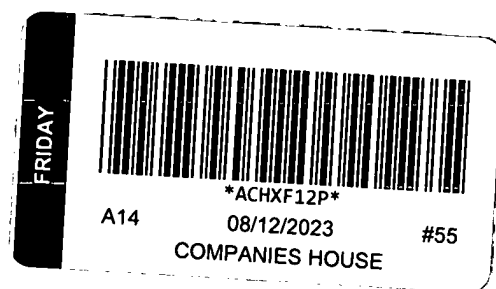


Company registration number 11842925 (England and Wales)

**THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**



# **THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP**

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# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### Members

D Bosher  
S Gray  
C Hicks  
M Clements (Appointed 23 January 2023)  
P Dudley-Smith (Appointed 1 April 2023)

### Trustees

A Barrett (Appointed 18 October 2022)  
J Birkett (Chief Executive Officer)  
M Clements (Chair of Trustees)  
P Dudley-Smith (term ended 31 March 2023)  
A Evans (Appointed 7 October 2022)  
L Goodrick  
C Hicks (Resigned 2 December 2022)  
C Malloy  
C Stevens  
R Watts  
J Woodruff (Resigned 14 March 2023)

### Senior management team

- Chief Executive Officer	J Birkett
- Chief Financial Officer	W Taylor
- Deputy Chief Financial Officer	W Austyn
- Head of School, Wollaston School	S P Anderson
- Head of School, Irchester Community Primary School	S Anderson
- Head of School, Bozeat Community Primary School	G Rust
- Headteachers, Cogenhoe Primary School	C Oldham and S Blackwell

**Company registration number** 11842925 (England and Wales)

**Principal and registered office** Wollaston School  
Irchester Rd,  
Wollaston,  
Wellingborough  
NN29 7PH

### Academies operated

Wollaston School  
Bozeat Community Primary School  
Irchester Community Primary School  
Cogenhoe Primary School

### Location

Northamptonshire  
Northamptonshire  
Northamptonshire  
Northamptonshire

### Principal

S P Anderson  
G Rust  
S Anderson  
C Oldham and S Blackwell

### Independent auditor

Azets Audit Services  
Thorpe House  
93 Headlands  
Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
NN15 6BL  
United Kingdom

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

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### **Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
48 Market Street  
Wellingborough  
Northamptonshire  
NN8 1AG  
United Kingdom

### **Solicitors**

Browne Jacobson LLP  
Mowbray House  
Castle Meadow Road  
Nottingham  
NG2 1BJ  
United Kingdom

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report and strategic report under company law.

These are the fifth financial statements presented by the Trustees. The Nene Valley Partnership ('NVP/the Trust') operates three primary schools and one secondary school.

The Academy Trust operates an Academy for pupils aged 3 to 18 serving a catchment area South of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, with a pupil capacity of 2226 and 2121 pupils enrolled based on the October 2022 census.

#### **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 are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as the Nene Valley Partnership.

Details of the Trustees who served throughout the year and to the date the approval of this report and the financial statements 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

The 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. The scheme protects Members, Trustees and the Local Governing Body members from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The scheme provides cover up to £10,000,000.

##### Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Trustees

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

- up to 9 Trustees who are appointed by the Members;
- a minimum of 2 Parent Trustees who are appointed by parents of registered pupils at the Trust, if there is no provision for Parent Local Governors;
- any number of Co-opted Trustees who are appointed by the Board of Trustees, provided that any Co-opted Trustees who are also employees of the Trust do not exceed one third of the total number of Trustees; and
- the Chief Executive Officer who is treated for all purposes as being an ex-officio Trustee.

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

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

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of Trustees

The training and induction provided for new Trustees will depend upon their existing experience, and may include a tour of the Schools and a chance to meet staff and pupils. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts and budgets, plans and other documents they will need to undertake their role as Trustees. All new Trustees also have the opportunity to undertake National Governor Association training, along with any other relevant external courses, and all Trustees have access to regular National Governor Association updates. Induction tends to be carried out informally and tailored to the individual, as there are a small number of appointments each year. Nevertheless, safeguarding training is mandatory and checks are in place to ensure that this is completed.

#### Organisational structure

At 31 August 2023, the Trust comprised the following individual schools:

- Bozeat Community Primary School
- Irchester Community Primary School
- Wollaston School
- Cogenhoe Primary School (joined the trust 1 September 2022)

The Trustees are responsible for setting general policy, adopting an annual budget, and establishing a strategic development plan for the Trust. Trustees approve the annual statutory accounts, monitor the Trust use of budgets and other financial and educational data, and make the significant decisions about the direction of the Trust, capital expenditure and staff appointments.

The Board of Trustees normally meets 11 times each year. The Board of Trustees establishes an overall framework for the governance of the Trust and determines membership, terms of reference and procedures of Committees of the Board of Trustees and other groups. It receives reports including policies from its Committees for ratification. It monitors the activities of the Committees through the minutes of their meetings and through direct reporting from the elected Chair of each Committee. The Board of Trustees may from time to time establish working groups to perform specific tasks over a limited timescale.

There are two Committees of the Board of Trustees as follows:

- Finance, Audit and Risk
- Premises and Staffing

The Committees have their own terms of reference detailing the responsibilities discharged to them.

The following decisions are reserved to the full Board of Trustees:

- to consider any proposals for changes to the status or constitution of the Trust and its committee structure;
- to appoint or remove the Chair and / or Vice Chair; and
- to appoint and / or consider the performance management of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Trustees have devolved the day-to-day management of the Academy Trust to the Senior Management Team ('SMT'), which is led by the Chief Executive Officer. The SMT comprises the Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and the individual Schools' Headteachers / Heads of School. The Chief Executive Officer is the Trust's Accounting Officer and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day financial management of the Trust. The SMT implements the policies laid down by the Trustees and reports back to them on these and the Trust's overall performance.

Each School has its own Local Governing Body ('LGB') and applicable sub-committees. The Board of Trustees delegates a number of functions to the LGBs. Each LGB reviews the plans and budgets for their School and monitors progress against targets. The LGBs also review Ofsted standards and oversee parent, staff and community liaison. Details of these arrangements are shown in the Local Governing Bodies Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

The Trustees consider the Board of Trustees and the SLT to comprise the key management personnel of the Trust in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the Trust on a day-to-day basis. All Trustees give of their time freely and no Trustee received any remuneration in the current or prior year, other than those Trustees who are also employees of the Trust. Details of Trustees' remuneration and expenses are disclosed in note 11 of the financial statements respectively. The Nene Valley Partnership's approach to executive pay is as follows:

- The Nene Valley Partnership believes in fair, transparent and value for money executive salary arrangements;
- As a relatively small multi-academy trust, the executive leaders also hold substantive roles in Trust Schools, and this model ensured value for money whilst ensuring that all executive functions of the Trust are fulfilled.

#### **CEO Salary**

The CEO of the Nene Valley Partnership is also the Executive Headteacher of Wollaston School. Remuneration for the role at Wollaston School was set by the Governors of Wollaston School on appointment and this is payable on a salary range of L33-39, currently equivalent to between £97,256 and £112,601. The CEO is at the top of this pay range and no further progression is available. Performance in this role is evaluated through the CEO's appraisal, led by the Board of Trustees.

Remuneration for the CEO of the Nene Valley Partnership is set by the Board of Trustees. This is payable as an enhancement to the salary range above and is set at a point of between 3 and 7 points above the existing Headteacher pay point. This salary enhancement currently stands at £13,434 per annum. Performance is appraised annually by the Trust Board and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of an additional 7 points) is applied from January each year.

#### **CFO Salary**

The CFO of the Nene Valley Partnership is also the Business Manager of Wollaston School.

Remuneration for the Business Manager at Wollaston School is set by the Governors of Wollaston School on appointment, and this is payable on a salary range of Grade M - NJC Points 42 – 47, currently equivalent to between £48,587 - £53,708. Performance is appraised annually by the CEO and Wollaston School Governors and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of Point 47) is applied from September each academic year.

Remuneration for the CFO of the Nene Valley Partnership is set by the Board of Trustees. This is payable as an enhancement to the salary range above and is set at a point of between 3 and 7 points above the existing Business Manager pay point. This salary enhancement currently stands at £9,522 per annum. Performance is appraised annually by the Trust Board and any pay progression awarded (an annual 1 point on the existing scale up to a maximum of an additional 7 points) is applied from January each year.

The pay of all members of NVP senior management team is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees or LGB Pay Committees in line with the Trust's pay and remuneration policy, by reference to published pay scales for both teaching and administrative support staff and by reference to available information on similar roles in other similar sized Academies and Trusts. Chairs of LGBs report annually to the Board of Trustees on pay and remuneration and adherence to the policy in relation to School Headteachers/Heads of School.

The Board of Trustees sets remuneration for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the Trust. The setting of remuneration was reviewed during the year and is payable as an enhancement to their salary range and is set at a point range above the existing pay point.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Trade union facility time

#### *Relevant union officials*

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period

-

Full-time equivalent employee number

-

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

Percentage of time

Number of employees

0%

-

1%-50%

-

51%-99%

-

100%

-

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

Total cost of facility time

-

Total pay bill

7,554,024

Percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time

-

#### *Paid trade union activities*

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours

-

### Engagement with employees

The Trust's policy is to consult and discuss with employees, through unions, professional associations, staff forums and at meetings, matters likely to affect employees' interests. Information about matters of concern to employees is given through information bulletins, reports and meetings which seek to achieve a common awareness on the part of all employees of the financial and economic factors affecting the Trust's performance. During employment, the Trust seeks to work with employees, taking into account their personal circumstances, to ensure appropriate training, development and advanced employment opportunities are available to them to reach their full potential.

Applications for employment by disabled persons are always fully considered, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the applicant concerned. In the event of members of staff becoming disabled, every effort is made to ensure that their employment within the Trust continues and that the appropriate training and adjustments are arranged. It is the Trust's policy that the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be identical to that of other employees.

### Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

There are no related parties or connected organisations which either control or significantly influence the decisions and operations of the Trust.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### Objects and aims

The principal objects of the Trust, as set out in its Articles of Association, are to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on, managing and developing a school, offering a broad and balanced curriculum.



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The key aims of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 are summarised below:

- To successfully incorporate Cogenhoe Primary School into the Nene Valley Partnership, including all key financial, HR, Health and Safety, Compliance and Educational harmonisation.
- To ensure that all Trust schools were able to remain open, effective and operational – coping with challenges of increased staff absences.
- To comply with all aspects of DfE and ESFA guidance in ensuring educational and financial effectiveness, to benefit every student in every school.
- To provide value for money with the public funds expended by ensuring that funds are utilised for the effective operation of the Schools.
- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curricular requirements;
- To ensure that every child and student enjoys a high-quality education, in terms of teaching, resourcing, safeguarding and personal development.
- To use school improvement planning, and the additional human resources in school improvement (from the TCAF bid) to ensure that all schools are working towards excellence in education, and are at least "Good" under the Ofsted framework criteria.
- To ensure that children and students are well prepared for success in formal assessments (Phonics / KS1 / KS2 / KS4 / KS5), and are thus able to thrive in the next stage of their education or training.
- To work with the Local Authority to meet increased demand for specialist SEND places by exploring establishment of a provision based at Wollaston School.
- To support Bozeat Primary School, the LGB and the Head of School in improving from the RI judgement of 2018 and preparing for successful re-inspection.
- To work alongside the LGB at Irchester Community Primary School to support the successful recruitment of a new Head of School, the retirement of the outgoing Headteacher, and manage the transition to a new leadership style and approach.
- To support the LGB and Leaders at Cogenhoe Primary School to maximise the educational benefits of NVP membership, particularly during a time of temporary changes to the school leadership structure.
- To work with the Head of School at Wollaston to ensure a more autonomous and effective SLT at Wollaston School who are able to drive forward school improvement as they approach their next Ofsted Inspection.
- To use the TCAF grant funding to enhance and harmonise HR processes, systems and policies.

#### Objectives, strategies and activities

The key activities of the Trust for the year ended 31 August 2023 were focused as follows:

- Ensuring that day to day educational and pastoral provision were of a good quality and allowed children and students to feel safe, cared for and fulfilled during their time at school. The success of this approach is evident in the higher than national average attendance figures at all NVP schools.
- The full resumption of many of the enrichment and extra-curricular activities, which had been sidelined due to the Covid pandemic in previous years. Children and students were able to benefit from a range of trips, visits, performing arts, sports and other activities as part of the wider curriculum. Student and Parent voice activities indicate that these are well valued by children and parents. Such activities have also impacted on positive recovery from the pandemic, raising children's self esteem, socialisation and wellbeing, alongside re-discovering a joy of life, free from restrictions.
- The Trust ensured that students who needed additional support, and those from disadvantaged backgrounds were able to access this. Academic tutoring and intervention was available, for those with significant gaps in learning, and additional pastoral support and care was available for children who needed this. The Trust has ensured that appropriate leadership arrangements are in place for students with SEND and for those entitled to the Pupil Premium. The impact of this has been to secure additional funding and resource for these children and students, resulting in improved educational outcomes. The pandemic disproportionately affected vulnerable children, and additional support was provided to these students, such as through the Year 6/7 summer school.
- The Trust ensured that children and students were well prepared for examinations and assessments in Phonics and at Key Stage 1, 2 4 and 5. This resulted in strong performance across the Trust, which were broadly aligned to or above national averages.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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- The Trust formalised and developed its school improvement provision, using a model of Appreciative Enquiry across all NVP schools, supported through the additional funding from the TCAF. This has ensured that improvement planning and activity remained a central focus in each school. As a result, both Irchester Primary School and Wollaston School enjoyed successful Ofsted Inspections during the 2022/23 academic year. School Improvement activity helped to prepare Bozeat Primary School for the forthcoming Ofsted Inspection, resulting in this being the highest performing NVP school at KS2, significantly outperforming national averages with a cohort below that level in their KS1 outcomes.

Legacy disruption resulting from Covid-19 was most significant in affecting levels of staff absence during the academic year. The impact peaked and waned at different times, depending on prevalence of Covid 19 and other illness, and staff absence was compounded by a lack of available supply staff. Nevertheless, all schools remained fully open to all year groups throughout the year. This was achieved through staff covering for one another – and demonstrates the positive, collegiate approach of all of the staff of the NVP in meeting the challenges of the pandemic and prioritising the education of the children whom we serve.

#### Public benefit

The Trust aims to advance for the public benefit education in the area south of Wellingborough, including Bozeat, Irchester, Cogenhoe, Wollaston and the surrounding local area, offering a broad curriculum and an excellent education environment for its pupils. The Trust also allows use of its facilities for recreational and other leisure time occupation for the community at large in the interests of social welfare and with the interest of improving the life of that community.

The details of the particular activities of the Trust during the year and how these have provided public benefit are detailed in the Achievements and Performance section below.

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

## Strategic report

### Achievements and performance

The Trust continues to evolve and to adapt to the ever-changing educational environment. The Trust is committed to continual improvement, which is achieved in a number of ways, including improvement planning, review meetings, continual professional development, lesson observations, appraisal, appreciative enquiry, self-evaluation, data analysis and action planning. The particular achievements and performance of the Trust during the year ended 31 August 2023 were as follows:

- The Trust successfully integrated Cogenhoe Primary School into the Nene Valley Partnership, to the benefit of all existing schools and Cogenhoe itself.
- The Trust utilised the DfE TCAF funding to provide additional capacity for School Improvement and HR provision across the partnership of schools.
- The Trust was able to develop a bespoke school improvement “appreciative review” programme, engaging expert local practitioners to provide support and challenge to all schools in key areas of activity.
- The Trust enjoyed two successful Ofsted Inspections – at Wollaston School and Irchester Community Primary School. Both realised a “Good” judgement.
- The Trust reached agreement with North Northamptonshire Council (and secured £512,000 in additional funding) to establish a specialist SEND provision based at Wollaston School.
- The Trust secured the support of the DfE for a change of designation at Wollaston School, to enable the SEND provision to open from September 2023.
- All schools were able to achieve successful formal assessment outcomes in 2023. As a cross phase Trust, this includes reception baseline tests, Phonics screening, KS1 and KS2 assessments, SATs tests, GCSE, A Level and BTEC examinations.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### NVP – Trust Outcomes 2023



Nene Valley  
Partnership  
Excellence in Education

KEY STAGE 2	Reading %EXP NA73	Reading %GD NA28	Maths %EXP NA73	Maths %GD NA23	Writing % EXP NA71	Writing %GD NA13	Combined %EXP NA59	Combined %GD NA7
NVP						11		5

Green shading indicates outcomes above national average benchmarks - with Greater Depth (GD) averages being taken from 2022 to 2 - 2023 GD averages have yet to be published.

KEY STAGE 4	EMA4+ %NA67	EMA5+ %NA47	A8	P8	Open APS	EBACC APS	Maths APS	English APS
NVP(Wollaston)	44	4.5	-0.06	4.32	4.34	4.7	4.8	

KEY Stage 5	APSA Level	Avg Grade (Voc)	%A*/A	%A*/B	%A*/C NA76	%A*/E	%Unplaced
NVP (Wollaston)	32	36	18	41	70	97	99

### Summer 2023 National Outcomes Vs KPIs

(2023 provisional National Average NA) \* (2022 NA) \*\* (2019 NA)



Nene Valley  
Partnership  
Excellence in Education

KPI	BPS	CPS	ICPS	WS
OFSTED GRADE	3 (Nov 18)			
Avg. Score Maths (KS2/4)		102 (104)		
Avg. Score English (KS2/4)		104 (105)		4.8 (5.1)
% EXP RWM KS2		57 (59)		
% GD RWM KS2		0* (7)	5* (7)	
% EXP RWM KS1	41 (56)	53 (56)	48 (56)	
% GD RWM KS1	5	10	0	
% Phonics Screening			77* (81)	
Attainment 8 KS4				4.5 (4.5)
Progress 8 KS4				-0.05 ** (-0.03) ↑
Post 16 (Avg. Grade)				C+ ** (B-)
Curriculum (DSS)			DEVELOPING	
Safeguarding (DSS)				

- The data above represents significant achievements for the Trust in a number of key areas. Overall, NVP outcomes in Phonics and at Key stage 2 are above national averages and demonstrate the strength in core subjects at primary level.
- At Bozeat, Irchester and Wollaston, a significant pattern of improvement is evident, which is testament to the successes of the partnership and the schools more generally. As a new NVP member, trends in Cogenhoe's performance will be evaluated from next year (2023/4).
- Grade boundaries were increased at Secondary Level (KS4 and 5) in 2023. This was to combat the grade inflation witnessed during the pandemic. At both A level and GCSE, Secondary Performance held up well against 2022 outcomes, with the percentage of students achieving GCSEs at Grade 4 + in both Maths and English exceeding the national average.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Key performance indicators

The Trust uses a number of benchmarks or performance indicators to evaluate its financial performance and drive budgetary control and monitoring.

A key financial performance indicator for the Trust is the level of reserves held at the Balance Sheet date and, in particular, the amount of unrestricted reserves plus restricted income reserves at year end. At 31 August 2023, the balance of the unrestricted and restricted income reserves was £2,791,699 (2022: £2,518,764), which is after transfers of £98,823 to the restricted fixed asset fund to fund capital expenditure during the year. Further details on the level of reserves held by the Trust are set out in the Reserves Policy section below.

As the majority of the Trust's funding is based on pupil numbers, pupil numbers are also a key performance indicator. The pupil numbers at the most recent census were 2121 which is an increase of 194 pupils from October 2022, largely accounted for by the new NVP membership of Cogenhoe Primary School.

Staffing costs are another key performance indicator for the Trust and the percentage of total staff costs to total educational grant funding (being GAG funding plus other operating educational grants from the ESFA and / or Local Authority) for the year was 81.5% (2022: 85.2%), while the percentage of staff costs to total costs (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was 77.1% (2022: 82.5%).

#### Going concern

After making appropriate enquiries, and a detailed evaluation against the ESFA / DFE Going Concern guidance, the Board of Trustees has a reasonable expectation that the Trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies within the financial statements.

#### **Financial review**

The majority of the Trust's income is received from the ESFA in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. These grants are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the ESFA which are shown as restricted fixed asset funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

For the year ended 31 August 2023, the Trust's total income (excluding capital grants and transfers in) was £13,699,736 (2022: £11,634,086) while the total expenditure (excluding depreciation and LGPS FRS102 pension cost charges) was £13,494,266 (2022: £11,093,683), resulting in a net operating surplus for the year of £205,470 (2022: £540,403).

The balance of reserves at 31 August 2023, excluding the restricted fixed asset funds and LGPS liability fund was £2,791,699 (2022: £2,518,764).

The net book value of fixed assets at 31 August 2023 were £17,443,489. The fixed assets held by the Trust are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust.

Included within the Trust's Balance Sheet at the year-end is a defined benefit pension scheme liability of £756,000 (2022: £1,315,000), which arises from the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS") that is attributable to the four individual Schools. Further details regarding the deficit in the LGPS at 31 August 2023 are set out in note 21 to the financial statements.

The key financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included the Financial Procedures Manual, which lays out the framework for the Trust's financial management, including financial responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, Headteacher, Head of School, Executive Officer, managers, budget holders and other staff, as well as the delegated authorities for spending. The other financial policies reviewed and adopted during the period included a revised financial scheme of delegation.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### Reserves policy

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

The Trustees have determined that the appropriate level of operating reserves should be grown towards 5% of total incoming resources. The reason for this is to provide sufficient working capital to cover delays between spending and receipts of grants and to provide a cushion to deal with unexpected emergencies such as urgent maintenance, long term staff absences etc.

The Trust's current level of operating reserves at 31 August 2023 is £2,791,699 (2022: £2,518,764), which is made up of restricted income reserves of £1,150,819 (2022: £1,294,179) and unrestricted funds of £1,640,880 (2022: £1,224,585).

Although the current level of operating reserves is below the target level identified above, the Trustees continue to look at and evaluate strategies for raising additional income whilst also reviewing key areas of operational expenditure so as to ensure the targeted reserves can be achieved in future years.

The value of the restricted fixed asset fund at 31 August 2023 is £17,689,326 (2022: £15,718,514), which is represented by the fixed assets that are used exclusively for providing education and associated support services to the pupils of the Trust, and the balance of unspent capital grants to be used on future capital expenditure. These funds can only be realised by disposing of the associated tangible fixed assets.

The pension reserve fund has a deficit balance at 31 August 2023 of £756,000 (2022: £1,315,000), which represents the deficit in the LGPS at the balance sheet date. The effect of the LGPS deficit is that Trust is required to make additional pension contributions over a number of years in order to fund the deficit. These additional pension contributions will be funded from the Trust's annual recurring income, which may significantly impact its ability to continue to deliver its educational outcomes with the available public funding it receives. The Trustees have noted however that the Government has provided a guarantee that in the event of an Academy closure, any outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education.

#### Investment policy

All funds surplus to immediate requirements are invested to optimal effect by the Trust with the objective of ensuring maximum return on assets invested but with minimal risk. On a daily basis this is achieved by automatic transfer of surplus funds to an overnight deposit account with the Trust's principal bankers. Where cash flow allows, sums in excess of working capital requirements may be invested on deposit for extended periods with the Trust's principal bankers. The NVP maintains an Investment Policy, and all deposits made are in line with the requirements of this policy.

#### Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Trust is exposed, especially in the operational areas, such as teaching, health & safety, safeguarding and school trips, and in relation to the control of finances and strategic development of the Trust. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures and internal financial controls, (laid out in the finance manual and financial scheme of delegation) in order to minimise risk and have a Risk Register in place, which is formally reviewed annually.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

#### Educational

The continuing success of the Trust is dependent on continuing to attract pupil applicants in sufficient numbers by maintaining the highest educational standards across all key stages. To mitigate this risk, the Trustees ensure that pupil success, welfare and achievement are closely monitored and reviewed, with corrective actions embedded at an early stage, and that relationships and partnerships with parents, the local community and other organisations and groups are maintained and are effective in producing a cohesive and supportive community.

In schools where low birth rates affect the number of pupils starting school, the Trust has worked with leaders and Governors to ensure appropriate marketing strategies are in place to make the wider community aware of the strengths of NVP schools, in order to attract children from geographical areas outside of the traditional catchment locality.

Fluctuation of numbers of students entering the Sixth Form at Wollaston School also represents a financial risk. Marketing strategies are being put in place to maximise admissions into Year 12. The Trust is also formulating a contingency plan, including curriculum rationalisation and staffing restructures in order to ensure appropriate resource for the size of the Sixth Form.

#### Safeguarding and child protection

The Trustees continue to ensure that the highest standards are maintained in the areas of selection and monitoring of staff, the operation of child protection policies and procedures, health & safety and discipline. All schools complete the safeguarding self-assessment audit and action plan provided by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board. In addition, the Trust has also recently commissioned an annual external audit of safeguarding at each school, to quality assure all aspects of Safeguarding practice. The audits are scrutinised by LGBs and the Trust Board.

#### Financial

The Trust has considerable reliance on continued Government funding through the ESFA (and Local Authority). In the year, approximately 92% of the Trust's income was ultimately Government funded. Whilst this level is expected to continue, there is no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in light of continuing changes in the National Funding Formula for schools and the risk of funding falling well short of the current level of inflation.

Continuing increases in employment costs, including pension costs association with both the Teachers' Pension Scheme and the Local Government Pension Scheme, and premises costs will also continue to place significant pressure on the Trust's financial position and its ability to deliver balanced budgets in the future.

The Trustees examine the financial health of the Trust formally six times a year reviewing performance against budgets and overall expenditure by means of regular update reports at all full Trustees and Finance, Audit and Risk Committee meetings. The Trust ensures that the CEO and LGBs have contingency plans to cater for the above risks, and any other arising from, for example, lower pupil numbers.

At the Balance Sheet date, the Trust had no significant liabilities arising from trade creditors or debtors where there would be a significant effect on the Trust's liquidity.

The Trustees recognise that the LGPS deficit represents a significant potential liability to the Trust. However, as the Trustees consider the Trust is able to meet its known annual contribution commitments for the foreseeable future, the risk from this liability is minimised.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Staffing

The success of the Trust is reliant on the quality of its staff so the Trustees monitor and review policies and procedures to ensure continued development and training of staff as well as ensuring there is clear succession planning. Recruitment in shortage subjects at Secondary level can be challenging, and the CEO is developing a recruitment strategy at Wollaston School to encourage an approach to identifying and training new entrants to the profession in English, Maths and Science.

### Estates and Premises

The Trust engages external expertise in order to ensure that its estates, are safe, well maintained and compliant with all relevant legislation. This work includes specific activity, such as asbestos, RAAC and Water Safety surveys, in addition to more general site condition surveys. Where significant issues are identified, the Trust utilises the DFE CIF bid programme to secure additional funding and appropriate resolution to the identified issues.

### Failures in governance and / or management

The risk in this area arises from the potential failure to effectively manage the Trust's finances, internal controls, compliance with regulations and legislation, statutory returns etc. The Trustees continue to review and ensure appropriate measures are in place to mitigate these risks, which includes those relating to fraud and mismanagement of funds.

### Fraud and mismanagement of funds

The Trust has engaged external expert auditors to perform a program of work (Internal Scrutiny) aimed at checking and reviewing the financial systems and records as required by the Academy Trust Handbook. All finance staff receive training to keep them up to date with financial practice requirements and to develop their skills in this area.

### **Fundraising**

The Trust has not undertaken any material fundraising activities during the year ended 31 August 2023.

### **Plans for future periods**

The Trust's plans for future periods are:

- To continue to improve the school estates and resources, using a combination of CIF bids and school surpluses. The Trust will develop a long term strategic plan for estate improvement, alongside a specialist company. Estates improvement has been on-going since inception as a Trust in 2019, with successful applications for CIF funding having been awarded previously. Plans to improve Sporting facilities are underway and Wollaston School will utilise its own reserves alongside grant funding from the Football Association.
- The Trust also has been awarded in principle, Section 106 funding for the benefit of Irchester and Wollaston. This will be utilised to increase capacity and improve facilities for students. This work may include establishment of a Pre-school provision at Irchester and enhancement of the Performing Arts block at Wollaston School.
- The Trust will ensure a successful launch and delivery of the new Specialist Provision "Admiral House" at Wollaston School. This will include working in partnership with North Northamptonshire Council and delivery of success criteria against both the SLA and the objectives on attending students' Education and Healthcare Plans. The Trust will also explore the possibility of establishing a similar specialist provision at primary level at Cogenhoe, in partnership with West Northamptonshire Council.
- The Trust remains open to exploring growth opportunities, but only within a close geographic area, and with schools who share similar values and a commitment to educational excellence. The Trust will remain in dialogue with two local schools, and establish collaborative activity with leaders, Governors and staff to explore the possibility of NVP membership. The Trust will seek additional TCAF funding from the DfE if the NVP seeks to expand during the next academic year.
- The Trust remains ambitious to achieve the very best outcomes for every student – and has invested in its school improvement capacity for the 2023/24 academic year and beyond. New postholders of Director of School Improvement and Director of Maths will work to ensure curricular excellence in education, for the benefit of every child in every school.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **Funds held as custodian trustee on behalf of others**

The Trust and its Trustees do not act as Custodian Trustees of any other charity.

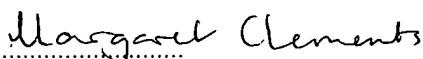
The Trust does however hold Post 16 Bursary Funds on behalf of the ESFA, which are distributed to students as required and in line with the terms and conditions of the funds.

### **Auditor**

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the Board of Trustees, as the company directors, on 5/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:



M Clements

**Chair of Trustees**



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Scope of responsibility

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

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

The Board of Trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Executive Officer, as Accounting Officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Nene Valley Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Board of Trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The Board of Trustees has formally met 11 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Barrett (Appointed 18 October 2022)	8	10
J Birkett (Chief Executive Officer)	10	11
M Clements (Chair of Trustees)	11	11
P Dudley-Smith (term ended 31 March 2023)	5	7
A Evans (Appointed 7 October 2022)	7	10
L Goodrick	7	11
C Hicks (Resigned 2 December 2022)	4	4
C Malloy	9	11
C Stevens	9	11
R Watts	8	11
J Woodruff (Resigned 14 March 2023)	4	6

### Conflicts of interest

In order to manage any potential conflicts of interest, the Trust maintains an up-to-date and complete register of interests for our Board. This register is used in the day-to-day management and governance of the Trust. It is also asked that conflicts of interest are disclosed before Board meetings.

### Governance reviews

The Board of Trustees review the Trust's governance structure annually in the Autumn Term to evaluate its impact and effectiveness, which was achieved through obtaining feedback internally from key stakeholders. The Trustees have reviewed the feedback and identified areas that are working well and the key matters that need attention. As the number of Trustees have declined, the Trust has actively recruited new Trustees, based on the skills required from the latest skills audit. The number of Trustees has increased during the 2022/23 academic year, along with the breadth of skills of the Trustees. The Trustees will next carry out a review in the 2023/24 academic year and will evaluate whether this will be done as an external review. As a result of their own internal evaluation procedures, the Trust have currently developed a more structured mode of communication with Local Governing Boards alongside a revised approach to policy formation, review and approval.

The Trust Board meets regularly and meetings are held both in person and virtually with Trustees continuing to assess how meetings should be held and the frequency of these.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee is a sub-Committee of the Board of Trustees. Its purpose is to provide oversight, guidance and assistance to the Board of Trustees on all matters related to finance, resources, premises and Health & Safety of the Academy Trust. This committee also acts as the Trust's Audit Committee, where its purpose is to maintain an oversight of the Trust's governance, risk management, internal control and value for money framework.

The key issues dealt with by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee during the year were the review of the Trust's 3 year financial forecasts and actions required from previous audit reviews, evaluation of internal control procedures and oversight of the internal and external audit processes.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

J Birkett is listed below as being "in attendance" rather than being a committee member.

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
J Birkett (Chief Executive Officer)	6	6
M Clements (Chair of Trustees)	5	6
P Dudley-Smith (term ended 31 March 2023)	4	4
L Goodrick	6	6
C Malloy	3	6
R Watts	6	6

A new committee was established in 2023, the Premises and Staffing committee, with a specific remit to review Health and Safety, and all matters pertaining to HR and estates and premises management.

Attendance at meetings in the year was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
A Barrett (Appointed 18 October 2022)	2	2
J Birkett (Chief Executive Officer)	2	2
M Clements (Chair of Trustees)	2	2
A Evans (Appointed 7 October 2022)	2	2
C Stevens	1	2

#### Review of value for money

As Accounting Officer, Chief Executive Officer 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 NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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The Accounting Officer considers how the Academy Trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the Academy Trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

- The Trust continues to implement an approach to curriculum based financial planning, following useful feedback from a SRMA. This has enabled the Trust to take strategic staffing and curriculum decisions, including some restructuring of staff in order to mitigate against cost pressures caused by fluctuations in pupil admissions. This has ensured that timely staff decisions have been made, in advance of anticipated budget reductions, to ensure staffing spend remains within benchmark figures, with no adverse impact on the quality of education delivered;
- The Trust has utilised the DfE CIF bidding process to address specific improvement projects relating to the safe and effective maintenance of the NVP estates. This has included successful bids and projects for Roofing and Central Heating, at two schools, which have ensured that these areas are safe and compliant with all regulatory requirements;
- The Trust has utilised specific grant funding from the DfE to ensure that the NVP estate is increasingly energy efficient. This work has supported a reduction in energy bills and has included installation of LED lighting, New doors and windows to reduce drafts and maximise heat retention and replacement of appliances with improved energy efficiency ratings.
- The Trust has a mission to play a leading role in the local educational community and has expert leaders, who play a role in system wide improvement. The Trust also requires additional external educational expertise to meet its aims and objectives. By negotiating mutually beneficial arrangements, with other Trusts, the NVP avoids any need for costly consultancy or paid educational support.

#### **The purpose of the system of internal control**

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Trust's 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 The Nene Valley Partnership for the period from 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 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 Trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period from 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, Audit and Risk Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- identification and management of risks.

The Board of Trustees has decided to buy in an external partner to complete internal audit functions to test the strength and compliance of internal systems of control. This service is provided by Ellacotts and is in addition to the internal and peer reviews of processes which remain ongoing.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The reviewer's role includes giving advice on financial matters and performing a range of checks on the Trust's financial and other systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current year included the budget setting process and fixed asset process. The Trust also commissioned a cyber security review.

On an annual basis, the reviewer reports to the Board of Trustees through the Finance Audit and Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Trustees' financial responsibilities and prepares summary report to the Committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the Committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

### **Review of effectiveness**

As Accounting Officer, the *Executive Officer* has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year ended 31 August 2023 the review has been informed by:

- the work of the reviewer;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the work of the executive managers within the Trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The Accounting Officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and a detailed action plan to address outstanding action points to ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the Board of Trustees on 5/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:



J Birkett  
Chief Executive Officer



M Clements  
Chair of Trustees

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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As Accounting Officer of The Nene Valley Partnership, I have considered my responsibility to notify the Academy Trust Board of Trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the Academy Trust, under the funding agreement in place between the Academy Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2022.

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



J Birkett  
Accounting Officer

5/12/23

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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The Trustees (who are also the Directors of The Nene Valley Partnership for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the accounts in accordance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the accounts 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 accounts, 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 judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts 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 accounts 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 that 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 accounts may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 5/12/23 and signed on its behalf by:

  
M Clements  
Chair of Trustees

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### Opinion

We have audited the accounts of The Nene Valley Partnership for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the accounts, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the accounts:

- 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 prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and the 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 accounts' section of our report. We are independent of the Academy Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

### Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the accounts 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 accounts 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 accounts 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.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **Opinions 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 including the incorporated strategic report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the accounts; and
- the Trustees' report including the incorporated strategic 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 Academy Trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report, including the incorporated strategic report.

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

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

### **Responsibilities of Trustees**

As explained more fully in the statement of Trustees' responsibilities, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the accounts, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Academy Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

### **Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud**

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above and on the Financial Reporting Council's website, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

We obtain and update our understanding of the entity, its activities, its control environment, and likely future developments, including in relation to the legal and regulatory framework applicable and how the entity is complying with that framework. Based on this understanding, we identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. This includes consideration of the risk of acts by the entity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud.



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, including fraud, we designed procedures which included:

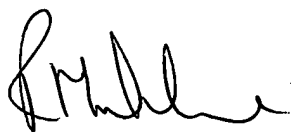
- Enquiry of senior leadership, Governors/Trustees and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims as well as actual, suspected and alleged fraud;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- Assessing the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations considered to have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the company through enquiry and inspection;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations including compliance with the Academies Accounts Direction 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency;
- Performing audit work over the recognition of grant income and the allocation of expenditure to funds;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management bias and override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for indicators of potential bias.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

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

#### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the 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.



**Richard Monkhouse (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of Azets Audit Services

7/12/23

**Chartered Accountants**  
**Statutory Auditor**

Thorpe House  
93 Headlands  
Kettering  
Northamptonshire  
United Kingdom  
NN15 6BL

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 14 September 2023 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 The Nene Valley Partnership 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 The Nene Valley Partnership and ESFA in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the The Nene Valley Partnership and ESFA those matters we are required to state in a report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than The Nene Valley Partnership and ESFA, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

### **Respective responsibilities of The Nene Valley Partnership's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Nene Valley Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2019 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.

### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Assessment of the internal audit work and reliance placed upon this work for the review of internal control procedures
- Further testing of the internal control procedures has been carried out in the following areas:
  - Sample test of delegated authority procedures
  - Enquiry and review of transactions with connected persons
  - Review of governance procedures including inspection of trustee and relevant Board minutes
  - Sample test of procurement procedures
- Communication with the accounting officer

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### 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.



### Reporting Accountant

Azets Audit Services

Thorpe House

93 Headlands

Kettering

Northamptonshire

NN15 6BL

United Kingdom

Dated: 7/12/23

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds: General £ Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and capital grants	3	29,302	- 1,228,232	1,257,534	71,513
Donations - transfer from local authority on conversion	29	166,288	- 1,040,000	1,206,288	-
Charitable activities:					
- Funding for educational operations	4	398,011	12,748,521 -	13,146,532	11,130,345
Other trading activities	5	522,830	- -	522,830	477,392
Investments	6	1,072	- -	1,072	590
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,117,503</b>	<b>12,748,521 2,268,232</b>	<b>16,134,256</b>	<b>11,679,840</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
- Educational operations	9	701,208	12,948,058 396,243	14,045,509	12,060,491
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>701,208</b>	<b>12,948,058 396,243</b>	<b>14,045,509</b>	<b>12,060,491</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>416,295</b>	<b>(199,537) 1,871,989</b>	<b>2,088,747</b>	<b>(380,651)</b>
Transfers between funds	18	-	(98,823) 98,823	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses)</b>					
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	20	-	714,000 -	714,000	3,697,000
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>416,295</b>	<b>415,640 1,970,812</b>	<b>2,802,747</b>	<b>3,316,349</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		1,224,585	(20,821) 15,718,514	16,922,278	13,605,929
Total funds carried forward		1,640,880	394,819 17,689,326	19,725,025	16,922,278

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Tangible assets	13		17,443,489		15,718,514
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stocks	14	44,419		31,221	
Debtors	15	910,876		237,049	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,555,652		2,996,881	
		<u>4,510,947</u>		<u>3,265,151</u>	
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	(1,473,411)		(746,387)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>3,037,536</u>		<u>2,518,764</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension liability</b>			20,481,025		18,237,278
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	20		(756,000)		(1,315,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u>19,725,025</u>		<u>16,922,278</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>					
<b>Restricted funds</b>	18				
- Fixed asset funds			17,689,326		15,718,514
- Restricted income funds			1,150,819		1,294,179
- Pension reserve			(756,000)		(1,315,000)
<b>Total restricted funds</b>			<u>18,084,145</u>		<u>15,697,693</u>
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	18		<u>1,640,880</u>		<u>1,224,585</u>
<b>Total funds</b>			<u>19,725,025</u>		<u>16,922,278</u>

The accounts on pages 26 to 50 were approved by the Trustees and authorised for issue on 5/12/23 and are signed on their behalf by:

*Margaret Clements*

M Clements  
Chair of Trustees

Company registration number 11842925

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	Notes	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Net cash provided by operating activities	21	244,397		990,921	
Cash funds transferred on conversion	29	166,288		-	
		<u>410,685</u>		<u>990,921</u>	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		1,072		590	
Capital grants from DfE Group		1,202,225		45,754	
Capital funding received from sponsors and others		15,500		-	
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(1,070,711)</u>		<u>(462,553)</u>	
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>		<u>148,086</u>		<u>(416,209)</u>	
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<u>558,771</u>		<u>574,712</u>	
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		2,996,881		2,422,169	
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year</b>		<u><u>3,555,652</u></u>		<u><u>2,996,881</u></u>	

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

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

##### 1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts 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 Nene Valley Partnership meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102 and is a private charitable company, limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The address of its principal place of business is given on page 1 and the nature of its operations are set out in the trustees' report.

The financial statements are prepared in Sterling, being the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts presented in these financial statements have been rounded to the nearest £'000.

##### 1.2 Going concern

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate, ie 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 authorisation for issue of the accounts 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 accounts.

##### 1.3 Conversion to an academy trust

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

The assets and liabilities transferred on conversion from Cogenhoe Primary School to the academy trust have been valued at their fair value. The fair value has been derived based on that of equivalent items. The amounts have been recognised under the appropriate balance sheet categories, with a corresponding amount recognised in Donations – transfer from local authority on conversion in the Statement of Financial Activities and analysed under unrestricted funds, restricted general funds and restricted fixed asset funds. Further details of the transaction are set out in note 29.

##### 1.4 Income

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

###### Grants

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

General Annual Grant is recognised in full in the statement of financial activities in the period for which it is receivable, and any abatement in respect of the period is deducted from income and recognised as a liability.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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#### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

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.

##### Sponsorship income

Sponsorship income provided to the Academy Trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the statement of financial activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it 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.

##### 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 accounts until they are sold. This income is recognised within 'Income from other trading activities'.

##### Donated fixed assets

Donated fixed assets are measured at fair value unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the Academy Trust's accounting policies.

#### 1.5 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 are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### Expenditure on raising funds

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

##### Charitable activities

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



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

#### 1.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Assets costing £10,000 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 that require the continued use of the asset, the related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities and carried forward in the balance sheet. Depreciation on the relevant assets is charged directly to the restricted fixed asset fund in the statement of financial activities. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with unrestricted funds, depreciation on such assets is charged to the unrestricted fund.

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

Long-term leasehold property	50 to 125 years
Computer equipment	5 years
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	10 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

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.

#### 1.7 Liabilities

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

#### 1.8 Leased assets

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

#### 1.9 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 is classified as a basic financial instrument and is measured at face value.

##### Financial liabilities

Trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost. 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.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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### **1 Accounting policies**

**(Continued)**

#### **1.10 Stock**

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Net realisable value is based on estimated selling price less further costs to completion and disposal. Provision is made for obsolete and slow moving stock.

#### **1.11 Taxation**

The Academy Trust is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Academy Trust is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by chapter 3 part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

#### **1.12 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 and the assets are held separately from those of the Academy Trust.

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. The 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 are 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 or 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.

#### **1.13 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 Education and Skills Funding Agency/Department for Education.

Restricted pension reserve funds represent the Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities for the Local Government Pension Scheme.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 2 Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgement

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

##### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost or income for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 21, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 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.

#### 3 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donated fixed assets	-	10,507	10,507	-
Capital grants	-	1,202,225	1,202,225	45,754
Other donations	29,302	15,500	44,802	25,759
	<u>29,302</u>	<u>1,228,232</u>	<u>1,257,534</u>	<u>71,513</u>

The income from donations and capital grants was £1,257,534 (2022: £71,513) of which £29,302 was unrestricted (2022: £25,759) and £1,228,232 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £45,754).

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 4 Funding for the Academy Trust's charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>DfE/ESFA grants</b>				
General annual grant (GAG)	-	10,774,307	10,774,307	9,793,101
Other DfE/ESFA grants:				
- UIFSM	-	80,091	80,091	70,723
- Pupil premium	-	435,611	435,611	288,711
- Teachers' pay grant	-	905	905	19,634
- Teachers' pension grant	-	47,028	47,028	55,478
- Others	-	685,766	685,766	244,621
	-	12,023,708	12,023,708	10,472,268
<b>Other government grants</b>				
Local authority grants	-	417,803	417,803	188,015
<b>COVID-19 additional funding</b>				
<b>DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	51,251	51,251	40,966
<b>Non-DfE/ESFA</b>				
Other COVID-19 funding	-	49,312	49,312	40,561
	-	100,563	100,563	81,527
Other incoming resources	398,011	206,447	604,458	388,535
<b>Total funding</b>	398,011	12,748,521	13,146,532	11,130,345

The income from funding for educational operations was £13,146,532 (2022: £11,130,345) of which £398,011 was unrestricted (2022: £238,522) and £12,748,521 was restricted (2022: £10,891,823).

The academy received £100,563 of Coronavirus funding and £2,194 was unspent at the year end.

#### 5 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Lettings	64,042	-	64,042	44,829
Catering income	458,788	-	458,788	428,813
IT services	-	-	-	3,750
	522,830	-	522,830	477,392

The income from other trading activities was £522,830 (2022: £477,392) of which £522,830 was unrestricted (2022: £477,392).

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Bank interest	1,072	-	1,072	590

The income from funding for investment income was £1,072 (2022: £590) of which £1,072 was unrestricted (2022: £590).

### 7 Expenditure

	Staff costs £	Non-pay expenditure Premises £	Other £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Academy's educational operations					
- Direct costs	8,460,877	-	1,131,699	9,592,576	8,055,745
- Allocated support costs	1,877,057	1,420,698	1,155,178	4,452,933	4,004,746
	10,337,934	1,420,698	2,286,877	14,045,509	12,060,491

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to auditor for:		
- Audit	8,450	8,250
- Other services	4,750	4,850
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	396,243	348,808
Net interest on defined benefit pension liability	59,000	77,000

### 8 Central services

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

- School improvement;
- HR;
- Finance;
- IT

The Academy Trust charges for these services based on 3% of each schools General Annual Grant (GAG) and Local Authority High needs Funding.

The amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wollaston School	195,916	186,984
Bozeat Community Primary School	18,657	18,546
Irchester Community Primary School	49,773	48,780
Cogenhoe Primary School	25,334	-
	289,680	254,310

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 9 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<b>Direct costs</b>				
Educational operations	-	9,592,576	9,592,576	8,055,745
<b>Support costs</b>				
Educational operations	701,208	3,751,725	4,452,933	4,004,746
	<u>701,208</u>	<u>13,344,301</u>	<u>14,045,509</u>	<u>12,060,491</u>

The expenditure on charitable activities was £14,045,509 (2022: £12,060,491) of which £701,208 was unrestricted (2022: £636,819), £12,948,058 was restricted (2022: £11,074,864) and £396,243 was restricted fixed assets (2022: £348,808).

	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>		
Support staff costs	1,877,057	1,925,620
Depreciation	396,243	348,808
Technology costs	406,848	317,234
Premises costs	1,024,455	720,968
Legal costs	5,974	3,256
Other support costs	721,861	670,110
Governance costs	20,495	18,750
	<u>4,452,933</u>	<u>4,004,746</u>

### 10 Staff

#### Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	7,554,024	6,371,892
Social security costs	705,933	611,992
Pension costs	1,732,359	1,952,820
Staff costs - employees	<u>9,992,316</u>	<u>8,936,704</u>
Agency staff costs	345,618	197,317
	<u>10,337,934</u>	<u>9,134,021</u>
Staff development and other staff costs	46,146	21,733
Total staff expenditure	<u>10,384,080</u>	<u>9,155,754</u>

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 10 Staff

(Continued)

#### Staff numbers

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Teachers	112	111
Administration and support	153	144
Management	6	5
	<u>271</u>	<u>260</u>

#### Higher paid staff

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

	2023 Number	2022 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	6	-
£70,001 - £80,000	2	1
£80,001 - £90,000	1	-
£110,001 - £120,000	-	1
£120,001 - £130,000	1	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

The number of higher paid members of staff has increased owing to:

- The addition of a new school to the Trust with a structure of two co-headteachers.
- The national teacher pay award, which has resulted in a greater number of school leaders being classified as higher earning staff than has previously been the case.

#### 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 key management personnel employee benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Academy Trust was £517,173 (2022: £393,136).

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

### FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 11 Trustees' remuneration and expenses

One or more of the Trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff Trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment, and not in respect of their services as Trustees.

The value of Trustees' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

J Birkett (CEO, Headteacher and trustee)		
Remuneration	£125,000 - £130,000	(2022: £115,000 - £120,000)
Employers' pension contributions	£25,000 - £30,000	(2022: £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2023, travel expenses totalling £nil were reimbursed to Trustees (2022: £nil)

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

#### 12 Trustees' and officers' insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice, the Academy Trust has purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on Academy Trust business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and Officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the RPA scheme membership.

#### 13 Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Computer equipment £	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £	Motor vehicles £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>					
At 1 September 2022	16,368,020	135,614	216,570	60,898	16,781,102
Transfer on conversion	1,040,000	-	-	-	1,040,000
Additions	963,761	52,587	64,870	-	1,081,218
At 31 August 2023	18,371,781	188,201	281,440	60,898	18,902,320
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2022	897,764	85,321	64,279	15,224	1,062,588
Charge for the year	313,916	42,003	28,144	12,180	396,243
At 31 August 2023	1,211,680	127,324	92,423	27,404	1,458,831
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2023	17,160,101	60,877	189,017	33,494	17,443,489
At 31 August 2022	15,470,256	50,293	152,291	45,674	15,718,514

The trust's transactions relating to land and buildings is the spend on the SEN Unit Build at Wollaston School, as well as the LED lighting and flooring at Irchester Community Primary School and the building works at Bozeat Community Primary School.



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 13 Tangible fixed assets

(Continued)

The value of the Land & Buildings for Cogenhoe Primary School introduced on conversion of £1,040,000 has been estimated by the trustees based upon the size of the premises and previous ESFA desktop valuations carried out on other schools within the Trust. A comprehensive professional valuation was not obtained on conversion. A full ESFA desktop valuation has been requested however this is not expected to be available before the date of approval of the financial statements.

### 14 Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
School uniform	35,585	31,221
Catering stock	8,834	-
	<u>44,419</u>	<u>31,221</u>

### 15 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	256,520	22,173
VAT recoverable	264,104	99,566
Prepayments and accrued income	390,252	115,310
	<u>910,876</u>	<u>237,049</u>

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	882,806	267,557
Other taxation and social security	167,762	144,768
Other creditors	219,159	169,362
Accruals and deferred income	203,684	164,700
	<u>1,473,411</u>	<u>746,387</u>

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023**

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**17 Deferred income**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Deferred income is included within:		
Creditors due within one year	65,000	54,426
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Deferred income at 1 September 2022	54,426	68,079
Released from previous years	(54,426)	(68,079)
Resources deferred in the year	65,000	54,426
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Deferred income at 31 August 2023</b>	<b>65,000</b>	<b>54,426</b>
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Deferred income relates to funding received in advance for Universal Infant School Meals, trip income and breakfast club that will be utilised during the year ending 31 August 2024.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,294,179	10,774,307	(10,821,038)	(98,823)	1,148,625
UIFSM	-	80,091	(80,091)	-	-
Pupil premium	-	435,611	(435,611)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	-	51,251	(51,251)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	49,312	(47,118)	-	2,194
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	733,699	(733,699)	-	-
Other government grants	-	417,803	(417,803)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	206,447	(206,447)	-	-
Pension reserve	(1,315,000)	-	(155,000)	714,000	(756,000)
	<u>(20,821)</u>	<u>12,748,521</u>	<u>(12,948,058)</u>	<u>615,177</u>	<u>394,819</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	15,262,896	1,040,000	(356,073)	-	15,946,823
DfE group capital grants	455,618	1,202,225	(36,169)	98,823	1,720,497
Private sector capital sponsorship	-	26,007	(4,001)	-	22,006
	<u>15,718,514</u>	<u>2,268,232</u>	<u>(396,243)</u>	<u>98,823</u>	<u>17,689,326</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>15,697,693</u>	<u>15,016,753</u>	<u>(13,344,301)</u>	<u>714,000</u>	<u>18,084,145</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	<u>1,224,585</u>	<u>1,117,503</u>	<u>(701,208)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,640,880</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>16,922,278</u>	<u>16,134,256</u>	<u>(14,045,509)</u>	<u>714,000</u>	<u>19,725,025</u>

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

Restricted General Funds represent unspent General Annual Grant (GAG), which must be used for the normal recurring costs of the Academy Trust together with other restricted general funds. Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the Academy Trust was not subject to a limit on the account of GAG that it should carry forward at 31 August 2023.

Restricted Fixed Asset Funds represent resources which have been applied to specific capital purposes imposed by the funder together with cash resources still to be expended. During the year, a transfer of £98,823 was made from GAG funds to restricted fixed asset funds in order to fund the acquisition of various tangible fixed assets.

Restricted Pension Reserve Funds represent the Academy Trust's share of the assets and liabilities of the Local Government Pension Scheme.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 18 Funds

(Continued)

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

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	900,289	9,793,101	(9,253,216)	(145,995)	1,294,179
UIFSM	-	70,723	(70,723)	-	-
Pupil premium	8,542	288,711	(297,253)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA COVID-19 funding	85,078	40,966	(126,044)	-	-
Other Coronavirus funding	-	40,561	(40,561)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	11,306	319,733	(331,039)	-	-
Other government grants	-	188,015	(188,015)	-	-
Other restricted funds	-	150,013	(150,013)	-	-
Pension reserve	(4,394,000)	-	(618,000)	3,697,000	(1,315,000)
	<u>(3,388,785)</u>	<u>10,891,823</u>	<u>(11,074,864)</u>	<u>3,551,005</u>	<u>(20,821)</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
Inherited on conversion	15,604,769	-	(341,873)	-	15,262,896
DfE group capital grants	270,804	45,754	(6,935)	145,995	455,618
	<u>15,875,573</u>	<u>45,754</u>	<u>(348,808)</u>	<u>145,995</u>	<u>15,718,514</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>12,486,788</u>	<u>10,937,577</u>	<u>(11,423,672)</u>	<u>3,697,000</u>	<u>15,697,693</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	1,119,141	742,263	(636,819)	-	1,224,585
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>13,605,929</u>	<u>11,679,840</u>	<u>(12,060,491)</u>	<u>3,697,000</u>	<u>16,922,278</u>

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 18 Funds

(Continued)

#### Total funds analysis by academy

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fund balances at 31 August 2023 were allocated as follows:		
Wollaston School	1,658,048	1,631,064
Bozeat Community Primary School	188,683	284,968
Irchester Community Primary School	557,244	447,920
Cogenhoe Primary School	154,962	-
Central services	232,762	154,812
	<u>2,791,699</u>	<u>2,518,764</u>
Total before fixed assets fund and pension reserve		
Restricted fixed asset fund	17,689,326	15,718,514
Pension reserve	(756,000)	(1,315,000)
	<u>19,725,025</u>	<u>16,922,278</u>

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and educational support staff £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs excluding depreciation £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wollaston School	5,841,744	1,348,753	770,273	1,351,952	9,312,722	8,408,083
Bozeat Community Primary School	502,198	96,202	56,331	244,826	899,557	709,429
Irchester Community Primary School	1,388,645	237,655	108,770	227,220	1,962,290	1,798,912
Cogenhoe Primary School	690,001	98,447	121,113	163,699	1,073,260	-
Central services	38,289	96,000	29,066	238,082	401,437	795,259
	<u>8,460,877</u>	<u>1,877,057</u>	<u>1,085,553</u>	<u>2,225,779</u>	<u>13,649,266</u>	<u>11,711,683</u>

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2023 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	17,443,489	17,443,489
Current assets	1,640,880	2,624,230	245,837	4,510,947
Current liabilities	-	(1,473,411)	-	(1,473,411)
Pension scheme liability	-	(756,000)	-	(756,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,640,880</b>	<b>394,819</b>	<b>17,689,326</b>	<b>19,725,025</b>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted funds: General £	Fixed asset £	Total Funds £
<b>Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:</b>				
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	15,718,514	15,718,514
Current assets	1,224,585	2,040,566	-	3,265,151
Current liabilities	-	(746,387)	-	(746,387)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,315,000)	-	(1,315,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>1,224,585</b>	<b>(20,821)</b>	<b>15,718,514</b>	<b>16,922,278</b>

### 20 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 North Northamptonshire 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 that of the LGPS related to the period ended 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £184,309 (2021: £159,010) were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2023 and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

##### Introduction

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme to which both 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.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

#### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The key elements of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% employer administration charge)
- 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 next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to the TPS in the period amounted to £1,142,738 (2022: £894,345).

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 contributions are as noted below. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 23.4 to 24% for employers and 5.5 to 12.5% for employees.

As described in note 29 the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the Academy Trust, being the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who joined the scheme in the period. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the Academy Trust at the balance sheet date.

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

Total contributions made	2023 £	2022 £
Employer's contributions	489,000	395,000
Employees' contributions	119,000	96,000
Total contributions	608,000	491,000

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 20 Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions	2023 %	2022 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.5	3.6
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.0	3.1
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.2	4.3
Inflation assumption (CPI)	3.0	3.1

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

	2023 Years	2022 Years
Retiring today		
- Males	21.7	21.7
- Females	23.6	24.1
Retiring in 20 years		
- Males	21.3	22.8
- Females	25.5	25.8

Scheme liabilities would have been affected by changes in assumptions as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Discount rate + 0.1%	114	116
Discount rate - 0.1%	(114)	(116)
Mortality assumption + 1 year	191	187
Mortality assumption - 1 year	(191)	(187)
CPI rate + 0.1%	110	109
CPI rate - 0.1%	(110)	(109)

#### The Academy Trust's share of the assets in the scheme

	2023 Fair value £	2022 Fair value £
Equities	2,494,000	2,318,000
Bonds	966,000	538,000
Cash and other liquid assets	40,000	34,000
Property	523,000	470,000
Total market value of assets	4,023,000	3,360,000

The actual return on scheme assets was £(20,000) (2022: £(217,000)).



# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 20. Pension and similar obligations

(Continued)

Amount recognised in the statement of financial activities	2023 £	2022 £
Current service cost	521,000	936,000
Interest income	(158,000)	(55,000)
Interest cost	217,000	132,000
Total operating charge	580,000	1,013,000

#### Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

2023  
£

At 1 September 2022	4,675,000
Obligations acquired on conversion	213,000
Current service cost	521,000
Interest cost	217,000
Employee contributions	119,000
Actuarial gain	(892,000)
Benefits paid	(74,000)
At 31 August 2023	4,779,000

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

2023  
£

At 1 September 2022	3,360,000
Assets acquired on conversion	149,000
Interest income	158,000
Actuarial loss	(178,000)
Employer contributions	489,000
Employee contributions	119,000
Benefits paid	(74,000)
At 31 August 2023	4,023,000

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		2,088,747	(380,651)
Adjusted for:			
Net surplus on conversion to academy	29	(1,206,288)	-
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income		(1,228,232)	(45,754)
Investment income receivable	6	(1,072)	(590)
Defined benefit pension costs less contributions payable	20	96,000	541,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	20	59,000	77,000
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		396,243	348,808
(Increase) in stocks		(13,198)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(673,827)	272,407
Increase in creditors		727,024	178,701
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>		<b>244,397</b>	<b>990,921</b>

### 22 Analysis of changes in net funds

	1 September 2022 £	Cash flows £	31 August 2023 £
Cash	2,996,881	558,771	3,555,652

### 23 Contingent liabilities

During the period of the funding agreement, in the event of the sale or disposal by other means, of any asset for which a government capital grant was received, the academy trust is required either to re-invest the proceeds, or to repay to the Secretary of State for Education the same proportion of the proceeds of the sale or disposal as equates with the proportion of the original cost met by the Secretary of State.

Upon termination of the funding agreement, whether as a result of the Secretary of State or the academy trust serving notice, the academy trust shall repay to the Secretary of State sums determined by reference to:

- (a) the value at that time of the academy site and premises and other assets held for the purposes of the academy trust; and
- (b) the extent to which expenditure incurred in providing those assets was met by the Secretary of State under the funding agreement.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 24 Long-term commitments

#### Operating leases

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

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts due within one year	24,330	23,164
Amounts due in two and five years	21,243	29,233
	<u>45,573</u>	<u>52,397</u>

### 25 Capital commitments

	2023 £	2022 £
Expenditure contracted for but not provided in the accounts	<u>226,272</u>	<u>-</u>

### 26 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 a member of the board of trustees may have an interest. All transactions involving such organisations are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures.

The daughter of a trustee is employed by the academy as a teacher. The appointment was made in open competition and the trustee was not involved in the decision-making process regarding appointment. The employee is paid within the normal pay scale for her role and receives no special treatment as a result of her relationship to a trustee.

No other related party transactions took place in the period of account other than certain trustees' remuneration and expenses already disclosed in note 11.

### 27 Members' liability

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

### 28 Agency arrangements

The Academy Trust distributes 16-19 bursary funds to students as an agent for the ESFA. In the year ended 31 August 2023, the Trust received £39,600 (2022: £11,036) and distributed £49,952 (2022: £11,036) from the fund. An amount of £Nil (2022: £10,352) is included in creditors at the year end.

# THE NENE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

### 29 Conversion to an academy

On 1 September 2022 the Cogenhoe Primary School converted to academy trust status under the Academies Act 2010 and all the operations and assets and liabilities were transferred to The Nene Valley Partnership from the West Northamptonshire Local Authority for £nil consideration.

The transfer has been accounted for as a combination that is in substance a gift. The assets and liabilities transferred were valued at their fair values and recognised in the balance sheet under the appropriate headings with a corresponding net amount recognised as a net loss in the statement of financial activities as donations from local authority on conversion.

The following table sets out the fair values of the identifiable assets and liabilities transferred and an analysis of their recognition in the statement of financial activities.

Academy	Location	Date of conversion		
Cogenhoe Primary School	Northamptonshire	1 September 2022		
	Unrestricted funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £
<b>Net assets transferred:</b>				
Leasehold land and buildings	-	-	1,040,000	1,040,000
Cash	166,288	-	-	166,288
	<u>166,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,040,000</u>	<u>1,206,288</u>
	Unrestricted funds £	General £	Restricted funds: Fixed asset £	Total 2023 £
<b>Funds surplus/(deficit) transferred:</b>				
Fixed assets funds	-	-	1,040,000	1,040,000
LA budget funds	166,288	-	-	166,288
	<u>166,288</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,040,000</u>	<u>1,206,288</u>

The value of the Land & Buildings for Cogenhoe Primary School introduced on conversion of £1,040,000 has been estimated by the trustees based upon the size of the premises and previous ESFA desktop valuations carried out on other schools within the Trust. A comprehensive professional valuation was not obtained on conversion. A full ESFA desktop valuation has been requested however this is not expected to be available before the date of approval of the financial statements.