

Company Registration Number: 07700494 (England & Wales)

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020



**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

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**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	M Mock V Nel P Stein J Hanson P Blyth
Trustees	A Pierce (appointed 2 September 2019) A Cotton ¹ J Byrne C Tope C Rice ¹ P Stein, Chair ¹ G Cockell, Vice Chair N Hookway ¹ T Giddings (appointed 27 November 2019) ¹ Audit Committee
Company registered number	07700494
Company name	Tarka Learning Partnership
Principal and Registered office	Roundswell Community Primary Academy Claypits Road Roundswell Barnstaple Devon EX31 3WJ
Company secretary	D Oliver
Accounting & Chief Executive Officer	A Cotton
Senior management team	A Cotton, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Trust Central Leadership Team M Cann, Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Trust Central Leadership Team A Ogden, Deputy CEO / Teaching School Director Trust Central Leadership Team School Leaders Group comprises: A Yates, Head Teacher - Newport Community School Primary Academy G Roscoe, Head Teacher - The Park Community School K Fairbrother, Head Teacher - Landkey Community Primary Academy S Warner, Head Teacher - Sticklepath Community School J Walters, Acting Head Teacher - Eden Park Academy R Blunt, Head Teacher - Sticklepath Community School P Lewis, Head Teacher - Eden Park Academy L Kimberley, Head Teacher - Fremington Primary School (From 1 July 2020) A Fernyhough, Head Teacher - North Molton (From 1 July 2020) L Mardling, Acting Head Teacher - Landkey Community School K Reeves, Programme Manager DPSCITT

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

Independent auditors Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2nd Floor Stratus House
Emperor Way
Exeter Business Park
Exeter
EX1 3QS

Bankers Lloyds Bank PLC
Barnstaple
EX31 1BE

Solicitors Michelmores Solicitors
Woodwater House
Pynes Hill
Exeter
EX2 5WR

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2020. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates 6 primary and 1 secondary academies in a 13-mile radius of Barnstaple. Its academies have a combined pupil capacity in years Reception to 11 of 3,276 and the schools had a roll of 3,098 in the school census in October 2019. Fremington Primary Academy and North Molton Primary Academy joined the Trust on 1 July 2020.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Constitution

The Academy Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's Memorandum and Articles of Association are the primary governing documents of the Academy Trust.

The Trustees of Tarka Learning Partnership (TLP) are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year, and to the date accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on pages 1 to 2.

The Charitable Company operates as Tarka Learning Partnership.

Members' liability

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

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

**Trade union facility time
Relevant union officials**

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the year	1
Full-time equivalent employee number	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

	£	%
Total cost of facility time	-	
Total pay bill	13,126,087	
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	-	

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	-	%
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Trustees' Indemnities

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the Academy Trust's expense to cover the liability of the Trustees which by virtue of any rule of law would otherwise attach to them in respect of any negligence, default or breach of trust or breach of duty of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust, provided that any such insurance shall not extend to any claim arising from any act or omission which the Trustees knew to be a breach of trust or breach of duty or which was committed by the Trustees in reckless disregard to whether it was a breach of trust or breach of duty or not and provided also that any such insurance shall not extend to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust. This is provided through the Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA) provided by the ESFA which offers an unlimited level of protection.

There were no third-party indemnity provisions during the year, or at the date of the approval of the Trustees' report.

TRUSTEES

Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees

The Academy Trust shall have the following Trustees as set out in its Articles of Association and funding agreement:

- up to 6 Trustees who are appointed by members.
- up to 2 Trustees who are appointed by the Exeter Diocesan Education Network (EDEN)
- the Chief Executive Officer who is treated for all purposes as being an ex officio Trustee.

Trustees are appointed for a four year period, except that this time limit does not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Trustee, any Trustee can be re-appointed or re-elected.

The Diocese of Exeter is empowered under article 50A to appoint Trustees through their corporate entity known as EDEN.

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When appointing new Trustees, the Board will give consideration to the skills and experience mix of existing Trustees in order to ensure that the Board has the necessary skills to contribute fully to the Trust's development.

Parents are represented at Local Governing Body level.

Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience. All Trustees are provided with copies of the Governors Handbook, policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. Advantage is taken of specific courses offered by various training bodies. The Trust subscribes to the National Association of Governors.

Organisational Structure

The Board of Trustees meets at least twice each term. The Board establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Academy Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees and other groups. It receives reports from the Local Governing Bodies who are responsible for the day to day operations of their academy, and policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Local Governing Bodies and Committees through the minutes of their meetings. The Board may from time to time establish Working Groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

The Local Governing Bodies are as follows

- Eden Park Academy
- Fremington Primary Academy
- Landkey Community Primary Academy
- Newport Community School Primary Academy
- North Molton Primary Academy
- Sticklepath Community Primary Academy
- The Park Community School

The Board of Directors have an Audit Committee who meet at least 3 times each year.

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and Trust budget, approving the statutory accounts, monitoring the Trust by the use of budgets and other data, and making major decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and Head Teacher appointments.

The Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

Arrangements for Setting Pay and Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the central leadership team comprise the key management personnel of the Academy in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day to day basis. All Trustees give their time freely and no Trustee received remuneration in the year in respect of their role as a Trustee.

The pay of key management personnel is reviewed annually and pay awards are made based against performance management targets. The Trustees adopted an externally supported process to set the salaries of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Finance Officer using benchmarking and market analysis to support decision making.

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Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The register of declared interests discloses Andy Cotton, CEO of Tarka Learning Partnership and Karen Hayles, Early Years Leader at Eden Park Academy as connected parties. This connection began with the TUPE of Eden Park Academy into the Trust in July 2018 and ended on 31st December 2019. Karen Hayles retired as a school leader in January 2020 following 11 years' service at the Academy.

The Trust hosts the activities of the Devon Teaching School Partnership [DTSP] which is run alongside the Devon Primary SCITT, the DTSP is a partnership of 49 schools and offers a range of projects to support school improvement.

Promoting the success of the company

The trustees act in good faith to continually balance promoting the success of the Trust to achieve its charitable and educational purposes against many other factors, including ensuring that:

- we seek to foster strong and mutually beneficial relationships with all our stakeholders and in all matters to comply with the vision and values that we hold;
- Trust activity is conducted morally and ethically and in an open and transparent way, in line with the Trusts' vision and values;
- Trust activity is centered on achieving the best possible educational outcomes for each child;
- short-term gains do not have an adverse consequence on long-term strategy, success and achievements;
- employee welfare, training and interests are taken care of with support for professional development and mental health; and
- any community and environmental impacts as a result of the Trust's operations are considered through a statement of inclusion on the Trusts Improvement Plans

Specific measures implemented by the Academy Trust during the financial year reflecting these matters include:

- involvement with a number of strategy groups regarding the new national Teaching School Strategy to ensure the Trust is able to support its vision of providing high quality CPD for education in North Devon
- Development of policies and protocols to support staff well-being
- Engagement with a range of suppliers, involving the end user as per the examples given below

Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)

The Trust engages with their employees through many means and methods, including:

- Consulting with employees on key matters through the Local Governing Body, including engaging the relevant union officials and aims to form a Joint Consultative Committee during 20-21
- Consults through key user groups with representation at Trust level
- Updates to all staff members of events or changes that will affect them via email communication distributed via each school.
- In accordance with the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy, the Trust has long-established fair employment practices in the recruitment, selection, retention and training of staff who are disabled and is an equal opportunities employer. The Trust ensures that all potential candidates that meet the minimum selection criteria will be interviewed, if an employee becomes disabled whilst in our employment the Trust will do its best to retain them and through consultation with them to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments.

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

Stakeholder Engagement and Impact Analysis:

The Trust has used a variety of methods to engage with its employees, suppliers and customers during the period to ensure the interests of its charitable objects are met, taking into account the interests of its employees and fostering healthy business relationships with its suppliers to ensure high service standards.

The Trust has had 3 main areas of engagement and development during the period:

- 1) Change of Management Information Systems (MIS)

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Engagement with Stakeholders:

The Trust has run a competitive process to consider the most suitable MIS system for the Trust. Key staff and personnel from across all schools were involved in the procurement process receiving product demo's and cost/benefit analysis information for their setting against all considered options (including remaining with the existing provider). Through a series of demo's, meetings and events with the prospective partners collective decision making was undertaken to ensure all were in agreement regarding the most effective solution for the Trust as a whole but also for each individual setting. These meetings and the on-site follow-up meetings with the chosen provider ensured there was a deep understanding by all parties of what the Trust was setting out to achieve, each setting being fully aware of the benefits for their own setting, prepared for the migration process and able to plan effectively for the training, implementation and on-boarding of functionality applicable to them.

Impact on decision making:

The Trust was able to take a unified approach to migration across the schools, saving money on training. The Trust has been able to implement measures to improve resource efficiencies in data collection and reporting across the Trust and provide a platform for all school to move towards being cashless. The implementation has produced significant financial savings and has improved the Trust's business continuity arrangements through being cloud-based. There is a common understanding of a commitment to regular engagement with the company to ensure best use is being made from the investment into the system over the longer term.

2) Trust-Wide IT Strategy (on-going)

Engagement with Stakeholders:

To meet the criteria in relation to the process for opening Roundswell Community Primary Academy (Free School) the Trust went through a DfE tender process for IT provision at Roundswell School. This presented the opportunity to look at IT provision across the Trust with a view to creating a Trust-wide IT platform. To this end the Trust has engaged with a range of companies and sought advice from other Trusts, consulted and sought the views of its schools through the School Leaders group to create a vision for IT and agree on key principles about core infrastructure.

Impact on decision making:

The forum has allowed for the set-up of Roundswell as a template for the trust-wide solution, taking account of the key principle decisions of the stakeholder group. The ability for some schools to invest in infrastructure knowing that it will fit with the long-term vision for the Trust. The Trust has begun early work on centralising domains to aid effective communication. The next step on this journey is to complete the individual roadmap for each school so there is a commonly understood development pathway that each school is able to plan and resource for.

3) Upgrading Accounting Software

Engagement with Stakeholders:

Through regular engagement with the existing provider through attendance at product development events and user group workshops the Trust regularly assess the purpose and effectiveness of software developments, many of which are free to implement. These are feedback and discussed through the Trusts finance group forum and decisions taken collectively regarding which areas of functionality to implement in order to achieve best value for money from an existing service contract.

Impact on decision making:

This process ensures that the Trust is only spending time and energy on relevant product features to enhance performance. The decision to migrate to the latest centralised version of the accounting software will ensure that maximum efficiency is gained from the software. The migration will be managed taking the views of the school users into account whilst balancing the needs of the Trust. This will ensure the implementation timetable and minimises disruption.

Management of contracts during COVID-19

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The Trust has worked with its current providers to ensure services can be maintained as fully as possible. For many services this has been business as usual but with changes made to meeting forums due to remote working. Under PPN arrangements the Trust has worked with suppliers in a number of ways to support the service provider until such time as normal service is able to resume. For some the Trust accepts that there will be circumstances where the full scope of a contract may not be able to be delivered within the contract period. In this instance the Trust will work with the service provider to a mutually acceptable understanding of carry forward of service against acceptable level of write-off, where the service was unable to be delivered due to pupils not being on site. For some contracts the scope of the contract has been modified so that the service provider is able to provide some element of value for money during the contract period. In another case, the Trust has continued to pay management fees in relation to a catering contract but has withheld payment of monthly services charges where the contract staff have been furloughed to avoid duplication of funding from public sources. The Trust is working with 2 providers on an open book basis to ensure value for money and the correct application of the PPN rules have been applied.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Objects and Aims

The principal object and activity of the Tarka Learning Partnership is to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing the academies within the Trust, offering a broad range of curriculum for pupils of different abilities and need between the ages of 2 - 16.

The Trust also has a specialist provision at Newport Academy for children with autism, known as the CAIRB (Communication and Interaction Resource Base). This facility is run in conjunction with Devon County Council through a service level agreement.

The Trust runs the Devon Teaching School Partnership with a strong emphasis on Initial teacher Training provided through Devon Primary SCITT.

The Vision and Values of the Tarka Learning Partnership

'Empowering young people in North Devon through learning'

Aspiration: We promote the love of learning and empower young people to raise their aspirations through challenge, effective partnership, celebrating achievement and support for all, regardless of background and individual need.

Equality: We support vulnerable individuals and groups within our community and embrace both diversity and equality of opportunity.

Pupil and Staff Well-Being: We ensure all staff and young people are given the appropriate training, support and care to promote well-being for all.

Safeguarding: We champion the highest standards of safeguarding through a commitment by all, to our young people.

Teaching and Learning: We strive for a high-quality learning culture in every school, through the development of teaching and learning, leadership and governance, whilst valuing the individuality.

Curriculum Innovation: We commit to the development of a high quality, challenging, broad and balanced curriculum which is responsive to the needs of the young people and the wider world.

Values: We ensure openness, honesty, respect, tolerance and integrity in all we do.

Community: We invest in the young people and families of North Devon through connecting education and the needs of our local communities.

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Support Services: We will ensure that we deliver high quality services to schools, so that staff can focus on the provision of high-quality teaching and learning and achieve a successful work-life balance.

Outlook: We reflect, respond and adapt to the changing world and its impact on education, regionally, nationally and globally.

Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The Trust's Development Plan had the following key objectives for 19-20:

- To ensure all primary schools are equipped to achieve at least their previous Ofsted grade by July 2020 taking into account the new Ofsted framework
- To ensure the Park Community School achieves a 'good' or better inspection outcome at its next inspection
- To support the development of provision for vulnerable pupils, especially SEND pupils and potentially excluded pupils and provide challenge and support to staff re. pupil premium pupils in order to raise achievement to school targets
- To train all relevant school staff/ Governors and Directors in the new 2019 Ofsted framework so that they review thinking/approach to school improvement plan and adjust to the new framework to support positive outcomes for their schools.

- To develop and implement, through the processes of whole Trust risk management, audit and compliance a strategy ensure compliance
- To agree and implement the long-term IT strategy to contribute to improving pupil outcomes, finding efficiencies and Trust collaboration including MIS in all schools
- To enhance learning opportunities and personal development of pupils by supporting the development of pupil provision
- To embed and develop financial management processes including operation systems, monitoring, procurement and budget reporting
- To successfully open Roundswell Community Primary Academy and support the academy conversion of up to two new schools

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 17(5) of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit in exercising their powers or duties. They have referred to this guidance when reviewing the Academy Trust's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities.

The Academy Trust provides facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of the said community.

As a Trust we have a duty to support other schools. We support many schools through outreach services for managing the needs of autism. The trust has provided support to 3 maintained schools during the year.

STRATEGIC REPORT

Achievements and Performance

To ensure all primary schools are equipped to achieve at least their previous Ofsted grade by July 2020 taking into account the new Ofsted framework

The Trust employed a Deputy CEO in September 2019 to support the CEO in leading the Trust school's improvement strategy due to the growth of the Trust. A review of the Trust's school improvement strategy has taken place and the Trust, until the COVID-19 pandemic, was making good progress with the performance of the TLP primary schools. All schools were making sufficient progress with both their curriculum intent, implementation and impact as well as pupil learning outcomes to expect they would attain a 'good' or better

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outcome at their next inspection. Ofsted suspended routine inspections in March 2020 with an expected date of January 2021 for a return to national school inspections. One of our primary schools was receiving additional support from the Trust under the TLP school improvement model and was making 'good' progress. It is expected that this school achieves 'good' or better inspection outcome.

To ensure the Park Community School achieves a 'good' or better inspection outcome at its next inspection

The Park Community School entered the Trust in February 2019 and has been receiving intensive support from the Trust following its previous 'requires improvement' inspection outcome in 2017. Pupil data improved in 2019 with a progress 8 score of -0.35 from -0.49 in 2018. The Trust set a target of -0.15 for 2020 GCSE outcomes. At this early stage of school data analysis and recognising the difference in GCSE processes this year due to pandemic, the school is very likely to achieve this target. The school accurately assessed pupils with very few centre-based assessments altered by Ofqual due to the robust and lengthy assessment process. The Trust regards the Park Community School GCSE outcomes as fair and reflective of the work of the school and pupils in year 11.

The pandemic prevented school improvement work being carried out with teachers and pupils due to full and partial closure. The school will continue to be periodically assessed by the Trust central team and independent advisers in 2020-21.

To support the development of provision for vulnerable pupils, especially SEND pupils and potentially excluded pupils and provide challenge and support to staff re. pupil premium pupils in order to raise achievement to school targets

This area of the Trust's work has been significantly stifled by the pandemic due to availability of staff, the need to manage the COVID-19 crisis and the attendance of both staff and pupils on site with the ability to make accurate assessments of pupil progress. A programme of training was undertaken by the Trust staff and the Park School and was completed on 13th December 2019. Templates, formats and initial thinking were shared with School Leaders Group 4th Nov & 6th December 2019.

Overarching TLP Quality Assurance of MAT Schools Pupil Premium document developed for peer review at EEF Training on 13th December 2019. The Park Community School have completed a Pupil Premium Strategy and template ready for the same peer review. The primary schools were due to complete by April 2020, but the national crisis prevented this work from being completed on time.

By the summer term all TLP schools had revised their Pupil Premium Strategy and published it on their website. The impact of this revised strategy and the implementation of the SEND strategy will be examined in 2020-21 as primary and secondary pupil assessment data is not nationally comparable.

To train all relevant school staff/ Governors and Directors in the new 2019 Ofsted framework so that they review thinking/approach to school improvement plan and adjust to the new framework to support positive outcomes for their schools

Through an independent advisor all Head Teachers, members of the School Leaders Group and Governors were all trained and brought up to date with the implications of the new Ofsted framework. A further session is planned for 2020/21 to support new governors and anyone who was not able to attend the earlier sessions. As a result, a new SEF is in place at all schools and work has focused on improving the quality of curriculum planning. This target has been fully met and has not been affected by the pandemic.

To develop and implement, through the processes of whole Trust risk management, audit and compliance

Strong progress has been made in this area. The Trust's Risk Management Policy & Risk Appetite Statements have been reviewed and the Strategic Risk Register updated, further work will continue next year at operational level. The Estates Strategy is being progressed for full rollout in 2020-21 with impact already being seen within the schools. A review of governance scheme of delegation has begun and will continue into 2020-21 to ensure

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compliance can be managed across the Trust.

To agree and implement the long-term IT strategy to contribute to improving pupil outcomes, finding efficiencies and Trust collaboration including MIS in all schools

Strong progress has been made despite the pandemic and progress has gone further than the detailed success criteria contained within the Trust Improvement Plan. A Trust wide IT strategy has been agreed with Roundswell Community Primary Academy being fully equipped and set up within the agreed framework. Eden Park & Sticklepath have invested in infrastructure in line with the Strategy. Schools who are not provisioned with a learning platform are being migrated to a single Tenancy to aid collaborative working. Due to COVID-19, site visits have not been able to take place as planned therefore the site audits and individual IT roadmaps for each school will take place in 2020-21. All schools within the Trust have migrated to Bromcom MIS system and further development work will take place in 20-21 to enhance data collection and reporting across the Trust. GDPR has been centralised with standard Policy & Privacy notices across the Trust.

The Trust has worked with all schools to ensure there is provision for home online education for all pupils and where this is not possible there is an acceptable alternative which supports learning.

To enhance learning opportunities and personal development of pupils by supporting the development of pupil provision

Negotiations have begun with North Devon District Council on an area of land adjacent to a school site following an initial valuation of the land. Further work on this aspect of Trust improvement will take place when it is safe for parties to meet.

Works on the Park Community School site have taken place to enhance Hiern Drive ahead of the completion of the transfer of the Park Community School land to the Trust.

The COVID-19 crisis has had an impact on timescales, but the work has continued and it is expected that these two areas of work will see fruition in early 2020-21.

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To embed and develop financial management processes including operation systems, monitoring, procurement and budget reporting

Good Progress: Key reporting metrics have been agreed. Training has been delivered through Finance Group forum and to Governors, focusing on reporting. Posting errors across the Trust have been reduced. Collation of contract information has been deferred to 20-21 due to impact of COVID on resources available.

To successfully open Roundswell Community Primary Academy and support the academy conversion of up to two new schools

Achieved: Roundswell Community Primary Academy received a 'Readiness to Open' OFSTED inspection with no further recommendations made. The DfE confirmed the Trust had met all the required standards for the opening of Roundswell Community Primary Academy from September 2020. The Trust has worked with the DfE on the completion of the new school building at Roundswell, which was completed on time despite the challenges presented by COVID and the February storms and was ready to welcome pupils from 07 September 2020. Fremington and North Molton Schools converted to Academy Status and joined the Trust on 01 July 2020.

Prior OfSTED judgements of schools joining the Tarka Learning Partnership were:-

School	OfSTED Grade	Date
Eden Park Academy	Good	June 2015
Fremington Primary Academy	Good	May 2017
Landkey Community Primary academy	Good	March 2018
Newport Community School Primary Academy	Outstanding	March 2015
North Molton Primary Academy	Good	May 2017
Roundswell Community Primary Academy	Approved to open	July 2020
Sticklepath Community Primary Academy	Good	September 2017
The Park Community School	Requires Improvement	June 2017

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Key Performance Indicators

Financial KPI's	Previous year	Actual	Movement
Free Reserve % total income	Policy 5%	6.9%*	↓
Pupil to teacher ratio	17.12:1	17.86:1	↑
Current Asset Ratio	2.29%	2.90%	↑
Staff costs as % of total costs	78%	81%	↑
Staff costs as a % of total income	79%	49%	↓
Numbers on roll as % increase from previous year	2.28%	116%**	↑

*it should be noted that the entry of Fremington and North Molton in year results in a higher 'actual' figure due to the balance brought in on conversion and only two months of income represented in the reporting period. When adjusted for likely full year income the figure is approx. 7.8%.

**figures taken from the October census each year. The effect of Park joining the Trust is reflected in this years figures

Education KPI's

It is not possible to measure the educational KPI's for 2019-20 due to the COVID-19 crisis which has impacted on primary and secondary school assessment and school attendance. There are no national statistics for national comparison and the national education agencies such as Ofsted will, we are informed, not be using the 2020 data to support comparative analysis.

The work of the Trust in respect of the Covid-19 crisis and the role it played from February 2020 deserves to be mentioned. The Trust has played a central role in supporting the Local Authority by leading the Barnstaple Learning Community's response to the pandemic. Andy Ogden, Deputy CEO, has led the group to support policy, school admissions, distribution of PPE, support of families and individual school assistance. The Trust has worked with the emergency services to support childcare in the community allowing the services to focus on the outbreak of COVID-19.

In addition, Trust schools have hosted local families from other non-trust settings to find child-care allowing local families to continue working in essential services. The Trust has ensured it has provided off site learning, safeguarding provision through contact plans and access to onsite provision for key worker and vulnerable families. Indeed, the Trust maintained education/child-care provision for such families throughout the school term time and traditional school holidays.

Summary from DPSCITT on trainee outcomes for 19-20 & trainee recruitment for 20-21

There were 26 trainees in the 19-20 co-hort. 100% of trainees achieved their PGCE in July, having followed an alternative Summer Term programme. Despite Covid restrictions, they were very well supported by their placement schools throughout the Summer Term, with all trainees contributing to home-learning provision and many teaching in their schools. This is a real testament to the quality of our Partnership as most Initial Teacher Training Providers were not able to provide in-school experiences nor achieve completion of the course by the end of July.

37 trainees have been recruited for the 20-21 co-hort.

A Deputy Director was appointed from April '20, who is already impacting positively on our provision, and is taking a lead in rationalising our IT Infrastructure.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Academy Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The impact of COVID-19

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on self-generated income streams has been managed through access to the government furlough scheme which has partially mitigated risks in this area with the shortfall being managed from reserves. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. For this reason it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Going concern policy in the Accounting Policies section of the Financial Statements.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial Review

Most of the Academy Trust's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2020 and the associated expenditure are shown as Restricted Funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE which are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the Fixed Asset Fund. The Restricted Fixed Asset Fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the useful life of the assets concerned, as defined in the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

During the year ended 31 August 2020 (excluding fixed asset and pension reserves), the Trust received total revenue income of £15,079,131 and incurred total expenditure of £14,714,851. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (excluding fixed assets and pension funds) and after transfers to fixed asset funds of £252,067 was £112,213 which included £250,521 revenue brought in on conversion.

At 31 August 2020 the net book value of fixed assets was £40,924,979 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 16 to the financial statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

The Trust has taken on the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme in respect of its non teaching staff transferred on conversion. The deficit is incorporated within the Statement of Financial Activity with details in Note 29 to the financial statements.

Key financial policies adopted or reviewed during the year include the Finance Policy (which incorporates Asset Control & Accounting, Investments, Anti Bribery, Fraud & Gifts & Hospitality) which lays out the framework for financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board, Head Teacher, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as delegated authority for spending. Whistle-blowing Policy, Balances and Reserves Policy & Governors Expenses Policy.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees review the reserve levels of the Trust annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees take into consideration the future plans of the Trust, the uncertainty over future income streams and other key risks identified during the risk review.

The Trustees determined that the appropriate level of free reserves for 19-20 should be approximately 5% of total income – which for the period ended 19-20 would be £816,041. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipt of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance. Total revenue reserves of the Trust at 31 August 2020 amount to £1,179,270.

For 19-20 the Trustees determined that the reserves of DPSCITT should not fall below £90,000. The actual reserve in relation to DPSCITT at 31 August 2020 amount to £226,503.

The Trust anticipates investing its reserve over and above 5% for investment in capital projects for improvements to the building & IT estate.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The defined benefit pension scheme reserve has a negative balance. The effect of the deficit position of the pension scheme is that the Academy Trust is paying higher employers' pension contributions over a period of years. The higher employers' pension contributions will be met from the Academy Trust's budgeted annual income. Whilst the deficit will not be immediately eliminated, there should be no actual cash flow deficit on the fund, nor any direct impact on the free reserves of the Academy Trust.

Investment Policy

Due to the nature and timing of receipt of funding, the Trust may at times hold cash balances surplus to its short-term requirements. The Trustees have authorised the opening of additional short-term bank investment accounts to take advantage of higher interest rates. No other form of investment is authorised.

Principal Risks And Uncertainties

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the major risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is maintained and reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

The principal risks and uncertainties facing the Trust are as follows:

Financial - the Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA. In the last year 94% of the Trust's incoming resources were ultimately Government funded and whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms.

Failures in governance and/or management - the risk in this area arises from potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns, etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure that appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks and key personnel have been appointed to develop this area of the Trusts work and IT is being reviewed across the Trust.

Reputational - the continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards. To mitigate this risk, Trustees ensure that student success and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed.

Safeguarding and child protection - the Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. A Director for Children Services has been appointed to oversee this area.

Staffing - the success of the Trust is reliant upon the quality of its staff and so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning and well-being strategy.

Fraud and mismanagement of funds - The Trust has appointed internal audit to carry out checks on financial systems and records as required by the Academy Financial Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and develop their skills in this area.

COVID-19 is impacting upon the quality of education and pupil outcomes – The Trust is developing a Trust-wide IT Strategy and developing its learning platforms to support home learning.

The Academy Trust has agreed a Risk Management Strategy, a Risk Register and a Risk Management Plan. These have been discussed by Trustees and include the financial risks to the Academy Trust. The register and plan are regularly reviewed in light of any new information and formally reviewed annually.

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, in particular, those relating to its finances, teaching, facilities and other operational areas. The Trustees have implemented a number of systems to assess and minimise those risks, including internal controls described elsewhere. Where significant financial risk still remains, they have ensured they have adequate insurance cover.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees examine the financial health formally every term. They review performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all Board meetings. The Trustees also regularly review cash flow forecasts and ensure sufficient funds are held to cover all known and anticipated commitments through monthly management accounts.

At the year end, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors that would have a significant effect on liquidity.

The Board of Trustees recognises that the defined benefit pension scheme deficit (Local Government Pension Scheme), which is set out in Note 29 to the financial statements, represents a significant potential liability. However as the Trustees consider that the Academy is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, this risk from this liability is minimised.

FUNDRAISING

The Academy Trust does not outsource fundraising activities. Events are held in schools each year with the intention of raising funds but participation is voluntary. For this year income from fundraising is lower due to COVID-19 and the inability to continue with planned public events that support community participation.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Trust Development Plan has the following key objectives for 20-21

- To clarify the Trust's operational model, further developing and integrating the key school improvement processes and services to ensure a 'holistic' approach to school improvement. To review the self-evaluation framework of the Trust
- To support each school to meet the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic by deploying the COVID-19 TLP strategy, including remote learning
- To ensure all Primary schools have an effective school curriculum that contains Overarching and Subject Intents, Progression Statements, Curriculum Coverage Maps and a Curriculum Development Roadmap for the next two years. That all schools have effective monitoring tools to assess the effectiveness of the curriculum and teaching and learning to support their SEF and SIP analysis
- To improve, with School leaders, the school effectiveness of Eden Park and the Park Community School to ensure both schools are 'good' at their next inspection
- To develop a shared vision and strategy for Inclusion. To establish the tools and accessible indicators that support the compliance, monitoring and evaluation of SEND leading to improvement. To promote understanding and development of the impact of current pupil premium strategies
- To create a culture of effective Risk Management across the Trust. To ensure there is an understood system for Risk Management which is used effectively across the Trust
- To have devised and begun to implement a 3-year CPD strategy and offer that is inclusive of the needs of all staff and schools across the Trust, including succession planning
- To develop, present and roll out the Estates Strategy in order to provide clear direction to the board of trustees, school leaders and facilities teams. To provide a professional service for the management, maintenance and development of our estates
- To develop HR strategies, through staff involvement across the Trust, to promote people matters which are important to the whole staff team and directly relevant to the Trust's values; staff wellbeing, championing equality and the protected characteristics of staff, staff voice and apprenticeships. To create a framework of HR policies to ensure staff are managed consistently and fairly across the organisation
- To further develop the Trust's IT Strategy to provide an IT development roadmap for each school and migrate all partners to MS365
- To develop a system for central procurement which supports the school improvement strategy and maximises efficiency and evidences value for money. To review and maximise the effectiveness of existing services and contracts

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

FUNDS HELD AS CUSTODIAN TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF OTHERS

The Academy and its Trustees do not act as the Custodian Trustees of any other Charity.

STREAMLINED ENERGY AND CARBON REPORTING

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020	
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,307,711
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional)	
• gas,	1,745,720
• electricity,	561,990
• transport fuel	
<u>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>	
Gas consumption	321
Owned transport – mini-buses	1.5
<u>Total scope 1</u>	
<u>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>	
Purchased electricity	197
<u>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>	
Business travel in employee owned vehicles	1.958
<u>Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</u>	522
<u>Intensity ratio</u>	
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.185

Quantification and Reporting Methodology

We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol – Corporate Standard and have used the 2020 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.

Intensity measurement

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

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We have installed new LED lighting throughout 2 of our sites in 19-20. Due to COVID there has been less business travel with more meetings taking place via video link and the increased use of video conferencing is likely to continue.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

AUDITORS

The auditors, Bishop Fleming LLP, are willing to continue in office and a resolution to appoint them will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

The Trustees' Report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of Trustees, as the company directors, on _____ and signed on its behalf by:



**P Stein
Chair of Trustees**

21/2/20

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive Officer, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between Tarka Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education. They are also responsible for reporting to the board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of Trustees has formally met 10 times during the year.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
J Byrne	8	10
G Cockell, Vice Chair	10	10
A Cotton, CEO	10	10
T Giddings	6	8
N Hookway	6	10
A Pierce	9	10
C Rice	9	10
P Stein, Chair	10	10
C Tope	7	10

The Trustees have reviewed all areas of the Trusts performance through a range of quantitative and qualitative data including DFE performance comparators, CEO Reports, Financial Reports, reports from Internal & External Auditors, External Governance Review, Due Diligence Reports, GDPR compliance reports and Safeguarding Audits.

The Governance of the Trust continued remotely via TEAMS when it was not possible to meet in person during the COVID-19 lockdown period. Data was shared electronically during this time. The Board use data from a range of sources, which is comparable and transparent and includes regular reporting of 5-year financial dashboards. The data was received from a range of internal & external sources, including an external assessment of the Governance of the Trust.

Governor Review

The Trust went through an open recruitment process to appoint a new Board of Directors which would be representative of the wider community of schools upon formation of the Trust in July 2018 and the two remaining posts were filled in the autumn of 2019 with the appointment of a Trustee for Safeguarding and a Diocesan approved role. These roles are voluntary, publicly advertised with an application process, references taken up & a panel interview prior to appointment. All Trustees are fully DBS checked. The Board is now full with a range of skills across the following areas:

- * HR;
- * Legal and compliance;
- * Finance and business management;
- * Premises/ Estates/ Health and Safety;
- * Inclusion;
- * Child Safeguarding;
- * Education Leadership;
- * School Improvement/ School Inspection;
- * Two directors with one of the above skills set will be Diocesan approved

In the Spring/Summer of 2020 the Trustees undertook a further skills review following the National Governance Association guidance. The outcome was as expected in terms of the breath of skills and experience across the Board. Openness & transparency, the ability to appropriately challenge and forming positive relationships were the highest strengths across the Board. Marketing & PR being the lowest skill area which is a 'non-essential' skill. The audit identified a training requirement to support knowledge of HR and training has been arranged for the Autumn term 2020.

The Audit Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to report to the Board of Trustees on matters relating to finance strategy and audit, pay, appraisals, performance of the TLP central team

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Governance (continued)

and risk management. The committee is authorised to investigate any activity within its terms of reference; seek any information that it requires from any Trustee, Governor or Employee of the Trust and its Schools and obtain outside legal or independent professional advice.

During the year, Neil Hookway, Chris Rice and Paula Stein remained on the committee. Andy Cotton also attends in his capacity as Accounting Officer for the Trust and Mo Cann attends in capacity as Chief Finance Officer for the Trust.

The Board receives data from a variety of sources. This data is reported upon within the CEO report on standards across the school and the CFO report Financial health of the Trust. Information provided includes financial management reports, budget setting reports and dashboards with 5-year forecasts, attendance data from across the schools and performance data updates at key points during the year. Information is summarised within the CEO & CFO reports with more detailed information supplied in a separate format ahead of the meeting which allows time for appropriate level of challenge.

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Trustee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
N Hookway	3	4
C Rice	4	4
P Stein	4	4
A Cotton	4	4
M Cann, CFO	4	4

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Chief Executive Officer has responsibility for ensuring that the Academy Trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

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

- Robust financial governance and budget management with regular meetings with Head's and Business Managers in the schools as part of its annual budgeting processes, including an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning meeting.
- Value for money purchasing, noting that this is not necessarily the cheapest quote. The Trust has undergone a migration of its MIS systems following a tender process to improve efficiencies of working and financial cost savings across the Trust.
- Reviewing controls and managing risk.
- Considering allocation/targeting/use of resources.
- Challenging proposals and examining their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Deploying staff effectively through review of staffing structures to meet current and anticipated future need.
- Reviewing quality of curriculum provision and quality of teaching through robust monitoring processes
- Reviewing quality of children's learning to enable children to achieve nationally expected progress through school review visits, teacher groups and views from external consultants
- Providing strong guidance through the partial closure of schools due to COVID-19 for deployment of resources to support home learning.

The Trust recognises that COVID-19 has impacted upon the effectiveness of some of the activities that support value for money judgements during the year. In some cases, procurement processes have had to vary from accepted best practice due to the inability of suppliers to visit the sites or produce quotations for works due to their limited capacity. The Trust has made all reasonable efforts in securing value for money during this period and has reported exceptions to the Board.

The Trust has managed contracts using the Public Procurement Notices 02 and 04 and is working with two suppliers on an open book basis where there has been an impact on the service provided in the period April to July.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks the achievement of Academy Trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Tarka Learning Partnership for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020, updated through the year in line with managing COVID and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Capacity to handle risk

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the Academy Trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that have been in place for the period from 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

The risk and control framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Trustees
- Regular reviews by the Board of Trustees of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- Clearly defined purchasing (assets purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties
- Identification and management of risks

The Board of Trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Devon Audit Partnership as internal auditor to the Trust.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Academy Trust's financial systems. The checks carried out in the current period with the outcome are shown in the table below.

Areas Covered	Level of Assurance
Governance, Accounting and Financial Control	High Standard
Fraud Framework	High Standard
Purchasing and Payments	Good Standard
Payroll	High Standard
Debtors & Debt Management	Good Standard
Control of Assets	High Standard

On an annual basis, the internal auditor reports to the Board of Trustees through the audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Trustees' financial responsibilities.

Despite the restrictions due to COVID19 the internal auditors were able to deliver the schedule of works from the audit plan. This took place in June 2020.

There were no material issues identified in the report.

The Trust also had an external review of its Governance by Michelmores Solicitors which found the Governance Framework to be strong.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Review of effectiveness

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

- the work of the internal auditor;
- the work of the external auditors;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process;
- the work of the central team leaders within the Academy Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance & monitoring of the internal control framework across the Trust.

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 2nd December 20 and signed on their behalf by:



P Stein
Chair of Trustees

21/2/20



A Cotton
Accounting Officer

21/2/20

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

STATEMENT ON REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

As accounting officer of Tarka Learning Partnership I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust board of Trustees and the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

I confirm that I and the Academy Trust board of Trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the Academy Trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the Academy Trust's funding agreement and the Academies Financial Handbook 2019.

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



A Cotton
Accounting Officer

Date: 20 December 2020

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial . Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

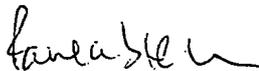
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

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

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



P Stein
Chair of Trustees

Date: 2nd December 2020

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TARKA
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Tarka Learning Partnership (the 'academy trust') for the year ended 31 August 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy Trust's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 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 Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Academy Trust's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TARKA
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report and Financial Statements, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. Other information includes the Reference and Administrative Details, the Trustees' Report including the Strategic Report, and the Governance Statement. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the Trustees' Report incorporating the Strategic Report and the Directors' Report, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

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

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

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO THE MEMBERS OF TARKA
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)**

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the Academy Trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Academy Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

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 Auditors' Report.

Use of our report

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



Tim Borton FCA DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bishop Fleming LLP

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditors

2nd Floor Stratus House

Emperor Way

Exeter Business Park

Exeter

EX1 3QS

25 January 2021

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TARKA
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 19 December 2018 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Tarka Learning Partnership during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Respective responsibilities of Tarka Learning Partnership's accounting officer and the reporting accountant

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Tarka Learning Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 28 June 2018 and the Academies Financial Handbook, extant from 1 September 2019, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 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 Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA. We performed a limited assurance engagement as defined in our engagement letter.

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

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

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

Our work on regularity included a review of the internal controls policies and procedures that have been implemented and an assessment of their design and effectiveness to understand how the academy trust complied with the framework of authorities. We also reviewed the reports commissioned by the trustees to assess internal controls throughout the year.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO TARKA
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)**

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2019 to 31 August 2020 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



Tim Borton FCA DChA (Reporting Accountant)
Bishop Fleming LLP
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
2nd Floor Stratus House
Emperor Way
Exeter Business Park
Exeter
EX1 3QS

Date: 25 January 2021

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from:						
Donations and capital grants:	3,28					
Transfer from local authority on conversion		250,521	(869,000)	3,980,000	3,361,521	17,539,625
Other donations and capital grants		25,743	57,365	8,564,336	8,647,444	534,237
Charitable activities	4	886,447	13,489,704	-	14,376,151	10,211,043
Devon Primary SCITT	36	259,663	-	-	259,663	379,816
Other trading activities	6	103,741	-	-	103,741	108,780
Investments	7	5,947	-	-	5,947	1,238
Total income		1,532,062	12,678,069	12,544,336	26,754,467	28,774,739
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds		39,715	-	-	39,715	54,696
Charitable activities	9	961,590	14,295,085	526,696	15,783,371	11,133,567
Devon Primary SCITT	36	266,490	-	-	266,490	337,079
Total expenditure		1,267,795	14,295,085	526,696	16,089,576	11,525,342
Net income/ (expenditure)		264,267	(1,617,016)	12,017,640	10,664,891	17,249,397
Transfers between funds	21	-	(233,931)	233,931	-	-
Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)		264,267	(1,850,947)	12,251,571	10,664,891	17,249,397
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension schemes	30	-	(1,568,000)	-	(1,568,000)	(800,000)
Net movement in funds		264,267	(3,418,947)	12,251,571	9,096,891	16,449,397

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
(CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	1,313,066	(5,276,196)	29,235,388	25,272,258	8,822,861
Net movement in funds	264,267	(3,418,947)	12,251,571	9,096,891	16,449,397
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,577,333</u>	<u>(8,695,143)</u>	<u>41,486,959</u>	<u>34,369,149</u>	<u>25,272,258</u>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 36 to 73 form part of these financial statements.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
REGISTERED NUMBER:07700494**

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	16	40,924,979	29,606,347
		<u>40,924,979</u>	<u>29,606,347</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	17	44,253	38,257
Debtors	18	1,838,411	792,612
Cash at bank and in hand		1,730,564	1,677,768
		<u>3,613,228</u>	<u>2,508,637</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(1,207,058)	(1,156,726)
Net current assets		<u>2,406,170</u>	<u>1,351,911</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>43,331,149</u>	<u>30,958,258</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		<u>43,331,149</u>	<u>30,958,258</u>
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	30	(8,962,000)	(5,686,000)
Total net assets		<u><u>34,369,149</u></u>	<u><u>25,272,258</u></u>
Funds of the Academy Trust			
Restricted funds:			
Fixed asset funds	21	41,486,959	29,235,388
Restricted income funds	21	266,857	409,804
		<u>41,753,816</u>	<u>29,645,192</u>
Restricted funds excluding pension asset	21	41,753,816	29,645,192
Pension reserve	21	(8,962,000)	(5,686,000)
		<u>32,791,816</u>	<u>23,959,192</u>
Total restricted funds	21	<u>32,791,816</u>	<u>23,959,192</u>
Unrestricted income funds	21	<u>1,577,333</u>	<u>1,313,066</u>
Total funds		<u><u>34,369,149</u></u>	<u><u>25,272,258</u></u>

The financial statements on pages 32 to 73 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on and are signed on their behalf, by:

P Stein
Chair of Trustees
21/2/20



The notes on pages 36 to 73 form part of these financial statements.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	23	357,046	1,566,302
Cash flows from investing activities			
Cash flows from investing activities	25	(304,250)	(695,175)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash flows from financing activities	24	-	5,000
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		52,796	876,127
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,677,768	801,641
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	26, 27	<u>1,730,564</u>	<u>1,677,768</u>

The notes on pages 36 to 73 form part of these financial statements

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies

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

1.1 BASIS OF PREPARATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2019 to 2020 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Tarka Learning Partnership meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 GOING CONCERN

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

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.3 INCOME

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

• **Grants**

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year for which it is receivable and any abatement in respect of the year is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

Other income, including the hire of facilities, is recognised in the year it is receivable and to the extent the Academy Trust has provided the goods or services.

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the Academy Trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the Academy Trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as a transfer on conversion within 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' to the net assets received.

1.4 EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

• **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.4 EXPENDITURE (continued)

• Charitable activities

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.5 INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Intangible assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably. Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost net of amortisation and any provision for impairment.

1.6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Assets costing £5,000 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment.

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

On conversion of each School, the Academy Trust was granted a 125 year lease from the Local Authority for the land and buildings previously occupied by that local authority school. At the date of each conversion the long term leasehold property was recognised as a donation from the Local Authority and was valued using the depreciated replacement cost method.

The academy trust is benefiting from the ESFA's Free School Building Programme. The funding for the programme is not recognised as a capital grant until there is unconditional entitlement from costs being incurred, and the development occurring on a site where the academy trust controls through ownership, lease or licence the site where the development is occurring.

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

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property - buildings 2% & land 0.8%
Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 10 - 33%

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

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.7 STOCKS

Stocks consist of general stock and are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost is based on the cost of purchases on a first in first out basis.

1.8 DEBTORS

Trade and other debtors with no stated interest rate and due within one year are recorded at the amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be received. Prepayments are valued at the amount paid.

1.9 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account and cash on deposit that has a notice period of less than 30 days.

1.10 LIABILITIES

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

1.11 FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

The Academy Trust only holds basic financial instruments as defined in FRS 102. The financial assets and financial liabilities of the Academy Trust and their measurement bases are as follows:

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 18. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 19. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument.

1.12 TAXATION

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 11, chapter 3 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.13 PENSIONS

Retirement benefits to employees of the Academy Trust are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes.

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

The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to 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 as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses.

Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

1.14 FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted income funds represent those resources which may be used towards meeting any of the charitable objects of the Academy Trust at the discretion of the Trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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

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

Transfers are made between restricted funds and restricted fixed asset funds where restricted funds are used to purchase fixed assets.

1.15 OPERATING LEASES

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.16 CONVERSION TO AN ACADEMY TRUST

The conversion from a state maintained school to an Academy Trust involved the transfer of identifiable assets and liabilities and the operation of the school for £NIL consideration. The substance of the transfer is that of a gift and it has been accounted for on that basis as set out below.

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from North Molton Primary School and Fremington Primary School to the Academy Trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate Balance Sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Income from Donations and Capital Grants in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds.

Land and Buildings have been included at an estimated value based on the ESFA valuations of schools that joined the Trust in the prior year taking into account differences in sqm area. Other fixed assets have been included at amounts valued by the Trustees. Pension assets and liabilities have been valued by Barnett Waddingham.

Further details of the transaction are set out in note 28.

1.17 AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing income on behalf of the Devon Teaching School Partnership and The Park Cluster. Payments received and subsequent disbursements to the partnership are excluded from the Statement of Financial Activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. Reimbursement of administration costs in relation to the income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. The funds received, paid and any balances held at period end are disclosed in Note 36.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGEMENT

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 30, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2020. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

Critical areas of judgement:

The Academy Trust obtains use of fixed assets as a lessee. The classification of such leases as operating or finance lease requires the Academy Trust to determine, based on an evaluation of the terms and conditions of the arrangements, whether it retains or acquires the significant risks and rewards of ownership of these assets and accordingly whether the lease requires an asset and liability to be recognised in the Balance Sheet.

3. Income from donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Donations					
Transfer from local authority on conversion	250,521	(869,000)	3,980,000	3,361,521	4,341,130
Donations	25,743	-	-	25,743	13,241,378
Capital Grants	-	57,365	8,564,336	8,621,701	491,354
Total 2020	<u>276,264</u>	<u>(811,635)</u>	<u>12,544,336</u>	<u>12,008,965</u>	<u>18,073,862</u>
Total 2019	<u>768,240</u>	<u>(1,818,403)</u>	<u>19,124,025</u>	<u>18,073,862</u>	

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

4. Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Income from charitable activities - Education	516,092	13,489,704	14,005,796	9,888,739
Income from charitable activities - Nursery	370,355	-	370,355	322,304
Total 2020	<u>886,447</u>	<u>13,489,704</u>	<u>14,376,151</u>	<u>10,211,043</u>
Total 2019	<u>902,499</u>	<u>9,308,544</u>	<u>10,211,043</u>	

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2020**

5. Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
DfE/ESFA grants				
General Annual Grant	-	11,335,842	11,335,842	8,017,575
Start up Grants	-	140,000	140,000	62,000
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,684,209	1,684,209	951,705
	-	13,160,051	13,160,051	9,031,280
Other Government grants				
High Needs	-	243,556	243,556	159,545
Other government grants: non capital	-	3,529	3,529	117,719
	-	247,085	247,085	277,264
Other income from the academy trust's educational operations				
Internal catering income	198,928	-	198,928	197,321
Sales to students	57,761	-	57,761	34,045
Other	259,403	-	259,403	348,829
	516,092	-	516,092	580,195
Coronavirus exceptional government funding	-	82,568	82,568	-
Total 2020	516,092	13,489,704	14,005,796	9,888,739
Total 2019	580,195	9,308,544	9,888,739	

The academy trust has been eligible to claim additional funding in year from government support schemes in response to the coronavirus outbreak. The funding received is shown above under "exceptional government funding".

The funding received for coronavirus exceptional support covers £60k of salaries and wages covered by the furlough scheme. And £23k for premises, cleaning and free school meals. These costs are included in notes 8 and 9 below as appropriate.

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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6. Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Lettings	45,462	45,462	45,930
External catering	9,503	9,503	7,979
Consultancy	(930)	(930)	7,028
Fees received	49,706	49,706	47,843
Total 2020	103,741	103,741	108,780

All prior year income related to unrestricted funds.

7. Investment income

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Bank interest	5,947	5,947	1,238
Total 2019	1,238	1,238	

All prior year income related to unrestricted funds.

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8. Expenditure

	Staff Costs 2020 £	Premises 2020 £	Other 2020 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Expenditure on fundraising trading activities:					
Direct costs	-	-	39,715	39,715	54,696
Education:					
Direct costs	10,555,117	436,949	804,508	11,796,574	8,237,626
Allocated support costs	2,108,345	298,251	1,249,292	3,655,888	2,597,560
Nursery:					
Direct costs	326,049	-	4,757	330,806	291,316
Allocated support costs	-	-	103	103	7,065
SCITT	136,576	11,000	118,914	266,490	337,079
	<u>13,126,087</u>	<u>746,200</u>	<u>2,217,289</u>	<u>16,089,576</u>	<u>11,525,342</u>
Total 2019	<u>9,150,217</u>	<u>845,804</u>	<u>1,529,321</u>	<u>11,525,342</u>	

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2020 £	Support costs 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Education	11,796,574	3,655,888	15,452,462	10,835,186
Nursery	330,806	103	330,909	298,381
Total 2020	<u>12,127,380</u>	<u>3,655,991</u>	<u>15,783,371</u>	<u>11,133,567</u>
Total 2019	<u>8,528,942</u>	<u>2,604,625</u>	<u>11,133,567</u>	

**TARKA LEARNING PARTNERSHIP
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9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Education 2020 £	Nursery 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Pension finance costs	108,000	-	108,000	85,000
Staff costs	10,555,117	326,049	10,881,166	7,511,394
Depreciation	436,949	-	436,949	284,867
Educational supplies	261,785	4,507	266,292	212,825
Examination fees	78,059	-	78,059	80,335
Staff development	37,547	250	37,797	41,470
Other costs	210,948	-	210,948	198,461
Supply teachers	5,562	-	5,562	19,905
Educational consultancy	102,607	-	102,607	94,685
Total 2020	11,796,574	330,806	12,127,380	8,528,942
Total 2019	8,237,626	291,316	8,528,942	

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9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Education 2020 £	Nursery 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £	Total funds 2019 £
Staff costs	2,108,345	-	2,108,345	1,445,111
Depreciation	98,782	-	98,782	90,787
Other costs	-	103	103	1,435
Recruitment and support	29,146	-	29,146	18,474
Maintenance of premises and equipment	281,783	-	281,783	146,092
Cleaning	75,046	-	75,046	47,312
Rent and rates	124,931	-	124,931	105,270
Energy costs	153,630	-	153,630	103,483
Insurance	85,915	-	85,915	58,150
Security and transport	38,298	-	38,298	62,656
Catering	195,352	-	195,352	174,870
Technology costs	226,554	-	226,554	165,496
Office overheads	116,946	-	116,946	61,374
Legal and professional	72,774	-	72,774	77,255
Bank interest and charges	12,326	-	12,326	6,669
Governance	36,060	-	36,060	40,191
Total 2020	<u>3,655,888</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>3,655,991</u>	<u>2,604,625</u>
Total 2019	<u>2,597,560</u>	<u>7,065</u>	<u>2,604,625</u>	

10. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2020 £	2019 £
Operating lease rentals	42,868	23,039
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	535,725	375,654
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	12,500	9,500
- other services	3,525	6,935
	<u>594,618</u>	<u>415,128</u>

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11. Staff

a. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries	9,515,166	6,831,131
Social security costs	861,554	602,818
Pension costs	2,749,367	1,696,363
	<u>13,126,087</u>	<u>9,130,312</u>
Agency staff costs	-	19,905
	<u>13,126,087</u>	<u>9,150,217</u>

b. Staff numbers

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

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	200	156
Administration and support	373	205
Management	26	14
	<u>599</u>	<u>375</u>

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	2020 No.	2019 No.
Teachers	158	113
Administration and support	172	128
Management	26	13
	<u>356</u>	<u>254</u>

c. Higher paid staff

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

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11. Staff (continued)

c. Higher paid staff (continued)

	2020 No.	2019 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	6	7
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	2	-
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	-	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	1	1
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	1	-
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

d. Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the trust central leadership team as listed on page 1. The Trust Central Leadership Team increased in size during the year. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £307,028 (2019 £190,898).

12. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

The CEO only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking their role under a contract of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees. Other Trustees did not receive any payments, other than expenses, from the Academy Trust in respect of their role as Trustees. The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows: A Cotton: Remuneration £100,000 - £105,000 (2019: £95,000 - £100,000), Employer's pension contributions £20,000 - £25,000 (2019: £15,000 - £20,000).

Other related party transactions involving the Trustees are set out in note 33.

During the year ended 31 August 2020, expenses totalling £218 were reimbursed to 1 Trustees (2019 - £1,497 to 1 Trustee).

13. Trustees' and Officers' insurance

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

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14. Central services

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

- HR support
- Estates support
- School improvement service
- Safeguarding/Inclusion support
- Finance support including Accounting Officer Policy & Software
- Governance support
- Compliance/GDPR
- Legal support

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

A flat percentage of GAG income, 5% (2019: 4.2%) is charged, with the exception of Devon Primary SCITT which is charged a fee in relation to hosting costs.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
The Park Community School	326,325	175,831
Landkey Community Primary Academy	36,666	30,799
Eden Park Academy	35,848	29,562
Newport Community School Primary Academy	77,046	62,487
Sticklepath Primary	74,800	60,699
Devon Primary SCITT	5,100	10,530
North Molton Primary School	3,981	-
Fremington Primary School	12,580	-
Total	572,346	369,908

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15. Intangible assets

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2019	14,860
At 31 August 2020	<u>14,860</u>
Amortisation	
At 1 September 2019	14,860
At 31 August 2020	<u>14,860</u>
Net book value	
At 31 August 2020	<u><u>-</u></u>
At 31 August 2019	<u><u>-</u></u>

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16. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 September 2019	30,456,450	233,703	129,107	30,819,260
Additions	7,501,350	94,791	278,546	7,874,687
Transfer on conversion	3,980,000	-	-	3,980,000
Disposals	-	-	(24,444)	(24,444)
At 31 August 2020	<u>41,937,800</u>	<u>328,494</u>	<u>383,209</u>	<u>42,649,503</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 September 2019	946,650	167,667	98,596	1,212,913
Charge for the year	476,594	28,298	30,833	535,725
On disposals	-	-	(24,114)	(24,114)
At 31 August 2020	<u>1,423,244</u>	<u>195,965</u>	<u>105,315</u>	<u>1,724,524</u>
Net book value				
At 31 August 2020	<u>40,514,556</u>	<u>132,529</u>	<u>277,894</u>	<u>40,924,979</u>
At 31 August 2019	<u>29,509,800</u>	<u>66,036</u>	<u>30,511</u>	<u>29,606,347</u>

The Academy Trust's transactions relating to land and buildings include £7,386,000 relating to the Roundswell Primary Community Academy which was constructed under the Free School Building Programme.

17. Stocks

	2020 £	2019 £
Goods for resale	<u>44,253</u>	<u>38,257</u>

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18. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	8,624	17,689
Prepayments and accrued income	1,737,773	502,516
VAT recoverable	92,014	272,407
	<u>1,838,411</u>	<u>792,612</u>

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
ESFA loans	5,500	5,500
Trade creditors	63,376	131,316
Other taxation and social security	218,810	194,292
Other creditors	306,358	230,334
Accruals and deferred income	613,014	595,284
	<u>1,207,058</u>	<u>1,156,726</u>

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred income at 1 September 2019	345,210	150,045
Resources deferred during the year	238,456	345,210
Amounts released from previous periods	(345,210)	(150,045)
Deferred income at 31 August 2020	<u>238,456</u>	<u>345,210</u>

At the balance sheet date the Academy was holding funds received in advance including income from the ESFA in respect of 2020/21 UIFSM.

Included within ESFA loans is a Salix loan of £5,500. A further sum was advanced in September 2020 following which the total balance will be repayable in bi-annual instalments over 8 years, with repayments commencing on 1st October 2020. No interest is payable on this loan.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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20. Financial instruments

	2020 £	2019 £
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure	1,730,564	1,677,768
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost	1,660,504	359,640
	<u>3,391,068</u>	<u>2,037,408</u>
	2020 £	2019 £
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	<u>(744,292)</u>	<u>(617,224)</u>

Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure comprise cash at bank and in hand.

Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost comprise trade debtors, accrued income and other debtors.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise trade creditors, accruals & other creditors.

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21. Statement of funds

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Fixed asset fund - Newport	116,669	-	(2,520)	-	-	114,149
Fixed asset fund - Park	312,641	-	(6,509)	18,136	-	324,268
Devon Primary SCITT	233,330	259,663	(266,490)	-	-	226,503
	<u>662,640</u>	<u>259,663</u>	<u>(275,519)</u>	<u>18,136</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>664,920</u>
General funds						
General funds	<u>650,426</u>	<u>1,272,399</u>	<u>(992,276)</u>	<u>(18,136)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>912,413</u>
Total Unrestric'd funds	<u>1,313,066</u>	<u>1,532,062</u>	<u>(1,267,795)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,577,333</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	368,290	11,335,842	(11,311,043)	(136,270)	-	256,819
High needs funding	-	243,556	(243,556)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	719,947	(719,947)	-	-	-
Start up and conversion grants	-	140,000	(140,000)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	167,769	(167,769)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	1,218	80,325	(71,505)	-	-	10,038
Other restricted funds	-	802,265	(802,265)	-	-	-
Devolved Formula Capital	40,296	57,365	-	(97,661)	-	-
Pension reserve	(5,686,000)	(869,000)	(839,000)	-	(1,568,000)	(8,962,000)
	<u>(5,276,196)</u>	<u>12,678,069</u>	<u>(14,295,085)</u>	<u>(233,931)</u>	<u>(1,568,000)</u>	<u>(8,695,143)</u>

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21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	27,514,687	3,980,000	(393,590)	-	-	31,101,097
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	323,285	-	(73,213)	152,721	-	402,793
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	1,330,738	8,544,204	(23,044)	81,210	-	9,933,108
Other donations	40,497	-	(8,725)	-	-	31,772
Other capital grants	31,681	20,132	(28,124)	-	-	23,689
Salix loan	(5,500)	-	-	-	-	(5,500)
	<u>29,235,388</u>	<u>12,544,336</u>	<u>(526,696)</u>	<u>233,931</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>41,486,959</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>23,959,192</u>	<u>25,222,405</u>	<u>(14,821,781)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,568,000)</u>	<u>32,791,816</u>
Total funds	<u>25,272,258</u>	<u>26,754,467</u>	<u>(16,089,576)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,568,000)</u>	<u>34,369,149</u>

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

Designated fixed asset funds - Funds relating to fixed assets purchased from unrestricted reserves.

Devon Primary SCITT - Income and expenditure relating to Devon Primary SCITT. Activity is disclosed in detail in the SCITT Trading Account.

General Annual Grant - Income from the ESFA which is to be used for the normal running costs of the Academy, including education and support costs.

High Needs - Funding received by the Local Authority to fund further support for students with additional needs.

Pupil Premium - Pupil premium represents funding received from the ESFA for children that qualify for free school meals to enable the Academy to address the current underlying inequalities between those children and their wealthier peers.

Start Up and Conversion Grant – This represents one off funding received from the ESFA to contribute to the cost of converting from a school to an Academy.

Donations - Donation income received for a specific purpose.

UIFSM - Income relating to Universal Infant Free School Meals to fund catering costs for qualifying pupils.

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21. Statement of funds (continued)

PE and sports grants - Relates to funding for PE and sports.

Other restricted funds - Represents other grant funding which has been provided for a specific purpose.

Devolved formula capital - This represents funding from the ESFA to cover the maintenance and purchase of assets used by the Academy.

Pension reserve – This represents the Academy's share of the assets and liabilities in the Local Government Pension Scheme. As with most pension schemes this is currently in deficit due to an excess of scheme liabilities over scheme assets which was inherited on conversion to an Academy. The Academy is following the recommendations of the actuary to reduce the deficit by making additional contributions over a number of years.

Fixed assets transferred on conversion – This represent the buildings and equipment donated to the School from the Local Authority on conversion to an Academy.

Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds - This represents fixed assets which were funded from general GAG funding.

DfE/ESFA Capital Grants including DFC - This represents the net book value of assets purchased using devolved and other capital grants and any unspent capital grants. It also includes property constructed and assigned to the Academy Trust under the free school building programme.

Other capital grants and donations – These funds are received for direct expenditure on fixed asset projects. The fixed asset fund balance at the year end represents the NBV of assets and any unspent grant amounts.

OTHER INFORMATION

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2020.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2020 were allocated as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Newport Community School Primary Academy - Core funds	370,710	340,600
Newport Community School Primary Academy - Re Devon Primary SCITT	226,503	233,329
Newport Community School Primary Academy - Unrestricted Fixed Asset Funds	114,149	116,669
Sticklepath Community Primary Academy	69,182	181,520
Eden Park Academy	37,102	43,146
Landkey Primary School	138,784	111,986
Central	38,988	98,624
The Park Community School - Core funds	231,225	284,355
The Park Community School - Unrestricted Fixed Asset Funds	324,268	312,641
Fremington Primary School	191,119	-
North Molton Primary School	102,160	-
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	1,844,190	1,722,870
Restricted fixed asset fund	41,486,959	29,235,388
Pension reserve	(8,962,000)	(5,686,000)
Total	34,369,149	25,272,258

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21. Statement of funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Newport Community School Primary Academy	1,633,924	332,590	47,122	77,067	2,090,703	2,479,041
Newport Community School Primary Academy - Re Devon Primary SCITT	-	206,482	44,591	14,141	265,214	-
Sticklepath Community Primary Academy	1,554,308	337,574	61,207	88,345	2,041,434	1,948,002
Eden Park Academy	635,675	189,971	28,987	70,633	925,266	1,031,133
Landkey Primary School	672,282	110,830	27,808	65,095	876,015	904,782
Central	215,812	222,498	47,277	118,077	603,664	393,203
The Park Community School	5,544,075	1,430,147	273,654	279,034	7,526,910	4,393,527
North Molton Primary School	69,908	10,336	2,264	3,666	86,174	-
Fremington Primary School	226,293	37,350	17,848	17,974	299,465	-
Academy Trust	10,552,277	2,877,778	550,758	734,032	14,714,845	11,149,688

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21. Statement of funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds						
Fixed asset fund - Newport	124,318	-	(7,649)	-	-	116,669
Fixed asset fund - Park	-	-	(1,571)	314,212	-	312,641
Devon Primary SCITT	192,081	379,816	(338,567)	-	-	233,330
	<u>316,399</u>	<u>379,816</u>	<u>(347,787)</u>	<u>314,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>662,640</u>
General funds						
General funds	<u>374,100</u>	<u>1,780,757</u>	<u>(1,195,719)</u>	<u>(308,712)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>650,426</u>
Total Unrestrict'd funds	<u>690,499</u>	<u>2,160,573</u>	<u>(1,543,506)</u>	<u>5,500</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,313,066</u>
Restricted general funds						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	65,648	8,017,575	(7,605,412)	(109,521)	-	368,290
High needs funding	-	159,545	(159,545)	-	-	-
Pupil premium	-	593,232	(593,232)	-	-	-
Start up and conversion grants	50,184	62,000	(112,184)	-	-	-
Donations	59	-	(59)	-	-	-
UIFSM	-	158,548	(158,548)	-	-	-
PE and sports grant	-	74,190	(72,972)	-	-	1,218
Other restricted funds	-	243,454	(243,454)	-	-	-
Devolved Formula Capital	-	107,531	(6,996)	(60,239)	-	40,296
Pension reserve	(2,290,000)	(1,933,000)	(663,000)	-	(800,000)	(5,686,000)

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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21. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
	<u>(2,174,109)</u>	<u>7,483,075</u>	<u>(9,615,402)</u>	<u>(169,760)</u>	<u>(800,000)</u>	<u>(5,276,196)</u>
Restricted fixed asset funds						
Fixed assets transferred on conversion	9,083,705	18,747,268	(316,286)	-	-	27,514,687
Fixed assets purchased from GAG and other restricted funds	250,161	-	(36,397)	109,521	-	323,285
DfE/ESFA Capital Grants	924,952	351,757	(6,210)	60,239	-	1,330,738
Other donations	47,653	-	(7,156)	-	-	40,497
Other capital grants	-	32,066	(385)	-	-	31,681
Salix loan	-	-	-	(5,500)	-	(5,500)
	<u>10,306,471</u>	<u>19,131,091</u>	<u>(366,434)</u>	<u>164,260</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>29,235,388</u>
Total Restricted funds	<u>8,132,362</u>	<u>26,614,166</u>	<u>(9,981,836)</u>	<u>(5,500)</u>	<u>(800,000)</u>	<u>23,959,192</u>
Total funds	<u>8,822,861</u>	<u>28,774,739</u>	<u>(11,525,342)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(800,000)</u>	<u>25,272,258</u>

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22. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current period

	Unrestricted funds 2020 £	Restricted funds 2020 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2020 £	Total funds 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	438,087	-	40,486,892	40,924,979
Current assets	1,100,291	1,507,370	1,005,567	3,613,228
Creditors due within one year	38,955	(1,240,513)	(5,500)	(1,207,058)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	-	(8,962,000)	-	(8,962,000)
Total	1,577,333	(8,695,143)	41,486,959	34,369,149

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period

	Unrestricted funds 2019 £	Restricted funds 2019 £	Restricted fixed asset funds 2019 £	Total funds 2019 £
Tangible fixed assets	429,310	-	29,177,037	29,606,347
Current assets	883,756	1,561,030	63,851	2,508,637
Creditors due within one year	-	(1,151,226)	(5,500)	(1,156,726)
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	-	(5,686,000)	-	(5,686,000)
Total	1,313,066	(5,276,196)	29,235,388	25,272,258

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23. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	10,664,891	17,249,397
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation	511,616	375,654
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(1,158,204)	(107,531)
Interest receivable	(5,947)	(1,238)
Defined benefit pension scheme obligation inherited	869,000	1,933,000
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	731,000	578,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	108,000	85,000
Increase in stocks	(5,996)	(38,257)
Increase in debtors	(41,646)	(422,699)
Increase in creditors	50,332	662,244
Tangible fixed assets transferred from local authority on conversion and from the ESFA as part of the Free Schools Building Programme	(11,366,000)	(18,747,268)
Net cash provided by operating activities	357,046	1,566,302

24. Cash flows from financing activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash inflows from new borrowing	-	5,000
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	5,000

25. Cash flows from investing activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	5,947	1,238
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(464,240)	(803,944)
Capital grants from DfE Group	154,043	107,531
Net cash used in investing activities	(304,250)	(695,175)

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26. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2020 £	2019 £
Cash in hand	725,260	677,768
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	1,005,304	1,000,000
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,730,564	1,677,768

27. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2019 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	1,677,768	52,796	1,730,564
Debt due within 1 year	(5,500)	-	(5,500)
	1,672,268	52,796	1,725,064

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28. Conversion to an academy trust

On 1 July 2020 Fremington Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Tarka Learning Partnership from Devon County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets				
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	2,385,000	2,385,000
Current assets				
Cash - representing budget surplus on LA funds	171,340	-	-	171,340
LGPS pension surplus/(deficit)	-	(642,000)	-	(642,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>171,340</u>	<u>(642,000)</u>	<u>2,385,000</u>	<u>1,914,340</u>

On 1 July 2020 North Molton Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to Tarka Learning Partnership from Devon County Council for £NIL consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet under the appropriate heading with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net gain in the Statement of Financial Activities as Income from Donations and Capital Grants - transfer from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the Statement of Financial Activities.

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets				
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	1,595,000	1,595,000
Current assets				
Cash - representing budget surplus on LA funds	79,187	-	-	79,187

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28. Conversion to an academy trust (continued)

LGPS pension surplus/(deficit)	-	(227,000)	-	(227,000)
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>79,187</u>	<u>(227,000)</u>	<u>1,595,000</u>	<u>1,447,187</u>

29. Capital commitments

	2020 £	2019 £
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	68,397

30. Pension commitments

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

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

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

30. Pension commitments (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2023.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,432,769 (2019 - £724,857).

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

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

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2020 was £769,000 (2019 - £555,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £587,000 (2019 - £418,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 182,000 (2019 - £132,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.6 per cent plus £96,000 per annum for employers and 7.5-12.5 per cent for employees.

As described in note 28 the LGPS obligation includes the employees of the Academy Trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversions from the maintained schools and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversions represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor schools and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to a guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding Local Government Pension Scheme liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. The guarantee came into force on 18 July 2013.

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30. Pension commitments (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2020	2019
	%	%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.25	3.65
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.25	2.15
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	1.60	1.90
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.25	2.15

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

	2020	2019
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.9	22.5
Females	24.1	24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.3	24.2
Females	25.5	26.2

Sensitivity analysis

	2020	2019
	£000	£000
Discount rate +0.1%	(384)	(269)
Discount rate -0.1%	394	277
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	535	353
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	(517)	(341)
CPI rate +0.1%	345	237
CPI rate -0.1%	(336)	(230)

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30. Pension commitments (continued)

The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	2020 £	2019 £
Equities	3,793,000	2,493,000
Gilts	225,000	146,000
Other bonds	299,000	79,000
Property	505,000	364,000
Cash and other liquid assets	73,000	56,000
Target return portfolio	800,000	584,000
Infrastructure and alternative assets	660,000	377,000
Private equity	-	76,000
Total market value of assets	6,355,000	4,175,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £22,000 (2019 - £201,000).

The amounts recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities are as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Current service cost	(1,318,000)	(845,000)
Past service cost	-	(151,000)
Interest income	85,000	82,000
Interest cost	(193,000)	(167,000)
Net liability arising from converting schools joining the Academy Trust	(869,000)	(1,933,000)
Total amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities	(2,295,000)	(3,014,000)

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

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	9,861,000	4,346,000
Conversion of academy trusts	1,455,000	3,285,000
Current service cost	1,318,000	845,000
Interest cost	193,000	167,000
Employee contributions	182,000	132,000
Actuarial losses	2,373,000	918,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(65,000)	17,000
Past service costs including curtailments	-	151,000
At 31 August	15,317,000	9,861,000

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30. Pension commitments (continued)

Changes in the fair value of the Academy Trust's share of scheme assets were as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
At 1 September	4,175,000	2,056,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	586,000	1,352,000
Expected return on assets	88,000	83,000
Actuarial gains	805,000	118,000
Employer contributions	587,000	418,000
Employee contributions	182,000	132,000
Benefits paid net of transfers in	(65,000)	17,000
Admin expenses	(3,000)	(1,000)
At 31 August	6,355,000	4,175,000

31. Operating lease commitments

At 31 August 2020 the Academy Trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020 £	2019 £
Not later than 1 year	29,289	24,275
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	53,662	27,510
	82,951	51,785

32. Members' liability

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

33. General information

Tarka Learning Partnership is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales under number 07700494. The registered office is Roundswell Community Primary Academy, Claypits Road, Roundswell, Barnstaple, Devon, England, EX31 3WJ.

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34. Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook, including notifying the ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the Academy Trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

During the year a trustee's wife was employed at the trust and received gross remuneration of £10,713.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 12.

35. Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes income received on behalf of the Devon Teaching School Partnership in accordance with the Devon Teaching School Partnership instructions. In the year ended 31 August 2020 the Academy Trust received £73,777 (2019: £96,925) and distributed £79,850 (2018: £81,267) on behalf of the partnership. At 31 August 2020 an amount of £44,225 (2019: £50,298) was included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is payable to the Devon Teaching School Partnership.

The Academy Trust distributes music grant received on behalf of The Park Cluster in accordance with the Devon Teaching School Partnership instructions. In the year ended 31 August 2020 the Academy Trust received £2,880 (2019: £2,880) and distributed £494 (2019: £490) on behalf of the partnership. At 31 August 2020 an amount of £8,298 (2019: £6,002) was included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that is payable to The Park Cluster.

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36. SCITT trading account

	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Income				
Direct income				
Tuition fees	252,063		360,050	
Other income				
Other	7,600		19,766	
Total income		259,663		379,816
Expenditure				
Direct expenditure				
Direct staff costs	132,903		172,493	
Course expenses	106,693		127,559	
Other direct costs	13,649		14,458	
Total direct expenditure	253,245		314,510	
Other expenditure				
Other staff costs	3,673		1,314	
Other support costs	9,572		22,743	
Total other expenditure	13,245		24,057	
Total expenditure		266,490		338,567
(Deficit)/surplus from all sources		(6,827)		41,249
SCITT balances brought forwards		233,330		192,081
SCITT balances carried forwards		226,503		233,330