

Lighthouse Learning Trust  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)  
Annual Report and Financial Statements  
Year ended 31 August 2023

Company Registration Number:  
10819176 (England and Wales)



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

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# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

### **Members:**

A Banks (resigned 2 May 2023)  
L Docherty  
E Flaherty  
D Lloyd  
C Manning  
R Woolley

### **Trustees:**

M Ahmed (appointed 27 September 2022)  
D Canham  
T Cardy  
L Docherty (resigned 4 July 2023)  
L Edwards  
E Flaherty (resigned 4 July 2023)  
A Foss  
R Hall  
T Hayes (appointed 1 September 2023)  
Z Huggins  
G Prewitt (appointed 13 December 2022)  
M Steel (appointed 24 April 2023)  
A Thompson (resigned 25 November 2022)  
N Weston

### **Company Secretary**

A McVittie

### **Senior Management Team:**

A Berry	Chief Executive Officer and Principal, Richard Taunton College from 22 April 2023
A Born	Chief Financial Officer
A Grant	Principal, St Vincent College
P Swindale	Principal, Richard Taunton College (resigned 21 April 2023)

### **Company Name**

Lighthouse Learning Trust

### **Principal and Registered Office**

c/o St Vincent College  
Mill Lane  
Gosport  
Hampshire  
PO12 4QA

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

### **Company Registration Number**

10819176 (England and Wales)

### **Independent Auditor**

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House

Mayflower Close

Chandlers Ford

Eastleigh

Hampshire

SO53 4AR

### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank Plc

25 Gresham St

London

EC2V 7HN

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Lighthouse Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust which operates two academies, St Vincent College, and Richard Taunton College. Both academies were previously established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. St Vincent College and Richard Taunton College Corporations dissolved on 31 October 2017 and their respective activities, assets, liabilities, and staff transferred to the Lighthouse Learning Trust. The company was incorporated on 14 June 2017 but was dormant until 1 November 2017.

### **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 Lighthouse Learning Trust are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as Lighthouse Learning Trust. Details of the Trustees who served during the year and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

#### **Members' Liability**

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

#### **Trustees' Indemnities**

Trustees benefit from indemnity insurance purchased at the 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 wrongful act of which they may be guilty in relation to the Academy Trust. The insurance does 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 to the costs of any unsuccessful defence to a criminal prosecution brought against the Trustees in their capacity as Directors of the Academy Trust.

#### **Method of Recruitment and Appointment or Election of Trustees**

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Trust's Articles of Association. The Members may appoint up to 12 Trustees (Article 50). Parent Trustees or Parent Local Governors may be elected or appointed (Article 54). Trustees may Co-opt additional Trustees, including staff Trustees subject to limitations (Article 58). The disqualification of Trustees is dealt with by Articles 68-80. The Governance and Succession Planning Committee oversees the Trust's Search process, and this is explained in more detail in the Corporate Governance statement. The Trust seeks to attract Trustees with a range of diverse skills and backgrounds in order to provide the Trust Board with the best possible advice and support.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Policies and Procedures Adopted for the Induction and Training of Trustees**

All Trustees receive support from their Board colleagues and from the Governance Manager. Additionally, the Trust Chair operates an on-going programme of one-to-one review sessions with individual Trustees in order to identify any areas of support that they may require in order to fulfil their roles. Trustees also receive regular internal training regarding their duties and responsibilities. The Governance Manager/Company Secretary participates in professional governance networks and is able to share best practice with Trustees where this is identified. A Trustees' Skills & Experience audit was completed during the year, and this is repeated annually. An annual governance self-assessment is also completed against core elements of the Charity Code. This year an external review of the Trust's governance was also commissioned. These approaches continue to inform the on-going development and training of Trustees.

### **Organisational Structure**

The Senior Management Team consists of:

- Chief Executive Officer of Lighthouse Learning Trust, and Principal Richard Taunton College Principal of St Vincent College
- Principal of Richard Taunton College (until 30 April 2023, interim in place for the remainder of the year)
- Chief Financial Officer
- Deputy Principal
- Group Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality
- Group Vice Principal Student Services and Experience
- Group Director People
- Group Director MIS and Services
- Director of Estates and Safety

The Chief Executive Officer of the Lighthouse Learning Trust is the Accounting Officer.

The committee structure of the Board of Trustees consists of:

- Governance and Succession Planning Committee
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Finance and Resources Committee
- Quality & Stakeholder Committee
- Trust Development Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Local Governing Bodies

In accordance with the Trust's Scheme of Delegation, all Committees are chaired by Trustees. Local Governors are encouraged to join Board Committees where they have specific skills and experience to contribute. However, with the exception of Local Governing Bodies, Trustees always form the majority of Board sub-Committee memberships.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Arrangements for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel

In its role as the legal employer, the Board of Trustees is responsible for agreeing the Pay Policy on an annual basis. The Remuneration Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the Board regarding remuneration of the Trust's leadership. Further details regarding the remit of this Committee can be found in the Corporate Governance statement. All pay decisions are made finally by the Board of Trustees.

### Trade union facility time

#### *Relevant union officials*

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
2	1.44

#### *Percentage of time spent on facility time*

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	2
51%-99%	-
100%	-

#### *Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time*

Total cost of facility time	£2,759
Total pay bill	£9.2m
Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time	0.03%

#### *Paid trade union activities*

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	11%
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### Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

The Trust works in partnership with local secondary schools in and around Southampton, Gosport, and Fareham, directly and through the Southampton Education Forum which brings together Southampton schools, colleges, and the local authority with the aim of supporting quality improvement.

We also have good links with our local universities in Southampton, Portsmouth, Winchester, and beyond. We work with the Wessex Group, a group of Hampshire colleges to collaborate over curriculum development, staff training and development.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations (continued)**

In line with other multi academy trusts, academies, colleges and universities, Lighthouse Learning Trust has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students
- Parents
- Local schools
- Education sector Funding Bodies
- The Regional Schools Commissioner
- Staff
- Local employers (with specific links)
- Hampshire County Council, Southampton City Council and Gosport Borough Council
- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- The local community
- Other FE institutions
- Trade unions and
- Professional bodies

The Trust recognises the importance of these relationships and follows a communication plan with each of these groups ensuring information is relevant and engaging. All communication is within the purpose of an Education Trust and aims to improve relationships and partnerships in the interest of student achievement and experience.

### **Engagement with employees (including disabled persons)**

The Trust is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We respect and value positively differences in race, gender and gender identity, parental and marital status, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief and age. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage, and we will actively combat discrimination. Our policy is resourced, implemented, and monitored on a planned basis. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policies are published on our college websites. The Trust publishes an Annual Equality Statement, and each college proposes a set of equality objectives together with an action plan.

The Trust considers all employment applications from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned, and guarantees an interview to any disabled applicant who meets the essential criteria for the post. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the Trust continues. The Trust's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion which, as far as possible, provide identical opportunities to those of non-disabled employees.

The Trust carries out regular Equality & Diversity training for all staff.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Disability statement**

The Trust seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010:

- a) Lifts and ramps have been installed so that most college facilities are accessible to people with a disability.
- b) There is a list of specialist equipment, such as laptop computers with specialist software, adaptive aids for computer usage which the Trust can make available for use by students and staff.
- c) The Trust has made a significant investment in the appointment of specialist staff to support students with learning difficulties and / or disabilities who can provide a variety of support for learning.
- d) There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and / or disabilities.
- e) Specialist programmes are described in Trust prospectuses, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published.
- f) Counselling and welfare services are described in each college's student guides.

### **Engagement with suppliers, customers, and others in a business relationship with the trust**

The trust seeks to engage fairly and efficiently with suppliers, customers, and others in a business relationship with the trust through sound business and financial practices. For suppliers, these practices include including clear and transparent communications, the use of procurement frameworks, issuing of purchase orders, prompt payment and other good procurement practices. For customers, we use tariffs for goods and services, professional valuations for property related transactions, we issue invoices and use an online payment system for students, parents, and lettings customers.

### **Objectives and Activities**

#### **Objects and Aims**

The Lighthouse Learning Trust was established to enhance opportunity for its students, staff, community, and region. Its vision is to deliver educational excellence ensuring individuals thrive and make a positive change to their communities and the economy. The Trust's mission is to offer outstanding career focused education, training, and opportunity for everyone to unlock their potential. The Trust's values are summarised as Respect, Responsibility, and Ambition.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Objectives, Strategies and Activities**

#### *Strategic Plan*

The Trusts' Strategic Plan 2022-2027 is driven by the needs of the local education requirements, Government policy and opportunities for growth to secure a viable and sustainable future for the Trust and the education and training it provides. Progress against the plan is reviewed annually and updates are made in agreement with the Trust Board and Senior Leadership team.

Our Strategic Plan is titled "Delivering excellence. Unlocking Futures" and it has the following ambitions:

- Be an outstanding post-16 provider in the region
- Be an outstanding pre-16 education collaborator with excellent governance services and support
- Deliver excellent outcomes and progression with the highest quality student experience
- Partner with ambitious institutions, businesses, and organisations to offer growth and opportunity for all
- Have good financial health enabling investment in our staff, environment, and community
- Champion sustainability, understand our impact globally and work with stakeholders to have a long-term impact.

### **Public Benefit**

Lighthouse Learning Trust is an exempt charity under part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The Directors, who are Trustees of the charitable company, are disclosed on page 1. The Board of Trustees has due regard for the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and particularly upon its supplementary guidance on the advancement of education. The guidance sets out the requirement that all organisations wishing to be recognised as charities must demonstrate, explicitly, that their aims are for the public benefit.

In delivering its mission, the Academy Trust provides the following identifiable public benefits through the advancement of education:

- High-quality teaching
- Widening participation and supporting social mobility
- Excellent progression record for students including employment and further and higher education and training
- Strong student support systems, reaching the most vulnerable in our community
- Links with employers, industry, and commerce.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Strategic Report

#### **Achievements and Performance**

##### *Student achievement*

The past five years for our students have been very challenging and this academic year has seen a significant rise in the level of wrap around support our students require. Our students have successfully progressed during their time with us, and our results have seen excellent high grades being reached in some subjects. Achievement at Level 2 and across our foundation courses has been mixed.

Both colleges have an intake of students from a range of disadvantaged backgrounds, with a proportion progressing to university that is significantly above local averages. Compared to national averages the proportion of students who improve their GCSE English and Mathematics grades is good.

The Trust is committed to offering a broad curriculum as well as extra curriculum opportunities to help students develop their character strengths, including resilience. This year has also seen planning for the introduction of a T-Level offer for 2023/24 to bring further breadth and strong employer relationships to create progression opportunities.

##### *Headline results*

Outcomes for 2022/23 continue to be difficult to compare, as in reality this year's outcomes are for a cohort of young people who are engaging in exams for the first time with GCSE results being centre and/or teacher assessed. The grade boundaries have also been adjusted this year to bring outcomes in line with pre-covid rates.

In addition to this, the extent of disruption to students' education varies hugely between individuals and groups, and students' starting points following the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) and Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) process cannot be guaranteed as consistent.

The outcomes data tables on the following two pages show headline outcomes across the Trust. Retention has been a challenge at both colleges. Pass rates at both colleges are, on average, in line with 2018/19. This is due in part to students struggling with the pressures of assessment having never taken public exams.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Achievements and Performance (continued)

Richard Taunton Sixth Form									
Year	Retention	Retention National Rate	Difference	Pass Rate	Pass Rate National	Difference	Achievement Rate	Achievement Rate National	Difference
22/23	81.9	90.4	-8.5	83.8	92.4	-8.6	68.7	83.6	-14.9
21/22	80.4	88.2	-7.8	84.3	96.4	-12.1	67.8	85.0	-17.2
18/19	78.5	88.2	-9.7	93.6	96.4	-2.8	73.5	85.0	-19.7

St Vincent College									
Year	Retention	Retention National Rate	Difference	Pass Rate	Pass Rate National	Difference	Achievement Rate	Achievement Rate National	Difference
22/23	84.9	90.4	-5.5	91.5	92.4	-0.9	77.7	83.6	-5.9
21/22	86.5	88.2	-1.7	82.7	96.4	-13.7	71.5	85.0	-13.5
18/19	84.6	88.2	-3.6	91.5	96.4	-4.9	77.4	85.0	-7.6

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Achievements and Performance (continued)**

#### *Inspection*

Richard Taunton College continues to build on the very strong inspection in February 2022 when it was graded as '2-Good' across all areas and areas of provision. It was noted that teaching and learning has outstanding features.

St Vincent College was inspected in December 2018 and graded as '2-Good' across all areas. Vocational teaching and learning was described as Outstanding. The college was inspected in December 2023 and we are awaiting publication of its grading as at the date of signature of the financial statements.

#### *Curriculum developments*

The Trust has a developing curriculum planning process that explores our curriculum offer and approves the education offer and intent for the following three academic years. This process takes a range of factors into account:

- Historical pathways and teacher expertise.
- Local Skills Plans and employer and industry needs
- Local community support in terms of English, Math and ESOL
- Department for Education drivers

Both colleges have used the curriculum review effectively to ensure the education and training needs of our students, community and local and regional industries are met.

Both colleges offer A levels (Richard Taunton Sixth Form on a larger scale than St Vincent College) and general vocational courses. Other courses include Level 2 pathways that will enable students to build character strengths, foundation skills and knowledge as well as English and/or Maths GCSEs as a supportive year before progressing to the next level of study through a variety of impartially promoted options including A Levels, Level 3 Vocational, BTECs, Apprenticeships and Upskilling and Retraining courses.

St Vincent College also offers a Foundation (level 1) programme and provides a range of courses for learners with Educational and Health Care (EHC) Plans within its School of Personalised learning. This area of provision has grown to meet the demand locally and across the region. Richard Taunton has seen a small increase in students with EHC Plans and is working with agencies across Southampton to build further provision for the future. The shared expertise across the trust will be invaluable to ensuring a high quality SEND provision.

Both colleges have seen capital investment projects completed in preparation for our new T-Levels delivery from September 2023. Both colleges have two new facilities, a hospital ward and a digital suite to welcome students studying on the T-Levels Health and Digital pathways.

The Trust maintains formal procedures for quality assurance and self-assessment. These are reviewed annually, culminating in the production of a Self-Assessment Report which is validated by Local Governors each December.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Achievements and Performance (continued)**

#### *Covid-19 Legacy*

The Trust has continued to respond to the legacy of covid in the form of additional health and wellbeing support for students and staff.

The longer-term impact of Covid is at the forefront of the Trust's thinking, with particular attention on the impact on the most vulnerable in the communities we serve. Both colleges have enhanced the initial assessment process to ensure the correct level of study is selected for each student, as well as planning additional support as early as possible.

Both colleges utilised ESFA funding for catch up activities with our students, through small group and one-to-one tuition.

As noted above, we believe students' results were impacted by the disruption of the previous two years.

#### *Financial Objectives*

The main purpose of the Trust's Financial Strategy is to ensure that the Academy Trust's objectives as set out in the Strategic Plan are achieved whilst at the same time, maintaining the financial viability and sustainability of the Trust.

The key objectives of the financial strategy are:

- To ensure financial viability and sustainability
- To generate a sustainable operating surplus before interest and depreciation
- To attract and retain the best staff by ensuring salaries are attractive
- To ensure that sufficient funds are available to enable the maintenance and improvement of the accommodation and equipment
- To maintain positive relationships with our bankers, auditors, and the Funding Bodies

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Achievements and Performance (continued)

A series of financial performance indicators have been agreed to monitor the financial position:

Financial Performance Indicator	Target	Actual as at 31 August 2023	Actual as at 31 August 2022	Actual as at 31 August 2021
Earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) as % of income (note 1)	3.00%	0.5%	18.9%	-16.6%
Operating cash flow		(2,215)	552	(1,049)
Cash days	50	81	50	33
Adjusted current ratio	1.4	1.7	2.2	1.1
Borrowings as % of income	0.00%	1.3%	1.5%	2.9%
Staff costs as % of income (excluding Restructuring costs and LGPS pension adjustment)	75%	73.8%	78.1%	90.6%
Reliance on ESFA income	80%	80%	76%	82%

#### Note 1:

- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £1,736,332 (2022: £1,846,591) of Condition Improvement Fund capital grants receivable from the ESFA, and £2,610,846 of costs (2022: £96,675).
- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £nil (2022: £97,811) of Urgent Capital Support receivable from the ESFA for roof repair/replacement projects, and £nil costs (2022: £103,958).
- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £nil (2022: £358,886) of Post 16 Capacity fund receivable from the ESFA for increased carpentry facilities for students, and £178,079 costs (2022: £151,206), of which £178,079 (2022: £nil) has been capitalised as fixed assets.
- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £nil (2022: £444,214) of T Levels Capital Fund Building and Facilities Improvement Grants from the ESFA for creation of T Levels Capital facilities at both colleges, and £367,644 of costs (2022: £nil).
- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £710,420 (2022: £nil) of T Levels Specialist Equipment Allocation Grants from the ESFA at both colleges, and £195,375 of costs (2022: £nil) of which £91,049 (2022: £nil) has been capitalised as tangible fixed assets.
- The year ended 31 August 2023 included £nil (2022: £144,001) of Skills Development Fund grants from the DfE, and £42,932 (2022: £121,227) of costs, of which £42,932 (2022: £113,513) has been capitalised as tangible fixed assets.
- The 3% target is for operational surplus excluding grant funded condition works and grant funded capital projects.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Key Performance Indicators

The Trust sets targets at curriculum, college, and Trust level. These are reviewed each year. College curriculum teams carry out annual self-assessment.

The curriculum targets focus on the following headline targets:

- Student progression to higher levels of study
- Student achievement – raw and value-added
- Student recruitment
- Quality of teaching and Student Voice

The college and Trust level targets focus on:

- Financial Health indicators
- Generation of commercial income
- Low staff absence

### 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 charitable company to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of signing of these financial statements. In order to make this assessment the Trustees consider evidence including the Trust's five-year forecast, which includes a cash flow forecast, and a more detailed 12 month forecast. They also consider the stated intentions of the Department for Education in terms of funding per student, funding for teachers pay and pension increases, and other funding.

The Trust had a healthy level of cash at the end of 2023. As a result of continued tight control over pay and non-pay, increased funding per student from the ESFA, securing significant investment from the ESFA for repairing roofs and for developing facilities for students, and despite inflationary increases in costs that have outstripped funding increases, Trustees have concluded that there is a reasonable expectation that Trust will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Promoting the success of the company**

The Companies Act 2006 (section 172) specifies that Directors have a duty to promote the success of the company as follows:

A director of a company must act in the way that she or he considers, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the company for the benefit of its members as a whole, and in doing so have regard (amongst other matters) to—

- a) the likely consequences of any decision in the long term,
- b) the interests of the company's employees,
- c) the need to foster the company's business relationships with suppliers, customers, and others,
- d) the impact of the company's operations on the community and the environment,
- e) the desirability of the company maintaining a reputation for high standards of business conduct, and
- f) the need to act fairly as between members of the company.

The Directors of Lighthouse Learning Trust are committed to furthering the objects of the Trust in a manner that demonstrates regard for its key stakeholders which include students, staff, parents, suppliers, and members of the wider community. The Board believes that this approach is best secured through enthusiastic adherence to the principles of good and inclusive governance. To this end the Trust ensures that students, parents, and staff have an opportunity to serve as Local Governors at each of the Trust's colleges. This helps the Board to understand the different perspectives of each stakeholder group and to have regard for these in its decision-making. Stakeholders are also regularly surveyed and this data is reviewed and acted upon by the Board. Plans are in place to further enhance Student Voice as a key element in determining and monitoring the quality of the Trust's colleges.

In 2022-23, Trustees continued to review the strategic direction of the Trust and its colleges. They review financial planning over a five-year period which has helped to ensure that Trustees remain sensitive to the long-term consequences of decisions being made by the Board. In doing so, the Board has been proactive in consulting with funding bodies as these are also key stakeholders. The same approach has been applied to the consideration of plans for collaboration with other local providers of education with a view to being able to provide communities with a curriculum that best meets their needs, both now and in the future. Trustees do not believe that short-termism and/or unnecessary local competition are in the best interests of students.

The Trust believes that a decisive and results driven approach to decision-making and high standards of governance and operational practice will help to ensure that the promotion of its success is of benefit to all. Trustees have received training about their duties as Directors under the Companies Act, and this is refreshed regularly.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Financial Review

The Trust receives the majority of its funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants paid on a monthly basis. The grants received during the period are shown as 'restricted funds' in the Statement of Financial Activities. During the period ended 31 August 2023 the Trust had total income of £14.7 (2022: £14.5m). Of this £9.7m (2022: £8.8m) was received from the ESFA in respect of its General Annual Grant and other DfE / ESFA grants and used for its day to day running costs. Total income receivable in 2023 included £2.6m (2022: £2.9m) of income in respect of capital projects and T Levels Specialist Equipment funds for both colleges. Expenditure on these projects in 2022-23 totalled £3.1m (2022: £691k). Income of £1.7m (2022: £1.9m) was received from Local Authorities in respect of provision for High Needs students.

The Trust benefited from Devolved Formula Capital grants of £117k (2022: £40k). This money is used for maintenance projects and to invest in our resources.

The Trust received T levels Specialist Equipment funding to provide high quality equipment and facilities for students. The Trust started delivering T levels Digital and T levels Health and Care in September 2023.

The Trust generated the following results at operating level, excluding capital project income and expenditure:

	<b>Year to August 2023 £k</b>	<b>Year to August 2022 £k</b>	<b>Year to August 2021 £k</b>
Operating Surplus/(Deficit) excluding FRS102 pension adjustments	(1,467)	1,186	(3,404)
Earnings/(Loss) Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation ("EBITDA")	72	2,742	(1,795)

The Trust had total net funds as at 31st August 2023 of £37.4m (2022: £37.7m). At 31st August 2023, the net book value of fixed assets was £36.1m (2022: £37.1m). Movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements.

The closing level of unrestricted and restricted reserves (excluding fixed asset reserves and the LGPS deficit) stands at a deficit of £29k (2022: a deficit of £441k).

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Reserves Policy**

Trustees regularly review the finances, budgets and spend against budgets as part of the effective stewardship of the trust. Multi academy trusts are expected to create reserves from their annual funding. In recent years this has been difficult due to the ongoing impact of lower student numbers which in turn results in lower funding income, three successive years of Covid-19 affecting commercial income, and inflationary increases in costs exceeding income increases. The Trust has ended the period with total reserves of £37.4m (2022: £37.7m). Within this the restricted fund balance is £25k (2022: a deficit of £1,331k), which includes the LGPS pension reserve deficit of £218k (2022: £1,442k). However, this does not mean that an immediate liability for this amount crystallises. The restricted and unrestricted revenue reserves balance is a deficit of £29k (2022: a deficit of £441k). Within this, the reserves for Richard Taunton college are a deficit of £1,297k (2022: deficit £1,462k). The College aims to clear the deficit balance by completing the work described in the Future Developments section.

The Trust aims to continue to accumulate reserves and cash balances to enable future capital development, finance the Trust's working capital and provide contingency against the risks and uncertainties in running a trust. During the 12-month period the trust has invested in its facilities, including IT equipment at both colleges, and further improvements to the buildings. The Trustees consider an ongoing bank balance of £1.5m to be a reasonable level of cash for normal purposes.

### **Treasury Management and Investment Policy**

Treasury Management is the management of the Trust's cash flows and banking transactions; the effective control of risks associated with these activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with the associated risks. The Trust has an Investment Policy in place which restricts the institutions that funds may be placed with to a small number of high credit ratings.

During the period, there was no short-term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes. The Trust has two loans with the ESFA; one for £155k which replaced the bank loan of Richard Taunton College with Barclays Bank, the other is for £275k and represents a loan to assist with the conversion of the two colleges into academies and the creation of the multi academy trust. The total balance as at 31 August 2023 was £186k (2022: £213k). Both loans bear interest of 4.05%. Repayments to the ESFA were originally payable in five equal instalments commencing in December 2019. The first instalment payment was not in fact requested until June 2020. The second instalment was paid in December 2020, and the third in August 2022. During the year we asked the ESFA to amend the repayment schedule for the specific purpose of enabling funding of the replacement of a proportion of the Trust's obsolete fluorescent lighting with LED lighting. The ESFA agreed to new repayment terms which require repayment of £27.5k in August 2023, £27.5k in December 2023, £79k in December 2024, and £79k in December 2025. All borrowing requires the authorisation of the Trustees and must comply with the requirements of the Funding Agreement agreed with the ESFA.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The system of internal control maintained by the Trust includes financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the assets and reputation.

A Risk Register is maintained at the Trust, which is reviewed on a regular basis by the Senior Management Team, and at each meeting of the Audit & Risk Committee. The Risk Register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the Trust and the actions being undertaken to reduce and mitigate the risk. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system. This is supported by risk management training and awareness of risks throughout the Trust. During the year a Risk Management Policy was developed and was approved by Trustees. The Trust also commissioned a review of its Risk Management by its internal auditors, which review indicated reasonable assurance. Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that may affect the Trust. Not all the factors are within the Trust's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the Trust.

#### *1. Student numbers*

Student recruitment has been a challenge for both colleges. Numbers declined from the start of the Trust in 2017 up until 2021-22, after which we have started to see some growth. The years of declining numbers had a significant impact on the financial position of the Trust. We consider local data and intelligence, including young people demographics, curriculum offer of local post 16 providers, and internal progression data, which suggests student numbers will continue to grow in 2024-25 and 2025-26. The launch of T levels provision in September 2023, combined with our career focused curriculum offer is supporting our ambitions to grow our student numbers.

#### *2. Government funding (strategic and financial risk)*

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Central and Local Government funding from the ESFA and Hampshire County Council. In the period, 94% of the Academy Trust's revenue was ultimately publicly funded. There can be no assurance that Government policy and practice will remain the same, or that public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms. The increase in the base rate of funding for 16–19-year-olds from September 2023, announced in December 2022, was welcome, albeit the inflation assumptions made by the Treasury at that point to calculate the increases have proved to be materially too low. Equally welcome was the confirmation that the ESFA would fund the increased employers' contribution to the Teachers' Pension Scheme for a further year from September 2023. Uncertainties over funding remain beyond August 2024.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)

The Trust is aware of the following issues:

- Future potential changes in the funding methodology which may result in a change in funding for post 16 students.
- Funding of teacher pay increases that exceed core student funding increases
- Future changes in the funding of High Needs students, which in part comes from Local Government, is subject to in-year fluctuation and varies between councils. Local Authority funding does not fully take into account inflationary and pay increases in the education sector
- The risk of changing the curriculum offer in line with other or new local providers.
- Changes in emphasis to more technical education arising from Government policy.

The risks are mitigated in a number of ways:

- The Trust has a robust marketing strategy and digital engagement plan along with local school engagement strategies to ensure student numbers are maintained and demographic growth potential is maximised.
- By ensuring the Trust is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- Ensuring the Trust is focussed on those priorities which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Continued dialogue with the Funding Body and the Local Authorities, particularly with regard to High Needs student funding.
- Continued development of central services provision to ensure value for money.

### *3. Increases in national teacher pay awards, Teachers Pension and Local Government pension Scheme*

The Trust is exposed to the risk of increases in the Teachers' Pension and Local Government Pension Schemes, over which it has no control and which may become unaffordable. In addition it considers it needs to remain competitive with national pay awards in order to attract and retain good staff. The risk of national pay awards exceeding the Trust's projections has increased with the current high levels of inflation and national cost of living crisis. The risk is mitigated by robust budgeting and forecasting, early consideration of the need to make savings where necessary and seeking efficiencies and economies of scale from the Trust structure.

### *4. Changes to level 3 Qualifications including T levels (strategic risk)*

The post-16 education landscape continues to have uncertainties, which in turn creates a risk. There are ongoing challenges within the sector around the future of applied general qualifications, the introduction of T-Levels and the need to have a post-16 education offer that can meet the skills requirements to deliver economic recovery and in turn growth. The Senior Management Team keep up to date with sector intelligence and ensures findings are at the centre of our strategic thinking and planning. The Trust has engaged with T Levels and was successful with bids to the T Levels Capital Fund for both colleges, which provided funding to create modern and fit for purpose T levels facilities and delivery has started using those facilities.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Principal Risks and Uncertainties (continued)**

#### *5. Non-compliance with legislation*

There is a considerable range of legislation that the Trust must comply with, including Safeguarding and Prevent, employment law, Disability Discrimination, health and safety, General Data Protection Regulation. There are risks of non-compliance resulting in fines and reputational damage. The trust ensures staff inductions and training are carried out. Internal audit reviews and professional advice is procured where necessary to ensure staff are able to ensure compliance. Senior management team meetings regularly consider our ability to respond to legal changes and developments and remain compliant.

#### *6. Reliance on income from lettings and commercial activity*

The Trust experienced a significant fall in income during 2019-20 as a result of the lockdown, which prevented it from hiring out its facilities and finding tenants to rent surplus buildings and these shortfalls had a direct and material impact on the financial position leading to lower reserves. Continued economic uncertainty and cost of living challenges increase the risk of not achieving commercial income targets.

#### *7. Provision of adequate buildings and IT equipment*

The age, number and complexity of the Trusts' buildings and IT equipment at both college sites means there is a significant cost to maintaining and repairing the buildings that is not encompassed within its main student funding streams. The Trust commissions building condition and other types of survey and professional guidance, such as for Decarbonisation planning, at both sites to enable objective assessment of condition and estimated costs of repair. The Trust uses the Devolved Formula Capital grants of £117k (2022: £43k) for maintenance projects and to invest in our buildings and IT assets. It bids for funds from the Department for Education for urgent repairs and replacements and following successful bids has carried out significant roof repair works both colleges during the year. It has also secured funding for further significant pipework and emitter replacements at both colleges, with the majority of the work on these projects now complete.

### **Fundraising**

The Trust is predominantly funded by the ESFA based upon the submission of student data returns on a periodic basis to the Department for Education. The Trust engaged more actively in fundraising by making a number of bids to donors on a local, regional, and national basis. The Trust does not contract with any external agencies to fundraise on its behalf.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

	Period 1st Sept 21 to 31st Aug 2023	Period 1st Sept 20 to 31st Aug 2022
UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use		
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	2,353,088	2,560,616
<i>Scope 1 – Emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</i>		
Gas consumption	275	310
Owned Transport	7	5
Total Scope 1	282	315
<i>Scope 2 - Emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</i>		
Purchased Electricity	161	188
<i>Scope 3 – Emissions in metric tonnes Co<sub>2</sub>e</i>		
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	15	10
Total Gross emissions in metric tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	458	513
<i>Intensity Ratio</i>		
Tonnes Co <sub>2</sub> e per Pupil	0.23	0.24

### 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 2023 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company reporting.

### Intensity measurement

The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.

### Measures taken to improve energy efficiency

We continue to use video conferencing technology for staff meetings, to reduce the need for travel between sites and meetings with stakeholders. As and when roofs are replaced, we install insulation. The building improvement works funded through Condition Improvement Fund, and T levels Capital incorporate energy efficiency measures into their design. We will be replacing a proportion of fluorescent lighting at both colleges, funded by a spend to save request to re-schedule the payment terms of our existing loan with the ESFA. We have developed our recording and analysis of energy consumption to inform future energy plans.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting (continued)**

The Trust was not successful in its bid to Phase 4 of the Low Carbon Skills Fund. We continue to review and develop existing decarbonisation plans for each college, as well as to understand the opportunities for applying for future rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund (PSDF).

We continue to seek funding to enable us to replace energy inefficient lighting with LED lighting, replace single glazing with double glazing, improve insulation and install solar PV.

### **Current and Future Development and Performance**

#### *Staffing*

The Trust considers good communication with its staff and students to be very important and publishes bulletins to students and staff. Weekly staff briefings and termly staff meetings are held. Staff and student involvement is encouraged through membership of formal committees, and electronically via email and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). Staff are required to complete a programme of mandatory training, and the trust encourages continuing professional development. The Trust works collaboratively with its recognised unions. Both colleges employ a managerial level resource dedicated to helping teaching staff improve their professional delivery capability, and helping support staff develop their technical, supervisory and managerial capability. The Trust also invests in training and development in the form of apprenticeships and other training programmes.

#### *Maintenance Programme*

The Trust operates a rolling programme of planned maintenance, which is reviewed each year and monitored on an ongoing basis. The costs are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which they are incurred. Minor capital works that add value to the estate are capitalised at the period end.

#### *Future Prospects*

The increased base level of funding from September 2023 is welcome, but the Trust remains concerned that inflation has created pay increase pressures significantly beyond that increased funding. The additional funding for the increased Teachers' Pension Scheme contributions is not confirmed after August 2024, and the benefit from the additional base rate funding would be lost if this funding did not continue.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### Current and Future Development and Performance (continued)

Student numbers at both colleges have declined sharply over the last five years. The headline 16-18 funded student numbers are as follows:

	Richard Taunton number	St Vincent number	Total number
2017-18	1,245	882	2,127
2018-19	1,158	831	1,989
2019-20	956	814	1,770
2020-21	796	629	1,425
2021-22	842	572	1,414
2022-23	726	614	1,340
2023-24	655	687	1,342
2024-25 forecast	662	698	1,360
2025-26 forecast	745	802	1,547

Following the wide-ranging staffing restructure in 2021-22 which was designed to create a more efficient and agile Trust with a lower cost base, the Trust achieved a healthy net surplus on general funds in 2022-23 of £962k. This has been achieved through a combination of increased income and further control of costs, offset by awarding pay increases that exceeded funding increases. It has set a budget for 2023-24 of zero surplus. During the 2022-23 year the Trust has continued to invest in essential equipment including critical IT equipment, roof repairs, and student T levels facilities. We welcomed the grant for T levels Specialist equipment and are providing high quality equipment to facilitate the learning experience of T Levels students.

The Trust has maintained close dialogue with the ESFA regarding its financial position and forecasts and progress towards returning to financial sustainability. These discussions have continued through 2022-23. The Trust appreciated the positive response from the ESFA to our request to re-structure the loan repayments to provide funding to replace fluorescent lighting with LED. The improving financial performance described above has enabled the Trust to continue without financial support.

In line with our Trust Strategy and continued viability the growth of 16-19 student numbers is paramount. Alongside this the following challenges are facing the Trust:

- Designing a curriculum offer that will attract students to study with us and also align to local priorities to ensure positive progression for our students
- Meeting the challenge of successive years of reduction in funding and increasing staff costs.
- Reducing the exceptionally broad curriculum to a reasonable breadth to meet required average class sizes.
- Seeking funding to enable us to maintain the extensive number of ageing buildings across the two sites, which amounts to 27 separate buildings, six of which are Grade 2 Listed
- Strengthen relationships with schools, colleges, MATs and local authority stakeholders in the best interests of students and support the achievement of our strategic plan.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Current and Future Development and Performance (continued)**

From 2019 to 2022 the FE Commissioner has held a review of post-16 provision in Southampton City. A conclusion has been reached with three FE providers from Southampton and Fareham forming a new Colleges Group. The Lighthouse Learning Trust participated in this review and fully support the need to have sustainable and outstanding post-16 career focused education in Southampton. The Trust has not been affected by this new Colleges Group directly. We see it as an opportunity to work collaboratively with them to build an offer of effective post 16 education.

The Trust has built strong and open relationships with the Regional Schools Office (previously the Commissioner) and the ESFA to develop and build a future for the Lighthouse Learning Trust and its contribution to education in Hampshire and Southampton.

The Trust is now seen as a stable and secure Trust with meaningful discussions taking place with potential new joiners. In line with our five-year strategic plan, we are hoping to welcome up to three new joiners over the next four years.

Inclusion is of paramount importance to the Trust and ensuring an outstanding education offer is available is key to this ambition. This requires inspirational facilities, which could be developed at either college site, due to our large estates. The Trust will complete a thorough audit of our buildings and land to develop a long-term strategy to ensure the community we serve has the best education, with the right offer in exceptional facilities at our colleges.

### *Resources*

The Trust has various resources that it can deploy in pursuit of its strategic objectives:

- Its freehold estate, with a net balance sheet value of £34.6m (2022: £35.9m)
- Net current assets of £2.0m (2022: £2.3m), established staff of 296 people (2022: 325 people) (expressed as an average headcount), of which 100 (2022: 133) are teaching staff
- Its reputation, both locally as an academy trust that achieves good outcomes, together with high quality pastoral support.

### **Funds Held as Custodian Trustee on Behalf of Others**

No funds are held as custodian trustee on behalf of others.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Trustees' Report

### **Auditor**

Insofar as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 13 December 2023 and signed on the board's behalf by:



**Zoe Huggins**

Chair of Trustees

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### Scope of Responsibility

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

The Trustees have delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Chief Executive, 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 Lighthouse Learning Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The Chief Executive is also responsible for reporting to the Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The Trust Board is committed to full compliance with the Articles of the Trust, its Funding Agreements, the Academy Trust Handbook, and all relevant statutory legislation. Trustees also acknowledge and give due regard to guidance found in the Governance Handbook and competency framework for governance.

### 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 seven times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

#### *Trust Board*

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
M Ahmed (appointed 27 September 2022)	4	4
D Canham	3	4
T Cardy (Vice Chair)	4	4
L Docherty (resigned 4 July 2023)	4	4
L Edwards	4	4
E Flaherty (resigned 4 July 2023)	3	4
A Foss	3	4
R Hall (Vice Chair)	4	4
Z Huggins (Trust Chair)	4	4
G Prewitt (appointed 13 December 2022)	2	3
M Steel (appointed 24 April 2023)	1	2
A Thompson (resigned 25 November 2022)	-	1
N Weston	4	4

#### *In attendance:*

A Berry (Chief Executive)  
A Born (Chief Financial Officer)  
T Hayes (Associate) by invitation  
A McVittie (Governance Manager)

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### **Governance (continued)**

#### *Appointments to the Board of Trustees*

Any new appointments to the Board of Trustees are a matter for the consideration of the Board of Trustees as a whole. The Trust has established a clearly defined "Search" process which is overseen and operated by the Governance and Succession Planning Committee and this Committee also makes recommendations regarding appointments. The Search process is designed to ensure that the Board's capacity is regularly enhanced and refreshed by encompassing a broad and diverse range of skills and experience brought by individual Trustees. Trustees are appointed for a term not exceeding four years, upon the expiry of which they may be re-elected for a further term.

#### *Finance and Resources Committee*

The Finance and Resources Committee is a sub-committee of the main Board of Trustees and operates in accordance with written terms of reference as approved by the Trustees. Its purpose is to review the financial position of the Trust through regular scrutiny of the management accounts as well as to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees regarding annual and longer-term financial planning, including capital expenditure. The Committee has no delegated powers but advises the Board with a view to ensuring compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook and the terms of the Trust's Funding Agreements. Attendance during the period at meetings was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Canham	4	6
T Cardy (Trust Vice Chair)	1	1
A Foss	1	1
R Hall (Committee Chair and Trust Board Vice Chair)	6	6
Z Huggins	5	6
G Prewitt	1	1
A Thompson	2	6

In attendance:

A Berry (Chief Executive)

A Born (Chief Financial Officer)

A McVittie (Governance Manager)

#### *Governance and Succession Planning Committee*

The Governance and Succession Planning Committee is a sub-Committee of the main Board of Trustees and operates in accordance with written terms of reference as approved by the Trustees. The Governance & Succession Planning Committee is responsible for overseeing the quality and effectiveness of the Trust's governance framework and its scheme of delegation. It also oversees search processes for the recruitment of Members, Trustees, and Local Governors. The Committee is responsible for succession planning in terms of the Trust's governance framework and for the positions of CEO, CFO, and Principals. The Committee has no delegated powers.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### Governance (continued)

Attendance during the period at meetings was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Canham	1	1
T Cardy	5	5
L Docherty (Committee Chair until 4 July 2023)	4	4
L Edwards	3	3
E Flaherty	1	2
Z Huggins (Committee Chair from 5 July 2023)	5	5
A Thompson	1	1

In attendance:

A Berry (Chief Executive) by invitation

A McVittie (Governance Manager)

### *Audit & Risk Committee*

The Audit & Risk Committee is a sub-Committee of the main Board of Trustees and operates in accordance with written terms of reference as approved by the Trustees. The Audit & Risk Committee provides an independent platform for scrutiny of the Trust's way of working. The Committee is responsible for maintaining the quality of the Trust's audit provision and the effectiveness of its risk management framework. In particular, the Committee provides an essential source of assurance for both the Board and Accounting Officer with regard to annual reporting, internal control, risk management, and compliance. The Committee operates independently and reserves the right to meet with auditors or other external advisors without the presence of the executive team. Attendance during the period at meetings was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
D Canham (Committee Chair)	4	4
L Docherty	3	4
P Need (Local Governor)	4	4
G Prewitt	4	4
Z Huggins	4	4

In attendance:

A Berry (Chief Executive) by invitation

A Born (CFO)

A McVittie (Governance Manager)

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### Governance (continued)

#### *Remuneration Committee*

The Remuneration Committee comprises the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Board of Trustees along with the Chairs of Local Governing Bodies and the Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee. The Committee is chaired by a Trust Vice Chair and operates in accordance with written terms of reference as approved by the Trustees. The Committee has no delegated powers. Its responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on the remuneration and benefits of the Trust Chief Executive and Accounting Officer, the College Principals, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Governance Manager/Company Secretary. The Committee met once during the period and attendance was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
T Cardy (Trust Vice Chair and Chair of St Vincent College Local Governing Body)	1	1
D Canham (Chair, Audit & Risk Committee)	1	1
L Edwards (Chair, Richard Taunton Local Governing Body)	1	1
R Hall (Committee Chair and Trust Vice Chair)	1	1
Z Huggins (Trust Chair)	1	1

In attendance:

A Berry (CEO) except for discussions about her own remuneration

A McVittie (Governance Manager and Company Secretary) except for discussions about his own remuneration

#### *Trust Development Committee*

The Trust Development Committee oversees Trust growth including the identification and onboarding of potential new partnerships. It all also monitors the Trust's marketing and communication activity. The Committee reviews the potential for investment in growth, college development plans and funding opportunities. Attendance at meetings during the period was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Foss	1	1
R Hall (Vice Chair)	2	3
Z Huggins (Trust Chair)	3	3
M Steel	1	1
N Weston	3	3

In attendance:

A Berry (CEO)

A Born (CFO)

A McVittie (Governance Manager and Company Secretary)

College Principals by invitation

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### Governance (continued)

#### *Quality & Stakeholder Experience Committee*

The purpose of the Quality & Stakeholder Experience Committee is to seek assurance on behalf of the Board regarding the Trust's quality of teaching and learning across its institutions and to scrutinise the experience of key stakeholder groups including students, staff, parents and the local community. The Committee met twice during the period and attendance was as follows:

	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
A Foss (Committee Chair)	4	4
L Edwards (Chair, Richard Taunton Local Governing Body)	4	4
D Hanna (Local Governor)	1	1
Z Huggins (Trust Chair)	3	4
G Prewitt	4	4
D Sanchez (Local Governor)	-	2

In attendance:

A Berry (CEO)  
L Calder (HR Director)  
A Grant (Principal St Vincent College)  
T Hayes (Associate) by invitation  
A McVittie (Governance Manager)  
P Swindale (Principal, Richard Taunton College)  
C Myers (Vice Principal)  
Other members of executive team by invitation.

#### *Local Governing Bodies*

Lighthouse Learning Trust is committed to developing and maintaining strong and effective Local Governing Bodies (LGBs) for each of its institutions. These LGBs are accountable to the Board of Trustees and are its "eyes and ears" at the local level. The role of LGBs has been clearly set out in the Trust's Scheme of Delegation and this is very much focused towards supporting quality improvement and challenging leadership teams to drive up standards in terms of teaching, learning, and outcomes for students. Local Governors also monitor the deployment and effectiveness of Trust policies and resources. LGBs help the Trust to establish an on-going dialogue with the key stakeholders of each institution (including parents and staff) and are also there to champion the development of Student Voice. Finally, Local Governors are expected to be active in celebrating student and Academy success.

Local Governing Bodies are scheduled to meet at both Richard Taunton College and at St Vincent College on a half termly basis.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### **Governance (continued)**

#### *Governance Self-Assessment*

The composition of the Board of Trustees is set out in the Trustees' Report. The Trustees conduct their business through a number of committees. There is a clearly defined Scheme of Delegation in place to support this framework and each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Board of Trustees. Trustees are provided with regular and timely information regarding the overall financial performance of the Trust and the quality of its institutions. Trustees also understand that the Board holds ultimate responsibility for both Safeguarding and Health & Safety. As such, lead governance roles have been established at both Board and Local Governing Body level to provide assurance in these areas. During the period, the Board of Trustees has been active in considering strategic options for the future of the Trust and the Trust's strategic plan has been further developed and validated as an output from this work.

During the period, all Trustees received training with regard to their roles and responsibilities. In particular, Trustees understand their duties to include the following:

1. Duty to act within powers
2. Duty to promote the success of the company
3. Duty to exercise independent judgment
4. Duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence
5. Duty not to accept benefits from third parties
6. Duty to avoid conflicts of interests
7. Duty to declare an interest in a proposed transaction or arrangement

Trustees also understand their obligations to comply with the Charities Act 2016 and, as Directors, with the Companies Act 2006.

In carrying out their duties, Trustees are committed to ensuring compliance with the following:

1. The Trust's Articles
2. The Trust's Funding Agreements
3. The Academy Handbook
4. The Governance Handbook
5. All statutory guidance issued by the Department of Education and/or the Education Skills and Funding Agency

The Board of Trustees, its sub-Committees, and Local Governing Bodies are all supported by a professionally qualified Governance Manager/Company Secretary. This role is seen as essential in terms of help the Trust to achieve its declared aspiration of achieving excellence in governance. The appointment, evaluation and removal of the Governance Manager /Company Secretary are matters for the Board of Trustees as a whole.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### **Governance (continued)**

The effectiveness of the Trust's Governance is self-assessed on an on-going and annual basis. During the reporting period the Trust Board continued to use the Charity Governance Code as the framework for its governance self-assessment. Meeting reviews are also conducted at the end of each meeting, and a self-assessment framework is deployed annually.

### *Conflicts of interest*

Trustees understand that it is their responsibility to bring independent judgement to bear on issues of strategy, performance, resources, and standards of conduct. In doing so, the Board of Trustees seeks to ensure that it holds the executive team properly to account. The Board of Trustees has a strong and independent non-executive element and no individual or group dominates its decision-making process. The Board of Trustees considers that each of its non-executive members is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could materially interfere with the exercise of their independent judgement. The Governance Manager/Company Secretary maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Trustees, which is available for inspection on request and is also published online. There is a clear division of responsibility between the roles of the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the Accounting Officer (Chief Executive Officer) which are kept separate.

### **Review of Value for Money**

As Accounting Officer, the CEO has responsibility for ensuring that the 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 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. In addition, the Trust's Finance & Resources Committee has a remit to evaluate all contractual expenditure in excess of £90,000 and to make recommendations for approval of this expenditure to the Board of Trustees.

With regard to demonstrating value for money, in 2023 St Vincent achieved 100% pass rate for A levels, and Richard Taunton achieved 90%. 26% of St Vincent A level grades were A\*-B, and 25% of Richard Taunton A level grades were A\*-B. The Trust carried out a wide-ranging staff restructure in 2021-22 which it has embedded during 2022-23. It has also carried out a number of combined procurement exercises, including out-sourcing of its cleaning provision for both colleges. We continue to develop the Trust's Central Services which achieves efficiencies through economies of scale whilst improving resilience.

The Trust has strong links with other providers, in particular local schools and it collaborates with other colleges. It is a member of the Wessex Federation, a grouping of Sixth Form colleges that collaborate in the areas of curriculum improvement, procurement, and policy development.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### **Review of Value for Money (continued)**

Despite reductions in funding necessitating reductions in expenditure, the Trust has maintained the quality of outcomes for students in most areas and has improved the quality of its resources and accommodation. The Trust has realistic plans for ensuring its financial viability in the face of possible further cuts and falling rolls within the county.

The Trust continues to generate savings through shared procurement activity, targeting the efficiency of central and local college processes, and building the resilience of college systems and teams.

### **The Purpose of the System of Internal Control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of 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 Lighthouse Learning Trust for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the 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 on-going process for identifying, evaluating, and managing the Academy Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

### **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 Finance and Resources Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines identification and management of risks

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Governance Statement

### **The Risk and Control Framework (continued)**

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint a single internal auditor. Instead, they commissioned a series of audits to address the key risks. Audits carried out in 2022-23 included:

- A review of financials controls, including a focussed review on pension processing and bank and cash.
- A review of risk management.
- Two funding audits, one for each college by a national audit firm that specialises in post 16 funding.

The work of internal auditors is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the Trust is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Trustees on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk Committee.

### **Review of Effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, the CEO 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 auditors
- the work of the external auditor

The Accounting Officer (CEO) has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit & Risk Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditors and other sources of assurance, and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the systems in place.

The Senior Management Team receives reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Senior Management Team and the Audit & Risk Committee received three reports from Strictly Education covering financial controls and two from specialist funding auditors which include recommendations for improvement. The Governance and Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Board of Trustee's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the Senior Management Team and the Audit & Risk Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Zoe Huggins**  
Chair of Trustees



**Angela Berry**  
Accounting Officer

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of Lighthouse Learning Trust 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, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration, I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

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 Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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.



**Angela Berry**

Accounting Officer

13 December 2023

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023
- make judgments 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 on 13 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Zoe Huggins**  
Chair of Trustees

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lighthouse Learning Trust

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lighthouse Learning Trust ('the charitable company') for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities (including the Income and Expenditure Account), the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, 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 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

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

### Basis for opinion

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

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lighthouse Learning Trust

### **Other information**

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. It 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.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### **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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- 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 the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company 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;
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purposes of our audit.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lighthouse Learning Trust

### **Responsibilities of the Trustees**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company 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 to 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 charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Academy Trust, and the sector in which it operates. These include but are not limited to compliance with the Companies Act 2006, 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, the Academy Trust Handbook 2022, and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023.
- We obtained an understanding of how the Academy Trust is complying with these frameworks through discussions with management.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of Lighthouse Learning Trust

- We enquired with management whether there were any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations or whether they had knowledge of actual or suspected fraud. These enquiries are corroborated through follow-up audit procedures including but not limited to a review of legal and professional costs, correspondence, and a review of board minutes.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Academy Trust's financial statements to material misstatement, including the risk of fraud and management override of controls. We designed our audit procedures to respond to this assessment, including the identification and testing of any related party transactions and the testing of journal transactions that arise from management estimates, that are determined to be of significant value or unusual in their nature.
- We assessed the appropriateness of the collective competence and capabilities of the engagement team, including consideration of the engagement team's knowledge and understanding of the sector in which the Academy Trust operates in, and their practical experience through training and participation with audit engagements of a similar nature.

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](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Independent Auditor's Report.

### Use of our report

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

*Michaela Johns*

M Johns FCCA (Senior statutory auditor)

For and on behalf of Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Statutory Auditor

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

15 Dec 2023

Date .....

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lighthouse Learning Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

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

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

### **Respective responsibilities of Lighthouse Learning Trust's Accounting Officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of Lighthouse Learning Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 24 October 2017 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2022, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed, and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lighthouse Learning Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

### Approach

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Consideration as to whether prior approval was sought from the Secretary of State where it is required by the Academy Trust Handbook (effective from 1 September 2022) (ATH).
- Review of any special payments to staff, including compromise agreements, to consider whether prior approval was sought where required by the ATH and that any payments are in line with the severance guidance published by ESFA.
- Consideration as to whether any borrowings have been made in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of any 'minded to' letters or Notices to Improve which have been issued to the Academy Trust.
- Review of any transactions with related parties to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with the ATH.
- Review of governance arrangements to determine whether the requirements of the ATH have been met.
- Review of the Academy Trust's internal controls, including whether the general control environment has regard to the regularity of underlying transactions, including fraud management.
- Review of the Academy Trust's procurement policies to determine effectiveness and testing a sample of purchases to confirm that the policies have been correctly implemented.
- Identifying any conditions associated with specialist grant income and determining whether it has been spent as the purposes intended.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to Lighthouse Learning Trust and the Education & Skills Funding Agency

### Conclusion

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

*Michaela Johns*

M Johns FCCA

Reporting Accountant

Hopper Williams & Bell Limited

Chartered Accountants

Highland House, Mayflower Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 4AR

15 Dec 2023

Date .....

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Un-restricted funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>							
Donations and capital grants	2	-	-	-	2,583,450	<b>2,583,450</b>	2,953,350
Other trading activities	4	278,930	-	-	-	<b>278,930</b>	293,617
Investments	5	446	-	-	-	<b>446</b>	32
<b>Charitable activities:</b>							
Funding for the academy trust's educational operations	3	-	11,851,405	-	-	<b>11,851,405</b>	11,271,232
<b>Total</b>		<b>279,376</b>	<b>11,851,405</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,583,450</b>	<b>14,714,231</b>	<b>14,518,231</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>							
<b>Charitable activities:</b>							
Academy trust educational operations	7	-	11,558,549	294,000	4,623,136	<b>16,475,685</b>	14,650,362
<b>Net income / (expenditure)</b>		<b>279,376</b>	<b>292,856</b>	<b>(294,000)</b>	<b>(2,039,686)</b>	<b>(1,761,454)</b>	<b>(132,131)</b>
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	16	-	(160,371)	-	160,371	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains / (losses):</b>							
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	26	-	-	1,518,000	-	<b>1,518,000</b>	10,725,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>279,376</b>	<b>132,485</b>	<b>1,224,000</b>	<b>(1,879,315)</b>	<b>(243,454)</b>	<b>10,592,869</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>							
Total funds brought forward		(551,289)	110,676	(1,442,000)	39,541,186	<b>37,658,573</b>	27,065,704
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>(271,913)</b>	<b>243,161</b>	<b>(218,000)</b>	<b>37,661,871</b>	<b>37,415,119</b>	<b>37,658,573</b>

The notes on pages 47 to 72 form part of these financial statements.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2023

Company Number 10819176

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	12		36,129,574		37,148,333
<b>Current assets</b>					
Debtors	13	2,272,438		2,773,626	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,557,139		1,506,371	
		<u>4,829,577</u>		<u>4,279,997</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(2,850,760)</u>		<u>(1,943,946)</u>	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>1,978,817</u>		<u>2,336,051</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			38,108,391		39,484,384
<b>Creditors:</b>					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	15		<u>(159,088)</u>		<u>(106,544)</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			37,949,303		39,377,840
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	26		(218,000)		(1,442,000)
Other pension provisions	26		(316,184)		(277,267)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>37,415,119</u>		<u>37,658,573</u>
<b>Funds of the academy trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Fixed asset fund	16	37,661,871		39,541,186	
Restricted income fund	16	243,161		110,676	
Pension reserve	16	<u>(218,000)</u>		<u>(1,442,000)</u>	
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			37,687,032		38,209,862
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	16		(271,913)		(551,289)
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>37,415,119</u>		<u>37,658,573</u>

The financial statements on pages 44 to 72 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 13 December 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



**Zoe Huggins**  
Chair of Trustees

The notes on pages 47 to 72 form part of these financial statements.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	20	(2,215,175)	551,746
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	21	(27,000)	(106,545)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	22	3,292,943	7,981
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>1,050,768</b>	<b>453,182</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September 2022</b>		<b>1,506,371</b>	<b>1,053,189</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August 2023</b>	23	<b>2,557,139</b>	<b>1,506,371</b>



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 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.

#### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the Academy Trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the Academy Trust and are rounded to the nearest £1.

#### Going Concern

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

#### Income

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

- **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.

- **Grants**

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

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

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

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### Income (continued)

- **Other Income**

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

- **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

### 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.

- **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.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### Tangible Fixed Assets

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

Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. Where there are specific conditions attached to the funding 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.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than 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:

Freehold Land and Buildings	20 to 50 years straight line on buildings; not provided on land
Furniture and Equipment	10 years straight line
Plant and Machinery	10 years straight line
Computer Equipment	5 years straight line
Motor Vehicles	5 years straight line

Where the Academy Trust can identify the value of major components of freehold or leasehold buildings based upon additions following conversion to academy status, the Academy Trust reviews whether one or more such components have significantly different patterns of consumption of economic benefits. In such cases, the Academy Trust allocates the cost of the asset to its major components and depreciates each component separately over its useful life.

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.

### 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.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### **Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Academy Trust has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event which it is probable will result in the transfer of economic benefits and the obligation can be estimated reliably.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised within interest payable and similar charges.

### **Leased Assets**

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

### **Financial Instruments**

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

#### *Financial assets*

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

#### *Cash at bank*

Cash at bank is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value. An investment is treated as a cash equivalent when it has a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

#### *Financial liabilities*

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

### **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.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### Pensions Benefits

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

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

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

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

### Fund Accounting

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

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

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

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 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 (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions 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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

The assumptions used are disclosed in note 26.

### Critical areas of judgement

There are no other critical areas of judgement.

### Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust acts as an agent in distributing 16-19 bursary funds from ESFA. Payments received from ESFA and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the statement of financial activities as the Academy Trust does not have control over the charitable application of the funds. The Academy Trust can use up to 5% of the allocation towards its own administration costs and this is recognised in the statement of financial activities. The funds received and paid and any balances held are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

## 2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital grants	-	2,583,450	<b>2,583,450</b>	2,952,950
Other donations	-	-	-	400
	-	2,583,450	<b>2,583,450</b>	2,953,350
<i>Total 2022</i>	-	2,953,350	<b>2,953,350</b>	

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 3 Funding for the Academy Trust's educational operations

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
<b>DfE / ESFA grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,248,947	7,248,947	8,351,766
Rates reclaim	-	91,904	91,904	91,904
Other DfE grants	-	2,356,427	2,356,427	396,262
	-	9,697,278	9,697,278	8,839,932
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	1,723,359	1,723,359	1,876,005
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (non-DfE/ESFA)</b>				
Other Coronavirus funding	-	-	-	19,420
<b>Other income from the Academy Trust's educational operations</b>				
Trip income	-	137	137	5,552
Other income	-	430,631	430,631	530,323
	-	430,768	430,768	535,875
	-	11,851,405	11,851,405	11,271,232
<b>Total 2022</b>	-	11,271,232	11,271,232	

### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	278,930	-	278,930	293,617
<b>Total 2022</b>	293,617	-	293,617	

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2022/23 Total	2021/22 Total
	£	£	£	£
Short term deposits	446	-	446	32
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>32</i>	

### 6 Expenditure

	Staff costs	Non Pay Expenditure		Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
	£	Premises £	Other £	£	£
Academy's educational operations:					
Direct costs	6,084,072	-	954,600	7,038,672	6,794,342
Allocated support costs	3,123,469	4,116,063	2,197,481	9,437,013	7,856,020
	9,207,541	4,116,063	3,152,081	16,475,685	14,650,362
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>10,369,835</i>	<i>1,358,655</i>	<i>2,921,872</i>	<i>14,650,362</i>	

Net income/(expenditure) for the period includes:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Operating lease rentals	12,455	17,642
Depreciation	1,540,321	1,556,637
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(1,940)
Fees payable to auditor for:		
Audit	14,850	15,205
Other services	4,710	3,320



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 7 Charitable activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	Total	Total
	£	£
Direct costs – educational operations	7,038,672	6,794,342
Support costs – educational operations	9,437,013	7,856,020
	<b>16,475,685</b>	<b>14,650,362</b>

#### Analysis of support costs:

	Educational operations	2022/23	2021/22
		Total	Total
	£	£	£
Support staff costs	3,123,469	3,123,469	4,230,562
Depreciation	1,540,321	1,540,321	1,556,637
Technology costs	188,023	188,023	166,016
Premises costs	4,116,063	4,116,063	1,358,655
Legal costs - other	350	350	638
Other support costs	455,507	455,507	505,872
Governance costs	13,280	13,280	37,640
Total support costs	<b>9,437,013</b>	<b>9,437,013</b>	<b>7,856,020</b>
<i>Total 2022</i>		<b>7,856,020</b>	<b>7,856,020</b>

Premises costs includes £2,610,846 (2022: £407,148) in respect of expenditure on capital projects, which were funded by capital grants from the ESFA.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 8 Staff

#### a) Staff costs

Staff costs during the period were:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Wages and salaries	6,869,591	6,987,040
Social security costs	583,539	594,758
Pension costs	1,579,788	2,420,972
	<b>9,032,918</b>	10,002,770
Agency staff costs	148,089	133,514
Other staff costs	-	33,140
Staff restructuring costs	26,534	200,411
	<b>9,207,541</b>	10,369,835

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

Redundancy payments	23,534	200,411
Severance payments	3,000	-
	<b>26,534</b>	200,411

#### b) Severance payments

The Academy Trust paid one severance payment in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	No.
£0 - £25,000	<b>1</b>

#### c) Special staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are special staff severance payments totalling £3,000 (2022: £nil). Individually, the payments were: £3,000.

#### d) Staff numbers

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
Teachers	100	133
Administration and support	188	183
Management	8	9
	<b>296</b>	325

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### e) Higher paid staff

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	No.	No.
£60,001 - £70,000	1	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	3
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£110,001 - £120,000	1	-

### f) Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the Academy Trust comprise the Trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £436,116 (2022: £441,963).

## 9 Related Party Transactions – Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the period ended 31 August 2023, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022: none).

During the period ended 31 August 2023, no Trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022: £160 to one Trustee).

## 10 Trustees' and officers' insurance

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

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 11 Central Services

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

- Senior Management Team remuneration
- Human resources and payroll
- Finance
- MIS
- IT
- Premises management
- Exams management
- Insurance costs
- Governance costs

The academy trust charges for these services on based upon the budgeted total income of each academy. The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022/23 £	2021/22 £
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	1,206,798	510,870
St Vincent College	1,350,099	650,448
	<b>2,556,897</b>	<b>1,161,318</b>

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold Land and Buildings £	Furniture and Equipment £	Plant and Machinery £	Computer Equipment £	Motor Vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>						
At 1 September 2022	41,749,915	60,166	1,429,970	1,415,683	43,346	44,699,080
Acquisitions	-	-	361,631	159,931	-	521,562
At 31 August 2023	41,749,915	60,166	1,791,601	1,575,614	43,346	45,220,642
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2022	5,884,190	60,010	738,849	853,188	14,510	7,550,747
Charged in year	1,219,155	-	152,270	161,687	7,209	1,540,321
At 31 August 2023	7,103,345	60,010	891,119	1,014,875	21,719	9,091,068
<b>Net book values</b>						
At 31 August 2022	35,865,725	156	691,121	562,495	28,836	37,148,333
At 31 August 2023	34,646,570	156	900,482	560,739	21,627	36,129,574

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 13 Debtors

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Trade debtors	152,495	28,087
VAT recoverable	335,679	105,413
Other debtors	425	336
Prepayments and accrued income	1,783,839	2,639,790
	<b>2,272,438</b>	<b>2,773,626</b>

### 14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Trade creditors	981,539	488,339
Other taxation and social security	185,274	129,232
Loans falling due within one year	27,000	106,544
Other creditors falling due within one year	187,454	264,345
Accruals and deferred income	1,469,493	955,486
	<b>2,850,760</b>	<b>1,943,946</b>

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	117,805	116,605
Released from previous years	(117,805)	(116,605)
Resources deferred in the year	92,949	117,805
Deferred income at 31 August 2023	<b>92,949</b>	<b>117,805</b>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for grant income relating to the forthcoming financial year

Merger support and pre-academisation loans from the ESFA carry interest at 4.05% and are repayable in instalments from December 2019. During the year the ESFA agreed to extend the repayment terms for the purpose of funding the replacement of obsolete fluorescent lighting with LED lighting.

### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due in greater than one year

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Loans falling due in greater than one year	<b>159,088</b>	<b>106,544</b>

Merger support and pre-academisation loans from the ESFA carry interest at 4.05% and are repayable in instalments from December 2019. Details of the repayment terms are set out on page 18.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	7,248,947	(6,953,456)	(160,371)	-	135,120
Rates reclaim	-	91,904	(91,904)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	2,356,427	(2,356,427)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	1,723,359	(1,723,359)	-	-	-
Desty legacy fund	110,676	-	(2,635)	-	-	108,041
Other educational activities	-	430,768	(430,768)	-	-	-
	110,676	11,851,405	(11,558,549)	(160,371)	-	243,161
Pension reserve	(1,442,000)	-	(294,000)	-	1,518,000	(218,000)
	(1,331,324)	11,851,405	(11,852,549)	(160,371)	1,518,000	25,161
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed asset fund	37,148,333	-	(1,540,321)	521,562	-	36,129,574
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	116,531	-	(81,494)	-	35,037
ESFA capital grants (CIF)	1,571,000	1,736,332	(2,610,846)	33,726	-	730,212
Other capital grants	821,853	730,587	(471,969)	(313,423)	-	767,048
	39,541,186	2,583,450	(4,623,136)	160,371	-	37,661,871
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>38,209,862</b>	<b>14,434,855</b>	<b>(16,475,685)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,518,000</b>	<b>37,687,032</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>(551,289)</b>	<b>279,376</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(271,913)</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>37,658,573</b>	<b>14,714,231</b>	<b>(16,475,685)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,518,000</b>	<b>37,415,119</b>

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 16 Funds (continued)

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

#### **General annual grant**

This includes all funding received from the ESFA to carry out the objectives of the academy. It includes the school budget share; minimum funding guarantee; education services grant; insurance; rates; and post-16 high needs funding streams.

#### **Other DfE/ESFA grants**

This is funding received from the ESFA for specific purposes.

#### **Local authority grants**

This is funding received from the local authority for specific purposes, for example Special Educational Needs funding.

#### **Desty legacy fund**

The Desty Legacy Fund represents a legacy given to Richard Taunton College by the Desty family to promote science at the college. This is being achieved through a) a Denis Desty Science Scholarship for prospective students, b) the Desty Aspiration Scholarship, to raise aspirations of students towards studying science in higher education and c) the Desty Science Enhancement Fund, to enhance science in the curriculum. The college envisages using the fund over a time span of twelve to fifteen years.

#### **Other educational activities**

This includes all other educational income/expenditure.

#### **Pension reserve**

This represents the negative reserve in respect of the liability on the LGPS pension scheme which was transferred to the Academy Trust on conversion.

#### **Fixed asset fund**

The fund includes the value of the tangible fixed assets of the academy on conversion, and amounts transferred from GAG or other restricted funds specifically for expenditure on tangible fixed assets, and the annual charges for depreciation of these assets.

#### **DfE/ESFA capital grants**

This is funding received from the DfE/ESFA specifically for expenditure on capital improvements.

#### **Transfers between funds**

Transfers to the restricted fixed asset fund represent the cost of fixed asset additions which have been funded from restricted or unrestricted general funds.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 16 Funds (continued)

The Academy Trust is carrying a net deficit of £28,752 on restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve) plus unrestricted funds due to under-recruitment of students, a shortfall in commercial income due to two years of Covid-19, and the need to continue to make essential building repairs and replace essential equipment. The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return these funds to surplus:

- Continue to market and promote both colleges to increase market share and thus increase income.
- Continue to review all aspects of the trust's cost base and reduce expenditure where possible.
- Continue to re-build commercial income streams which have been hit by Covid 19 lockdown.
- Make bids to CIF and other government funds to fund essential repairs of the building and improvements to reduce the energy and other building running costs.

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

#### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	(1,297,267)	(1,461,711)
St Vincent College	1,247,599	1,101,488
Central services	20,916	(80,390)
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	(28,752)	(440,613)
Restricted fixed asset fund	37,661,871	39,541,186
Pension reserve	(218,000)	(1,442,000)
Total	37,415,119	37,658,573

The following academy is carrying a net deficit on its portion of the funds as follows:

	£
Richard Taunton Sixth Form College	1,297,267

The Academy Trust is taking the following action to return the academy to surplus:

- Continue to market and promote both colleges to increase market share and thus increase income.
- Continue to review all aspects of the trust's and college's cost base and reduce expenditure where possible.
- Continue to re-build commercial income streams which have been hit by Covid 19 lockdown.
- Make bids to CIF and other government funds to fund essential repairs of the building and improvements to reduce the energy and other building running costs.



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 16 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 (excl. dep- reciation) £	2022/23 Total £	2021/22 Total £
Richard Taunton College	1,936,892	699,920	405,460	2,531,113	<b>5,573,385</b>	5,121,498
St Vincent College	3,648,388	891,972	458,626	1,928,176	<b>6,927,162</b>	6,814,601
Central services	498,792	1,531,577	90,514	313,934	<b>2,434,817</b>	1,157,626
	<b>6,084,072</b>	<b>3,123,469</b>	<b>954,600</b>	<b>4,773,223</b>	<b>14,935,364</b>	<b>13,093,725</b>

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 16 Funds (continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Gains and losses £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	8,351,766	(8,161,975)	(189,791)	-	-
Rates reclaim	-	91,904	(91,904)	-	-	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	94,360	(94,360)	-	-	-
Teachers' pension grant	-	266,639	(266,639)	-	-	-
Other DfE grants	-	35,263	(35,263)	-	-	-
Local authority grants	-	1,876,005	(1,876,005)	-	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	19,420	(19,420)	-	-	-
Desty legacy fund	115,474	-	(4,798)	-	-	<b>110,676</b>
Other educational activities	-	536,275	(536,275)	-	-	-
	115,474	11,271,632	(11,086,639)	(189,791)	-	<b>110,676</b>
Pension reserve	(10,849,000)	-	(1,318,000)	-	10,725,000	<b>(1,442,000)</b>
	<b>(10,733,526)</b>	<b>11,271,632</b>	<b>(12,404,639)</b>	<b>(189,791)</b>	<b>10,725,000</b>	<b>(1,331,324)</b>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
Fixed asset fund	38,328,118	-	(1,554,697)	374,912	-	<b>37,148,333</b>
ESFA capital grants (DFC)	-	40,446	-	(40,446)	-	-
ESFA capital grants (CIF)	18,710	1,846,591	(407,148)	112,847	-	<b>1,571,000</b>
Other capital grants	-	1,065,913	(283,878)	39,818	-	<b>821,853</b>
	<b>38,346,828</b>	<b>2,952,950</b>	<b>(2,245,723)</b>	<b>487,131</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>39,541,186</b>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>27,613,302</b>	<b>14,224,582</b>	<b>(14,650,362)</b>	<b>297,340</b>	<b>10,725,000</b>	<b>38,209,862</b>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>(547,598)</b>	<b>293,649</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(297,340)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(551,289)</b>
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>27,065,704</b>	<b>14,518,231</b>	<b>(14,650,362)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,725,000</b>	<b>37,658,573</b>

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	36,129,574	36,129,574
Current assets	(271,913)	3,569,193	-	1,532,297	4,829,577
Current liabilities	-	(2,850,760)	-	-	(2,850,760)
Non-current liabilities	-	(159,088)	-	-	(159,088)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(218,000)	-	(218,000)
Other pension provisions	-	(316,184)	-	-	(316,184)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>(271,913)</b>	<b>243,161</b>	<b>(218,000)</b>	<b>37,661,871</b>	<b>37,415,119</b>

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

	Un-restricted funds	Restricted general funds	Restricted pension funds	Restricted fixed asset funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	37,148,333	37,148,333
Current assets	(551,289)	2,438,433	-	2,392,853	4,279,997
Current liabilities	-	(1,943,946)	-	-	(1,943,946)
Non-current liabilities	-	(106,544)	-	-	(106,544)
Pension scheme liability	-	-	(1,442,000)	-	(1,442,000)
Other pension provisions	-	(277,267)	-	-	(277,267)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>(551,289)</b>	<b>110,676</b>	<b>(1,442,000)</b>	<b>39,541,186</b>	<b>37,658,573</b>

### 18 Capital commitments

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	1,532,297	63,593

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 19 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

#### Operating leases

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	900	12,758
Amounts due between one and five years	-	900
	<u>900</u>	<u>13,658</u>

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Net expenditure for the reporting period	(1,761,454)	(132,131)
Adjusted for:		
Depreciation	1,540,321	1,556,637
(Gain)/loss on disposal of fixed assets	-	(1,940)
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(2,583,450)	(2,952,950)
Interest receivable	(446)	(32)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	230,000	1,139,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	64,000	179,000
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(729,421)	236,117
Increase in creditors	986,358	587,386
Increase / (decrease) in other pension provisions	38,917	(59,341)
Net cash (used in) / provided by Operating Activities	<u>(2,215,175)</u>	<u>551,746</u>

### 21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	(27,000)	(106,545)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(27,000)</u>	<u>(106,545)</u>

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	446	32
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	1,940
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(521,562)	(376,852)
Capital grants from DfE Group	3,083,472	140,119
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	730,587	242,742
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>3,292,943</u>	<u>7,981</u>

### 23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,557,139</u>	<u>1,506,371</u>

### 24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	Acquisition/ disposal of subsidiaries £	New finance leases £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2023 £
Cash	1,506,371	1,050,768	-	-	-	2,557,139
Loans falling due within one year	(106,544)	79,544	-	-	-	(27,000)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(106,544)	(52,544)	-	-	-	(159,088)
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,293,283</u>	<u>1,077,768</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,371,051</u>

### 25 Member liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while 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.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 26 Pension and similar obligations

The Academy Trust's employees belong to two principal pension schemes: the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff; and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) for non-teaching staff, which is managed by Hampshire 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 2022.

Contributions amounting to £40,703 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 (2022: £139,820) and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. Membership is automatic for 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.

#### 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 four 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 31 March 2016 TPS actuarial valuation results were implemented from 1 September 2019. The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation were:

- 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. The assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The latest actuarial TPS valuation results, as at 31 March 2020, were released in October 2023. The revised employer contribution rate, arising from this valuation, is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £731,869 (2022: £776,106).

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

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

#### Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2023 was as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Employer's contributions	712,000	596,000
Employees' contributions	209,000	186,000
	<u>921,000</u>	<u>782,000</u>

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% for employers and 5.5% to 12.5% for employees.

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

#### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2023	2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.0%	3.7%
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.0%	2.7%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2%	4.1%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0%	2.7%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	<u>70.0%</u>	<u>70.0%</u>

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

	2023	2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.9
Females	<u>24.7</u>	<u>25.4</u>
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.6	24.7
Females	<u>25.7</u>	<u>27.1</u>

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

#### Sensitivity analysis

	Increase/(reduction) in defined benefit obligation	
	2023	2022
	£	£
Discount rate +0.1%	(355,000)	(404,000)
Discount rate -0.1%	355,000	422,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	705,000	475,000
Mortality assumption – 1 year decrease	(705,000)	(475,000)
CPI rate +0.1%	348,000	387,000
CPI rate -0.1%	(348,000)	(387,000)

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

	2023	2022
	£	£
Equities	10,277,000	9,347,000
Gilts	5,574,000	2,454,000
Property	1,045,000	1,259,000
Cash and other liquid assets	523,000	145,000
Other	-	2,938,000
Total market value of assets	17,419,000	16,143,000

The actual return on scheme assets was a gain of £764,000 (2022: a loss of £1,074,000).

#### Amount recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
Current service cost	820,000	1,712,000
Past service cost	122,000	23,000
Interest income	(672,000)	(290,000)
Interest cost	736,000	469,000
Total amount recognised in the SOFA	1,006,000	1,914,000



# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 26 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>17,585,000</b>	<b>27,735,000</b>
Current service cost	820,000	1,712,000
Interest cost	736,000	469,000
Employee contributions	209,000	186,000
Actuarial gain	(1,426,000)	(12,089,000)
Benefits paid	(409,000)	(451,000)
Past service cost	122,000	23,000
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>17,637,000</b>	<b>17,585,000</b>

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

	2022/23	2021/22
	£	£
<b>At 1 September</b>	<b>16,143,000</b>	<b>16,886,000</b>
Interest income	672,000	290,000
Actuarial gain / (loss)	92,000	(1,364,000)
Employer contributions	712,000	596,000
Employee contributions	209,000	186,000
Benefits paid	(409,000)	(451,000)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<b>17,419,000</b>	<b>16,143,000</b>

### 27 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the Academy Trust and the composition of the Board of Trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the Trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period:

#### Expenditure Related Party Transactions:

EBP South Limited – a not-for-profit company in which A Foss (trustee) was a trustee until 16 March 2023:

- The Academy Trust purchased services from EBP South Limited totalling £17,280 (2022: £15,000) during the period. There were no amounts outstanding at 31 August 2023 (2022: £nil).
- The Academy Trust made the purchase at arms' length following a competitive tendering exercise in accordance with its financial regulations, which A Foss neither participated in, nor influenced.
- In entering into the transaction the Academy Trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.
- The element above £2,500 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and EBP South Limited has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

# Lighthouse Learning Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2023

### 28 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for ESFA. In the accounting period ended 31 August 2023 the Academy Trust received £193,414 and disbursed £193,440 from the fund. An amount of £83,659 is included in other creditors relating to undistributed funds that are repayable to ESFA. Comparatives for the accounting period ended 31 August 2022 are £141,877 received, £194,183 disbursed and £83,685 included in other creditors.