. The assets are allocated to each employer for accounting purposes based on the valuation of the assets at the latest triennial valuation as adjusted for subsequent contributions received from the employer, asset returns and benefit payments made (either on a cash basis or actuarial basis).

The retirement benefit obligation recognised represents the deficit or surplus in the defined benefit plans. Any surplus resulting from this calculation is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plans or reductions in future contributions to the plans.

Short Term Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. Any unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

Non-current Assets - Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to FRS 102, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Where parts of a fixed asset have different useful lives, they are accounted for as separate items of fixed assets.

Land and Buildings

Land and buildings inherited from the Local Education Authority are stated in the balance sheet at valuation on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. Land and buildings acquired since incorporation are included in the balance sheet at cost. Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life. Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the college of between 10 and 50 years.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES (CONTINUED)

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred income account within creditors, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a systematic basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of any fixed asset may not be recoverable.

On adoption of FRS 102, the college followed the transitional provisions to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 1994, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Assets under construction

Assets under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value of architects' certificates and other direct costs, incurred to 31 July. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to income in the period it is incurred, unless it increases the future benefits to the College, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

Capitalised equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its remaining useful economic life as follows:

Motor vehicles and general equipment	-	4 years
Computer equipment	-	4 years
Other assets	-	10 years
Assets in course of construction	-	Nil

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 Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants, it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy. The related grants are credited to a deferred income account within creditors, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a systematic basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

Leased assets

Finance leased assets

Leasing agreements which transfer to the College substantially all the benefits and risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset are treated as finance leases.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES (CONTINUED)

Assets held under finance leases are recognised initially at the fair value of the leased asset or, if lower, the present value of minimum lease payments as determined at inception of the lease. Lease payments are treated as consisting of capital and interest elements. The interest is charged to profit or loss so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation.

Assets are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the estimated useful economic life of the asset and assessed for impairment losses in the same way as for owned assets.

Operating leases

All other leases are operating leases and annual rents are charged to comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty.

Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. An investment qualifies as a cash equivalent when it has maturity of 3 months or less from the date of acquisition.

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form.

All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the College are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the College has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial period with all resulting exchange differences being taken to income in the period in which they arise.

Taxation

The College 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 College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so it can only recover around 3% of VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs are tangible fixed assets by nature.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

1 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND ESTIMATION TECHNIQUES (CONTINUED)

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised when:

- the College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event;
- it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation; and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value using a pre-tax discount rate. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income in the period it arises.

A contingent liability arises from a past event that gives the College a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the College. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the balance sheet but are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In preparing these financial statements management have made the following judgements:

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College, either as a lessor or a lessee, are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pension Scheme to be included in the asset ceiling in measuring and recognising a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and its inherent implied continuance as well as the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the College's tangible assets, including goodwill. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.
- Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their expected useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.
- The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined position 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 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension position. 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 July 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 position.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

2 FUNDING BODY GRANTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Recurrent Grants		
Education and Skills Funding Agency - adult	1,082	1,061
Education and Skills Funding Agency – 16-18	7,595	6,513
Provision for repayment of Adult funding in previous year no longer required to be repaid – Education and Skills Funding Agency	76	56
Specific Grants		
Releases of government capital grants	396	325
Teachers' Pension Scheme contribution grant	264	259
Other Funds	476	1,045
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	9,889	9,259
	<hr/>	<hr/>

3 TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION CONTRACTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Adult education fees	116	154
Apprenticeship contracts	1,572	1,742
Fees for FE loan supported courses	98	158
Fees for HE loan supported courses	158	184
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total tuition fees	1,944	2,238
Education contracts	553	498
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,497	2,736
	<hr/>	<hr/>

4 OTHER GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
European Commission	274	475
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	274	475
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

5 OTHER INCOME

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Catering	331	262
Post 16 High Needs Student Funding	552	396
Other income (including Exam Fees, Nursery Fees and Sales from Training Activities)	676	359
TOTAL	1,559	1,017

6 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Other interest receivable	137	82
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 21)	18	-
TOTAL	155	82

7 STAFF COSTS

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, expressed as average headcount and calculated on a monthly basis, was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Teaching staff	116	118
Non teaching staff	224	225
TOTAL	340	343

Staff costs for the above persons

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Wages and salaries	7,224	6,844
Social security costs	599	560
Other pension costs	1,473	1,670
	9,296	9,074
Restructuring costs contractual	34	7
TOTAL	9,330	9,081

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

7 STAFF COSTS (CONTINUED)

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the College Leadership Team which include the Principal, Vice Principal: Finance & Resources, Vice Principal: Progress & Performance, Director of Curriculum & Innovation and Director of HR Strategy & Support.

Emoluments of Key Management Personnel, Accounting Officer and other higher paid staff

	2024 Number	2023 Number
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	6	5

The number of key management personnel and other staff who received annual emoluments, excluding pension contributions and employer's national insurance but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges was:

	Key management personnel		Other staff	
	2024 Number	2023 Number	2024 Number	2023 Number
£45,001 to £50,000	1	1	2	-
£55,001 to £60,000	1	1	-	-
£70,001 to £75,000	1	1	-	-
£80,001 to £85,000	-	1	-	-
£85,001 to £90,000	1	-	-	-
£100,001 to £105,000	1	-	-	-
£105,001 to £110,000	-	1	-	-
	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>

Key management personnel, including Accounting Officer, compensation is made up as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salaries – gross of salary sacrifice and waived emoluments	377	362
Employer's National Insurance	46	45
	<u>423</u>	<u>407</u>
Pension contributions	84	76
	<u>507</u>	<u>483</u>

There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year, nor any salary sacrifice arrangements in place.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

7 STAFF COSTS (CONTINUED)

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Accounting Officer (who is also the highest paid officer) of:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Salaries	100	105
Pension contributions	26	25
Total	126	130

The governing body has adopted AoC's Senior Staff Remuneration Code in July 2019 and will assess pay in line with its principles in future.

The remuneration package of key management staff, including the Principal and Chief Executive, is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the governing body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance.

The relationship between the accounting officer's emoluments, expressed as a multiple of all other employees based on full-time equivalents, is set out below for both basic salary and total remuneration.

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Basic salary as a multiple of median basic salary of staff	4.2	4.0
Total remuneration as a multiple of median total remuneration of staff	4.5	4.3

8 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Teaching costs	1,418	1,603
Non teaching costs	1,739	1,670
Premises costs	1,027	937
TOTAL	4,184	4,210

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

8 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES (CONTINUED)

Other operating expenses include:	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit	38	38
Internal audit	12	12
Other services provided by the financial statements auditors	5	8
Operating leases – other equipment	7	14
(Gains)/Losses on foreign exchange	1	(3)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

9 INTEREST PAYABLE AND OTHER FINANCE COSTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 21)	-	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	-	30
	<hr/>	<hr/>

10 TAXATION

The members do not believe the College is liable for any corporation tax arising out of its activities during the year (2023- £nil).

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

11 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Equipment £'000	Assets in the course of construction £'000	Total £'000
Cost				
At 1 August 2023	33,178	8,548	-	41,726
Additions	1,496	530	-	2,026
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Transfer	-	-	-	-
At 31 July 2024	34,674	9,078	-	43,752
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2023	12,158	7,444	-	19,602
Charge for the year	765	449	-	1,214
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 July 2024	12,923	7,893	-	20,816
Net book value at 31 July 2024	21,751	1,185	-	22,936
Net book value at 31 July 2023	21,020	1,104	-	22,124

Inherited land and buildings were valued for the purpose of the 1994 financial statements at depreciated replacement cost by Mr J J Worsnop ARICS, an employee of the Valuation Office Agency, a firm of Independent Chartered Surveyors. Other tangible fixed assets inherited from the Local Education Authority at Incorporation have been valued by the Corporation on a depreciated replacement cost basis.

12 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	241	357
Prepayments and accrued income	1,057	614
Amounts due from the ESFA	172	186
TOTAL	1,470	1,157

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

13 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Trade payables	86	454
Other taxation and social security	328	291
Amounts due to the ESFA	289	543
Accruals and deferred income	1,480	1,993
Holiday pay accrual	223	223
Deferred income – government capital grants	400	350
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	2,806	3,854
	<hr/>	<hr/>

14 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Deferred income – government capital grants	6,153	5,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	6,153	5,106
	<hr/>	<hr/>

15 PROVISIONS

	Defined benefit obligations £'000	Total £'000
At 1 August 2023	-	-
Expenditure in the period	(716)	(716)
Additions in the period	296	296
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	434	434
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total as at 31 July 2024	14	14
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Defined benefit obligations relate to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are given in Note 21.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

16 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 1 August 2023 £'000	Cash flows £,000	Other changes £,000	At 31 July 2024 £,000
Cash and cash equivalents	4,198	(1,591)	-	2,607
TOTAL	4,198	(1,591)	-	2,607

The cash balance includes £1m held on deposit which is due to mature on 28th February 2025.

17 CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	412	-

18 LEASE OBLIGATIONS

At 31 July the College had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Other Equipment		
Not later than one year	5	-
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Total	5	-

19 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

There are no events after the reporting period.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

20 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The College has the following financial instruments:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Financial Assets		
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost	413	543
	413	543
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	86	454
	86	454

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

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

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022. Contributions amounting to £189,000 (2023: £154,000) were payable to the scheme at 31 July and are included within Other taxation and social security.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Total pension cost for the year		
Teachers Pension Scheme: contributions paid	833	714
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	718	663
FRS 102 (28) adjustment	<u>(93)</u>	<u>293</u>
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	625	956
Total Pension Cost for Year	<u>1,458</u>	<u>1,670</u>

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer. The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme on as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary ("GA"), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach. The valuation report was published on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI) (this change has had the greatest financial significance)

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 1 April 2028 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy). DfE agreed to pay a Teachers Pensions employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2023-24 academic year, and currently through to July 2025.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £833,000 (2023: £714,000).

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Lancashire County Council. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2024 were £938,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £718,000 and employees' contributions totalled £220,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.5% for employers and between 5.5% and 12.5% for employees, depending on salary.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of an FE body in the statutory sector closure, where there is no transfer or merger, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 12 November 2024.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

	At 31 July 2024	At 31 July 2023
The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2023 updated to 31 July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary		
Rate of CPI inflation	2.6%	2.7%
Rate of increase in salaries	4.1%	4.2%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment	2.7%	2.8%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	4.9%	5.1%
Commutations of pensions to lump sums	50%	50%

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

	At 31 July 2024	At 31 July 2023
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.0	21.0
Females	23.5	23.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.2	22.2
Females	25.3	25.2

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

The College's share of the assets in the plan at the balance sheet data and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair Value at 31 July 2024 £'000	Fair Value at 31 July 2023 £'000
Equities	16,613	15,806
Government Bonds	35	131
Other Bonds	35	-
Property	2,961	3,103
Cash	488	196
Other	14,698	13,422
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total fair value of plan assets	34,830	32,658
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Actual return on plan assets	2,208	720
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The amount included in the balance sheet in respect of the defined benefit pension plan is as follows:

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	34,830	32,658
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(6,951)	(6,201)
Present value of plan liabilities	(27,893)	(26,457)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net Pensions (liability) (Note 15)	(14)	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Amounts recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of the plan are as follows:

Amounts included in staff costs

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Current service cost	601	937
Administration expenses	22	21
Past service cost	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	623	958
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

Amounts included in interest and other finance costs

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net pension finance (income)/costs	(18)	30
	<u>(18)</u>	<u>30</u>

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Return on pension plan assets	544	(1,246)
Experience gains and losses arising on defined benefit obligations	(235)	8,940
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(434)	(6,201)
	<u>(125)</u>	<u>1,493</u>

Movement in net defined benefit (liability)/asset during year

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Net defined (liability) in scheme at 1 August	-	(1,170)
Current Service cost	(601)	(937)
Administration expenses	(22)	(21)
Net interest on the defined (liability)	18	(30)
Employer contributions	716	665
Actuarial gain	309	7,694
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(434)	(6,201)
	<u>(14)</u>	<u>-</u>

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	26,457	33,811
Current Service cost	601	937
Interest cost	1,331	1,175
Contributions by scheme participants	220	216
Past Service cost	-	-
Experience (gain)/loss	(125)	585
Loss/(gain) on financial assumptions	444	(8,313)
(Gain) on demographic assumptions	(84)	(1,212)
Curtailments	-	-
Estimated benefits paid	(951)	(742)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Defined benefit liability at 31 July	27,893	26,457
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Changes in fair value of plan assets

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	32,658	32,641
Interest on plan assets	1,665	1,145
Return on plan assets	544	(1,246)
Administration expenses	(22)	(21)
Employer contributions	716	665
Contributions by scheme participants	220	216
Estimated benefits paid	(951)	(742)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	34,830	32,658
	<hr/>	<hr/>

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

21 DEFINED BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS (CONTINUED)

The College is aware that the Court of Appeal has recently upheld the decision in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited case. The decision puts into question the validity of any amendments made in respect of the rules of a contracted-out pension scheme between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. The judgment means that some historic amendments affecting s.9(2B) rights could be void if the necessary actuarial confirmation under s.37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not obtained. Until further investigations have been completed by the UK Government's Actuary's Department and/or any legislative action taken by the government, the potential impact if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

	2024 £'000
Present value of defined benefit obligations	(27,893)
Fair value of plan assets	34,830
	<hr/>
Net asset	6,937
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(6,951)
	<hr/>
Net liability recognised in the balance sheet	(14)
	<hr/> <hr/>

The value of the College's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding charge has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

These accounts show a past service cost of £0k in respect of the McCloud / Sergeant judgment which ruled that the transitional protection for some members of public service schemes implemented when they were reformed constituted age discrimination. This provision is 0% of the total scheme liability as at 31 March 2019. The calculation of adjustment to past service costs, £7 billion, arising from the outcome of the Court of Appeal judgment is based on a number of key assumptions including:

- the form of remedy adopted
- how the remedy will be implemented
- which members will be affected by the remedy
- the earning assumptions
- the withdrawal assumption

The other financial and demographic assumptions adopted to calculate the past service cost are the same as those used to calculate the overall scheme liability. Adopting different assumptions, or making other adjustments to reflect behavioural changes stemming from the judgment, would be expected to change the disclosed past service cost. Similarly, allowing for variations in individual members' future service or salary progression is expected to produce higher costs. The past service cost is particularly sensitive to the difference between assumed long term general pay growth and the CPI. If the long term salary growth assumptions were 0.5% pa lower, then the past service cost disclosed here would be expected to reduce by 50% and conversely a 0.5% pa increase would increase the estimated cost by 65%.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

22 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Owing to the nature of the College's operations and the composition of the board of governors (being drawn from local public and private sector organisations) it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are in accordance with the College's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £nil; (2022/23: £241; 3 governor). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

The Accounting Officer and staff members only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking their roles of Principal and staff members under contracts of employment and not in respect of their roles as governors. The other members of the Corporation did not receive any payments from the college in respect of their roles as governors.

Apart from Staff Governors, no Governors have received or waived remuneration during the year.

The College is one of eleven members of The Lancashire Colleges Limited, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of the Lancashire Colleges Limited is to co-ordinate bids for ESF and other external funding. The College's investment is not considered material to consolidate.

During the year ended 31 July 2024 the College received income of £nil (2022/23: £nil) and paid £5k (2022/23: £5k) to the Lancashire Colleges Limited. As at 31 July 2024 £nil; (2022/23: £nil) was outstanding from The Lancashire Colleges Limited.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Notes to the Accounts (continued)

23 AMOUNTS DISBURSED AS AGENT

Learner Support Funds

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Balance unspent as at 1 August, included in creditors	61	128
Funding body grants	417	234
	478	362
Disbursed to students	376	286
Administration costs	20	15
	396	301
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	82	61

Funding body grants are available solely for students. In the majority of instances, the College only acts as a paying agent. In these circumstances, the grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through Education and Skills Funding Agency

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 July 2024 and further to the requirements of the accountability agreement, grant funding agreements and contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (the "ESFA") and the Department for Education (the "DfE") or those of any other public funder, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Lancaster & Morecambe College during the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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 period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice (the Code) issued by the ESFA and in any relevant conditions of funding concerning adult education notified by a relevant funder.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the FRC's Ethical Standard and the ethical pronouncements of the ICAEW. We also apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements and accordingly maintain comprehensive systems of continuing quality management. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College for regularity

The Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College is responsible, under the grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College is also responsible for preparing the Governing Body's Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance.

Reporting accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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 Code.

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2023 to 31 July 2024 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE COLLEGE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

Independent Reporting Accountant's Report on Regularity to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through the Department for Education (Continued)

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and those of any other public funder and high level financial control areas where we identified a material irregularity is likely to arise. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions.

This work was integrated with our audit of the financial statements and evidence was also derived from the conduct of that audit to the extent it supports the regularity conclusion.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through the ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through 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 the Corporation of Lancaster & Morecambe College and the Secretary of State for Education acting through the ESFA for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.



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Date: 05/12/24