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Reference and Administrative Details

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 13 of these financial statements.

Clerk to the Corporation

Lily Garth (to 30 April 2023)

Senior Leadership Team

Martin Sim, Principal & CEO; Accounting Officer (to 31 July 2023)

Karen Northover, Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality (to 31 July 2023)

Anne Whitworth, Vice Principal Finance & Resources (to 1 August 2023)

Andrew Kaye, CEO; Accounting Officer (from 1 August 2023)

Principal and Registered Office

St Mary Street

Southampton

SO14 1AR

Professional Advisers

External auditors: Alliotts LLP

Bankers: Santander Corporate & Commercial Banking

Solicitors: Womble Bond Dickinson (UK) LLP, Southampton
& Rollits LLP, Hull

Members' Report

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY

The governing body present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report for Southampton City College for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Legal Status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Southampton City College. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011. The Corporation was incorporated as Southampton Technical College. On 23 February 1995, the Secretary of State granted consent to the Corporation to change the College's name to Southampton City College and the change of name was effective from 1 September 1995. The College trades under the name City College Southampton as the Corporation believes that this name represents the broader activities of the College within its environment.

Merger

On 1 August 2023, Southampton City College dissolved its activities, assets and liabilities; transferring to South Hampshire College Group (SHCG) under a Type B merger. On this basis, the Senior Leadership Team, Governor and Clerk to the Corporation roles for Southampton City College ceased at that date, with responsibility for discharging these roles transferred to SHCG.

MISSION, VISION AND STRATEGY

Mission: We provide excellent career-led learning which prepares our students to succeed at work and in life.

Vision: City College aspires to be a College which is recognised as:

- Expert in career-focused education and training
- First choice for career-focused education for students, apprentices, parents and employers
- A key partner in the development of skills in Southampton and the Solent
- Outstanding in all that we do

Values:

- Learning, is the heart of all we do
- We strive for success
- We aspire for everyone to achieve their full potential
- We share our good ideas with each other
- We treat each other with respect and dignity
- We celebrate our successes.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

In December 2020 the College reviewed its strategic plan and a new plan for 2020-2023 was approved by the Board.

During the 2022/23 year the College's strategic objectives were to:

- Deliver outstanding learning and a life enhancing student experience

- Achieve robust financial health
- Plan and deliver a curriculum which equips students with great work and life skills
- Provide employers with skilled new workers and support them to improve their employees' skills
- Develop a College community that is a great place to work
- Work collaboratively to ensure the continuation of a strong further education offer for Southampton and surrounding areas.

RESOURCES

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

Tangible

The College has its main campus at St Mary Street, Southampton and a specialist Marine Skills Centre at Hazel Road, Woolston.

Financial

The College has net assets of £11.7m (2021/22: £12m excluding pension liabilities, £9.8m including pension liabilities).

The main driver of this improvement was the annual actuarial valuation of the Hampshire County Council Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which is now showing the scheme is in surplus. Annual actuarial valuations can fluctuate significantly from year to year. The surplus has not been recognised on the grounds that it is unlikely to be realised, and therefore the FRS102 pension is shown at 31 July 2023 at a valuation of £nil (2021/22: liability of £2.242m).

People

During 2022/23 the College employed 185 people (expressed as full-time equivalents). The staff numbers referred to in note 7 are calculated on a different basis, being the average headcount for the year.

Student Numbers

Student numbers on a headcount basis are as follows:

	2023	2022
16-19	1,081	965
Funded adults - Adult Education Budget	1,701	1,617
Higher Education	85	125
Apprentices	340	394
Other	623	866
Total	3,830	3,967

Reputation

The College has a good reputation locally and regionally and is recognised by a wide range of stakeholders as an essential provider and contributor to the economic health and development of the city.

The College's good reputation and strong relationships with stakeholders has been maintained (despite the extended period of uncertainty) through active stakeholder relationship management by the College's leaders and managers.

Stakeholders

In line with other colleges and with universities, City College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students
- Staff
- Local employers
- Local community
- Southampton City Council
- Southampton Chamber of Commerce
- Solent LEP
- Solent colleges and universities
- Trade Unions
- Professional bodies
- Education sector funding bodies
- FE Commissioner
- The Department for Education

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with all stakeholders through a number of different channels.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

Results

The operating outturn for the year was a deficit of £0.375m before other gains and losses (2021/22: deficit of £0.4m). This deficit was after the receipt of emergency funding provided by the ESFA of £1.89m (2021/22: £3.76m), and £756k of additional funding towards costs relating to the merger to form SHCG, which were administered via the College on behalf of SHCG.

The outturn for total comprehensive income was positive at £1.98m (2021/22: positive at £12.6m) due to the impact of the LGPS actuarial gain of £2.2m (2021/22: £13m actuarial gain).

The College's Financial Health as calculated on the Education Skills Funding Agency's Financial Health tool was Inadequate. This was the same result as in previous years.

The College has significant reliance on the education sector's funding bodies for its income, largely from recurrent grants. In 2022/23 FE funding bodies provided 86% of the College's total income (2021/22: 86%).

The College's overall income was £859k lower than the previous year. Income for major areas of College income were adverse or favourable as follows:

- 16-18 year old student funding was £697k higher than the previous year at £6.4m (2021/22: £5.7m).

- For Adult Education Budget (AEB) courses, the College delivered around 65% of its allocation.
- £1.89m of working capital support provided by the ESFA (2021/22: £3.76m).
- £756k of funding support relating to the SHCG merger that took place on 1 August 2023.

Staff costs, excluding restructuring, decreased by £1.2m in the year. This decrease was primarily driven by the FRS102 pension charge. Included within the 2022/23 pay costs was a credit of £107k (2021/22: cost of £612k). During the year to 31 July 2023, staff received a pay increase of between 1.5% and 2.5%, dependent upon their full time equivalent salary.

Other operating expenses increased by £440k compared to 2021/22. Included in this figure is £756k of expenditure on operating expenditure relating to the SHCG merger, which is fully funded by the additional merger ESFA funding noted above.

The College has accumulated reserves of £11.68m (2021/22: £9.77m). Cash and short-term investment balances at 31 July 2023 were £3.03m (2021/22: £1.24m).

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £324k.

Treasury Policies and Objectives

The College has treasury management arrangements in place to manage cash flows, banking arrangements and the risks associated with those activities.

Cash Flows and Liquidity

The size of the College's total borrowing and its approach to interest rates was calculated to ensure a reasonable cushion between the total cost of servicing debt and operating cash flow at the time of the redevelopment program starting in 2009.

Since then, changes in government policy (which reduced the funding rate per student and substantially reduced the number of adult students participating in education), and the costs of the extra support needed to enable Southampton City College's student cohort to succeed, has changed the operating model compared to that used in the initial business case to support the loan.

The net cash inflow from operating activities of £1,177k (2021/22: £810k) includes £1.89m of Emergency Funding from the ESFA (2021/22: £3.76m). This funding is recognised as Grant Income as the terms of the Grant Agreement create a low probability of conversion to a loan in the future.

Banking

The College holds its day-to-day banking and a long-term loan with Santander bank.

The College breached its loan covenants in 2022/23, but due to the efforts of the Corporation to secure a long term financially viable solution, Santander previously put in place Reservation of Rights letters, whereby it agreed not to take immediate action to call in the loan, but reserved its right to do so at a later date. As a result, this loan has been classified as short term in previous years financial statements.

Upon merger of the College into SHCG on 1 August 2023, the Santander loan was repaid in full, hence it is classified as short term as at 31 July 2023.

Reserves

The College has no formal Reserves Policy but recognises the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation. As at the balance sheet date, the Income and Expenditure

account reserve stands at a £8.1m (2022: £6.1m). The College currently holds no restricted reserves.

Payment performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, requires Colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95%.

During the accounting period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023, the College recorded average creditor days of 26.83. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

CURRENT PERFORMANCE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Key Performance Indicators

The College measures its performance against a holistic set of KPIs which monitor progress in achieving the College's Strategic Objectives. Detailed Financial KPIs are reported in the monthly management accounts.

The measures used to monitor progress and inform the Governing Body are reviewed annually and targets are agreed at the start of each year. The College is committed to observing the importance of sector measures and indicators and uses external benchmarks to help set targets, wherever that data exists. Performance is reported at each Board meeting against these targets and against results from the previous year.

The College completes an annual Finance Record for the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), which calculates a financial health rating for the College. The ESFA calculates a Finance Dashboard for all English colleges, which compares each college's financial performance on a number of metrics to sector medians and to ESFA targets. This is reviewed by the Board and used to inform financial targets and decision making.

Student Outcomes

The number of young people on Study Programmes who stayed at the College and achieved their qualifications in 2022/23 are slightly lower than the national rates, they are also showing a decline compared with 2021/22. It is worth noting that, unlike the previous two years, where there were assessment adaptations being offered for many qualification types, this was not the case for 2022/23.

Future Developments

It has been the Corporation's view since the spring of 2015 that to ensure the provision of high quality, sustainable further education in Southampton, the community and employers in the city would be best served by City College merging with other educational partners to create a larger, more financially viable and resilient organisation.

Since 2015 the Corporation and Senior Management have been working with the ESFA, the FE Commissioner and partners on achieving this outcome.

Following a Citywide Solution review which involved Southampton City College and other local further education providers, the DfE recommended the College merge with Eastleigh College and Fareham College, and so form one medium sized further education provider as from August 2023. South Hampshire College Group (SHCG) was formed on 1 August 2023.

Merger

On 1 August 2023, Southampton City College dissolved its activities, assets and liabilities; transferring to South Hampshire College Group (SHCG) under a Type B merger. On this basis, the Senior Leadership Team, Governor and Clerk to the Corporation roles for Southampton City College ceased at that date, with responsibility for discharging these roles transferred to SHCG.

Principal Risks and Uncertainties

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

A risk register is maintained for the College, which is reviewed monthly by the Senior Management Team and at each Audit & Risk Committee meeting. The Risk Register identifies key risks, likelihood of these occurring, potential impact on the College and actions being taken to mitigate them. Risks are assessed using a consistent scoring system recommended by the College's internal auditors.

Below are the principal risks, from the Risk Register, which would have the most significant adverse impact on the College if they materialised.

Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the FE funding bodies and the OfS. In 2022/23, 86% of the College's revenue was publicly funded. There can be 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.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways, by ensuring that:

- The College is rigorous in improving the quality education and training
- The College is focused on priority areas which will continue to benefit from public funding
- Considerable effort is in place on maintaining and managing key relationships with the various funding bodies and agencies
- Other income is generated through direct and indirect contractual arrangements.

Going concern and failure to maintain the financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health grade for 2022/23 is assessed by the ESFA as Inadequate and the College is aware of several issues which could impact on its future:

- a decision by the ESFA not to provide further financial support
- uncertainty over its future may severely reduce student recruitment, which would weaken income and/or increase staff turnover, which could increase costs.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Close working with the DfE, FE Commissioner, ESFA, and other organisations to ensure the SHCG merger is successful on all levels
- Regular and open communication with the ESFA
- Rigorous budget setting and sensitivity analysis
- Regular in year budget monitoring
- Robust financial controls
- Continuous focus on procurement efficiencies

OTHER INFORMATION

Public Benefit

Southampton City College is an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on pages 13 and 14.

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

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

- High quality teaching
- Widening participation in education
- Excellent employment record for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce.

City College is recognised by local and national stakeholders as providing education and training that is essential to the community and economy of the city of Southampton. The College has a highly inclusive Study Programme offer which provides around 1,000 local young people a year with either highly technical education and training in key sectors such as Marine and Health Care or a ladder of courses which enables students with low or no educational achievement to learn and to work their way up to a higher level of qualification and skill, improving their life opportunities. City College is the largest provider of further education for adult students in Southampton with approximately 4,000 enrolments annually in career-relevant qualifications and in critical life skills such as English as a second Language, English and maths. Finally, the College trains around 400 apprentices a year in technical industrial skills such as Marine, Heating and Ventilation and Construction.

The College sponsored the Inspire Academy Trust which ran the Isle of Wight Studio School from its opening in September 2014 until its closure in August 2019. As the College did not support the Trust for its own benefits, it was not classed as a subsidiary and subsequently the results for the Trust are not consolidated with the College. The College continued to provide back-office support to the Trust until it was wound up on 30 August 2022.

Equality

The College is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We respect and value positively differences in race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion or belief and age. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage, and we will actively combat bigotry.

The College's Equality and Diversity Panel works on ensuring that we are positively developing the College in this regard. The College's Equal Opportunities Policy is published on the College's Intranet. An annual Equality and Diversity report is made to the Board.

Disability Statement

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010. Additionally, the College's Single Equality Scheme identifies the actions required to ensure it meets the public sector equality duties.

- The College's Single Equality Scheme contains 10 equality objectives and additional action points were added on to ensure the equality considerations of student attendance requirements and the requirement for any special arrangements for the monitoring of looked after children or recent care leavers.
- The admissions policy for all students is described in the College Charter. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy.
- The College has specialist teachers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Training for staff on equalities issues is mandatory.
- Specialist programmes are described in College prospectuses, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published in the standard College format. Counselling and welfare services are described in the College Student Guide, which is issued to students together with the Complaints and Disciplinary Procedure leaflets at induction.

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require the College to publish information on facility time arrangements for trade union officials at the College. The facility time data for the period from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 is noted below.

No of employees who were trade union representatives for this period	4
FTE employee number	4

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	4
51-99%	0
100%	0

Total pay bill and facility time costs

Total cost of facility time	£9,109
Total pay bill	£8,007,548
Percentage of total bill spent on facility time	0.11%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	86%
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Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



**Sandra Prail
Chair**

Governance Statement

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- i. in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- ii. in accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges (“the Code”); and
- iii. Having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2016 insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector.

The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes account of The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges in March 2015 which it adopted from 1 August 2015.

In the opinion of the Members, the Corporation complies with the provisions of the Code, with actions set where improvements required, and has done so throughout the year ended 31 July 2023.

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

The Corporation

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

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of office	Date of leaving	Category	Board Attendance in 2022/23	Committees served
Mr P Colbran	30.06.2020 01.07.2021	1 year 3 years	31.07.2023	External	8/8	Audit & Risk
Mr G Davies	01.12.2016 01.12.2017 01.12.2020	1 year 3 years 4 years	31.07.2023	External	8/8	Search & Governance Curriculum & Quality Finance & Resources
Cllr D Fitzhenry	31.03.2021 31.03.2022	1 year 3 years	31.07.2023	External	6/8	
Ms G Gould	05.11.2019 05.11.2020	1 year 3 years	31.07.2023	External	8/8	Search & Governance
Mr N Kazula	08.06.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	Student	1/8	Curriculum & Quality
Mr NJ Lapage	08.06.2020 08.06.2021	1 year 3 years	31.07.2023	External	8/8	Finance & Resources
Mr M Sim	09.07.2022	Principal	31.07.2023	Principal	8/8	Search & Governance Curriculum & Quality Finance & Resources
Mr M Simmons	08.10.2018 08.10.2019 11.07.2022	1 year 3 years 2 years	31.07.2023	External	8/8	Curriculum & Quality
Mrs P Wycherley	29.04.2021 29.04.2022	1 year 3 years	21.10.2022	External	0/1	Curriculum & Quality
Ms K Young	08.03.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	External	6/8	Finance & Resources
Mr T Mason	10.10.2022	1 year	12.12.2022	External	1/1	Curriculum & Quality
Mr R Syed Islam	10.10.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	External	4/8	Audit & Risk
Mr M Keogh	10.10.2022	1 year	08.06.2023	External	3/6	Audit & Risk
Ms J Pengelly	10.10.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	Staff governor	8/8	Finance & Resources
Ms L Smith	10.10.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	Staff governor	8/8	Curriculum & Quality
Ms E Morey	10.10.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	External	7/8	Curriculum & Quality
Ms I Tichy	10.10.2022	1 year	31.07.2023	External	7/8	Finance & Resources
Mr M Gilks	10.10.2022	1 year	30.05.2023	External	5/6	Curriculum & Quality

Ms L Garth, was the independent Head of Governance and Clerk to the Corporation until 3 May 2023.

Ms W Stanger acted as Governance Advisor from September 2022. On 3 May 2023 she acted in an interim capacity in the role of Head of Governance (encompassing the role of Clerk to the Corporation) supported by a deputy until 31 July 2023.

As part of the Part B merger (between Southampton City College, Eastleigh College, and Fareham College) effective from 1 August 2023, a recruitment process for appointment to the new entity (South Hampshire College Group) took place during the Summer 2023 period. Those members either not wishing to continue or unsuccessful in obtaining a position to the new Corporation resigned with effect from 31 July 2023.

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

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

The Corporation has moved to a committee model of Governance and now has in place committees for:

- Curriculum and Quality
- Finance and Resources
- Audit and Risk
- Search, Governance and Remuneration.

Each committee has terms of reference, which were approved by the Corporation on 10 October 2022 and which are publicly available.

Full minutes of Corporation meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation are available from the Clerk to the Corporation at: Southampton City College, St Mary Street, Southampton, SO14 1AR.

The Clerk to the Corporation maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the governors. The register is available for inspection at the above address.

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

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

Briefings and training are provided to the Board with written updates on sector and College issues on an ad hoc basis.

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

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

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation's Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee which advises the Corporation on membership matters including recruitment, development and governance processes was formed on 10 October 2022 following the amalgamation of the

Search and Governance and Remuneration Committee. The Corporation appoints its Members for terms of office of between one and four years. The Corporation ensures that appropriate training is provided as required including an induction programme for new governors and internal and external training.

Corporation Performance

The Corporation carries out regular self-assessment work. For 2022/23 this work included an overall assessment on progress on actions from the previous year's self-assessment and improvement actions agreed by the FEC. A full self-assessment was not carried out due to the number of new governors and the changes made to the board structures and Governance processes as a result of merger.

Remuneration Committee

The College's Remuneration Committee's role includes advising and making recommendations to the Board on the remuneration of the Principal who is currently the only Senior Post Holder at the College, and the Clerk to the Corporation. The remuneration decisions taken were compatible with the AoC Colleges' Senior Post Holder Code, which the Corporation has adopted.

Details of remuneration of the Principal and other key management personnel for the year ended 31 July 2023 are set out in note 7 to the financial statements.

For 2022/23 the Remuneration Committee has been amalgamated into the Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee.

Audit & Risk Committee

The Audit & Risk Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference which are compatible with the ESFA's Post 16 Audit Code of Practice and which are approved by the Corporation. These were reviewed and approved by the Board on 10 October 2022.

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

The College does not have a single internal auditor provider, however, in accordance with an agreed internal audit plan in 2022/23, the Committee engaged a number of specialists to undertake audits of three key areas, being cyber security, student data and funding compliance, and procurement. The findings from these audits were reported to management and the Audit & Risk Committee.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit or adviser recommendations and these actions are monitored by the Committee at each meeting, through an actions' tracker.

The Audit & Risk Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of internal, regularity and financial statements auditors and their remuneration for audit and non-audit work, as well as producing an annual report to the Corporation. This annual report is based on the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice requirements.

During 2022/23 the Committee met on 28 November 2022, 13 March 2023 and 05 June 2023. Governance attendance at this Committee is noted in the table below.

Committee Member	Meetings attended
Paul Colbran (Chair)	3/3
Vivek Kohli (Associate)	3/3
Mike Keogh*	1/3
Rashidul Sayid Islam	2/3

* Appointed as an Independent but re-commenced work for the College and stepped back from the Governor role

Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

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

The Corporation has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal/CEO, as Accounting Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which the accounting officer is personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to them in the Financial Memorandum between Southampton City College and the funding bodies. The Accounting Officer is also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Southampton City College for the year ended 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

The risk and control framework

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

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

During 2022/23 an internal audit and assurance service was provided by multiple providers to ensure that specialist could be contracted to undertake audits of key areas. This included:

- RSM LLP for an audit of Apprenticeships Funding and Compliance
- JISC for an assessment of Cyber Security and Penetration Testing
- TIAA for an audit of Payroll

The work of the above providers was informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and an annual plan was based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the plan were endorsed by the Corporation on the recommendation of the Audit & Risk committee. The findings from these audits were reported to management and the Audit & Risk Committee. Following receipt of this information, the College management and Governors have assessed the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance processes.

Risks faced by the Corporation

The Board confirms that there is an ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing significant risks faced by the College. This process has been in place throughout the year under review, up to the date of the annual report, and is regularly reviewed by the Board.

The Board has an approved Risk Management Policy in place and the identification and evaluation of key risks that threaten achievement of the College's objectives are carried out under that Policy.

The College holds and maintains a Risk Register which incorporates the organisational and financial risks. The Risk Register lists risks and assesses their impact and likelihood as well as reporting actions in place to manage the risk and further actions required. The reported actions are considered to be proportional steps to mitigate the identified risks.

Control Weaknesses Identified

There are no significant internal control weaknesses that have been identified during 2022/23 and up to the date of the signing of the annual report and accounts for the year.

Responsibilities under Funding Agreements

The Corporation has funding agreements and contracts in place with a number of organisations including the ESFA and the OfS which are signed by the Principal as Accounting Officer. The College's Senior Management Team ensures that the terms and conditions of funding are met. In addition, the College's MIS and Student Records Team review all funding rules and ensure that funding returns are supported by appropriate learner records. Furthermore, the College has a strong financial management control environment and this ensures regularity and propriety in the use of funding.

The Department for Education and Education and Skills Funding Agency introduced new controls for the college on 29 November 2022 on the day that the Office for National Statistics

reclassified colleges as public sector organisations in the national accounts. The ESFA chief executive communicated these changes to all college accounting officers and explained plans to introduce a college financial handbook in 2024. The college has reviewed its policies, procedures and approval processes in line with these new requirements to ensure there are systems in place to identify and handle any transactions for which DfE approval is required.

Statement from the Audit & Risk Committee

The Audit & Risk Committee has advised the Board that the College has in place an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control to ensure that the Corporation has fulfilled its statutory responsibility for the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the safeguarding of its assets, and to manage the achievement of its objectives.

In having made this assessment, the Audit & Risk Committee was informed by the findings of the Financial Statements/Regularity auditors and other audit and assurance sources, including:

- Assurance: reviews of internal audit reports on Cyber Security, Payroll, and Apprenticeships Funding and Compliance. The results from the Cyber Security and Purchasing and Procurement audits confirmed that systems and controls were designed and operated effectively, with some minor exceptions. Management agreed to address the action points arising from the audits. The funding assurance advisory audit identified compliance issues in relation to apprenticeship funding. Action has been taken and the issues addressed by the College through investment in additional and specialist staff as well as system resources and an additional funding advisory audit to review progress and compliance.
- Financial statements and regularity audit: review of the external audit strategy and external audit reports on the Annual Report and Financial Statements and Regularity Audit. No material issues were identified in relation to external audit or regularity.
- Governance framework: monitoring of the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance framework. No issues of control were raised.
- Risk management: monitoring of the Corporation's risk management plan and risk register.
- Fraud and irregularity: there were no incidences of fraud, irregularity or whistleblowing disclosures.

Review of effectiveness

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

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

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

The Principal and Senior Management Team receive reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and consider possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning

mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Senior Management Team and the Audit & Risk Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit providers and other sources of assurance, which include recommendations for improvement. The Audit & Risk Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control.

The Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and receives reports thereon from the Senior Management Team and the Audit & Risk Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its December 2022 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2023 by considering documentation from the Senior Management Team and Internal Audit Providers, and taking account of events since 31 July 2023.

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

Going Concern

The financial position of the College, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are presented in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes.

As at 31 July 2023, the College has net current liabilities of £5.9m including £4.7m of loans outstanding with Santander on terms negotiated in 2009. The Santander loans were settled in full on 1 August 2023 as part of the merger of the College into South Hampshire College Group (SHCG).

The College received emergency funding of £1.89m during the year, which has been treated as a grant following a review of the terms and conditions of funding. This is consistent with prior years and the expected likelihood of the conditions being met that would mean the funding is not repayable.

Following a Citywide Solution review which involved Southampton City College and other local further education providers, the DfE recommended the College merge with Eastleigh College and Fareham College, and so form one medium sized further education provider, SHCG. This merger took place on 1 August 2023.


On the basis that the College ceased to trade after 31 July 2023, it is considered that the 'going concern' assumption is not appropriate for Southampton City College. However, in accordance with both the Statement of Recommended Practice (SoRP) for Further and Higher Education and the Colleges' Accounts Direction, the assets and liabilities will be transferred to South Hampshire College Group (SHCG) at book value, and therefore, the financial statements have not been prepared on a basis other than going concern.

SHCG has undertaken detailed cash projections for period up to and beyond the anticipated merger date and the ESFA has agreed to provide funding to support the merged entity up to 31 July 2025. On this basis, the College believes it will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities over the period ahead of the merger date.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Sandra Prail
Chair



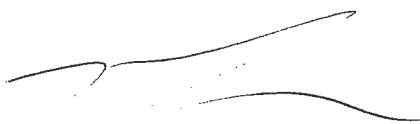
Andrew Kaye
Accounting Officer

Statement on Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

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

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

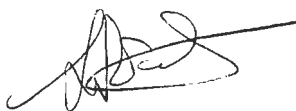
I confirm that no instances of material irregularity, impropriety, funding noncompliance, or non-compliance with the framework of authorities have been discovered to date. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to ESFA.



Andrew Kaye
Accounting Officer
18 December 2023

Statement of the chair of governors

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



Sandra Prail
Chair
18 December 2023

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

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

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

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

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

The corporation is also required to prepare a Members' Report which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the corporation.

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

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

Members of the corporation are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from ESFA, and any other public funds, are used only in accordance with ESFA's grant funding agreements and contracts and any other conditions, that may be prescribed from time to time by ESFA, or any other public funder, including that any transactions entered into by the corporation are within the delegated authorities set out in the "Dear accounting officer" letter of 29 November 2022 and ESFA's bite size guides. Members of the corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure they are used properly.

In addition, members of the corporation are responsible for securing economic, efficient and effective management of the corporation's resources and expenditure so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from ESFA and other public bodies are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 18 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sandra Prail', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sandra Prail
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY COLLEGE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Southampton City College (the 'College') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the statements of comprehensive income, the balance sheet, the statement of changes in reserves, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of the College's deficit of income over expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

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

Emphasis of Matter – Non-going concern basis

In forming our opinion on the financial statements, which is not modified, we have considered the adequacy of the going concern disclosure made in note 1 to the financial statements. As described in note 1, the College merged on 1 August 2023 into South Hampshire College Group, resulting in the transfer of the College's trade, assets and liabilities into the new merged entity. For this reason, the financial statements have been drawn up on a basis other than that of going concern.

No material adjustments arose as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis.

Other information

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

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

have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Office for Students' Accounts Direction

In our opinion, in all material respects:

- funds from whatever source administered by the college for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;
- funds provided by the Office for Students, UK Research and Innovation (including Reasearch England), the Education and Skills Funding Agency and Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the relevant terms and conditions; and
- the requirements of the Office for Students' accounts direction for the relevant year's financial statements have been met.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice 2022 to 2023 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Office for Students' accounts direction requires us to report to you if:

- the College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the note to the accounts, has been materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Corporation of Southampton City College

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporation's Responsibilities set out on pages 22 to 23, the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

Our approach to identifying and assessing the risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, was as follows:

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the college through discussions with governors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the college, including Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002, Ofsted, ESFA and OfS regulatory requirements, data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

We assessed the susceptibility of the college's financial statements to material misstatement, including obtaining an understanding of how fraud might occur, by:

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

To address the risk of fraud through management bias and override of controls, we:

- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- reviewed all transactions listed;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions.

In response to the risk of irregularities and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we designed procedures which included, but were not limited to:

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation; and
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims

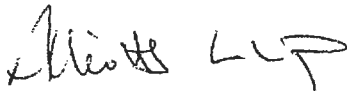
There are inherent limitations in our audit procedures described above. The more removed that laws and regulations are from financial transactions, the less likely it is that we would become aware of non-compliance. Auditing standards also limit the audit procedures required to identify non-compliance with laws and regulations to enquiry of directors and other management and the inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any.

Material misstatements that arise due to fraud can be harder to detect than those that arise from error as they may involve deliberate concealment or collusion.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Corporation, as a body, in accordance with the Funding Agreement published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and our engagement letter dated May 2022. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation, as a body, those matters we are engaged to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Corporation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Alliotts LLP
Chartered Accountants
Friary Court
13 -21 High Street
Guildford
Surrey
GU1 3DL

Date: 14/12/23

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Notes	Year ended 31 July 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 July 2022 £'000
INCOME			
Funding body grants	2	12,749	13,546
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	1,256	1,370
Other grants and contracts	4	74	121
Other income	5	736	682
Investment income	6	53	8
Total income		14,868	15,727
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	7	8,297	9,530
Restructuring costs	7	145	145
Other operating expenses	8	5,059	4,619
Depreciation	11	1,353	1,316
Interest and other finance costs	9	389	554
Total expenditure		15,243	16,164
Deficit before other gains and losses		(375)	(437)
Gain on disposal of assets	11	-	-
Deficit before tax		(375)	(437)
Taxation	10	-	-
Deficit for the year		(375)	(437)
Actuarial gain in respect of pensions schemes	16,22	2,283	13,033
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		1,908	12,596
Represented by:			
Unrestricted comprehensive income		1,908	12,596
		1,908	12,596

Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income and expenditure account £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total £'000
Balance at 1 August 2021	(6,552)	3,730	(2,822)
Deficit from the income and expenditure account	(437)	-	(437)
Other comprehensive income	13,033	-	13,033
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	74	(74)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	12,670	(74)	12,596
Balance at 31 July 2022	6,118	3,656	9,774
Balance at 1 August 2022	6,118	3,656	9,774
Deficit from the income and expenditure account	(375)	-	(375)
Other comprehensive income	2,283	-	2,283
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	74	(74)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,982	(74)	1,908
Balance at 31 July 2023	8,100	3,582	11,682

Balance sheet as at 31 July

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fixed assets			
Tangible Fixed assets	11	34,012	35,041
		<u>34,012</u>	<u>35,041</u>
Current assets			
Stocks		7	5
Trade and other receivables	12	607	749
Cash and cash equivalents	17	3,029	1,237
		<u>3,643</u>	<u>1,991</u>
Current Liabilities			
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	13	(9,522)	(8,313)
		<u>(5,879)</u>	<u>(6,322)</u>
Net current liabilities			
		<u>(5,879)</u>	<u>(6,322)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			
		28,133	28,719
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	14	(15,609)	(15,724)
Provisions for Liabilities			
Defined benefit obligations	16	-	(2,242)
Other provisions	16	(842)	(979)
		<u>11,682</u>	<u>9,774</u>
Total net assets/(liabilities)			
		<u>11,682</u>	<u>9,774</u>
Unrestricted Reserves			
Income and expenditure account		8,100	6,118
Revaluation reserve		3,582	3,656
Total unrestricted reserves		<u>11,682</u>	<u>9,774</u>
Total Reserves		<u>11,682</u>	<u>9,774</u>

The financial statements on pages 28 to 51 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 18 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf on that date by



Sandra Prail
Chair



Andrew Kaye
Accounting Officer

Statement of Cash Flows

	Notes	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities			
Deficit for the year		(375)	(437)
Adjustment for non-cash items			
Depreciation		1,353	1,316
Deferred Capital Grants released to income		(682)	(661)
Decrease in stock		(2)	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		142	(53)
Increase in creditors due within one year		1,209	132
Decrease in creditors due more than one year		-	(100)
Decrease in provisions		(64)	(527)
Pensions costs less contributions payable		(32)	849
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Investment income		(53)	(8)
Interest payable		281	299
Net cash flow from operating activities		<u>1,777</u>	<u>810</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Investment income		53	8
Capital grants received		875	159
Payments made to acquire fixed assets		(324)	(394)
		<u>604</u>	<u>(227)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid		(281)	(299)
Repayments of amounts borrowed		(308)	(294)
		<u>(589)</u>	<u>(593)</u>
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>1,792</u>	<u>(10)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	17	1,237	1,247
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	17	3,029	1,237

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of Accounting Policies and Estimation Techniques

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

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (the 2019 FE HE SORP), the College Accounts Direction for 2022/23, and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland” (FRS 102). The college is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

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

Basis of Accounting

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

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

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

The activities of the College will continue to operate through SHCG through a Type B merger which was effective 1 August 2023 and therefore all operations continue to be presented as continuing operations.

Basis of Consolidation

The College had control over the Inspire Academy Trust by virtue of Trustees serving on both Governing Bodies, however, it did not control the Trust to obtain benefits for the College, and as such the results of the Trust are not included in these financial statements. The Trust was wound up on 30 August 2022.

Going Concern

As explained in the Members' Report, the College merged with Fareham College and Eastleigh College on 1 August 2023 under a Type B merger, whereupon Southampton City College was dissolved, and its operations, assets and liabilities were transferred to South Hampshire College Group (SHCG).

The Financial Statements are therefore prepared on a basis other than going concern, as the College ceases to exist at the balance sheet date of these Financial Statements. No material adjustments arose as a result of ceasing to apply the going concern basis.

Recognition of Income

Revenue Grant Funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end, and the results of any funding audits. 16-18 funding is not subject to reconciliation and is, therefore, not subject to contract adjustments.

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

Where part of a government grant is deferred, the deferred element is recognised as deferred income within creditors and allocated between creditors due within one year and creditors due after more than one year as appropriate.

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

Capital Grant Funding

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Fee Income

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

Investment Income

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

Agency Arrangements

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

Accounting for Post-employment Benefits

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

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension

cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of valuations using a prospective benefit method.

The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution plan and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Hampshire Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme. The assets of the LGPS are measured using closing fair values. LGPS liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high-quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred.

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

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

Short Term Employment Benefits

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

Enhanced Pensions

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

Tangible Fixed Assets

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

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

Land and buildings inherited from the local education authority are stated in the balance sheet at valuation on the basis of depreciated replacement cost as the open market value for existing use is not readily obtainable. The associated credit is included in the revaluation reserve. The difference between depreciation charged on the historic cost of assets and the actual charge for the year calculated on the revalued amount is released to the income and expenditure account

reserve on an annual basis. Building improvements made since incorporation are included in the balance sheet at cost.

Freehold land is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life.

Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College of between 20 and 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of between 20 and 50 years.

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

Impairment

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

Assets under construction

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

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

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

Equipment

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

Depreciation

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

- technical equipment 5 or 10 years
- computer equipment 3 or 5 years
- furniture, fixtures and fittings 5 or 10 years

Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs are recognised as expenditure in the period in which they are incurred.

Leased Assets

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

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

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

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

Inventories

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

Cash and Cash Equivalents

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

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

Financial Liabilities and Equity

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

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

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

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

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

Provisions are recognised when

- the College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event

- it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

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

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

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

Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

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

- Bank loans have been reclassified as short term due to the covenant breach
- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease-by-lease basis.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the College's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets, other than investment properties, are depreciated over their useful lives taking into account residual values, where appropriate. The actual lives of the assets and residual values are assessed annually and may vary depending on a number of factors. In re-assessing asset lives, factors such as technological innovation and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

Local Government Pension Scheme

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 22, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. The actuary has used a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 to value the pensions liability at 31 July 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

2 Funding body grants	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Recurrent grants		
Education & Skills Funding Agency – Adult	1,264	1,544
Education & Skills Funding Agency – 16-18	6,403	5,706
Education & Skills Funding Agency – Apprentices	1,152	1,218
Office for Students	57	74
Other	256	325
Specific grants		
Teachers' Pension Scheme contribution grant	291	252
Education & Skills Funding Agency	2,644	3,766
Releases of government capital grants	682	661
Total	12,749	13,546

2a Analysis of Office for Students (OfS) income

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Grant income from the OfS (note 2)	57	74
Fee income for taught awards (note 3)	275	441
Total	332	515

The disclosures shown above in 2a relate only to OfS / Higher Education. The disclosures do not include amounts received from the ESFA for Further Education which are shown in note 2 above. The OfS only regulates higher education in colleges. As a result, the amounts recorded above relate to courses at Level 4 and above.

3 Tuition fees and education contracts	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Adult education fees	364	327
Fees for FE loan supported courses	332	282
Fees for HE loan supported courses	275	441
Total tuition fees	971	1,050
Education contracts	285	320
Total	1,256	1,370

4 Other grants and contracts	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
European Commission	-	3
Other grants and contracts	74	118
Total	74	121

5 Other income	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Catering and residences	15	9
Lease Income	561	508
Other income generating activities	160	165
Total	736	682

6 Investment income	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Other interest receivable	53	8
Total	53	8

7 Staff costs

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, on an average headcount basis, was:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Teaching staff	127	150
Non-teaching staff	116	127
	243	277

Staff costs for the above persons

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Wages and salaries	5,753	6,387
Social security costs	535	576
Other pension costs (including FRS102 adjustments of a credit of £107,000 (2022: cost of £612,000))	1,297	2,214
Payroll sub-total	7,585	9,177
Contracted out staffing services	712	353
	8,297	9,530
Restructuring costs – Contractual	145	145
Total staff costs	8,442	9,675

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the

College Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal, Vice Principal Finance & Resources, and Vice Principal Curriculum & Quality.

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

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
The number of key management personnel was:	3	4

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

	Key management personnel		Other staff	
	2023	2022	2023	2022
	No.	No.	No.	No.
£10,001 to £15,000 p.a.	-	1	-	-
£75,001 to £80,000 p.a.	1	1	-	-
£80,001 to £85,000 p.a.	-	1	-	-
£85,001 to £90,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
£115,001 to £120,000 p.a.	-	1	-	-
£145,001 to £150,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Key employed management personnel compensation is made up as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	314	286
Benefits in kind	1	1
	<u>315</u>	<u>287</u>
Pension contributions	39	66
Total key management personnel compensation	<u>354</u>	<u>353</u>

The above compensation includes amounts payable to the Principal and CEO who is also the highest paid member of staff. Their pay and remuneration is as follows:

	2023	2022	2022
	£'000	Retiring Principal £'000	New Principal £'000
Salaries	148	116	11
Benefits in kind	1	1	-
	<u>149</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>11</u>
Pension contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>-</u>

The Corporation has adopted the Association of Colleges Senior Post Holder Remuneration Code and assesses pay in line with its principles.

The Principal & CEO reports to the Chair of the Corporation, who undertakes an annual review of their performance against the College's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

The remuneration package of the Principal & CEO is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the Governing Body who use benchmarking information (in particular the Association of Colleges' Senior Pay) survey to provide objective guidance and justification.

Relationship of Principal/CEO pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple of staff pay:

- Principal & CEO's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff 5.13
- Principal & CEO's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff 5.18

The Accounting Officer and the Staff Board Member only received remuneration in respect of their roles as Principal and staff member under their respective employment contracts and not in respect of their roles as governors. The other members of the Corporation did not receive any payments from the College in respect of their roles as governors, but are able to claim the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

8 Other operating expenses

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Teaching costs	361	427
Non-teaching costs	2,591	1,880
Premises costs	2,107	2,312
Total	<u>5,059</u>	<u>4,619</u>

Other operating expenses include:	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit	39	37
Internal audit	18	25
Other services provided by the financial statements' auditor	5	9
Hire of assets under operating leases	7	11
	<u>7</u>	<u>11</u>

9 Interest and other finance costs

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
On bank loans, overdrafts and other loans:	281	299
	<u>281</u>	<u>299</u>
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 22)	76	237
Net interest on enhanced pension liability	32	18
	<u>32</u>	<u>18</u>
Total	<u>389</u>	<u>554</u>

10 Taxation

The College is not liable for corporation tax for any activities during the year ending 31 July 2023 nor through the prior year, because the College's activities are in line with its charitable objectives.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings		Equipment	Total
	Freehold	Long leasehold		
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation				
As at 1 August 2022	51,536	10	4,823	56,369
Additions	-	-	324	324
Disposals	-	-	(218)	(218)
At 31 July 2023	<u>51,536</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4,929</u>	<u>56,475</u>
Depreciation				
As at 1 August 2022	17,425	10	3,893	21,328
Charge for the year	1,009	-	344	1,353
On disposals	-	-	(218)	(218)
At 31 July 2023	<u>18,434</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>4,019</u>	<u>22,463</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2023	<u>33,102</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>910</u>	<u>34,012</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2022	34,111	-	930	35,041

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

Cost	£Nil
Aggregate depreciation based on cost	<u>£Nil</u>
Net book value based on cost	<u>£Nil</u>

12 Trade and other receivables

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	286	451
Prepayments and accrued income	185	159
Other Debtors	-	27
Amounts owed by the ESFA	136	112
Total	<u>607</u>	<u>749</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	4,724	5,032
Trade payables	99	125
Payments received in advance	263	440
Other taxation and social security	153	157
Accruals	664	797
Deferred income - government capital grants	373	690
EFA Capital Grant repayment	-	100
Other Creditors	2,505	391
Amounts owed to the ESFA	741	581
Total	<u>9,522</u>	<u>8,313</u>

14 Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
ESFA Funding	1,200	1,200
EFA Capital Grant repayment	-	-
Deferred income - government capital grants	14,409	14,524
Total	<u>15,609</u>	<u>15,724</u>

15 Borrowings

	2023	2022
Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as	£'000	£'000
In one year or less	4,724	5,032
Total	<u>4,724</u>	<u>5,032</u>

Following the merger of Southampton City College into the South Hampshire College Group, on 1st August 2023 ESFA merger grant funding was drawn down and the entire outstanding loan balance shown above was settled. Therefore the whole balance is shown as a current liability above.

Bank covenants

As at 31 July 2023 the College was in breach of two bank covenants, Debt Service Cover ratio and Interest Cover. In accordance with the loan agreement, the loan is repayable on demand due to the breaches in loan covenants, and as there was no debt waiver in place at the year end date.

Following the merger to form SHCG on 1 August 2023, the entire value of the outstanding bank debt was settled in full.

For the above reasons, the bank loan is classified as a short term liability as at 31 July 2023.

ESFA funding

The College received £1.2m of funds in 2018/19 from the ESFA which can be converted to loan at a future date at the discretion of the ESFA. These funds are not interest bearing and are shown as due over one year.

Upon merger of the College to form part of SHCG, on 1 August 2023, the £1.2m ESFA loan advanced to the College was written off. As at the balance sheet date, the loan amount remains on the College balance sheet under its classification as a long term liability.

16 Provisions

	Enhanced pensions	Defined benefit obligation	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 August 2022	979	2,242	3,221
Expenditure in the period	(64)	(32)	(96)
Released in the period	-	-	-
Actuarial gain	(73)	(2,210)	(2,283)
At 31 July 2023	<u>842</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>842</u>

Defined benefit obligations relate to the liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are given in Note 22.

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff who have already left the College's employ and commitments for reorganisation costs from which the College cannot reasonably withdraw at the balance sheet date.

The principal assumptions for this calculation are:

	2023	2022
Price inflation	2.8%	2.9%
Discount rate	5.0%	3.3%

17 Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At 1 August 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	Other changes £'000	At 31 July 2023 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	1,237	1,792	-	3,029
Bank Loans	(5,032)	308	-	(4,724)
ESFA Funding	(1,200)	-	-	(1,200)
Total	(4,995)	2,100	-	(2,895)

18 Capital and other commitments

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	-	125

19 Operating leases

The total future minimum lease payments payable under non-cancellable operating leases is as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Future minimum lease payments due		
Not later than one year	-	7
	-	7

The total future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable leases is as follows:

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Future minimum lease payments receivable		
Not later than one year	423	402
Later than one year and not later than five years	1,314	1,608
Later than five years	-	43
	<u>1,737</u>	<u>2,053</u>

20 Contingent liabilities

The College received £1.89m in Emergency Funding during the year. The terms of this funding are such that the funds could be converted to a loan at some point in the future if specified conditions are not complied with. The College, in agreement with its auditors, has assessed there is a very low probability of not complying with these conditions, therefore this has been treated as Grant Income. The auditors have agreed with this treatment.

21 Events after the reporting period

There were no events to report after the year end.

22 Defined benefit obligations

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

Total pension cost for the year	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	691	788
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	713	828
FRS 102 (28) charge	<u>(107)</u>	<u>612</u>
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	606	1,440
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	-	(14)
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs	<u>1,297</u>	<u>2,214</u>

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

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

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

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

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education in October 2023. The valuation reported total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262 billion (31 March 2016: £218 billion), and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222.2 billion (31 March 2016: £198 billion) giving a notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (31 March 2016: £22 billion).

As a result of the 31 March 2016 valuation, employer contribution rates have been set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from September 2019 onwards (compared to 16.48% during 2018/19). The DfE agreed to pay a teachers pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2022/23 academic year, which will continue to be received through the 2023/24 academic year.

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

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £691,000 (2022: £788,000).

Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Hampshire Local Authority. The total contributions made for the year

ended 31 July 2023 were £846,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £713,000 and employees' contributions totalled £133,000.

The agreed employer contribution rate for 2022/23 was 27.1%. The annual fixed contribution rate from April 2023 is £123k. These fixed rates are updated annually with changes effective from April each year.

For employees, contributions range from 5.5% to 11.4%, depending on salary.

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

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.00%	3.60%
Future pensions increase (CPI)	3.00%	2.60%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.05%	3.50%

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

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
	Years	Years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.9
Females	24.7	25.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.6	24.7
Females	25.7	27.1

	Fair Value at 31 July 2023	Fair Value at 31 July 2022
	£'000	£'000
The College's share of assets in the plan at the balance sheet date were:		
Equity instruments	16,020	18,784
Debt instruments	8,689	6,605
Property	1,629	2,257
Cash	815	223
Total fair value of plan assets	<u>27,153</u>	<u>27,870</u>

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets	27,153	27,870
Present value of plan liabilities	(26,031)	(30,112)
Derecognition of pension asset	(1,122)	-
Net pensions asset/(liability)	-	(2,242)

No provision has been made as at 31 July 2023 in respect of the above surplus valuation figure, as the likelihood of realisation of this asset is deemed too remote.

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

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	605	1,440
Total	605	1,440

Amounts included in investment income

Interest income	(973)	(487)
Interest expense on Defined Benefit pension obligation	1,049	724
	76	237

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income

Asset (losses)/gains arising during the year	(1,573)	(1,418)
Liability gains arising during the year	4,905	14,362
Liability gains arising during the year	(1,122)	-
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	2,210	12,944

Movement in net defined liability during the year

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Net defined liability in scheme at 1 August	(2,242)	(14,337)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(605)	(1,440)
Employer contributions	713	828
Net interest on the defined liability	(76)	(237)
Actuarial gain / (loss)	3,332	12,944
Derecognition of pension asset	(1,122)	-
Net defined liability at 31 July	-	(2,242)

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	30,112	42,861
Current service cost	605	1,440
Interest cost	1,049	724
Contributions by Scheme participants	133	165
Experience gains and losses on defined benefit obligations	(4,905)	(14,362)
Estimated benefits paid	(963)	(716)
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	<u><u>26,031</u></u>	<u><u>30,112</u></u>
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	27,870	28,524
Interest on plan assets	973	487
Remeasurement gains/(losses) on assets	(1,573)	(1,418)
Employer contributions	713	828
Contributions by Scheme participants	133	165
Estimated benefits paid	(963)	(716)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	<u><u>27,153</u></u>	<u><u>27,870</u></u>

Local Government Pension Scheme Actuarial Report

The actuarial report for the local government pension scheme at 31 July 2023 shows an actuarial gain which has resulted in a pension asset at the same date.

The pension asset has not been recognised as a positive position but is instead shown as a break-even position as there is insufficient evidence to conclude that the 'asset' may be available to reduce future payments.

As assets should only be recognised to the extent that the college is able to recover the surplus either through reduced contributions in the future or refunds from the plan.

Further disclosures are made in the Strategic Report and in the notes on judgements to adequately reflect this.

Write offs, losses, guarantees, letters of comfort, compensation

The college has not engaged in any such transactions or commitments that require further disclosure.

23 Related party transactions

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

During the year, the College received £423,000 (2021/22: £508,000) for the lease of one of its buildings to Solent University. Paul Colbran, a member of the Board of Governors, is the Chief Operating Officer for Solent University.

24 Amounts disbursed as agent: Learner support funds

	2023	2022
	£'000	£'000
Brought forward from prior year	206	146
Funding body grants – bursary support	290	379
	<u>496</u>	<u>525</u>
Disbursed to students	(277)	(303)
Administration costs	(21)	(16)
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	<u>198</u>	<u>206</u>

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CORPORATION OF SOUTHAMPTON CITY COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION ACTING THROUGH THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (THE ESFA)

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

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

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

Respective responsibilities of Southampton City College and the reporting accountant

The corporation of Southampton City College is responsible, under the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed, and income received, are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament, and the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them.

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

Approach

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

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

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

Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

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

The work undertaken to draw our conclusion included:

- Documenting the framework of authorities which govern the activities of the College;
- Undertaking a risk assessment based on our understanding of the general control environment and any weaknesses in internal controls identified by our audit of the financial statements;
- Reviewing the self-assessment questionnaire which supports the representations included in the Chair of Governors and Accounting Officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance with the framework authorities;
- Testing transactions with related parties;
- Confirming through enquiry and sample testing that the College has complied with its procurement policies and that these policies comply with delegated authorities; and
- Reviewing any evidence of impropriety resulting from our work and determining whether it was significant enough to be referred to in our regularity report.

This list is not exhaustive and we perform additional procedures designed to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a limited assurance conclusion on regularity consistent with the requirements of the Code.

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

Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament, that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them nor have been improper.

Use of our report

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

Alliotts LLP

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Date: 19/12/23