

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 July 2023**

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

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WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STRATEGIC REPORT

Nature, Objectives and Strategies:

The Members present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Legal Status

The Corporation was established under The Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Warrington & Vale Royal College. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Corporation was incorporated as Warrington Collegiate. On 27 July 2017, the Secretary of State granted consent to the Corporation to change the College's name to Warrington & Vale Royal College with effect from 1 August 2017.

Following a review of Further Education provision across Cheshire and Warrington, the College Corporation agreed to merge with Mid Cheshire College on 1 August 2017. It was on this date that Warrington Collegiate changed its name to Warrington & Vale Royal College. This process saw Mid Cheshire College dissolve and transfer all its assets and liabilities to Warrington & Vale Royal College at fair value on 1 August 2017.

Public Benefit

Warrington & Vale Royal College is an exempt charity under 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 16 to 18.

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 vision and mission, the College provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High-quality teaching
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent employment record for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce
- Links with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

Vision, Mission, Values, Strategic Aims and Key Priorities

Warrington & Vale Royal College is a college in Cheshire, delivering qualifications to around 7,000 students across the towns and surrounding areas of Warrington, Northwich and Winsford. Pre-pandemic, Warrington & Vale Royal College was ranked in the top 10 nationally, for the fourth consecutive year, for pass rates in the DfE achievement tables published in 2020.

Our Mission: Realising potential; transforming lives.

Our core values and conduct will be at the heart of every decision we make.

1. **We put our students and customers first** - prioritising students and their learning and progress, realising their potential, delighting our customers

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2. **We recognise that people are our greatest asset** – recruit and retain the most talented staff, investing in them to fulfil their potential, creating a wealth of opportunities for personal development and progression, creating a culture of co-prosperity, rewarding them for the work they do
3. **We pursue excellence in all we do** – a passion for high quality education, training and skills solutions, holding ourselves to the highest possible standards, meeting (and exceeding) targets, making improvements, valuing creativity, supporting digital innovation and pedagogy
4. **We embrace change** – looking forward to the future, embracing new technologies, anticipating and responding to ongoing economic and social needs and demands, maintaining a growth mind-set, exploring new routes to partnership, collaboration and growth
5. **We collaborate and work in partnership with others** - actively seeking opportunities to work with others in the best interests of the college community and key stakeholders
6. **We operate sustainably, ethically and responsibly** - taking action to achieve net zero carbon targets, acting with integrity, with high levels of accountability and complete transparency, treating others fairly and with respect, communicating clearly, concisely and openly

Recently agreed with the college's SLT and governors, **the college has six, strategic aims (SA's):**

SA1: Leading a first-class technical college, preparing for and securing a Good - or better - Ofsted outcome.

SA2: Leading a first-class technical college, developing curricula and technical teaching and learning that serves the sectors and skills need locally, aligned with EMSI data, the Cheshire and Warrington LSIP and the Warrington Skills' Commission.

SA3: Embed the college's Transforming Lives Strategy, engaging in the 'Levelling Up' agenda to develop human, social and institutional capital. Establish the college as an 'anchor institution' for the communities it serves.

SA4: Evolving a 'digital first' culture, engaging in innovation digitalisation.

SA5: Implementing the college's Carbon Management Plan and taking fuller action to 'green' the college and safeguard its sustainability.

SA6: Meeting planned growth targets, maintaining good financial health and investing for the future.

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

In 2022-23 the College has delivered activity that has produced £16,075K in recurrent grant funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency 'ESFA' and the Office for Students 'OFS' (2021/22 - £13,747K).

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Student numbers

Student type	Student Number
16-18	1569
19+	4556
Apprenticeships	847
HE	160
Non-funded	1169
Of which - Subcontracted	583
Of which - Adult student loans	320

Performance indicators 2022-23

The predicted performance of key quality indicators for college activity are identified below:

		2022-23 %	PGA %
16-18 Overall	Retention	89.7	88.7
	Pass	95	91
	Achievement	85.2	80.7
19+ Overall	Retention	94.1	92.9
	Pass	97.3	93.3
	Achievement	91.5	86.7
All Overall	Retention	92.9	
	Pass	96.3	
	Achievement	88.8	
		2022/23 %	National Rate – All providers (2021-22)
Apprenticeship Overall Achievement Rates	Overall All Ages	67.6	53.4
	Overall 16-18	60.4	
	Overall 19-23	78.6	
	Overall 24+	65.6	

The 2022-23 KPIs were set with ambitious targets for achievement above the PGA (Provider Group Average). All outcomes for classroom based learning and apprenticeships; achievement, retention and pass rates, are expected to return results above the PGA.

The College Improvement Plan reflected the strategic aims and the areas for improvement identified in the 2021-22 Self-Assessment Report. The plan was updated termly, with progress updates reported at the monthly Senior Leadership Team (SLT) monitoring meetings and also reported termly to the Curriculum and Standards committee of the Board of Corporation. The vast majority of actions in the plan reported good progress and any outstanding actions transferred into the 2023-24 Development Plan.

2022-23 Self-Assessment

The college completes an annual self-assessment report, aligned to the Ofsted Education Inspection Framework (EIF) and grading criteria.

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WVR College	
Key Judgements	Draft grading (pre validation)
Overall Effectiveness	Good
Quality of Education	Good
Behaviour and Attitudes	Good
Personal Development	Good
Leadership and Management	Good
Safeguarding	Effective

The College's Ofsted inspection, 8-11 October 2019, validated the college's self-assessment grades and confirmed Warrington & Vale Royal to be a 'Good' college overall, whilst apprenticeships was graded as 'Requiring Improvement'.

The quality of education and the apprentice experience has improved significantly in the apprenticeship provision and outcomes are significantly above national average. Leadership and management are very good, with a relentless focus on the quality of education and timely achievement. Newly appointed and competent lecturer assessors have been appointed, for example in construction areas, which has significantly improved the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

The information, advice and guidance (IAG) process for apprenticeships has been further enhanced and this has reduced the numbers of apprentices at risk of not completing and the number of apprentices that leave prior to completion. Improvements have been made to the tracking and monitoring of apprentices' progress through the implementation of OneFile e-portfolio and the majority of apprentices achieve high grades in the end point assessment. Apprentice and employer satisfaction results are positive, and well below the Apprenticeship Accountability measures thresholds.

Significant support and continuous professional development is provided to teachers and assessors, with their skills developing at pace. Off the job training is good, including high quality online learning to support apprentices and enhance their knowledge and skills development.

Work is continuing to further improve the consistent high quality and regularity of reviews and consistency across all programmes.

Quality Assurance

The College recognises the importance of sector measures and indicators and uses them to monitor performance throughout the year at course and curriculum level. The breadth, regularity and rigour of quality assurance activities to inform the quality of teaching, learning and assessment further improved in 2022-23, with the use of external consultants to validate the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and the student experience. Leaders and managers were provided with timely, detailed and frequent information on the quality of education.

The College focuses upon and directs resource towards important areas, especially those requiring improvement, and rigorously reviews the impact of actions taken to ensure students

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achieve their potential. As confirmed by the release of the national achievement rates, apprenticeship outcomes were above the national average in 2020- 21 for the first time in a number of years and performance in 2021-22 is predicted to be significantly higher.

Student surveys using QDP were conducted with classroom-based students and apprentices. Responses to the QDP surveys (November 2022 and May 2023) indicated high levels of student satisfaction across all sites and the majority of responses in Quartile A (top 25%) for each of the summary sections. Survey analysis is used by managers and teams to ensure timely action and improvement takes place where a concern is identified and that this is communicated promptly to students.

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial Results

The College made a deficit of £143k (2021/22 deficit of £1,430k). Total comprehensive income was a deficit of £21k (2021/22 £15,384k surplus).

The College has accumulated reserves of £16,042k (2021/22 £16,063k) and cash balances of £5,278k (2021/22 £3,779k) including endowments. The College wishes to accumulate reserves and cash balances in order to further strengthen its financial position. If the pension asset/(liability) was excluded from the balance sheet the accumulated reserves position would be £16,042k (2021/22: £16,063k).

The College has significant reliance on the Education and Skills Funding Agency 'ESFA' and the Office for Students 'OFS' for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2022/23 the ESFA and OFS provided 85% of the College's total income.

Staff costs have been maintained during 2022/23 at £13,855k compared to £13,516k in the previous year.

The College has one subsidiary company, Warrington Business School Limited which was dormant throughout the year.

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. Further detail on borrowing is contained within the Going Concern policy below.

Cash Flows

Cash inflows total £1,499k (2021/22 inflow of £167k) and operating cash flow from operating activities has increased compared to the previous year (£2,345k to £4,163k) due to additional capital grants. This positive cash flow has enabled the college to spend £2,353k on capital projects and repay £445k of borrowings and interest.

Liquidity

There are loans totalling £2,146k at 31 July 2023.

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Reserves Policy

The Corporation reviews the reserve levels of the College annually at the year end and as part of its budget planning. This review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The longer term aim is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance.

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 per cent. During the accounting period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023, the College paid 96.5% of its invoices within 30 days of the invoice being received and certified.

Post-Balance Sheet Events

No significant post balance sheet events to note.

Future Developments

The College has worked very hard to embed a culture of high aspirations and accountability and has consistently out turned achievement rates for classroom based learning that are above the national achievement rates. Almost all students at the college continue to progress onto positive destinations, apprenticeships, employment, higher education etc. In October 2019, the college was graded by Ofsted as a good provider.

Whilst the learning experience for students studying at the college has improved, the requirement to ensure value for money, viable delivery of curriculum and improved utilisation of the estate have become ever more important and these aspects remain critical to the continued financial stability of the college.

Guided by the principles of best value for money, the College remains committed to the efficient use of its estate and in-parallel curriculum specialisation to address the Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) strategic economic priorities and skills' gaps. This, in turn, will facilitate investment in specialist 'best in class' facilities and resources to meet and exceed industry standards, some of which will be situated on one - rather than all - campus(es).

The College also secured further capital funding from various sources – in excess of £12m - to support the following projects:

Project Developments

- The Construction and Civil Engineering Academy (CCEA). This project is funded through Town's Fund grant award to the value of £3,661m. A new build construction project with new equipment investment. The construction phase is underway and due for practical completion in late April 2024.
- The T Level Building Fund Improvement Grant (BFIG) wave 4 grant application was submitted in March 2022, with a total cost of £1,766m. The investment will be used for J block building remodelling of provision and refurbishment alongside the CCEA build.

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- The Health and Social Care Academy (HSCA). This project is funded through Town's Fund grant award to the value of £1,006m. A building refurbishment project with new equipment investment.
- The Advanced Creative and Digital Skills Centre (ACDS) project. A £920k capital and £479k revenue funded Skills Development Fund (SDF) project by the DfE to create a centre to develop and deliver digital skills provision.
- The ACDS has received additional funding from SDF 2 to the value of £685k which consists of £438k capital investment supported by £247k revenue funding. This investment is essentially a continuation of the SDF funded project incorporating elements of the IT curriculum provision including capital investment by way of robotics, new PCs across the curriculum and the creation of a motion capture suite to name but a few.
- Institute of Technology (IoT) – the college are a partner in the creation of an IOT for Cheshire and Warrington. A £13m capital investment in prestigious new facilities and resources to enhance the development of higher technical skills for the Cheshire and Warrington region. In December 2021 the college were notified its application had been successful, the WVR element being to the value of £2.2m. The college continue to work with partners and technical advisors AA Projects on the various elements of the overall scheme. The construction phase is due to commence in Spring 2024.
- Higher Technical Qualification – Skills Injection Fund. To launch the new wave of HTQ qualifications from September 2023 in Construction and Health and Social Care. The college received a mix of both capital and revenue funding to the value of £144k.
- An addition grant has recently been awarded for Higher Technical Qualification – Skills Injection Fund to launch new qualifications from September 2024. The subject areas for this wave include Engineering, Leadership & Management, Digital Technologies, Education & Childcare and Public Services to the value of £616k.
- In year 22/23 the college were awarded allocations as follows for T-Level Specialist Equipment;
 - o Construction and the Built Environment £319k
 - o Education and Early Years £29k
 - o Health and Science £142k
- In year the college were awarded three allocations for building improvements, energy efficiency and reclassification grants;
 - o Energy efficiency £162k
 - o Reclassification capital allocation condition improvement £405k
 - o College estate in an unsatisfactory condition £138k.
- Through the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority two allocation have been awarded for Health – Test and Learn £19k and Multiply £32k.

As well as the existing Business Centre Managers in Health and Digital, additional Business Centre Managers for STEM and Professional have been appointed in year and align with the capital investments described above. The Business Centre Managers will form the lynch-pin between curriculum and wider stakeholders and will lead employer steering groups and engagement across their sector, ensuring the College is adept in identifying and responding to skills' needs and securing future growth.

The college, with the senior leadership team (SLT) and governors, use set of principles operating under the Project Management Framework, for future investment such that the college will guide its future bids and investment in:

- sectors and skills aligned with local skills improvement plans (LSIPs), the Warrington Skills' Commission and in support of local economic policy and communities
- levelling up
- innovation and digitalisation

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- greening and sustainable ways of working.

Going Concern

Notwithstanding the deficit for the year of £143,000, these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the College will be able to pay its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least 18 months from the approval of these financial statements.

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the financial statements and accompanying notes.

In the preparation of the annual budget, the College was prudent in forecasting its income targets for 2023/24. Within the sensitivity analysis, the College modelled further reductions in income as well as the impact of additional unforeseen costs which indicate no concerns on the ability of the College to meet its daily working capital requirements.

The College meets its day to day working capital requirements primarily through cash generated from its day to day activities and the financing arrangements that it has with its bankers, Barclays Bank plc (Barclays). At 31 July 2023, the College has financing arrangements in place with Barclays, as follows:

A secured loan which at 31 July 2023 had a balance of £0.2m due for repayment over a period of 12 months and £1.9m due for repayment over one year. Current forecast information indicates that the College will be able to comply with the conditions of the loan including covenant compliance.

The Board has a reasonable expectation that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being a period of not less than 12-months from the date of approval of these financial statements. For these reasons, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

Staff and Student Involvement

The College's Marketing and Communication strategy highlights the means of communication with staff which the college considers to be effective including a fortnightly briefing, alongside the cycle of management and team meetings. Staff comments and suggestions are collected through a variety of methods and are used to inform action planning.

Student involvement is facilitated through the Learner Involvement Strategy. Direct feedback is through a system of course representatives, the Student Council, student focus groups and representation on formal committees by students drawn from course representatives. Student views are actively sought through representative meetings with the Principal, benchmarked surveys, course representative dialogue with course teams and Curriculum Managers.

Taxation

The College is not liable for any Corporation Tax arising from its activities during the year.

RESOURCES

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

Tangible resources include the main college sites at Warrington and Winsford and £5,278k including endowments held in cash at the year-end date.

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Financial

The College has £16,042k of net assets (pension asset has been restricted to £nil) and bank loans of £2.1 million.

People

The College employs 313 people (expressed as full time equivalents), of whom 135 are teaching staff.

Reputation

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

PRINCIPLE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The College continues to work to further 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.

Strategic risks to the College are identified and allocated to a Senior Post holder (Risk Owner) to manage. The risk is assessed as to the severity of likelihood and impact if it was not managed, and assigned a numerical value for each (from 1-5) based on this assessment. Existing controls are identified and considered as to the level they reduce the potential impact of the risk, again with a numerical value assigned to provide the managed risk score. The Risk Owner determines if further controls are needed as required. Detailed guidance on the level of risk considered to be acceptable/unacceptable by the College is set out in the risk management strategy. The Strategic risks are reported to Audit Committee at least termly and are managed through Senior Management meetings.

Outlined below are the key strategic risks that the college face at this time;

Risks associated with Curriculum and Quality

- Failure to secure improvements to teaching, learning and assessment such that it high achievement rates for CBL (16-18 and 19+) and HE are not maintained.
- Failure to secure rapid improvements to, and a successful re-inspection of, apprenticeship provision.
- Failure to secure positive endorsement through external scrutiny e.g. QAA / OfS, the FEC, ESFA etc.
- Failure to take into account key stakeholder voices and views such that the curriculum does not respond to local economic and community needs.

Risks associated with Financial Health

- Failure to ensure that the college financial health remains 'Good'.
- Failure to meet income targets and secure growth in the college's financial turnover.
- Failure to develop the capacity to manage large scale projects
- Failure to detect serious fraud.
- Failure to adequately provide for a worsening pension scheme deficit.
- Failure to attract new business/diversify income.

Risks associated with Statutory Guidance

- Failure to safeguard children, vulnerable adults and/or comply with health and safety legislation

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- Failure to comply with key legislation including, for example, equality and diversity, employment law or GDPR.

Risks associated with the effective running of the college

- Failure to recruit, retain and develop staff in line with the college's 'People Plan' such that organisational aims are not achieved
- Failure to recruit, retain and develop skilled governors
- Failure to respond a critical incident, for example, fire, flood, storm, terrorist attack, other pandemic.
- Failure to protect the college from a cyber or other IT attack.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

Warrington & Vale Royal College has a wide range of stakeholders including: Students, Education sector funding bodies, Staff, local employers (with specific links), Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), the local community, other FE/HE institutions, Trade unions and professional bodies.

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with all partners and stakeholders. As such, the College will undertake a comprehensive stakeholder mapping and engagement strategy in the year ahead.

Equality

The College's commitment to Equality is confirmed through the College mission, values and strategic aims. The College promotes equality amongst its staff, students, employers, parents and other stakeholders. It is the aim of the College that all students, staff and stakeholders work together, showing respect for each other and valuing differences. Equality is promoted through a variety of means including strategic documents, policies and procedures, publications, and special events, and curriculum design and delivery.

The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy demonstrates the College's commitment to ensuring that equality issues are at the heart of its work. Leadership and commitment at all levels of the College are central to the success of the policy and the College works proactively to reinforce the benefits of a diverse student-staff population, enhancing the learning process, the programmes offered and the local and regional impact and reputation of the College.

The College's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and action plan are published on the College's Internet site.

The College is committed to the Two Ticks Award for supporting workers with disabilities and offering an automatic interview where their skills and experience meet the required criteria.

The College works with Access to Work to ensure individual members of staff are able to participate fully in College life, for example buying specialist equipment for a member of lecturing staff. A significant number of staff have also used health and safety funding to secure adapted chairs, foot rests and gel mats to aid long term medical conditions, such as back pain and repetitive strain injury.

The staff induction programme and continuing professional development events ensure effective training for staff and managers with regards their respective roles and responsibilities in terms of equality and diversity.

Gender pay gap reporting

The college publishes its annual gender pay gap report on its website.

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Disability Statement

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010.

- The College rebuild, completed in 2007, was designed under Part M of Building Regulations to ensure full access and meet DDA requirements. A full access audit of the Warrington site has been undertaken by external experts based in Warrington Disability Partnership
- Learning support needs are addressed particularly through the Learning Support Team:
 - The Additional Learning Support Manager is notified of any additional support needs during the admissions process and attends interviews when necessary. The ALS Manager provides information and guidance and arranges support in class, at lunchtimes and breaks and for transport.
 - Specialist equipment such as Dictaphones, laptops etc. are available for loan. Readers and scribes are also provided to support in class or during exams and British Sign Language interpreters assist students with hearing impairments. Assistive technology is available in the Learning Resource Centre and in IT rooms.
 - Learning Facilitators are provided to assist all students to access the full range of curriculum and to help them achieve their full potential. Staff development and specialist training is undertaken to ensure skills and qualifications are kept up to date.
- The Admissions Policy and Procedure including the Appeals Procedure are published on the College Internet site.
- Specialist programmes are published in the College prospectus and achievement rates included in College performance reports.
- Welfare services and signposting to counselling services are available through Learner Services. Students are made aware of these services through information at interview, on enrolment, on the Internet, Intranet, published materials, induction programme and the Progress Coach system.

If appropriate, risk assessments are undertaken for students with disabilities or medical needs.

Trade union facility time

The Facility Time Publication Requirements Regulations 2017 require us to collate and publish the following information. The information below relates to the period 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

Table 1
Relevant Union Officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period.	Full time equivalent number of employees who were relevant union officials during the period.
7	6.6

Table 2
Facility time as a percentage of working time

Facility time as a percentage of working hours	Number of Employees
0%	1
1-50%	6
51-99%	
100%	

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Table 3
Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time.

	£
Total Cost of Facility Time	8561
Total Pay Bill	£13,092,220
Percentage of total pay bill spent on Facility Time	0.07%

Table 4
Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	0%
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Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data	Current reporting year 2022-2023	Comparison reporting year 2021-2022	Difference calculated between 21.22 and 22.23
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,435,077	2,382,057	53,020
Energy consumption break down(kWh) (optional)			
Gas	1,436,941	1,355,319	81,622
Electricity	859,900	875,110	(15,210)
Transport fuel	138,236	151,628	(13,392)
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Gas consumption	263.19	248.24	14.95
Owned transport – mini-buses	4.03	4.35	(0.32)
Total scope 1	267.22	252.59	14.63
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Purchased electricity	182.58	185.81	(3.23)
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	29.62	32.57	(2.95)
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	479.42	470.97	8.45
Intensity ratio			
Tonnes CO2e per member of staff	1.11	1.15	(0.04)

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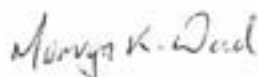
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Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Mr M Ward
Chair



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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 2022/23:

Nichola Newton, Principal and CEO, Accounting Officer
Michelle Seeley, Deputy Principal Finance and Resources
Andrew Williams, Vice Principal
Rebecca Welch, Assistant Principal
Rebecca Anderson-Moss – Assistant Principal

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on pages 15-16 of these financial statements.

Laura Churchill acted as Clerk to the Corporation.

Principal Place of Business

Warrington & Vale Royal College, Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA

Professional Advisors

Financial Statements Auditors and Reporting Accountants

UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
St James Building
79 Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6HT

Internal Auditors

RSM Risk Assurance Services LLP
3 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3HF

Bankers

Barclays
1st Floor, 3 Hardman Street
Spinningfields
Manchester
M3 3AX

Solicitors

DWF LLP
1 Scott Place
2 Hardman Street
Manchester
M3 3AA

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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 2022 to 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership)
- in full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code");

In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2023. 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 Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges in March 2015 (amended in May 2019), which it formally adopted in October 2015.

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 members who served the Corporation during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as listed in the table below:

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of Appointment	Committees Served	Attendance in 2022/23
Mervyn Ward (Chair)	1 December 2015 1 August 2017 1 August 2021	4 years		External Member	Finance and Resources Committee; Search and Governance Committee; Senior Staff Salaries Committee	96%
Steve Broomhead (Vice Chair)	1 August 2017 1 August 2021	4 years		External Member	Finance and Resources Committee; Senior Staff Salaries Committee	86%
Peter Fitzhenry	12 March 2014 1 August 2017 1 August 2021	4 years	31 August 2022	External Member	Audit Committee	N/A
Nicola Newton	17 Feb 2016 1 August 2017	N/A - Principal		Principal/Chief Executive	Finance and Resources Committee; Standards and Curriculum Committee; Search and Governance Committee	100%
Sam Naylor	23 September 2019	4 years		External Member	Audit; Finance and Resources (moved January 2022)	75%
Peter Lloyd	23 September 2019	4 years	9 November 2022	External Member	Audit	0

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of Appointment	Committees Served	Attendance in 2022/23
Peter Scott	9 December 2019	4 years		External Member	Finance and Resources	92%
Andrew Ellams	26 February 2020	4 years		External Member	Audit; Search and Governance	100%
Andrew Bainbridge	28 September 2020	4 years		External Member	Finance and Resources; Search and Governance Committee	100%
Martin Berman	28 September 2020	4 years		External Member	Standards and Curriculum	84%
Robert Cox	28 September 2020	4 years		External Member	Audit; Senior Staff Salaries	100%
Geoff Spencer	28 September 2020	4 years		External Member	Standards and Curriculum	29%
Nicola Wilson	28 September 2020	4 years	28 September 2022	Staff Governor	Standards and Curriculum	N/A
Kirstie Simpson	15 December 2020	4 years		External Member	Standards and Curriculum	71%
Sue Martin	1 January 2021	4 years	31 August 2022	External Member	Standards and Curriculum	N/A
Lucy Gardner	7 July 2021	4 years		External Member	Finance and Resources Committee	84%
Alison Birkinshaw	1 August 2020 1 August 2021	4 years	23 September 2022	Co-opted Member	Standards and Curriculum	N/A
Martin Sim	4 July 2022	1 year		Co-opted member	Standards and Curriculum Committee	100%
Laura Churchill	31 May 2016	N/A	Maternity leave 16 June 2020 – 25 August 2021	Clerk to the Corporation	All Committees served during period	100%
Naomi Jones	6 December 2022	N/A		Student Member	Standards and Curriculum	13%
Jake Lees	6 December 2022	N/A	1 January 2023	Student Member	Standards and Curriculum	0%
Melanie Walsh	6 December 2022	N/A		Staff Member	Standards and Curriculum	75%
Ben Brady	6 December 2022	N/A		Staff Member	Standards and Curriculum	100%
Caroline Rowley	3 February 2023	4 years		External member	Finance and Resources – moved to Standards and Curriculum	83%
Gill Hopwood-Bell	22 March 2023	4 years		External Member	Audit	50%
Paula Rowland	22 March 2023	4 years		External Member	Standards and Curriculum	100%

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of Appointment	Committees Served	Attendance in 2022/23
Nidi Etim	4 July 2023	1 year		External Member	Standards and Curriculum	N/A

**including extraordinary meetings*

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 together with other information such as performance against funding targets, proposed capital expenditure, quality matters and personnel related matters such as health and safety and environmental issues. The Corporation meets each term.

The Corporation conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are: Audit, Finance and Resources, Senior Staff Salaries, Search and Governance and Standards and Curriculum.

Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential, are available from the Clerk to the Corporation at:

Warrington & Vale Royal College
Winwick Road
Warrington
WA2 8QA

The Clerk to the Corporation maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Governors. The 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 Clerk to the Corporation who is responsible to the Board for ensuring that all applicable procedures and regulations are complied with. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the 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 of the Corporation and the Principal of the College are separate.

CORPORATION PERFORMANCE

The Board completes annually a robust self-assessment review of individual Members' contributions and the performance of the Board as a whole. The self-assessments are further supported by individual governance discussions held between the Chair and each Corporation Member to accurately identify areas of strength and areas for development in governance. The Board's performance is assessed against the Code of Good Governance for English Colleges. A governance action plan is in place to strengthen the Board's performance and is monitored by the Search and Governance Committee. Performance of the Corporation is also assessed within the leadership and management section of the College's Self-Assessment Review.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CORPORATION

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a Search and Governance Committee comprising four Members which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new Member for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Members of the Corporation are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years.

SENIOR STAFF SALARIES COMMITTEE

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2023, the College's Senior Staff Salaries Committee comprised three Members. The Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Principal and other senior post holders.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2023 are set out in note 9 to the financial statements.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee comprises four Members of the Corporation (excluding the Principal and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation with a particular emphasis on risk management.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal, regularity and financial statement 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 monitor 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 Committee.

Management are responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and internal audit undertake periodic follow-up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented.

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

The audit committee met 4 times in the year to 31 July 2023. The members of the committee and their attendance records are shown below:

Committee member	Meetings attended
Mr R Cox	3
Mr S Naylor	3
Mr A Ellams	3
Mrs G Hopwood-Bell	0 out of 1

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

INTERNAL CONTROL

Scope of Responsibility

The Corporation is ultimately responsible for the College's system of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. However such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The Corporation has delegated 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 she is personally responsible in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to her in the Financial Memorandum between Warrington & Vale Royal College and the funding bodies. She 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 on-going 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 Warrington & Vale Royal College for the year ended 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to Handle Risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the college is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal on-going process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the year ended 31 July 2023 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 Corporation
- regular reviews by the Corporation 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

Warrington & Vale Royal College has an internal audit service which operates in accordance with the requirements of the ESFA's 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 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 Committee. At minimum, annually, the Head of Internal Audit provides the Corporation with a report on internal audit activity in the College. The report includes the Head of Internal Audit's independent opinion on the

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management controls and governance processes.

Risks faced by the Corporation

A risk register is maintained which documents the strategic risks to the College. The identified risks are allocated to a Senior Post holder (Risk Owner) to manage. The risk is assessed as to the severity of likelihood and impact if it was not managed, and assigned a numerical value for each (from 1-5) based on this assessment. Existing controls are identified and considered as to the level they reduce the potential impact of the risk, again with a numerical value assigned to provide the managed risk score. The Risk Owner determines if further controls are needed as required. Detailed guidance on the level of risk considered to be acceptable/unacceptable by the College is set out in the risk management strategy. The Strategic risks are reported to Audit Committee at least termly and are managed through Senior Management meetings.

Control weaknesses identified

Internal audit reviewed a number of areas during their work for 2022/23. No significant recommendations arose in their assurance work on internal controls.

Responsibilities Under Funding Agreements

The Corporation ensures it has met its contractual responsibilities under its funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA by scrutiny of policies and procedures annually and specifically ensuring that necessary funding claims and returns are submitted on time.

Statement From The Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has advised the board of governors that the Corporation has an effective framework for governance and risk management in place. The Audit Committee believes the Corporation has effective internal controls in place. The specific areas of work undertaken by the Audit Committee in 2022/22- and up to the date of approval of the financial statements are:

- Framework for Legal and Regulatory Compliance: Safeguarding
- Governance and Risk Management Processes
- Learner Number Systems
- Cyber Security Draft Report
- Project Management Fieldwork
- Follow up

Review of Effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditors
- the work of the executive 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 regularity auditors in their management letters and other reports.

The Principal has been advised on the implications of the result of her review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee which oversees the work of the internal auditor, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The Principal and senior management 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 management team and the Audit Committee also receive

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

regular reports from internal audit, which include recommendations for improvement. The Audit 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 management team and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its December 2023 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2023 by considering documentation from the senior management team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31 July 2023.

Based on the advice of the Audit Committee and the Principal, 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".

Activities Undertaken to Develop Governors and the Clerk to the Corporation

Details of the activities to develop governors and the Clerk to the Corporation are listed below.

Note: The training completed is a mix of mandatory and discretionary elements, with additional developmental training encouraged.

Governor Name	Training Event Attended	Date
	Participation external review of governance	October 2022
Andrew Bainbridge	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	7 November 2022
	Cyber Security Training	November 2022
	English SAR	November 2022
	Trade Union/ACL SAR	November 2022
	Chairs of the Future	2 day residential – December 2022
	Learning visit - HE	December 2022
	Learning Visit – 16-19	January 2023
	CoF follow-up calls with IoD mentor and other attendees (discussed "student voice" amongst other topics)	March 2023
	ACDS Launch	March 2023
	SPS/PSV, ART and GMP Performance Monitoring	May 2023
	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	June 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Martin Berman	Cyber Security Training	23 November 2022
	ONS Reclassification Webinar	November 2022
	Delivered training on AI and FE implications to Board	6 March 2023
	Attendance at ACDS launch	23 March 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2024
Steven Broomhead	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	7 November 2022
Robert Cox	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	7 November 2022

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

	ONS Reclassification Webinar	January 2023
	Learning visit	Winter term 22/23
	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	June 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2024
Andrew Ellams	ONS reclassification webinar	13 December 2022
	Cyber Security Training	December 2022
	Challenges facing the FE and skill sector; time for radical solutions	December 2022
	GDPR training	January 2023
	Operational Panel Meeting	May 2023
	Performance Monitoring Meeting	May 2023
	Observation critical incident management meeting	July 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Lucy Gardner	Meeting with safeguarding team as part of link governor role	Autumn term 2022
	Meetings with Director of Safeguarding	Autumn term 2022
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Sam Naylor		
Peter Scott	ETF Webinar – Meeting Skills Need	March 2023
	Learning visit	Winter term 22/23
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Kirstie Simpson	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Geoff Spencer	ETF Webinar – Meeting Skills Need	March 2023
Mervyn Ward	Cyber Security Training	October 2022
	AoC Chairs of Finance and Audit Network	7 November 2022
	Attendance at the college's Safeguarding, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Meeting	November 2022
	Safeguarding training (external organisation)	January 2023
	Learning visit	February 2023
	ETF Webinar – Meeting Skills Need	March 2023
	Performance monitoring meeting	April 2023
	Operational Planning Meeting	May 2023
	SLT Meeting observation	June 2023
	Board Training – Support and	July 2023

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

	Challenge	
	AoC Chairs and Vice Chairs Meeting	July 2023
	Safer Recruitment Training	July 2023
Mei Hallett	ETF Governor Induction	January 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Ben Brady	ETF Governor Induction	January 2023
	Operational Planning Meeting	May 2023
	Attendance at family fun day	July 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023
Caroline Rowley	AoC Governor Induction	March 2023
	ACDS Launch	March 2023
	Health and Social Care Steering Group	June 2023
	Observation of Vale Royal Working Group	June 2023
	Attendance at family fun day	July 2023
Laura Churchill	EFT External Review of Governance Training	4 October 2022
	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Webinar – Eversheds key issues	15 November 2022
	Established Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group for Governance Professionals	November 2022 (met 4 times during the year)
	ONS reclassification webinar	November 2022
	AoC North West Governance Professionals' Group	4 December 2022
	Mills and Reeve Data Breaches in Education	11 January 2023
	ETF Webinar – Meeting Skills Need	March 2023
	ETF Mentoring with Kay White	Spring Term 2023
	Established governance professionals' EDI networking group	Autumn and Spring term 2023
	Delivered to the NW Governance Professionals' Meeting about EDI working group	May 2023
	Attendance at MAT Board Strategy Morning	June 2023
	Attendance at EDI strategic group	June 2023
	Observation student council meeting	June 2023
	Delivered at AoC learning week – EDI Session for Board Members	July 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

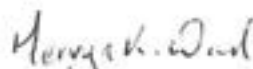
	EDI best practice visit to Myerscough College	July 2023
Gillian Hopwood-Bell	AoC induction	June 2023
	Observation of student council meeting	June 2023
	Observation funding meeting	July 2023
Paula Rowland	Observation SLT monitoring	July 2023
	Board Training – Support and Challenge	July 2023

External Review of Governance

In 2022/23, the Board conducted an external review of governance which concluded that governance was effective at the college. A summary of the report is published on the college website.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed



Date: 4 December 2023
Mervyn Ward, Chair

Signed



Date 4 December 2023
Nichola Newton, Accounting Officer

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

Statement of regularity, performance and compliance

As accounting officer I confirm that the corporation has had due regard to the requirements of grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA and has considered its responsibility to notify ESFA of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with 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 terms and conditions of funding, under the corporation's grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA, or any other public funder. This includes the elements outlined in the 'Dear Accounting Officer' letter of 29 November 2022 and ESFA's bite size guides.

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

Signed



Nichola Newton

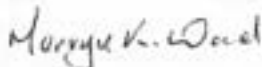
Accounting Officer

Date: 4 December 2023

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.

Signed



Mervyn Ward

Chair of governors

Date: 4 December 2023

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

The members of the corporation, as charity trustees, are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the corporation's grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA, the corporation – through its Accounting Officer – is required to prepare financial statements and an operating and financial review for each financial year in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, ESFA's college accounts direction and the UK's Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the corporation and its surplus / deficit of income over expenditure for that period.

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; and
- 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 Members' Report which 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 college and which enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with relevant legislation including the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and Charities Act 2011, and relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking steps that are reasonably open to it to safeguard its assets and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The corporation is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of its website; the work carried out by 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, and any other public funds, are used only in accordance with ESFA's grant 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 set out in the "Dear accounting officer" letter of 29 November 2022 and ESFA's bite size guides. 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 and other public bodies are not put at risk.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE CONTINUED

Approved by order of the members of the corporation on 4 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed: 

Mervyn Ward, Chair
Date: 4 December 2023

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

Independent auditor's report to the Corporation of Warrington & Vale Royal College

We have audited the financial statements of Warrington & Vale Royal College (the 'College') for the year ended 31 July 2023, which comprise the Statement of comprehensive income, the Statement of changes in reserves, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 2023 and of its deficit of income over expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 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 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 company'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 directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Members of the Corporation are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Office for Student's ('OfS') accounts direction (issued October 2019)

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the parent corporation for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with the relevant legislation;
- funds provided by the OfS, have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions, and any other terms and conditions attached to them, and
- the requirements of the OfS's accounts direction (issued October 2019) have been met.

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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the Corporation has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the annual accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the OfS accounts direction requires us to report to you where:

- the College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the note to the accounts, has been materially misstated; or
- the College's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year, as disclosed in the note to the accounts, has been materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Corporation for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement Responsibilities of the members of the Corporation set out on page 26, the Members of the Corporation are 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 Members of 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 Members of the Corporation are responsible for assessing the College's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Members of the Corporation either intends to liquidate the College or to cease operations, or has 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, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, are detailed below.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, we considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance.
- Any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- Identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- Detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- The internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- The matters discussed among the audit engagement team and involving relevant internal specialists, including tax, and industry specialists regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: recognition of income and misappropriation of College funds. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks the college operates in, focussing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and College Accounts Direction.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the college's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- Reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- Enquiring of management and those charged with governance concerning actual and potential litigation claims;
- In addressing the risk of fraud through inappropriate recording of income, we review the existence and completeness of ESFA income and reconcile all other material income streams to third party evidence;
- We carry out a detailed review of deferred income, including a review of amounts released to income in the year.
- We review a sample of expenditure to ensure it has been appropriately authorised and that tender process have been followed where applicable;
- We carry out a review of the register of interests and minutes to ensure that all related parties have been disclosed adequately;
- In assessing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and assessing whether judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of potential bias.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

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

Use of our report

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



Stephen Grayson ACA FCCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor

St James Building
79 Oxford Street

Manchester

4 December 2023

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
INCOME			
Funding Body Grants	3	18,065	15,287
Tuition fees and education contracts	4	1,984	2,091
Other grants and contracts	5	367	524
Other income	6	407	334
Investment income	7	309	3
TOTAL INCOME		21,132	18,239
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	8	13,842	13,502
Fundamental restructuring costs	8	13	14
Other operating expenses	10	5,609	4,495
Depreciation	13	1,602	1,189
(Profit)/loss on disposal of assets		-	(3)
Interest and other finance costs	11	209	472
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		21,275	19,669
Deficit before tax		(143)	(1,430)
Taxation	12	-	-
Deficit for the year		(143)	(1,430)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Actuarial gain/(loss) in respect of enhanced pension		28	67
Actuarial gain in respect of pension schemes	21	4,617	21,875
Restriction for pension scheme asset	21	(4,523)	(5,128)
Total comprehensive Income for the year		(21)	15,384
Represented by:			
Unrestricted comprehensive income		(21)	15,384
Restricted comprehensive income		-	-

All activities are classed as continuing activities.

The deficit for the year and total comprehensive income is attributable to Warrington & Vale Royal College. There are no non-controlling interests.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

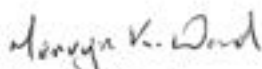
	Income and Expenditure Account £'000	Revaluation Reserve £'000	Restricted Reserve £'000	Total £'000
BALANCE AT 1 August 2021	(883)	1,524	38	679
Deficit from the income and expenditure account	(1,430)	-	-	(1,430)
Other comprehensive income: Actuarial gain	16,814	-	-	16,814
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	20	(20)	-	-
	15,404	(20)	-	15,384
BALANCE AT 31 JULY 2022	14,521	1,504	38	16,063
Deficit from the income and expenditure account	(143)	-	-	(143)
Other comprehensive income: Actuarial gain	122	-	-	122
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	20	(20)	-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	(1)	(20)	-	(21)
BALANCE AT 31 JULY 2023	14,520	1,484	38	16,042

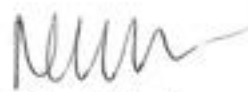
WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

BALANCE SHEET As at 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Tangible assets	13	33,667	32,916
Investments	14	-	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		33,667	32,916
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stock		5	6
Trade and other receivables	15	958	724
Cash and cash equivalents	20	5,278	3,779
Total Current Assets		6,241	4,509
Less: Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	16	(5,881)	(4,842)
NET CURRENT ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		360	(333)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		34,027	32,583
Creditors - amounts falling due after more than one year	17	(17,293)	(15,743)
PROVISIONS:			
Defined benefit asset/obligation	19	-	-
Other provisions	19	(692)	(777)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		16,042	16,063
UNRESTRICTED RESERVES			
Income and expenditure account		14,520	14,521
Revaluation reserve		1,484	1,504
TOTAL UNRESTRICTED RESERVES		16,004	16,025
RESTRICTED RESERVES		38	38
TOTAL RESERVES		16,042	16,063

The financial statements on pages 33 to 60 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 4 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:


 - Mervyn Ward
 - Chair


 - Nichola Newton
 - Accounting Officer

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Deficit for the year		(143)	(1,430)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,602	1,189
Impairment		-	-
Decrease in stock		1	-
(Increase) in debtors		(234)	(261)
Increase in creditors due within one year		1,030	497
Increase in creditors due more than one year		1,830	601
(Decrease) in provisions		(85)	(94)
Pensions costs less contributions payable		112	1,644
Taxation		-	-
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Investment income		(134)	(3)
Interest payable		184	205
Profit/(loss) on sale of fixed assets		-	(3)
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		4,163	2,345
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Investment income		134	3
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		-	34
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(2,353)	(1,842)
		(2,219)	(1,805)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Interest paid		(178)	(196)
Interest element of finance lease rental payments		(6)	(9)
New unsecured loans		-	-
Repayments of amounts borrowed		(219)	(202)
Capital element of finance lease rental payments		(42)	34
		(445)	(373)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE YEAR		1,499	167
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	20	3,779	3,612
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	20	5,278	3,779

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

1 LEGAL STATUS AND REGISTERED OFFICE

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Warrington & Vale Royal College. The College is incorporated in England and is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

The College's registered office and principal place of business is Winwick Road, Warrington, WA2 8QA.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

BASIS OF PREPARATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (the 2019 FE HE SORP), the College Accounts Direction for 2022 to 2023 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' (FRS 102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

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.

The financial statements are presented in £ sterling.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING – GOING CONCERN

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets and in accordance with applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards.

Notwithstanding the deficit for the year of £143,000 these financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which assumes the College will be able to pay its liabilities as they fall due for a period of at least 12 months from the approval of these financial statements.

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the financial statements and accompanying notes.

When we prepared our annual budget we were prudent in forecasting our income targets for 2023/24. Within our sensitivity analysis we modelled further reductions in income as well as the impact of additional unforeseen costs which indicate no concerns on the ability of the College to meet its daily working capital requirements and pay liabilities as they fall due.

The College meets its day to day working capital requirements primarily through cash generated from its day to day activities and the financing arrangements that it has with its bankers, Barclays Bank plc (Barclays). At 31 July 2023, the College has financing arrangements in place with Barclays, as follows:

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

- Secured loan which at 31 July 2023 had a balance of £0.2m due for repayment over a period of 12 months and £ 1.9m due for repayment over one year. Current forecast information indicates that the College will be able to comply with the conditions of the loan including covenant compliance.

The Board has a reasonable expectation that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being a period of not less than 12-months from the date of approval of these financial statements. For these reasons, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

BASIS OF CONSOLIDATION

The financial statements present information about the College as an individual undertaking and not about its group. The subsidiaries have been excluded from consolidation on the grounds that they are immaterial. In accordance with FRS 102, the activities of the student union have not been consolidated because the College does not control those activities. All financial statements are made up to 31 July 2023.

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 achievement for the Adult Education 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. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

The recurrent grant from OFS represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Income from grants, contracts and other services rendered is included to the extent the conditions of the funding have been met or the extent of the completion of the contract or service concerned.

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 useful economic life of the asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised as 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 and includes all fees payable by students or their sponsors.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

Investment income

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

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain discretionary support funds and education bursaries. 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.

ACCOUNTING FOR POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

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 qualified actuaries on the basis of valuations using a prospective benefit 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 statement of comprehensive income in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Cheshire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to 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 incurred.

Net interest on the net defined benefit liability is also recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in interest and other finance costs.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in actuarial gains and losses in other comprehensive income.

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

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

unused benefits are accrued and measured as the additional amount the College expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

ENHANCED PENSIONS

The actual cost of any enhanced on-going pension to a former member of staff is paid by the College annually. An estimate of the expected future costs of any enhancement to the on-going pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to the College's income in the year that the staff member retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet using the enhanced pension spreadsheet provided by the funding bodies.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost/deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation. Campuses acquired from Mid Cheshire College have been measured at fair value.

LAND AND BUILDINGS

Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College; this is normally 50 years. Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life. Buildings fixtures have been separately identified and are now recognised as an asset class in their own right.

Land and Buildings inherited from the Local Education Authority are stated in the balance sheet at deemed cost on the date of transition. The associated credit is included in the revaluation reserve. The difference between depreciation charged on the historic cost of assets and the actual charge for the year calculated on the revalued amount is released to the income and expenditure account on an annual basis.

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.

The College has a 50 year lease to occupy a building which is currently owned (under a long leasehold agreement) by the Department for Communities and Local Government ('DCLG') with an annual peppercorn rent. The land on which this building sits is owned by the College and is valued within land and buildings as above. The land has been leased to DCLG under a long leasehold arrangement over 125 years, which commenced in August 2014. The lease for the land has been treated as an operating lease with £nil being reflected, being the annual peppercorn rent. The lease for the building has been treated as a finance lease as the College has the right to use the building for 50 years and bears the risks and rewards of ownership for this period. FRS102 requires finance leases to be recognised at the present value of the minimum lease payments. However, in accordance with the College's Accounts direction, the fair value of this asset has been recognised on the balance sheet with a corresponding entry to deferred income. The value of the asset will be depreciated over the term of the lease and the deferred income will be released over the same period to reflect the fact that the College has a right to use this building and will receive future economic benefits as a result.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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 provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 2014, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Interest on borrowings to finance property development is capitalised. Interest is capitalised from the date work starts on the development to practical completion.

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets it is charged to the income and expenditure account 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.

FIXTURES AND EQUIPMENT

Fixtures and Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item (£250 for computer equipment) is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

Capitalised fixtures and equipment are depreciated over their useful economic life on a straight line basis as follows:

Fixtures and large equipment	-	13.3% per annum
General equipment	-	25.0% per annum
Computer equipment	-	20%/25.0%/33.3% per annum

No depreciation charge is charged in the year of acquisition.

Where fixtures and equipment are acquired with the aid of specific grants, it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy, with the related grant being credited to a deferred income account within creditors and are released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income 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

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term to the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Any lease premiums or incentives relating to leases signed after 1 August 2014 are spread over the minimum lease term.

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

Assets held under finance leases are recognised initially at the fair value of the leased asset at the inception of the lease. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet as a finance lease obligation. Assets held under finance leases are included in tangible fixed assets and depreciated and assessed for impairment losses in the same way as owned assets.

Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding liability. The finance charges are allocated over the period of the lease in proportion to the capital element outstanding.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

INVESTMENTS

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment in the individual financial statements.

INVENTORIES

Inventories are stated at the lower of their cost and net realisable value, being selling price less costs to complete and sell. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective stocks.

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, instruments 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 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.

MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES

The cost of routine corrective maintenance is charged to the statement of comprehensive income in the period it is incurred.

FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

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

TAXATION

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 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 in Chapter 3 Part 11 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 that it can only recover a minor element 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 themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

PROVISIONS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITY

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.

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 as 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.
- The accounting treatment of the building leased by the College from DCLG. The College has a right to use this asset and has therefore reflected its fair value in the balance sheet. The corresponding entry has been to deferred income as the building was funded by government grants and is leased from DCLG. Although the College owns the land and the freehold reverts back to the College when the 125 year lease with DCLG comes to an end, it only has the ability to control the use of the buildings and takes on the risks and rewards of ownership during the 50 year lease period. Therefore management believe it is appropriate to reflect a value for the building in the balance sheet as a finance lease and over the period of the lease.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the College's tangible fixed assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such as a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.
- Debtors are provided for in full when deemed irrecoverable or after the debt is still outstanding for more than 12 months after the year it was raised in has passed, for clarification debtor balances relating to the year ended 31 July 2022 and earlier have all been provided against.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- Value of leasehold building
A building has been leased to the College by the Department for Communities and Local Government for a period of 50 years. The lease has been valued at fair value on the start date based upon the value per square metre of a similar building that the College sold during 2018/19 as this building was utilised for similar educational provision prior to sale and was also restricted for educational use, as is this building. The useful economic life of the similar building which was sold was similar to the length of time that the College has use of the building under the lease.
- Tangible fixed assets
Tangible fixed assets are depreciated over their useful economic 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.
- Impairment of fixed assets

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

The College considers whether tangible fixed assets are impaired. Where an indication of impairment is identified the estimation of the recoverable amount of the asset or the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is required. The recoverable amount through a valuation at depreciated replacement cost is permitted by the FE SORP given the specialist nature of the buildings. The potential replacement value was determined from recent valuations and insurance documentation and no impairment is deemed necessary at this time.

- **Local Government Pension Scheme**

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects result from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability. FRS 102 section 28.22 allows an entity to recognise a surplus within the Local Government Pension Scheme "only to the extent it is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the plan." The College has considered it unlikely that a surplus being recognised would ever result in a repayment or reduction in contributions, given that such a surplus is probably only temporary. Therefore, although the actuarial report for the year ended 31 August 2023 indicates a defined benefit asset of £9,651k exists at the year end date, the actuarial gain has been restricted by this amount to leave a break even position and neither an asset or liability has been recognised.

3 FUNDING BODY GRANTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Recurrent grants		
Education and Skills Funding Agency – adult education budget	3,156	2,617
Education and Skills Funding Agency – 16-18	10,120	8,724
Education and Skills Funding Agency – apprenticeships	2,672	2,317
Office for Students	127	75
Construction Skills	-	14
Specific grants		
Teacher pension scheme contribution grant	379	363
Other	1,077	858
Releases of government capital grants	534	319
Total	18,065	15,287

Under the provider relief scheme, the corporation received funding of £nil from the ESFA.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Grant income from the Office for Students	127	75
Grant income from other bodies	17,404	14,893
Fee income for taught awards	518	770
Fee income for non-qualifying course	1,466	1,321
Total	19,515	17,059

4 TUITION FEES AND EDUCATION CONTRACTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Adult education fees	576	439
Apprenticeship fees and contracts	40	40
Fees for FE loan supported courses	513	559
Fees for HE loan supported courses	518	770
Total tuition fees	1,647	1,808
Education contracts	337	283
Total	1,984	2,091

5 OTHER GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
European Commission	-	-
Coronavirus Job Retention Support Grant	-	-
Other grants and contracts	-	173
Release of non-government capital grants	367	351
Total	367	524

The Corporation furloughed catering staff, the gas centre manager and some apprentice coaches under the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. The funding received of £nil (2022: £42k) relates to staff costs which are included within the staff costs note below.

6 OTHER INCOME

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Catering income	132	87
Other income generating activities	10	7
Examination income	133	140
Other miscellaneous income	132	100
Total	407	334

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

7 INVESTMENT INCOME

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Pension finance income (note 21)	174	-
Other interest receivable	135	3
	<u>309</u>	<u>3</u>

8 STAFF COSTS

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, described as full-time equivalents, was

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching staff	198	180
Non-teaching staff	115	104
	<u>313</u>	<u>284</u>

According to the Workforce Collection data survey, the definition of support staff includes learning facilitators, progress coaches and curriculum managers who are all classroom based and support our learners. The numbers of learners requiring support has increased this year and so the number of 'support staff' has also increased to meet the demand and in some cases the EHCP/Learning support need required. We have added these categories to teaching staff for both years.

Staff costs for the above persons

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	10,218	9,219
Social security costs	992	831
Other pension costs	2,511	3,233
	<u>13,721</u>	<u>13,283</u>
Payroll sub total	13,721	13,283
Contracted out staffing services	121	219
	<u>13,842</u>	<u>13,502</u>
Fundamental restructuring costs		
-Contractual	13	14
-Non-Contractual	-	-
	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
	<u>13,855</u>	<u>13,516</u>
Total Staff Costs	13,855	13,516

The severance payments included in restructuring costs were approved by the College's Corporation.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

9 KEY MANAGEMENT COMPENSATION

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 comprises the Principal, Deputy Principal, Vice Principal and Assistant Principals.

Emoluments of key management personnel, Accounting Officer and other higher paid staff

	2023 No.	2022 No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	5	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	
	2023 No.	2022 No.	2023 No.	2022 No.
£60,001 to £65,000	1	2	-	-
£65,001 to £70,000	1	-	-	-
£70,001 to £75,000	1	1	-	-
£90,001 to £95,000	-	1	-	-
£95,001 to £100,000	1	-	-	-
£135,001 to £140,000	-	1	-	-
£140,001 to £145,000	1	-	-	-
	5	5	-	-

Key management personnel compensation is made up as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salaries	440	427
Employers National Insurance	56	54
Benefits in kind	-	-
	496	481
Pension contributions	103	100
Total key management personnel compensation	599	581

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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

The above emoluments includes amounts payable to the Principal and Chief Executive who is the Accounting Officer and who is also the highest paid member of staff.

Their pay and remuneration is as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salaries	143	138
Benefits in kind	-	-
	143	138
Pension contributions	34	33
	177	171

The Corporation has adopted AOC's Colleges' Senior Staff Remuneration Code in December 2021 and assesses pay in line with its principles.

The remuneration of senior postholders, including the Principal and Chief Executive, is subject to annual review by the Senior Staff Salaries Committee of the Corporation who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance. Their performance is judged using the College's performance management review system which is designed to provide the link between College, departmental and individual goals. Salary decisions are linked to this performance as well as benchmarking to other local colleges.

The Principal and Chief Executive reports to the Chair of Corporation, who undertakes an annual review of her performance against the college's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

Relationship of Principal/Chief Executive pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Principal's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	4.9	5.1
Principal and CEO's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.1	5.3

All substantive staff have been included in the classification of 'all staff'. Casual staff have not been included.

The members of the Corporation other than the Accounting Officer and the staff members did not receive any payment from the College other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

10 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Teaching costs	2,636	2,036
Non-teaching costs	1,844	1,410
Premises costs	1,129	1,049
Total	5,609	4,495

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Other operating expenses include:		
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit	29	28
Internal audit	29	26
Other services provided by the financial statements auditors – Teachers Pension Return/Grant review	6	3
Other services provided by the internal auditors	4	8
Hire of assets under operating leases	16	26

11 INTEREST AND OTHER FINANCE COSTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans	178	196
Pension finance costs (note 21)	-	253
On finance leases	6	9
On enhanced pension	25	14
Total	209	472

12 TAXATION

The members do not believe the College was liable for any Corporation Tax arising out of its activities during the year or the prior year.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

13 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold	Land & Buildings Long Leasehold	Fixtures	Equipment	Assets in the Course of Construction	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation						
At 1 August 2022	27,456	14,358	2,546	7,899	-	52,259
Additions	190	-	1,144	366	653	2,353
Transfers between categories	-	19	(15)	(4)	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	(1,201)	-	(1,201)
At 31 July 2023	27,646	14,377	3,675	7,060	653	53,411
Depreciation						
At 1 August 2022	9,877	2,505	1,234	5,727	-	19,343
Charge for the year	532	307	188	575	-	1,602
Elimination in respect of disposals	-	-	-	(1,201)	-	(1,201)
At 31 July 2023	10,409	2,812	1,422	5,101	-	19,744
Net book value at 31 July 2023	17,237	11,565	2,253	1,959	653	33,667
Net book value at 31 July 2022	17,579	11,853	1,312	2,172	-	32,916

On merger the assets transferred from Mid Cheshire College were transferred at fair value. Land and buildings were valued at depreciated replacement cost by an independent chartered surveyor, Avison Young Real Estate Finance Limited (GVA).

If fixed assets had not been revalued before being deemed as cost on transition they would have been included at the following historical cost amounts:

	2023 £'000
Cost	-
Aggregate depreciation based on cost	-
Net book value based on cost	-

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

Land and buildings were revalued on 31 August 2014 at depreciated replacement cost by Lambert, Smith, Hampton, a firm of independent chartered surveyors. Fixed assets include assets with a net book value of £23,497k partially funded by grants from the ESFA and RDA. Should these assets be sold, the College may be liable, under the terms of the Financial Memorandum, to surrender some of the proceeds. The depreciation charge on these assets for the year was £532k (2022: £532k).

The net book value of tangible fixed assets in relation to equipment includes an amount of £117k (2022: £184k) in respect of assets held under finance leases. The depreciation charge on these assets for the year was £67k (2022: £17k).

14 NON-CURRENT INVESTMENTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Investments in subsidiary companies	-	-

The College owns 100% of the issued ordinary £1 shares of Warrington Business School Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales. The company has never traded.

15 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade receivables	281	127
Prepayments and accrued income	271	267
Other debtors	4	-
Amounts owed by the ESFA	402	330
Total	958	724

An impairment loss of £131k (2022: £232k) was recognised against debtors.

16 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts (note 18)	228	216
Obligations under finance leases (note 18)	53	55
Payments received in advance	662	746
Trade payables	789	249
Other taxation and social security	489	422
Accruals	1,196	1,326
Amounts owed to the ESFA	1,239	830
Deferred income – government capital grants	1,126	898
Other creditors	99	100
Total	5,881	4,842

Included within accruals is an accrual for holiday pay of £463k (2022: £389k).

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

17 CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Bank loans (note 18)	1,918	2,146
Obligations under finance leases (note 18)	28	80
Deferred income – government capital grants	15,347	13,517
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,293	15,743

18 MATURITY OF DEBT

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts		
Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as follows:		
In one year or less	228	216
Between one and two years	241	228
Between two and five years	808	764
In five years or more	869	1,154
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2,146	2,362

The bank loan is secured on the freehold land and buildings of the College. Interest is payable at a rate comprising a 4.96% fixed rate, and a 3.0% fixed margin and the loan is repayable by instalments falling due between 1 August 2023 and 28 February 2031, totalling £2,146,282.

Finance Leases

The net finance lease obligations to which the college is committed are:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
In one year or less	53	55
Between one and two years	26	53
Between two and five years	2	27
In five years or more	--	--
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	81	135

Finance lease obligations are secured on the assets to which they relate.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

19 PROVISIONS FOR LIABILITIES AND CHARGES

	Defined Benefit Obligation £'000	Restructuring £'000	Enhanced Pensions £'000	Total £'000
At 1 August 2022	-	17	760	777
Additions in the year	1,000	-	(3)	997
Expenditure in the year	(1,000)	(14)	(68)	(1,082)
At 31 July 2023	-	3	689	692

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.

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff that have already left the College's employ and commitments for reorganisation costs from which the College cannot reasonably withdraw at the balance sheet date. This provision has been recalculated in accordance with the guidance issued by the funding bodies. The principal assumptions for this calculation are:

	2023	2022
Price inflation	2.9%	2.9%
Discount rate	5.0%	3.3%

20 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	At 1 August 2022 £'000	Cashflows £'000	Acquisitions £'000	At 31 July 2023 £'000
Cash in hand, and at bank	3,741	1,499	-	5,240
Endowment asset investments	38	-	-	38
Cash and cash equivalents	3,779	1,499	-	5,278
Overdraft	-	-	-	-
Debt due within one year	(216)	(12)	-	(228)
Debt due after more than one year	(2,146)	228	-	(1,918)
Finance leases	(135)	54	-	(81)
Total	1,282	1,769	-	3,051

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

21 PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS

The College's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pensions 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 Cheshire West and Chester Council. Both are defined-benefit schemes.

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Total pension cost for the year		
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	1,245	1,063
Local Government Pension Scheme: Contributions paid	1,000	844
FRS102 (28) charge	268	1,324
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,268	2,168
Enhanced pension credit to Statement of Comprehensive Income	(2)	2
Total pension cost for year within staff costs	2,511	3,233

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was at 31 March 2019 and for the LGPS 31 March 2019.

There were no prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year. Contributions amounting to £258k (2022: £221k) were payable to the schemes at 31 July and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

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 under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme.

Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The College has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

21 PENSIONS AND SIMILAR OBLIGATIONS (continued)

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) in October 2023. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262 billion, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £40 billion (compared to £22 billion in the 2016 valuation).

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates will rise to 28.68% from April 2024 (compared to 23.68% pay from September 2019 and 16.48% during 2018/19). DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2022-23 academic year.

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 £1,245,079 (2022: £1,063,110).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Cheshire West and Chester Council. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2023 were £1,272k of which employers contributions totalled £1,000k and employee's contributions totalled £273k. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 22.7% for employers and range from 5.5% and 12.5% for employees, depending on salary according to a national scale.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 July 2023 by a qualified independent actuary.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.7%	3.45%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment / inflation	3%	2.75%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.05%	3.5%
Inflation Assumption (CPI)	3%	2.75%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums – Pre April 2008 scheme	50%	50%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums – Post April 2008 scheme	75%	75%

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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 2023	At 31 July 2022
<i>Retiring today/current pensioners</i>		
Males	20.1	21.2
Females	24.0	23.8
<i>Retiring in 20 years/future pensioners</i>		
Males	20.6	22.1
Females	25.2	25.5

Sensitivity analysis

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure scheme liabilities are set out below:

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
	£000	£000
Discount rate -0.1%(2022:-0.1%)	886	1,175
Salary increase rate +0.1% (2022:+0.1%)	51	81
Pension increase +0.1%	851	1,099
1 year increase in life expectancy	-2,024	-2,370

The College's share of the assets in the scheme and the expected rates of return were:

	Fair Value at 31 July 2023 £'000	Fair Value at 31 July 2022 £'000
Equity instruments	28,919	28,330
Debt instruments	22,292	24,467
Property	7,832	7,726
Cash	1,205	3,863
Total fair value of plan assets	60,248	64,386
 Actual return on plan	 (4,535)	 (5,334)

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	60,248	64,386
Present value of plan liabilities	(50,597)	(59,258)
Cumulative restriction on pension asset	(9,651)	(5,128)
Net pensions (liability)	-	-

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	1,268	2,168
Past service cost	-	-
Total	1,268	2,168

Amounts included in interest and other finance costs

Net interest income/(expense)	(174)	253
	(174)	253

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income		
Return on pension plan assets	(4,535)	(5,334)
Experience losses arising on defined benefit obligations	(5,046)	(188)
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan liabilities	14,198	27,397
Total	4,617	21,875

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Movement in net defined benefit (liability) during the year		
Net defined benefit (liability) in scheme at 1 August	5,128	(15,170)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(1,268)	(2,168)
Employer contributions	1,000	844
Past service cost	-	-
Net interest on the defined (liability)	174	(253)
Actuarial gain / (loss)	4,617	21,875
Net defined benefit (liability) at 31 July	9,651	5,128

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	59,258	84,377
Current Service cost	1,268	2,168
Interest cost	2,069	1,355
Contributions By Scheme participants	272	230
Experience gains and losses on defined benefit obligations	3,689	188
Changes in financial assumptions	(14,198)	(27,397)
Estimated Benefits paid	(1,761)	(1,663)
Past Service cost (including curtailments)	-	-
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	50,597	59,258

Changes in the fair value of plan assets

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	64,386	69,207
Interest on plan assets	2,243	1,102
Return on plan assets	(4,535)	(5,334)
Experience gains and losses	(1,357)	-
Employer contributions	1,000	844
Contributions By Scheme participants	272	230
Estimated Benefits paid	(1,761)	(1,663)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	60,248	64,386

These accounts show a past service cost of £215,000 estimated in respect of the McCloud/Sergeant judgement which ruled that the transitional protection for some members of public service schemes implemented when they were reformed constituted age discrimination. This provision is 2% of the total scheme assets as at 31 July 2023. The calculation of adjustment to past service costs, arising from the outcome of the Court of Appeal judgement 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 judgement, 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% lower, then the past service cost disclosed here would be expected to

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

reduce by 50% and conversely a 0.5% pa increase would increase the estimated costs by 65%.

22 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

None to report.

23 CAPITAL AND OTHER COMMITMENTS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	455	313
Commitments under finance leases entered into but not yet provided for in the financial statements	-	-

24 LEASE OBLIGATIONS

At 31 July the College had minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Land and Buildings		
Not later than one year	4	45
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 45
Other		
Not later than one year	16	26
Later than one year and not later than five years	-	-
Later than five years	-	-
	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 26

25 CONTINGENT LIABILITY

The College has been in receipt of significant income from Erasmus and the European Regional Development fund (ERDF) in recent years, including £367k in the year ended 31 July 2017, and further receipts of £425k in 2014-2015, £253k in 2015-2016, £10k in 2011-2012 and £8k in 2012-2013. The College takes all reasonable steps to ensure it complies with the terms attaching to the receipt of all ESF income. However, the College recognises that this is a complex area and there is a risk that some funding could become repayable as a result of a possible inspection by the funding provider of the ESF Verification and Audit Section. It is not possible to estimate the value or timing of such repayments although a provision for £30k has been made within deferred income in these financial statements for Erasmus payments relating to 2014-2017.

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 July 2023

26 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Due 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 organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an interest are conducted 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 £99 to one governor (2022: £nil; nil governors). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College or its subsidiaries during the year (2022: None).

Transactions with the ESFA and OFS are detailed in notes 3, 15 and 16.

Warrington & Vale Royal College is the sponsor of Warrington Collegiate Education Trust. No transactions were incurred during the year (2022: £nil) and there were no outstanding balances at the year end.

27 AMOUNTS DISPERSED AS AGENTS

LEARNER SUPPORT FUNDS

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Funding body grants – hardship support	-	-
Funding body grants – childcare support	-	-
Funding body grants – residential bursaries	-	-
Other Funding bodies grants	23	20
Interest earned	-	-
	<hr/> 23	<hr/> 20
Disbursed to students	(22)	(20)
Administration costs	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	1	-

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

WARRINGTON & VALE ROYAL COLLEGE

REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY

Reporting accountant's assurance report on regularity

To the corporation of Warrington & Vale Royal College and Secretary of State for Education acting through Education and Skills Funding Agency ('ESFA')

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter and further to the requirements and conditions of funding in ESFA's grant funding agreements and contracts, or those of any other public funder (including the relevant Mayoral Authority), we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest that, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Warrington & Vale Royal College during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice ('the Code') issued by ESFA. In line with this framework, our work has specifically not considered income received from the main funding grants generated through the Individualised Learner Record returns, for which ESFA has other assurance arrangements in place.

This report is made solely to the corporation of Warrington & Vale Royal College and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the corporation of Warrington & Vale Royal College and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a limited assurance 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 Warrington & Vale Royal College, as a body, and ESFA, as a body, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Warrington & Vale Royal College and the reporting accountant

The corporation of Warrington & Vale Royal College is responsible, under the requirements of the Further and 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.

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. 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 2022 to 31 July 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Approach

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Code issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in that framework.

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

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


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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion includes:

- an assessment of the risk of material irregularity and impropriety across the college's activities;
- evaluation of the processes and controls established and maintained in respect of regularity and propriety for the use of public funds through observation of the arrangements in place and enquiries of management;
- consideration and corroboration of the evidence supporting the Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and that included in the self-assessment questionnaire (RSAQ); and
- limited testing, on a sample basis, of income and expenditure for the areas identified as high risk and included on the RSAQ.

Conclusion

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


UHY Hacker Young Manchester LLP
St James Building
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4 December 2023

