

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**Previously Known as INICIO ACADEMIES**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

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**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Members**

**Members**

D Bell (resigned 14 October 2025)  
K D Bernstone  
R Bell  
I Clyde  
N Myers

**Directors**

I Clyde, Chair<sup>2</sup>  
Z Beach<sup>2</sup>  
E Chawner (resigned 31 August 2025)<sup>1</sup>  
T Fisher, Accounting Officer<sup>1,2</sup>  
M Garmston (resigned 1 March 2025)<sup>1,2</sup>  
G Liddle<sup>1</sup>  
M Lord<sup>1</sup>  
T Lloyd Payne (appointed 3 October 2024)<sup>1,2</sup>  
G Wynn<sup>2</sup>  
A Shaffi (appointed 1 October 2025)

<sup>1</sup> Members of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee

<sup>2</sup> Members of the Standards Committee

**Company registered number**

07533271

**Company name**

Northern Arch Learning Partnership

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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Principal and registered office**

C/O Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College  
Vane Terrace  
Darlington  
DL3 7AU

**Chief Executive Officer**

Tim Fisher

**Executive Leadership Team**

T Fisher, Chief Executive Officer  
L Marron, Chief Operating Officer (resigned 31st October 2025)  
N Wade, Head of Operations (appointed 1st November 2025)  
L Job, Principal, Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College  
A Sweeten, Head Teacher, Longfield Academy  
J Armitage, Head Teacher, The Rydal Academy  
R Somerville, Head Teacher, Hurworth School  
G Hart, Chief Financial Officer  
S Jones, Operations & Business Manager  
S Kochaniec, Head of People  
P King, Head Teacher, Mowden Schools (resigned 31st August 2025)  
A Wilkinson, Head Teacher, Mowden Schools (appointed 1st September 2025)  
C Hutton, Marketing and Admissions Manager (appointed 1 August 2025)  
J Tait, Director of Education (appointed 31 March 2025)

**Independent auditors**

Clive Owen LLP  
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL3 7RT

**Bankers**

Lloyds Bank plc  
21-23 Northgate  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL1 1TL

**Solicitors**

Eversheds Sutherland  
Bridgewater Place  
Water Lane  
Leeds  
LS11 5DR

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

The Directors present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a Trustees' report and a Directors' report under company law.

The Trust operates three primary schools The Rydal Academy, Mowden Infant School, Mowden Junior School, two secondary academies Longfield Academy and Hurworth School and a sixth form college Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College. The six academies have a roll of 4,312 excluding nursery and early years in the census of Autumn 2025.

**Structure, governance and management**

**Constitution**

The Trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association dated 17 February 2011 are the primary governing documents of the company.

The Directors of Northern Arch Learning Partnership and are also the Directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company is known as Northern Arch Learning Partnership. The terms Trustees and Directors refer to the same body of people.

Details of the Directors who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

**Members' liability**

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

**Directors' indemnities**

The Trust has purchased insurance to protect Directors from claims arising against negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. Further details are provided in note 13.

**Method of recruitment and appointment or election of Directors**

The Trust follows the process detailed in their Articles of Association and funding agreement for the appointment and removal of its Members and Directors.

As set out in the articles and funding agreement The Academy trust has the following Directors:

- 8 Directors, appointed under article 50;
- Chief Executive Officer appointed under article 57

**Appointment of Directors**

The Members of the Trust shall comprise the signatories to the Memorandum and any person appointed under article 15A, provided that at any time the minimum number of Members shall not be less than three.

The Members may agree by passing a special resolution to appoint such additional Members as they see fit (article 15A).

The Members may appoint 8 Directors. The number of Directors shall not be less than three (unless determined by ordinary resolution) shall not be subject to any maximum (article 45).



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

Providing that the Chief Executive Officer agrees so to act, the Members may by ordinary resolution appoint the Chief Executive Officer as a Director.

**Co-Opted Directors**

The Directors may appoint up to 2 co-opted Directors. A 'co-opted Director' means a person who is appointed to be a Director by being co-opted by Directors who have not themselves been so appointed. The Directors may not co-opt an employee of the academy trust as a co-opted Director if the number of Directors who are employees of the academy trust would exceed one third of the total number of Directors (including the Chief Executive Officer to the extent that he or she is a trustee).

**Committees of the Board of Directors**

The membership of any committee of the Directors may include persons who are not Directors, provided that (with the exception of the local governing bodies) a majority of members of any such committee shall be Directors. Except in the case of the Local Governing Body, no vote on any matter shall be taken at a meeting of a committee of the Directors unless the majority of the Members present are Directors.

**Local Governing Body**

A Chair and Vice Chair is elected by the Directors, annually at the first meeting of the academic year.

The composition of Local Governing Bodies will be as follows (additional/fewer Governors/representatives to be appointed where deemed appropriate and in consultation with the Local Governing Body/ Principal/ Head Teacher to be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to the Trust Board approval.)

The Local Governing Body will be made up of:

- Head Teacher/Principal/Head of School (ex-officio)
- 5 General Governors, appointed by the Directors
- 2 Parent/carers Governors, elected by parents/carers
- 2 Teaching staff Governors, elected by teaching staff
- 1 Support staff Governor, elected by support staff

**Term of Office**

The term of office for any Director or Governor shall be 4 years, save that this time shall not apply to the Chief Executive Officer. Subject to remaining eligible to be a particular type of Director or Governor, any Director or Governor may be re-appointed or re-elected.

**Policies adopted for the induction and training of Directors**

Training is provided for Directors and Governors to reflect any current identified needs either from skills audits or current areas for development in the Trust. All new Directors and Governors are provided with induction information including the Trust's Scheme of Delegation, committee and organisational structures/roles, schedule of meeting dates, a Code of Conduct, Declaration of Interest forms, Privacy Notices and key DfE reference documents. Induction training is held for new Directors and Governors which includes explanation of the key roles and responsibilities within the Trust, accountability and professional challenge and to aid in becoming familiar with key documents. All Directors and Governors are provided with copies of policies, procedures, minutes, accounts, budgets, plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**Organisational structure**

The Trust operates to a Scheme of Delegation, which identifies the key decision making authorities for the academies within the Trust. It determines the functions, roles and responsibility levels undertaken by the Members, the Trust Board and those which have been delegated to the Trust Executive Team, Trust Board Committees, Local Governing Bodies and Principals/Head Teachers. The Trust's Chief Executive Officer is the Accounting Officer.

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

The pay and remuneration of key management personnel is determined according to the Trust's Executive Pay Policy. The policy relates to members of the Trust's Executive Team and Governance Professional.

The Trust Board has established a People & Environment Committee and delegated responsibility to this Committee for setting the pay of its executive staff (except for the final approval of the CEO's salary, which is to be approved by the Board). The Committee is also responsible for determining and recommending the wider Trust Pay Policy to the Trust Board, within which pay decisions for all other staff are taken.

In setting the pay of the Trust's executives, the People & Environment Committee ensures they:

- consider the 'Essential points to consider when setting executive pay' in Setting executive salaries: guidance for academy trusts ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))
- use a clear job description/person specification for each role
- in the case of the CEO's salary, seek independent, expert HR advice
- set Headteachers' salaries in accordance with guidance in the Trust's Pay Policy
- benchmark all executive salaries, other than those of Headteachers, against roles in similar organisations, where possible
- base all decision on evidence and thoroughly document the decision-making process (e.g. minutes of People & Environment Committee meeting)

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Structure, governance and management (continued)**

**Trade union facility time**

**Relevant union officials**

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

**Percentage of time spent on facility time**

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	-
1%-50%	-
51%-99%	-
100%	-
<b>Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time</b>	<b>£000</b>
Total cost of facility time	-
Total pay bill	-
Percentage of total pay bill spent on facility time	- %

**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours	- %
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**Engagement with Employees**

The Trust actively engages with staff through a range of methods intended to maintain effective communications. These include a weekly Trust Executive Team meeting for executive staff; regular email updates on important news or developments, informative briefings; a variety of staff meetings (both academy specific and Trust-wide); regular staff surveys as part of stakeholder engagement activities and special consultations on key topics. All staff are invited to take part in Trust Groups, which offer the opportunity for colleagues to directly influence policy direction on important themes. In addition, staff are represented on all Local Governing Bodies. The Trust actively promotes an open culture in which staff are encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences.

The Trust publishes an Equality Policy that ensures equality information and objectives are stated and communicated throughout the Trust including to staff, students, parents and carers. The equality information is updated at least every year and the objectives reviewed and updated every four years. The Equality Policy clearly sets out roles and responsibilities in relation to the treatment of employees who are or become disabled.

**Related parties and other connected charities and organisations**

Longfield Trading Limited (LTL) is a 100% subsidiary company of Northern Arch Learning Partnership. The principal activity of Longfield Trading Limited is to make available the hire of the sporting facility for use by the local community and sporting clubs. Further details on related party relationships are given in note 29 to the financial statements.



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Objectives and activities**

**Objects and aims**

The Trust exists to advance education for people, families and communities.

**Objectives, strategies and activities**

The Trust's vision is to build a learning community that shapes young people's development into happy, productive, independent adults.

Whilst the character and individuality of each academy is celebrated within the Partnership, we share collective values through our commitment to:

- **Aspiration** – we are determined that all of our people aim high and we strive for educational excellence in all that we do
- **Inclusion** – we care for every individual, value diversity and respect each other
- **Collaboration** – we work cooperatively and constructively as a team to serve our local and wider communities
- **Empowerment** – we believe in building every individual into a confident, capable and healthy citizen

**Intent**

In order to deliver our vision, by April 2027, we will:

- Establish a rich and productive relationship with key partners, including local communities, universities, employers and other MATs, that supports progress towards our vision
- Ensure that all staff benefit from high quality, personal and professional development activity, fuelling their ambitions and building on their leadership capabilities
- Develop our learning environments to enhance sustainability, encourage ambition and support a positive, inclusive culture
- Collaborate across the Partnership at all levels to support, share and inspire each other
- Provide an educational experience that meets the needs of all young people, enabling them to achieve their best possible outcomes.
- Make the Partnership an education provider and employer of choice.

**Growth Strategy**

The Partnership recognises the advantages of a purposeful growth strategy that adds to the capacity of the Partnership to support its academies and achieve its strategic priorities. Growth is a by-product of success, not an end in itself, however we are also aware of the potential for growth to create issues if it is not carefully managed, as indicated in the Partnership Risk Register. With this in mind, any future partners must meet the following criteria:

- A willingness to adhere to the Partnership vision and values
- Commitment to collaborative working in the interests of all young people in the Partnership academies
- Commitment to developing colleagues and enhancing their wellbeing
- Financial stability

The Partnership academies are all within the Darlington Local Authority area, but we would certainly consider partnership with academies in different locations as long as the criteria above were met and particularly where Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College may be a post-16 destination of choice for some of the pupils at the school. This approach is intended to ensure cultural alignment and support meaningful progression routes for young people.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Objectives and activities (continued)**

The process of bringing other organisations into the Partnership makes considerable demands upon the Partnership's resources and growth will therefore always be considered in relation to any potential risks to the effective operation of existing academies.

**Objectives for the Year**

The Trust's central challenge is ensuring the individual financial viability of each academy whilst continuing to deliver the best possible provision for our young people. Funding across all education phases remains problematic and is compounded by cost increases, such as those seen in transport, as well as other goods and services, and greater demand for services, such as mental health and SEN support. Maintaining a healthy financial profile is crucial to ensure that we are able to implement our vision.

- Maintaining sufficient enrolments (and retention) to secure adequate revenue in the face of both competition and a demographic downturn.
- Offering a curriculum that meets the needs of all of our young people.
- Improving outcomes and experiences of young people in all of our academies.
- Ensuring that all accommodation and infrastructure matches the ambitions of the Trust.
- Developing a digital strategy that builds sustainability and enhances efficiency whilst keeping people safe.
- Staff wellbeing across the Trust.
- Establishing the Trust as an employer of choice in the region.
- Developing governance to maximise its impact.
- Introducing Trust standards practice that is developmental, evidence based, and drives improvements across all academies.
- Enabling a culture of cross Trust collaboration.
- Developing leadership at all levels across the Trust.
- Driving social mobility, aspiration and opportunity for all of our young people.
- Establishing a sustainable growth strategy.
- Maximising revenue and capital funding.

To meet these challenges, individual academies will adopt approaches best suited to each specific context. In addition, the Trust will produce trust wide strategies in the following areas:

- People
- Estates
- Marketing

**Public benefit**

The Trust is an exempt charity under part 3 of the Charities Act and is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The Directors, who are Trustees of the charitable company, are disclosed on page 1.

In setting the Trust's strategic plan, the Trustees 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 public benefit.

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

- High quality teaching, learning and support
- Inclusive education
- Purposeful relationships with employers, universities and community partners
- Social mobility
- Personal development

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Strategic report**

**Achievements and performance**

In order to maintain a structural overview of academy performance and assess success against targets, the Board of Directors organizes its work around key themes, which enables Directors to fulfill their duties and maintain a balance between accountabilities and forward strategy, both for the Trust as a whole and individual academies. The ADEMSS Lines of Governance system was devised and implemented to enable this approach:

- Aims (including Vision, Strategy and Risk)
- Developing People
- Environment (including Infrastructure)
- Money (Finance and Resources)
- Standards
- Safeguarding

**Key Performance Indicators**

Reviewed Key Performance Indicators include:  
Grant income as a % of total income  
Staff costs as a % of total revenue expenditure  
Current Ratio

	<b>2024/25 Budget</b>	<b>2024/25 Actual</b>
Grant income as a % of total income	97.32%	97.61
Staff costs as a % of total revenue expenditure	74.61%	74.3%
Current Ratio	2:1	5:1

Each academy sets an annual improvement plan based on performance indicators and review of the previous year. The following summaries highlight academy achievements during the year.

**The Rydal Academy**

The Rydal Academy was graded 'Good' by OFSTED in December 2022. Quality assurance and self-review processes are strong as verified by Ofsted and a variety of external review processes. Current school improvement focuses are: to match national average attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths for All Pupils, Disadvantage and SEND; to review provision for the increasing level and volume of safeguarding and SEND need; to improve attendance for all pupils, with a focus on Gypsy, Roma Traveller absence; to continue the reduction of suspension and exclusions against national averages.

In 2025 Combined Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths at Expectation+ was below National Averages but on a three-year improving trend and in line with the school's best outcomes post Covid. Disadvantaged Pupils performed broadly in-line with all pupils in all areas at Expectation+. Pupil mobility has a significant impact on outcomes. Pupils who had been on roll since Reception outperformed all pupils in Reading, Writing, Maths in all areas at Expectation+. Combined Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths for pupils reaching a Higher Level of Attainment was below National Averages but the best post Covid.



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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Strategic report (continued)**

**Longfield Academy**

In October 2024 a full inspection was completed and the school was graded as 'Good' in each category. Academy priorities for 2025/26 are:

'Brain Based learning': How children think and learn (Enquiry based Quality First Teaching, SEND provision)  
Collaborative Planning: Departmental lesson planning based on individual need; Developing middle leaders;  
creating a culture of 'team' (culture, aspiration, and celebration).

We continue to focus on results. As there was not Progress 8 results this academic year, we are judged on attainment. We held our own against other Darlington schools but this is an area of development – particularly in maths and science. Disadvantaged and SEND children continue to be tracked carefully and intervention applied where necessary. We have a robust Quality Assurance and improvement model that focuses on quality of teaching and learning alongside the impact on results.

**Hurworth School**

Hurworth School was inspected by Ofsted in September 2022 and was graded 'Good' in all areas. Since the inspection, the school has continued to build on its strengths through a robust and rigorous quality assurance programme, which is actively supported and monitored by the Trust. This programme is now being adapted to align with the latest Ofsted framework.

The school's commitment to high-quality teaching and learning is evident through the consistent implementation of its nine lesson expectations, grounded in educational research and sound pedagogy. Staff are encouraged to engage with wider educational thinking beyond Hurworth, fostering innovation and continuous improvement.

During the 2024–25 academic year, Hurworth successfully implemented a comprehensive behaviour strategy based on the Choices Philosophy. This approach promotes accountability and supports a positive learning environment, enabling both students and staff to focus on learning without disruption.

A key strategic priority remains the development of the school's reading strategy, aimed at ensuring all students can access the curriculum effectively and appreciate the value of reading for pleasure.

Academic outcomes in 2025 demonstrated consistency. While attainment in some subjects was slightly lower than in 2024, results were in line with predictions and reflective of students' prior attainment. Importantly, the majority of subjects performed above both local and national averages, including English and Mathematics at Grade 4+ and Grade 5+.

Looking ahead, the School Improvement Plan for 2025 is focused on enhancing outcomes and life chances for all students, with a strong emphasis on developing leadership at all levels. The school is working with the Trust and PiXL to support leadership development through targeted programmes and outreach.

**Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College**

OFSTED, in its inspection in October 2024, rated QE as 'Outstanding' for its Overall Effectiveness. All of the other categories (Quality of Education; Behaviour and Attitudes; Personal Development; Leadership and Management; Education programmes for young people; Provision for learners with high needs) were also rated as Outstanding. There were no recommendations for improvement.

As noted by OFSTED, the College has a cycle of rigorous quality assurance and improvement which is part of a culture of learning and reflective practice. The College always aims to keep improving and its Quality Improvement Plan for 2024-25 seeks to develop further the following areas: Top grades; Inclusion; Aspiration; Artificial Intelligence.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Strategic report (continued)**

In August 2025, the College's Value-Added score for A levels showed that students make better than expected progress against colleges nationally (Sixth Sense Data). Its A level % pass and A\*-C rates are significantly above national averages as are the % of 4+ grades in GCSE English and Maths re-sits. In the College's Art Foundation course, all 36 students achieved the top grade of Distinction.

**Mowden Infant and Junior Schools**

Mowden Infant School was rated Good by Ofsted in 2023, whilst Mowden Junior School was rated Good in 2022.

Academic results across both schools remained strong in 2025. In the infant school, for example, 93% of pupils achieved the expected standard in the national phonics screen, well above the national average. In Mowden Junior School pupils attained well above the national average in all subjects at both the expected standard and also greater depth. These results are yet to be validated but are very similar to 2024 results which were significantly above the national average in almost all areas.

2024-25 has seen our curriculum continue to strengthen and internal assurance shows there to be high standards and strong consistency throughout both schools. In English we continue to develop children's oracy skills and in Maths, mastery and reasoning are well embedded. Across our foundation subjects we continue to develop children's knowledge and assess this innovatively in some subjects using structured group assessments.

**Going concern**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Board of Directors has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the accounting policies.

**Promoting the success of the company**

All decisions made by the Trust are taken with due regard to the likely long-term consequences. The interests of Trust staff are always considered in decision making, with a particular emphasis on their wellbeing and work-life balance. The Trust seeks to form purposeful and responsible relationship with suppliers, customers and our communities and acts in accordance with this principle at all times. As a community-focused organisation, the Trust recognizes and seeks to promote positive and supportive relationships with our communities. These principles are reflected in our Intent statement and strategic objectives, which foreground establishing rich and productive relationships with key partners, as well as developing and enhancing sustainable learning environments. To this end, Directors and Staff play active roles in key strategic organisations and networks including the Sixth Form Colleges Association, Schools North East, and the Darlington Education Strategy Group.

The Trust has a Head of Marketing & Admissions; Marketing Strategy and our marketing activity includes engagement with press and social media, as well as a regular programme of liaison visits to local education providers.



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Financial review**

Most of the Trust's income is obtained from the Department of Education (DfE) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted for particular purposes. The grants received from the DfE during the year ended 31 August 2025 and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The Trust also receives grants for fixed assets from the DfE. In accordance with The Charities SORP (FRS102), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by annual depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ended 31 August 2025, total income of £36,893,000 was in excess of expenditure. The excess of income over expenditure for the year (before transfers, LGPS pension adjustments and actuarial gains, and excluding restricted fixed asset funds) was £1,574,000.

All of the expenditure shown in the Statement of Financial Activities is in furtherance of the academy trust's objectives. At 31 August 2025 the net book value of fixed assets was £50,430,000 and movements in tangible fixed assets are shown in note 14 to the Financial Statements. The assets were used exclusively for providing education and the associated support services to the pupils of the academy trust.

The provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 have been applied in full in respect of the LGPS pensions scheme, resulting in a deficit of £Nil recognised on the Balance Sheet.

The academy trust held fund balances at 31 August 2025 of £56,372,000 comprising £50,718,000 of restricted fixed asset funds, £475,000 of restricted general funds, £Nil of pension deficit fund and £5,179,000 of unrestricted funds.

**Reserves policy**

The academy trust holds restricted and unrestricted funds (the attached financial statements detail these funds).

The level of reserves is reviewed by the Directors regularly throughout the year; this review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Directors are particularly mindful of the uncertainty in both revenue and capital funding in the future, and therefore think that it is appropriate to hold reserves of £250,000 to cover any unforeseen costs.

The Trust's current level of free reserves are in surplus by £5,654,000 these reserves are considered sufficient to cover unexpected significant cost pressures, in particular with relation to:

- Emergency repairs
- Damage to property
- Business continuity planning
- Sustainability of Associated School Transport Policy for Hurworth School

The Directors continue to review additional activities related to the academy trust's objectives which the reserves may be applied; central to this is the regular updating of the Trust Estate Strategy & Trust Development Plan that reviews and prioritises projects at all academy trust schools.

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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Treasury Management and Investment policy**

Treasury management is the management of the trust cash flows, banking and investment transactions, the effective control of risks associated with these activities with the aim of balancing maximum return for low risks. The Trust has a treasury management policy in place. During the period Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College and Mowden Schools had short-term investments in building societies which met the requirements of the treasury management policy.

**Principal risks and uncertainties**

The system of internal control maintained by the Trust includes financial, operational and risk management which is designed to protect the assets and reputation. Risk registers are maintained at academy and trust level. The registers are reviewed on an ongoing basis by senior leaders and reported to both Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and Trust Board. The registers identify key risks, likelihood of risk occurring, potential impact across the Trust and actions taken to reduce or mitigate the risk. A consistent scoring system is used.

Below is a description of the key risk factors that may affect the Trust. Not all factors are within the Trust control, other factors not listed may also impact on the Trust.

1. Government funding – The principal risks and uncertainties are centred on changes in the level of funding from the DfE. The trust regularly tracks, reports and identifies mitigating actions as well as impact assessing such changes.
2. Stronger competition from other providers that may impact on student recruitment and therefore negatively affects funding – The Trust has a robust and responsive marketing strategy that seeks to ensure student numbers are maintained in the face of demographic decline. The Trust focus on delivering high quality education that follows student employer needs mitigates the risk.
3. External economic pressures – these are pressures associated with rising inflation, interest rates, fuel cost and pay award expectations. The risk is mitigated through ensuring reserves are in place, setting realistic budgets, continual scrutiny of financial information, procuring all supplies and services with due regard to value for money and ensuring financial implications are assessed at all levels of decision making.

**Risk management**

The academy trust is mindful of further budget pressures with cuts from the DfE, Darlington Borough Council and increases in pension costs. As a result, all SLAs, Contracts, Services etc. are subject to ongoing review across the academy trust to maximise savings where possible.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting**

<b>Energy Source</b>	<b>Consumption</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Emissions Calculation</b>
Gas – total kWh (kilowatt-hours) used for the year taken from gas bills for each academy within the trust	<b>3,260,292 kWh</b> (gross CV (calorific value))	Scope 1	fuels, natural gas conversion factor gross CV to kg Co2e)= 596,503 kgCO2e = <b>596.50 tCO2e</b>
Electricity – total kWh used for the year, taken from the electricity bills for each academy within the trust	<b>1,381,153 kWh</b>	Scope 2	<b>1,381,153 kWh</b> * 0.17700 (2025 UK electricity conversion factor to kgCO2e) = 244,464 kgCO2e = <b>244.46 tCO2e</b>
Transport -	37,785 miles * 1.19939 (2025 SECR kWh pass & delivery vehicles, vans class 2, miles, diesel)= <b>45,319 kWh</b>	Scope 1	37,785 miles * 0.30996 (2025 delivery vehicles, vans class 2, diesel) = 11,712 kgCO2e = <b>11.71 tCO2e</b>
Transport – total mileage for petrol reimbursed from staff claims = 11,392	13,625 miles * 1.10679 (2025 SECR kWh pass & delivery vehicles, average car conversion factor to kWh)= <b>15,080 kWh</b>	Scope 3	13,625 miles * 0.26915 (2025 business travel - land, average car conversion factor to kgCO2e)= 3667 kgCO2e = <b>3.67 tCO2e</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,701,844 kWh</b>		<b>856.34 tCO2e</b>
Intensity Ratio	Emissions data (tCo2e) compared with an appropriate business activity (pupil numbers as per Autumn census)		856.34 tCO2e/4,312 pupils = <b>0.19 tCO2e per pupil</b>



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

<b>UK greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	4,701,844
Energy consumption break down (kWh) (optional): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gas</li> <li>• Electricity</li> <li>• Transport fuel</li> </ul>	
<b>Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</b>	
Gas consumption	596.5
Owned transport – minibuses	11.71
Total scope 1	608.21
<b>Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</b>	
Purchased electricity	244.46
<b>Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e</b>	
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	3.67
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	856.34
Intensity ratio tonnes Co2e per pupil	0.19

**Plans for future periods**

The Trust strategic plan includes objectives which are shared and understood across the Trust. In order to successfully achieve its intent, the Trust has or is developing separate strategies which identify our plans for the future. The following strategies are key to this approach:

- Marketing strategy
- Growth strategy
- People strategy
- Accommodation strategy

In addition to these each academy identifies its own priorities in academy improvement plans. The Trust has various resources that it can deploy to achieve its strategic objectives. These include:

- Cash reserve assets of £7,399,000
- Fixed asset value of £50,430,000
- Establishment of circa 430 people
- Strong reputation, Ofsted profile, outcomes and high-quality pastoral care

**Disclosure of information to auditors**

Insofar as the Directors are aware:

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

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**Disclosure of information to auditors (continued)**

The Directors' Report was approved by order of the Board of Directors, as the company directors, on 18 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'I Clyde', written over a horizontal line.

**I Clyde**  
Chair



## NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

### GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

#### Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

#### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Directors' Report and in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities. The Board of Directors has formally met 5 times during the year. To maintain effective oversight of all financial matter the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee which is a sub committee formally meets an additional 3 times to oversee the academy trust financial affairs.

Attendance during the year at meetings of the Board of Directors was as follows:

Director	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
I Clyde, Chair	5	5
Z Beach	3	5
E Chawner (resigned 31 August 2025)	2	5
T Fisher, Accounting Officer	5	5
M Garmston (resigned 1 March 2025)	3	3
G Liddle	2	5
M Lord	3	5
T Lloyd Payne (appointed 3 October 2024)	3	5
G Wynn	2	5

In terms of conflicts of interest, we manage these by ensuring annual declarations are made with Directors and those involved in local governance, and this is a standard agenda item on all Full Board, Trust committees and Local Academy Committee meetings. This can be evidenced in agendas and minutes of these meetings. In terms of conflicts of interest, we manage these by ensuring annual declarations are made with Directors and those involved in local governance, and this is a standard agenda item on all Full Board, Trust committees and Local Academy Committee meetings. This can be evidenced in agendas and minutes of these meetings. The Finance, Audit & Risk Committee is a sub committee of the main Board of Directors. The committee has formally met 3 times during the year. Its purpose is to oversee the academy trust's financial affairs and assist the decision making of the Board of Directors.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**Governance (continued)**

Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Committee members	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
G Liddle	3	3
T Fisher, Accounting Officer	3	3
E Chawner (resigned 31 August 2025)	3	3
M Lord	3	3
T Lloyd Payne (appointed 3 October 2024)	1	1
M Garmston	3	3

**Review of value for money**

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

The Accounting Officer considers how the academy trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the Board of Directors where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data where appropriate. The Accounting Officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by :

- Reviewing contracts: by ensuring that when contracts come to an end, they are reviewed to ensure value for money is achieved.
- Assessing opportunities to gain value for money as a consequence of Trust growth.
- Ensuring that our estates are safe, well maintained and complies with regulations
- Income Generation. The trading arm of the academy trust continued to generate income during the period of operation. The company predominately hires the sporting facilities to the local community, with the profit being gift aided back to the academy trust. A full review of all operational activity is underway.

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

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The Trust regularly reviews the risk registers, the Trust Development Plan and the audit finding report for Directors to ensure that the programme for internal scrutiny is appropriately focused. The system of internal control has been in place in Northern Arch Learning Partnership for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

**Capacity to handle risk**

The Board of Directors has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Board of Directors is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the Board of Directors.

**The risk and control framework**

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



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

**The risk and control framework (continued)**

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Board of Directors
- regular reviews by the Finance and General Purposes Committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines
- identification and management of risks

The Board of Directors has decided to buy-in an internal audit service from Anderson Barrowcliffe LLP.

The internal auditor's role includes giving advice on financial and other matters and performing a range of checks on the academy trusts financial systems. In particular, the checks carried out in the current period including:

- Testing of payroll systems
- Testing of purchase systems
- Testing of regularity procedures
- Review of any updated to the Finance Procedures Manual
- Review of meeting minutes
- Review of income recording procedures
- Review of Director appointments/resignations and declarations of interest
- Review of VAT recording procedures
- Testing of expenses and petty cash systems
- Review of Fixed Asset recording procedures
- Review of IT systems

On a termly basis, the reviewers report to the Board of Directors through the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the Board of Directors' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the auditor prepare a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

**Review of effectiveness**

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

- the work of the external auditors;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework,
- the work of the external reviewer;

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

**Conclusion**

Based on the advice of the audit and risk committee and the accounting officer, the Board of Directors is of the opinion that the academy trust has an adequate and effective framework for governance, risk management and control.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)**

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 18 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'I' followed by 'Clyde'.

**I Clyde**  
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'T' followed by 'Fisher'.

**T Fisher**  
Accounting Officer


**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**STATEMENT OF REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE**

As accounting officer of Northern Arch Learning Partnership I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, including the trust's funding agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including responsibilities for estates safety and management. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding, including for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust Board of Directors are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

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



**T Fisher**  
Accounting Officer  
Date: 18 December 2025



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Directors on 18 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



**I Clyde**  
Chair

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

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Arch Learning Partnership (the 'parent academy trust') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Balance Sheet, the Academy trust Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law, United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the parent academy trust's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of the Group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities SORP 2019 and the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by the Department for Education.

**Basis for opinion**

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

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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



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

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. The Directors are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

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

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

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the Group and the parent academy trust and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Directors' Report.

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

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

**Responsibilities of Directors**

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the Directors (who are also the directors of the academy trust for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Directors 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 Directors are responsible for assessing the Group's and the parent academy trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Group or the parent academy trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

**Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

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

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

We undertake the following procedures to identify and respond to these risks of non-compliance:

- Understanding the key legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the academy trust and whole group. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We determined the most significant of these to be the regulations set out by the DfE/ESFA. Our audit focuses on financial matters as set out in our regularity opinion. Other key laws and regulations included safeguarding, Health & Safety, GDPR and employment law
- Enquiry of Directors and management as to policies and procedures to ensure compliance and any known instances of non-compliance
- Review of board minutes and correspondence with regulators
- Enquiry of trustees and management as to areas of the financial statements susceptible to fraud and how these risks are managed
- Challenging management on key estimates, assumptions and judgements made in the preparation of the financial statements. These key areas of uncertainty are disclosed in the accounting policies
- Identifying and testing unusual journal entries, with a particular focus on manual journal entries.
- Through these procedures, we did not become aware of actual or suspected non-compliance.

We planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards but owing to the inherent limitations of procedures required in these areas, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected a material misstatement in the accounts. The further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve concealment, collusion, forgery, misrepresentations, or override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

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

**Use of our report**

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



**Christopher Beaumont BA(Hons) FCA BFP DChA (Senior Statutory Auditor)**  
for and on behalf of

**Clive Owen LLP**

Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors  
140 Coniscliffe Road  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL3 7RT

Date: 19 December 2025



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 October 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (DfE) as included in the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025, 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 Northern Arch Learning Partnership during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

This report is made solely to Northern Arch Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to Northern Arch Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education 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 Northern Arch Learning Partnership and the Secretary of State for Education, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have formed.

**Respective responsibilities of Northern Arch Learning Partnership's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of Northern Arch Learning Partnership's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 21 March 2011 and the Academy Trust Handbook, extant from 1 September 2024, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the extant Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Academy Trusts 2024 to 2025. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

**Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- Review of governing body and committee minutes;
- Review of termly Internal Assurance reports;
- Completion of self assessment questionnaire by Accounting Officer;
- Review documentation provided to Directors and Accounting Officer setting out responsibilities;
- Obtain formal letters of representation detailing the responsibilities of Directors;
- Review of payroll, purchases and expenses claims on a sample basis;
- Confirmation that the lines of delegation and limits set have been adhered to;

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S ASSURANCE REPORT ON REGULARITY TO NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION (CONTINUED)**

- Evaluation of internal control procedures and reporting lines;
- Review cash payments for unusual transactions;- Review of credit card transactions;
- Review of registers of interests;
- Review related party transactions;
- Review of borrowing agreements;
- Review of land and building transactions;
- Review of potential and actual bad debts;
- Review an instance of gifts/hospitality to ensure in line with policy;
- Review whistleblowing procedures;
- Review pay policy and factors determining executive pay;
- Review of staff expenses;
- Review other income to ensure is in line with funding agreement;
- Review governance structure and number of meetings held; and
- Review whether there is a risk register in place.

**Conclusion**

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggest in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2025 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.



**Clive Owen LLP**  
Reporting Accountant

140 Coniscliffe Road  
Darlington  
Co Durham  
DL3 7RT

Date: 19 December 2025

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
<b>Income from:</b>						
Donations and capital grants:	3					
Transfer from existing academy		523	244	5,634	6,401	-
Acquired on conversion		-	-	-	-	20,952
Other donations and capital grants		3	-	205	208	77
Other trading activities	5	960	-	-	960	550
Investments	6	109	44	-	153	65
Charitable activities		530	28,641	-	29,171	20,563
<b>Total income</b>		<b>2,125</b>	<b>28,929</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>36,893</b>	<b>42,207</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>						
Charitable activities		1,701	27,361	1,460	30,522	21,875
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1,701</b>	<b>27,361</b>	<b>1,460</b>	<b>30,522</b>	<b>21,875</b>
<b>Net income</b>		<b>424</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>4,379</b>	<b>6,371</b>	<b>20,332</b>
Transfers between funds	20	(35)	(1,139)	1,174	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds before other recognised gains/(losses)</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>5,553</b>	<b>6,371</b>	<b>20,332</b>
<b>Other recognised gains/(losses):</b>						
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	-	5,205	-	5,205	666
Effect of asset ceiling		-	(5,623)	-	(5,623)	(229)
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>389</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5,553</b>	<b>5,953</b>	<b>20,769</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>						
Total funds brought forward		4,790	464	45,165	50,419	29,650
Net movement in funds		389	11	5,553	5,953	20,769



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) (CONTINUED)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Note					
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>5,179</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>50,718</b>	<b>56,372</b>	<b>50,419</b>

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

The notes on pages 36 to 68 form part of these financial statements.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	50,430	45,079
		<u>50,430</u>	<u>45,079</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	16	23	8
Debtors	17	1,181	747
Cash at bank and in hand		7,418	6,709
		<u>8,622</u>	<u>7,464</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(2,614)	(2,028)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>6,008</u>	<u>5,436</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>56,438</u>	<u>50,515</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(66)	(96)
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>		<u>56,372</u>	<u>50,419</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>56,372</u></u>	<u><u>50,419</u></u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**

(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Funds of the academy trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	20	50,718	45,165
Restricted income funds	20	475	464
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	20	51,193	45,629
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	20	5,179	4,790
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>56,372</u>	<u>50,419</u>

The financial statements on pages 29 to 68 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue on 18 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

  
I Clyde  
Chair



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**  
**REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271**

**ACADEMY TRUST BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	14	50,430	45,079
		<u>50,430</u>	<u>45,079</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Stocks	16	23	8
Debtors	17	1,162	725
Cash at bank and in hand		7,399	6,708
		<u>8,584</u>	<u>7,441</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(2,601)	(2,018)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>5,983</u>	<u>5,423</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>56,413</u>	<u>50,502</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	19	(66)	(96)
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset</b>		<u>56,347</u>	<u>50,406</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>56,347</u></u>	<u><u>50,406</u></u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**


(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

REGISTERED NUMBER: 07533271

**ACADEMY TRUST BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)  
AS AT 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Funds of the academy trust</b>			
<b>Restricted funds:</b>			
Fixed asset funds	20	50,718	45,165
Restricted income funds	20	475	464
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	20	51,193	45,629
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>	20	5,154	4,777
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>56,347</u>	<u>50,406</u>

The financial statements on pages 29 to 68 were approved by the Directors, and authorised for issue on 18 December 2025 and are signed on their behalf, by:

  
I Clyde  
Chair

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

	Note	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	22	1,108	(105)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	24	(481)	5,889
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>	23	(26)	(17)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>		601	5,767
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		6,510	743
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	25, 26	<u>7,111</u>	<u>6,510</u>

The notes on pages 36 to 68 form part of these financial statements



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies**

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

**1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements of the group, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historic cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2024 to 2025 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Consolidated Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the academy trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The group has taken advantage of the exemption allowed under section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 and has not presented its own Statement of Financial Activities in these financial statements.

**1.2 Going concern**

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

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income**

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

• **Grants**

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

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

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

• **Donations**

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

• **Other income**

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

• **Transfer on conversion**

Where assets and liabilities are received by the academy trust on conversion to an academy, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the balance sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the academy trust. An equal amount of income is recognised as transfer on conversion within Donations and capital grant income to the net assets received.

• **Transfer of existing academies into the group**

Where assets are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the trust, the transferred assets are measured at fair value and recognised in the Balance Sheet at the point when the risks and rewards of ownership pass to the trust, which is on signing of the transfer agreement with the transferring trust. An equal amount of income is recognised for the transfer of an existing academy into the trust within Income and donations and capital grants.

• **Donated fixed assets (excluding transfers on conversion or into the Group)**

Where the donated good is a fixed asset it is measured at fair value, unless it is impractical to measure this reliably, in which case the cost of the item to the donor should be used. The gain is recognised as 'Income from Donations and Capital Grants' and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the group's accounting policies.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.3 Income (continued)**

**1.4 Expenditure**

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

• **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**1.5 Basis of Consolidation**

The Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and Balance Sheet consolidate the financial statements of the academy trust and its subsidiary undertaking. The results of the subsidiary are consolidated on a line by line basis.

The academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption contained within section 408 of the Companies Act 2006 not to present its own Income and Expenditure Account.

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets**

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

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

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of these assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.6 Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Leasehold property	- 2% straight line
Leasehold land	- 125 years straight line
Furniture and Equipment	- 14-33% straight line
Plant and Machinery	- 14-33% straight line
Motor Vehicle	- 14-25% straight line

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

**1.7 Investments**

The academy trust's shareholding in the wholly owned subsidiary, Longfield Trading Limited, is included in the academy trust's Balance Sheet at the cost of the share capital less impairment. There is no readily available market value and the cost of valuation exceeds the benefit derived.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

**1.8 Operating leases**

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

**1.9 Liabilities**

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

**1.10 Provisions**

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

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

**1.11 Stocks**

Unsold uniforms and catering stocks are valued at the lower of cost or net realisable value.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.12 Taxation**

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

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

**1.13 Pensions**

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

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

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

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

**1.14 Fund accounting**

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

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

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



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
**(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**1. Accounting policies (continued)**

**1.15 Financial instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 17. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in notes 18 and 19. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to the academy trust's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment**

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

Retirement benefits to employees of the Group are provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme ("TPS") and the Local Government Pension Scheme ("LGPS"). These are defined benefit schemes. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the Group in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. TPS is an unfunded multi-employer scheme with no underlying assets to assign between employers. Consequently, the TPS is treated as a defined contribution scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate. The LGPS is a funded multi-employer scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the Group in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each Balance Sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/asset is also recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities and comprises the interest cost on the defined benefit obligation and interest income on the scheme assets, calculated by multiplying the fair value of the scheme assets at the beginning of the period by the rate used to discount the benefit obligations. The difference between the interest income on the scheme assets and the actual return on the scheme assets is recognised in other recognised gains and losses. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in other recognised gains and losses.

Depreciation – Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost of an asset, less its residual value, over the economic life of that asset. An estimate of the useful life of assets is detailed in the depreciation accounting policy. The value of depreciation charge during the year was £1,460,000.

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**2. Critical accounting estimates and areas of judgment (continued)**

Critical areas of judgement:

Land – Land is held under a 125 year lease from Darlington Borough Council. These assets are included on the balance sheet of the academy due to the significant risks and rewards of ownership belonging to the academy, the lease term being the major part of the economic life of the assets and the assets being of such a specialised nature that only the academy could use them without major modification.

**3. Income from donations and capital grants**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
<b>Donations</b>					
Acquired on conversion	-	-	-	-	20,952
Transfer from existing academy	523	244	5,634	6,401	-
<b>Total donations</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>5,634</b>	<b>6,401</b>	<b>20,952</b>
Donations	3	-	-	3	3
Capital Grants	-	-	205	205	74
<b>Total Capital grants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>77</b>
	<b>526</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>5,839</b>	<b>6,609</b>	<b>21,029</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>4,840</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>15,713</b>	<b>21,029</b>	



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**4. Funding for the academy trust's educational operations**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>				
<b>DfE grants</b>				
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	13,046	13,046	12,264
<b>Other DfE grants</b>				
Start Up Grants	-	-	-	25
Pupil Premium	-	943	943	892
PE and Sport Premium	-	39	39	21
UIFSM	-	118	118	39
16-19 Core funding	-	9,723	9,723	4,175
Core schools budget grant	-	1,710	1,710	-
Teachers' pay grant	-	252	252	221
Teachers' pension grant	-	898	898	382
Other DfE Group grants	-	313	313	101
Mainstream schools additional grant	-	-	-	436
	-	27,042	27,042	18,556
<b>Other Government grants</b>				
SEN	-	758	758	602
Early Years Funding	-	806	806	289
Local Authority grants	-	(348)	(348)	177
Other Government grants	-	299	299	70
	-	1,515	1,515	1,138
<b>Other income from the academy trust's academy's educational operations</b>	530	100	630	649
<b>COVID-19 additional funding (DfE)</b>				
Other DfE COVID-19 funding	-	(16)	(16)	220
	-	(16)	(16)	220
	530	28,641	29,171	20,563
	530	28,641	29,171	20,563
<b>Total 2024</b>	580	19,983	20,563	

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**5. Income from other trading activities**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Income from facilities and services	3	3	-
Non student catering income	12	12	10
Rental and lettings income	24	24	1
RPA Claims	8	8	44
Other	835	835	419
Trading subsidiary	78	78	76
<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>550</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>550</b>	

**6. Investment income**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Investment income	109	-	109	65
Pension income	-	44	44	-
	<b>109</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>Total 2024</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>65</b>	

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**7. Expenditure**

	Staff Costs 2025 £000	Premises 2025 £000	Other 2025 £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Academy trust's educational operations:					
Direct costs	19,136	-	2,024	21,160	14,547
Allocated support costs	3,901	2,663	2,753	9,317	7,211
Trading subsidiary:					
Allocated support costs	-	-	45	45	117
	<u>23,037</u>	<u>2,663</u>	<u>4,822</u>	<u>30,522</u>	<u>21,875</u>
Total 2024	<u>18,436</u>	<u>2,082</u>	<u>3,357</u>	<u>21,875</u>	

In 2025, of the total expenditure £1,701,000 (2024 - £1,685,000) was to unrestricted funds, £27,361,000 (2024 - £19,142,000) was to restricted funds and £1,460,000 (2024 - £1,408,000) was to restricted fixed asset funds.

There were no individual transactions exceeding £5,000 for:

- Compensation payments
- Gift made by the trust
- Fixed asset losses
- Stock losses
- Unrecoverable debts
- Cash losses

There were no ex-gratia payments in the year.

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £000	Support costs 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Academy's educational operations	21,160	9,317	30,477	21,758
Trading subsidiary	-	45	45	117
	<u>21,160</u>	<u>9,362</u>	<u>30,522</u>	<u>21,875</u>
Total 2024	<u>14,547</u>	<u>7,328</u>	<u>21,875</u>	

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	Academy's educational operations 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Staff costs	19,136	19,136	13,524
Educational supplies	1,281	1,281	726
Examination fees	609	609	193
Staff development	49	49	43
Educational consultancy	6	6	-
Staff expenses	24	24	16
Other costs	55	55	45
	<u>21,160</u>	<u>21,160</u>	<u>14,547</u>
Total 2024	<u>14,547</u>	<u>14,547</u>	



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**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of support costs**

	Academy's educational operations 2025 £000	Trading subsidiary 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Pension finance costs	-	-	-	23
Staff costs	3,856	45	3,901	2,912
Depreciation	1,460	-	1,460	1,049
Technology costs	556	-	556	349
Transport	669	-	669	375
Maintenance of premises	339	-	339	373
Cleaning	27	-	27	19
Other premises costs	278	-	278	163
Energy	521	-	521	510
Rent & rates	1	-	1	-
Insurance	126	-	126	88
Operating lease rentals	49	-	49	106
Catering	507	-	507	474
Legal costs - conversion	-	-	-	21
Legal costs - other	24	-	24	25
Other costs	871	-	871	788
Governance costs	33	-	33	53
	<u>9,317</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>9,362</u>	<u>7,328</u>
Total 2024	<u>7,211</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>7,328</u>	

**9. Net income**

Net income for the year includes:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Operating lease rentals	49	106
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	1,460	1,049
Fees paid to auditors for:		
- audit	<u>28</u>	<u>42</u>

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**10. Staff**

**a. Staff costs and employee benefits**

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
Wages and salaries	16,489	11,680	16,444	11,602
Social security costs	1,958	1,231	1,954	1,234
Pension costs	3,951	2,628	3,942	2,613
	<u>22,398</u>	<u>15,539</u>	<u>22,340</u>	<u>15,449</u>
Agency staff costs	606	768	606	768
Staff restructuring costs	33	129	33	129
	<u>23,037</u>	<u>16,436</u>	<u>22,979</u>	<u>16,346</u>

Included in operating costs of defined benefit pension schemes is a credit adjustment of £130,000 (2024: credit of £114,000) relating to the pension deficit actuarial adjustment.

Staff restructuring costs comprise:

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000
Redundancy payments	26	54
Severance payments	7	75
	<u>33</u>	<u>129</u>

The academy trust paid 4 severance payments in the year. All four payments were in the £0 - £25,000 band.

**b. Special staff severance payments**

Included in staff restructuring costs is one non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £4,000 (2024: £60,000).

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**10. Staff (continued)**

**c. Staff numbers**

The average number of persons employed by the Group and the academy trust during the year was as follows:

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.	Academy Trust 2025 No.	Academy Trust 2024 No.
Teachers	191	149	191	149
Administration and support	214	196	194	176
Management	22	19	22	19
	<u>427</u>	<u>364</u>	<u>407</u>	<u>344</u>

**d. Higher paid staff**

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

	Group 2025 No.	Group 2024 No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	20	15
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	10	1
In the band £80,001 - £90,000	2	1
In the band £90,001 - £100,000	3	2
In the band £100,001 - £110,000	2	-
In the band £160,001, - £170,000,	1	-
In the band £180,001, - £190,000,	-	1
	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

**e. Key management personnel**

The key management personnel of the Group comprise the Directors and the senior management team as listed on page 2. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the Group was £1,451,577 (2024 - £1,034,000).

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**11. Directors' remuneration and expenses**

One or more Directors has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from an employment with the academy trust. The principal and other staff Directors only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment. The value of Directors' remuneration and other benefits was as follows:

		2025 £000	2024 £000
D Judson, Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Remuneration		180 - 185
	Pension contributions paid		45 - 50
Tim Fisher Chief Executive Officer	Remuneration	165 - 170	55 - 60
	Pension contributions paid	45 - 50	15 - 20
M Garmston (resigned 1 March 2025)	Remuneration	15 - 20	
	Pension contributions paid	0 - 5	

During the year ended 31 August 2025, expenses totalling £108 were reimbursed or paid directly to 1 Director (2024 - £244).

**12. Central services**

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

- Legal services
- Human resources
- Financial services

The Group charges for these services on the following basis:

Charges have been made based on the amount of pupils at each academy, and support and services each academy requires.

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Hurworth School	103	209
Longfield Academy	251	242
The Rydal Academy	252	275
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	693	319
<b>Total</b>	<u>1,299</u>	<u>1,045</u>

**13. Directors' and Officers' insurance**

In accordance with normal commercial practice the individual academies have purchased insurance to protect Trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000. It is not possible to quantify the Trustees and officers indemnity element from the overall cost of the Zurich commercial insurance.



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**14. Tangible fixed assets**

**Group**

	Freehold property £000	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Plant and machinery £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>						
At 1 September 2024	26,996	22,904	2,619	2	44	52,565
Additions	6	66	1,092	-	-	1,164
Acquired on conversion	-	5,466	182	-	-	5,648
Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
At 31 August 2025	<u>27,002</u>	<u>28,436</u>	<u>3,893</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>59,376</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>						
At 1 September 2024	2,866	2,985	1,604	2	29	7,486
Charge for the year	540	508	410	-	2	1,460
At 31 August 2025	<u>3,406</u>	<u>3,493</u>	<u>2,014</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>8,946</u>
<b>Net book value</b>						
At 31 August 2025	<u>23,596</u>	<u>24,943</u>	<u>1,879</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>50,430</u>
At 31 August 2024	<u>24,130</u>	<u>19,919</u>	<u>1,015</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>45,079</u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**14. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

**Academy Trust**

	Freehold property £000	Long-term leasehold property £000	Furniture and equipment £000	Motor vehicles £000	Total £000
<b>Cost or valuation</b>					
At 1 September 2024	26,996	22,904	2,619	44	52,563
Additions	6	66	1,092	-	1,164
Acquired on conversion	-	5,466	182	-	5,648
Disposals	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
At 31 August 2025	27,002	28,436	3,893	43	59,374
<b>Depreciation</b>					
At 1 September 2024	2,866	2,985	1,604	29	7,484
Charge for the year	540	508	410	2	1,460
At 31 August 2025	3,406	3,493	2,014	31	8,944
<b>Net book value</b>					
At 31 August 2025	23,596	24,943	1,879	12	50,430
At 31 August 2024	24,130	19,919	1,015	15	45,079

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**15. Fixed asset investments**

Northern Arch Learning Partnership owns one trading subsidiary, Longfield Trading Limited. The subsidiary is 100% owned.

**16. Stocks**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
Catering stock	23	8	23	8

**17. Debtors**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
<b>Due within one year</b>				
Trade debtors	26	47	26	47
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	-	-	2
Other debtors	29	1	29	1
Prepayments and accrued income	911	532	895	508
VAT recoverable	215	167	212	167
	<b>1,181</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>725</b>

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**18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
Bank overdrafts	307	198	307	198
Other loans	28	24	28	24
Trade creditors	625	458	625	458
Other taxation and social security	440	356	434	354
Other creditors	512	414	511	410
Accruals and deferred income	702	578	696	574
	<u>2,614</u>	<u>2,028</u>	<u>2,601</u>	<u>2,018</u>
	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
Deferred income at 1 September 2024	396	28	396	28
Resources deferred during the year	563	396	563	396
Amounts released from previous periods	(396)	(28)	(396)	(28)
	<u>563</u>	<u>396</u>	<u>563</u>	<u>396</u>

As at the Balance Sheet date the group was holding grants in relation to UIFSM, SGO, bursary, Early years and other educational activities income.

**19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000	Academy Trust 2025 £000	Academy Trust 2024 £000
Other loans	<u>66</u>	<u>96</u>	<u>66</u>	<u>96</u>

Included in other creditors are three loans from Salix which is provided on the following terms:

- Interest free loan of £21,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £1,330 from September 2018
- Interest free loan of £9,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £540 from March 2019
- Interest free loan of £19,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments of £1,185 from September 2019
- Interest free loan of £99,000 repayable through GAG in bi-annual installments. The start date of repayments is yet to be determined.



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**20. Statement of funds**

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Fund	4,584	2,047	(1,624)	(2,625)	-	2,382
Sinking Fund	125	-	-	125	-	250
Trading subsidiary	46	78	(77)	-	-	47
Energy grant	35	-	-	(35)	-	-
Designated fund	-	-	-	2,500	-	2,500
	<u>4,790</u>	<u>2,125</u>	<u>(1,701)</u>	<u>(35)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,179</u>
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	444	13,940	(12,901)	(1,483)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	943	(943)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	1,557	(1,557)	-	-	-
16-19 Core funding	-	9,435	(9,435)	-	-	-
SEN	-	758	(758)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	757	(757)	-	-	-
Covid-19 funding	-	8	(8)	-	-	-
Other income	-	100	(100)	-	-	-
Learner support donations	20	-	-	-	-	20
Bursary fund	-	288	(177)	344	-	455
Core schools budget grant	-	855	(855)	-	-	-
Pension reserve	-	288	130	-	(418)	-
	<u>464</u>	<u>28,929</u>	<u>(27,361)</u>	<u>(1,139)</u>	<u>(418)</u>	<u>475</u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2025 £000
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,346	54	(158)	-	-	5,242
Inherited funds	34,901	5,634	(993)	-	-	39,542
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,267	-	(203)	866	-	1,930
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	30	-	(1)	-	-	29
14-19	419	-	(9)	-	-	410
Donations	31	-	-	-	-	31
Big Lottery	10	26	(2)	-	-	34
Sport England	67	-	-	-	-	67
Playing pitches	24	-	(3)	-	-	21
ECB	114	-	-	-	-	114
Nursery funding	62	-	(2)	-	-	60
Other Capital	180	-	-	-	-	180
Condition improvement fund	2,273	8	(50)	91	-	2,322
DfE donations	107	-	(11)	-	-	96
Insurance	9	-	(8)	-	-	1
Football Foundation Grant	21	-	-	-	-	21
S106	25	-	-	-	-	25
QE Capital Grants	279	117	(20)	217	-	593
	<u>45,165</u>	<u>5,839</u>	<u>(1,460)</u>	<u>1,174</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,718</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>45,629</u>	<u>34,768</u>	<u>(28,821)</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>(418)</u>	<u>51,193</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>50,419</u>	<u>36,893</u>	<u>(30,522)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(418)</u>	<u>56,372</u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

The Sinking fund has been set up to cover anticipated future refurbishments within Longfield Academy.

Amounts included within the designated fund have been set aside to cover various planned improvements to schools within the academy trust in the coming years, these improvements include upgrades to IT systems, works to school car parks and school condition improvement.

The General Annual Grant (GAG) must be used for the normal running of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

16-19 Core funding must be used for the normal running of the academy including salaries and related costs, overheads, repairs and maintenance, and insurance.

Start up grants are funds provided to cover the legal and associated costs involved with the conversion of a new entity within the Academy Trust.

Pupil Premium is additional funding to be spent as the school sees fit to support deprived students.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (included within Other DfE/ESFA Grants) is funding to provide a free school lunch to all pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

Other DfE/ESFA Grants also includes the PE and sport premium grant, rates relief, teachers' pay grant and teachers' pension grant.

Mainstream school additional grant is used for the purposes of the school and for the benefit of pupils registered.

Other Government grants include Early Years funding for three and four year old children, funding for pupils with Special Educational Needs and other income from the local authority.

Covid-19 funding consists of ESFA recovery premium and national tutoring programme. This income is intended to assist in providing support for pupils educationally disadvantaged during the pandemic.

Other income relates to a non government grant from Sports England to provide improvements to the sports facilities and pupils education.

The pension reserves is the liability due to the deficit on the Local Government Pension Scheme. Further details are shown in note 27.

The restricted fixed asset funds represent monies received to purchase fixed assets. Depreciation is charged against each fund over the useful economic life of the associated assets.

Learner support donations relate to historic funds on conversion of the Sixth form college. These are contributions intended to be used for assistance towards pupils.

Unrestricted funds include the income from uniform sales, school trips and catering with the relevant costs allocated accordingly.

A transfer of £1,174,000 has been made to capital expenditure from to reflect those items included within fixed assets which have been purchased.

Under the funding agreement with the Secretary of State, the academy trust was not subject to a limit on the amount of GAG it could carry forward at 31 August 2025.

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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

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

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>						
General Fund	288	5,868	(1,572)	-	-	4,584
Sinking Fund	125	-	-	-	-	125
Trading subsidiary	30	129	(113)	-	-	46
Energy grant	-	38	-	(3)	-	35
	<u>443</u>	<u>6,035</u>	<u>(1,685)</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,790</u>
	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Restricted general funds</b>						
General Annual Grant (GAG)	-	12,264	(11,555)	(265)	-	444
Pupil Premium	-	892	(892)	-	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA Grants	-	764	(723)	(41)	-	-
16-19 Core funding	-	4,175	(4,175)	-	-	-
SEN	-	602	(602)	-	-	-
Other government grants	-	536	(536)	-	-	-
Covid-19 funding	-	220	(220)	-	-	-
Start up grants	-	25	(25)	-	-	-
MSAG	-	436	(436)	-	-	-
Other income	-	69	(69)	-	-	-
Learner support donations	-	20	-	-	-	20
Pension reserve	(984)	456	91	-	437	-
	<u>(984)</u>	<u>20,459</u>	<u>(19,142)</u>	<u>(306)</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>464</u>



**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers in/out £000	Gains/ (Losses) £000	Balance at 31 August 2024 £000
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>						
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,394	104	(152)	-	-	5,346
Inherited funds	20,132	15,401	(632)	-	-	34,901
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,243	-	(140)	164	-	1,267
Capital expenditure from unrestricted funds	30	-	-	-	-	30
14-19	428	-	(9)	-	-	419
Donations	31	-	-	-	-	31
Big Lottery	10	-	-	-	-	10
Sport England	69	-	(2)	-	-	67
Playing pitches	25	-	(1)	-	-	24
ECB	117	-	(3)	-	-	114
DBC	67	-	-	(67)	-	-
Nursery funding	25	-	(1)	38	-	62
Other Capital	268	-	-	(88)	-	180
Condition improvement fund	2,282	(71)	(45)	107	-	2,273
DfE donations	118	-	(11)	-	-	107
Insurance	(48)	-	(48)	105	-	9
Football Foundation Grant	-	15	-	6	-	21
S106	-	26	(1)	-	-	25
QE Capital Grants	-	238	(3)	44	-	279
	<u>30,191</u>	<u>15,713</u>	<u>(1,048)</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>45,165</u>
<b>Total Restricted funds</b>	<u>29,207</u>	<u>36,172</u>	<u>(20,190)</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>45,629</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>29,650</u></u>	<u><u>42,207</u></u>	<u><u>(21,875)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>437</u></u>	<u><u>50,419</u></u>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2025**

**20. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Total funds analysis by academy**

Fund balances at 31 August 2025 were allocated as follows:

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Hurworth School	2	-
Longfield Academy	33	-
The Rydal Academy	114	136
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	4,891	5,096
Longfield Trading Limited	23	22
Central Services	66	-
Mowden Schools Academy	525	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total before fixed asset funds and pension reserve	5,654	5,254
Restricted fixed asset fund	50,718	45,165
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,372</b>	<b>50,419</b>

**Total cost analysis by academy**

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £000	Other support staff costs £000	Educational supplies £000	Other costs excluding depreciation £000	Total 2025 £000	Total 2024 £000
Hurworth School	3,989	418	258	982	5,647	5,322
Longfield Academy	4,213	448	255	1,048	5,964	6,203
The Rydal Academy	3,083	337	113	613	4,146	3,953
Queen Elizabeth Sixth Form College	6,806	1,302	607	1,759	10,474	4,130
Longfield Trading Limited	-	77	-	-	77	117
Central Services	112	1,052	1	44	1,209	1,101
Mowden Schools Academy	1,113	222	46	164	1,545	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Academy trust</b>	<b>19,316</b>	<b>3,856</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>4,610</b>	<b>29,062</b>	<b>20,826</b>

**NORTHERN ARCH LEARNING PARTNERSHIP**  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**21. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current year**

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted funds 2025 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2025 £000	Total funds 2025 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	50,430	50,430
Current assets	5,184	3,056	382	8,622
Creditors due within one year	(5)	(2,581)	(28)	(2,614)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(66)	(66)
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,179</b>	<b>475</b>	<b>50,718</b>	<b>56,372</b>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted funds 2024 £000	Restricted fixed asset funds 2024 £000	Total funds 2024 £000
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	45,079	45,079
Current assets	4,900	2,339	225	7,464
Creditors due within one year	(110)	(1,875)	(43)	(2,028)
Creditors due in more than one year	-	-	(96)	(96)
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,790</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>45,165</b>	<b>50,419</b>

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**22. Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	6,371	20,332
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation	1,460	1,054
Capital grants from DfE and other capital income	(205)	(74)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(130)	(114)
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	(88)	23
(Increase)/decrease in stocks	(15)	2
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(437)	422
(Increase)/decrease in creditors	553	(879)
On conversion assets / liability	(6,401)	(21,100)
Pension asset adjustment	-	229
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>1,108</b>	<b>(105)</b>

**23. Cash flows from financing activities**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000
Loan repayments	(26)	(17)
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>(26)</b>	<b>(17)</b>

**24. Cash flows from investing activities**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000
Proceeds from the sale of intangible assets	1	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,164)	(998)
Capital grants from DfE Group	205	74
Cash on conversion	477	6,813
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>	<b>(481)</b>	<b>5,889</b>



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**25. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000
Cash in hand and at bank	7,111	6,510
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>7,111</b>	<b>6,510</b>

**26. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 September 2024 £000	Cash flows £000	At 31 August 2025 £000
Cash at bank and in hand	6,709	709	7,418
Bank overdrafts repayable on demand	(198)	(109)	(307)
Debt due within 1 year	(24)	(4)	(28)
Debt due after 1 year	(96)	30	(66)
	<b>6,391</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>7,017</b>

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**27. Pension commitments**

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £490,000 were payable to the schemes at 31 August 2025 (2024 - £407,000) and are included within creditors.

**Teachers' Pension Scheme**

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

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

**Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme**

The Government Actuary, using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS in accordance with the Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014 published by HM Treasury every 4 years. The aim of the review is to ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education on 27 October 2023, with the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, applying a notional investment return based on 1.7% above the rate of CPI. The key elements of the valuation outcome are:

- employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control.
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,050,000 (2024 - £1,975,000).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. The Trust has set out above the information available on the scheme.

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Local Government Pension Scheme**

The LGPS is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2025 was £1,469,000 (2024 - £868,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £1,112,000 (2024 - £633,000) and employees' contributions totalled £ 357,000 (2024 - £235,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.1% for employers and 5.5 - 12.5 % for employees.

As described in note the LGPS obligation relates to the employees of the academy trust, who were the employees transferred as part of the conversion from the maintained school and new employees who were eligible to, and did, join the Scheme in the year. The obligation in respect of employees who transferred on conversion represents their cumulative service at both the predecessor school and the academy trust at the balance sheet date.

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

The original Local Government Pension scheme valuation showed an asset of £5,852,000. That asset valuation is highly dependent on a number of assumptions and does not represent the future value of benefits to the academy trust. As a result an asset ceiling valuation has been undertaken. Based on minimum funding requirements for contributions relating to future service this showed a potential asset of £Nil. Given this value combined with the fact that the last Local Government Scheme actuarial review set the contribution rates from 1 April 2023 and these these will not be revised until April 2026 the trustees have decided to include the pension asset at £NIL.

**Principal actuarial assumptions**

**Durham County Council Pension Fund**

	2025 %	2024 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.50	3.50
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.50	2.50
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.00	4.90
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.50	2.50
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	85.00	85.00

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

	2025 Years	2024 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.9	21.5
Females	23.9	23.8
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.8	22.4
Females	24.7	24.6

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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

**Sensitivity analysis**

Durham County Council Pension Fund

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Discount rate +0.1%	(381)	(448)
Discount rate -0.1%	402	470
Mortality assumption - 1 year increase	(487)	(582)
Mortality assumption - 1 year decrease	466	582
CPI rate +0.1%	339	403
CPI rate -0.1%	(318)	(381)

**Share of scheme assets**

The Group's share of the assets in the scheme was:

	At 31 August 2025 £000	At 31 August 2024 £000
Equities	15,165	12,470
Government bonds	2,838	2,286
Corporate bonds	2,351	2,172
Property	2,054	1,448
Cash	4,621	4,254
<b>Total market value of assets</b>	<b>27,029</b>	<b>22,630</b>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,612,000 (2024 - £1,271,000).

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Current service cost	(982)	(594)
Interest income	1,177	798
Interest cost	(1,133)	(821)
<b>Total amount recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities</b>	<b>(938)</b>	<b>(617)</b>



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**27. Pension commitments (continued)**

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	22,401	12,580
Transfer in from existing academy	1,787	8,710
Current service cost	982	594
Interest cost	1,133	821
Employee contributions	357	223
Actuarial gains	(4,770)	(193)
Benefits paid	(713)	(334)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<u>21,177</u>	<u>22,401</u>

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

	2025 £000	2024 £000
<b>At 1 September</b>	22,401	11,596
Inherited on conversion	2,031	9,166
Interest income	1,177	798
Actuarial gains	435	473
Employer contributions	1,112	708
Employee contributions	357	223
Benefits paid	(713)	(334)
Asset ceiling	(5,623)	(229)
<b>At 31 August</b>	<u>21,177</u>	<u>22,401</u>

**28. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 August 2025 the Group and the academy trust had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Group 2025 £000	Group 2024 £000
<b>GROUP Amount Payable</b>		
Within 1 year	165	108
Between 1 and 5 years	161	140
	<u>326</u>	<u>248</u>

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**29. Related party transactions**

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

Directors' remuneration and expenses are already disclosed in note 11.

**30. Agency arrangements**

The group received 16-19 bursary income for which they act as agent, of £288,000 (£2024: £423,000), bursary expenses paid out in the year were £177,000 (2024: £77,000).  
At the year end date a creditor of £455,000 (2024: £344,000) was owed in respect of unspent bursary funding.

**31. Transfer of existing academy into the trust**

**Federation of Mowden Schools Academy trust**

	Value reported by transferring trust £000	Fair value adjustments £000	Transfer in recognised £000
<b>Intangible assets</b>			
<b>Tangible fixed assets</b>			
Long-term leasehold property	5,465	-	5,465
Furniture and equipment	168	-	168
Computer equipment	13	-	13
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors due within one year	70	-	70
Cash at bank and in hand	692	-	692
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Creditors due within one year	(189)	-	(189)
<b>Pensions</b>			
Pensions - pension scheme assets	-	244	244
Pensions - pension scheme liabilities	(62)	-	(62)
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>6,157</u>	<u>244</u>	<u>6,401</u>