



Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the year ended
31 July 2023



NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the College's Senior Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2022/2023:

Mr A Broadbent	Principal and Chief Executive, Accounting Officer
Mr K Fairley	Deputy Chief Executive
Mrs A Maynard	Deputy Principal
Mr P Bradley	Chief Finance Officer
Mr M Anderson	Vice Principal – Curriculum (Retired 31 December 2022)
Mrs A Dowson	Vice Principal – Curriculum (Appointed 01 December 2022)
Mr A Stephenson	Vice Principal – Quality and Improving Learning
Mrs C Peters	Vice Principal – Business Development, Productivity and Apprenticeships
Mrs M Nichols	Vice Principal – Higher Education (Retired 31 August 2022)
Mr P Morrison	Vice Principal – Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and International Studies (Appointed 01 September 2022)
Mr R Metcalf	Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Mrs E Bonham	Executive Director of Human Resources and Corporate Services
Mrs N Whiting	Executive Director of Information Technology and Corporate Services
Mrs K Stevenson	Executive Director of Estates and Corporate Services

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 32 of these financial statements.

Clerk to the Corporation

Mrs C Winter – Head of Governance and Corporation Secretary

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Professional Advisers

Financial Statement Auditors and Reporting Accountants

RSM UK Audit LLP
1 St James Gate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

Solicitors to 30 September 2022

Eversheds Sutherland (International LLP)
Bridgewater Place
Water Lane
Leeds
LS11 5DR

Registered Office

New College Durham
Framwellgate Moor
Durham
DH1 5ES

Internal Auditors

Durham County Council
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

Solicitors from 01 October 2022

Muckle LLP
Time Central
32 Gallowgate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4BF

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
Barclays House
5 St Ann's Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 2BH

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

CONTENTS

	Page Number
Strategic Report	4
Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control	31
Statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding	43
Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation	44
Independent Auditors Report to the Corporation of New College Durham	46
Consolidated and College Statement of Comprehensive Income	50
Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves	51
Balance Sheets as at 31 July 2023	52
Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows	53
Notes to the Financial Statements	54

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Strategic Report

NATURE, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The Members present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Legal Status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting New College Durham. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

The Corporation was incorporated as New College Durham.

Mission, Vision, Values and Objectives

The College vision as approved by its Members is:

'New College Durham will be recognised as a leading provider of Further and Higher Education in the North East region, nationally and internationally'

The College contribution as approved by its Members is:

'New College Durham will contribute to social, economic, and environmental well-being, changing lives for the better by enabling people of all abilities to fulfil their potential in work and in the community through high quality professional, technical and general education'.

The College is built on a core set of values which define how we approach life. They tell us to be focused on the vision and contribution while encouraging creativity, respecting our people and enabling them to ASPIRE and realise their potential. The values are our DNA, what we stand for and operate as a system, reflecting and shaping our behaviours and organisational culture.

As an employer and learning organisation we will conduct our business by following the values of 'ASPIRE':

- **Accountability** – accepting responsibility for our actions, decisions and policies and their impact on staff, stakeholders and the environment.
- **Safeguarding** – maintaining a safe and inclusive environment in which students can learn, achieve and progress.
- **Partnerships** – working in partnership with those who share our vision and values.
- **Inclusion** – fostering an environment that ensures equality of opportunity enabling all to reach their full potential.
- **Respect** – treating everyone with respect, fostering trust, openness and honesty.
- **Excellence** – achieving and maintaining

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Public Benefit

New College Durham is an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and following the Machinery of Government changes in July 2016 is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The Members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity, are disclosed on page 32.

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

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

- High-quality teaching, learning and assessment
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent employment records for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce
- Links with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

New College Durham is a large, general further education (GFE) College. The College is the largest college to provide vocational further and higher education in County Durham. Within a 15 mile radius there are six colleges, 52 secondary schools and four universities. 17 of the 52 secondary schools have sixth forms.

All College provision is underpinned by clear and ambitious strategies to ensure that growth and quality are intrinsically linked.

The College maintains very high standards and is determined to take every opportunity to improve them further. OFSTED's full inspection in November 2022 concluded the College to be 'Good' with a skills judgement of 'Strong' for the contribution made to meeting the local, regional and national skills needs.

Courses are offered in fourteen sector subject areas recognised by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). Higher Education (HE) courses are provided at Durham to 384 full-time equivalent students and 153 part-time students drawn from the region, nationally and internationally. In addition to these figures, the College has continued to broaden its apprenticeship offer in line with regional and national priorities, including an increase in the number of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships.

The College has managed a wide range of local and regional projects financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) with project delivery taking place in both the Tees Valley, North of Tyne and North East LEP areas. The projects delivered training and qualifications to individuals who were employed, unemployed, at risk of redundancy and those recently made redundant.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

County Durham continues to have a higher than average percentage of young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training. The College continues to work with its partners to address this issue, including continuation of its 'New Choices' programme which offers opportunities to enrol during the year. The College continues to work in partnership with Durham Works.

The proportion of students at the College from minority ethnic backgrounds remains low but is in line with regional averages.

College students are encouraged to enter for many national/regional competitions and awards with many of our students going on to win in their specific categories.

New College Durham engaged in a collaborative partnership with the London School of Commerce (LSC) from November 2019. The partnership has resulted in a growth of overall HE student numbers with 1,193 students studying on New College Durham Foundation Degree programmes in partnership in 2022/23.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

A new Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2026 was approved by the Board of Governors in July 2021 and is a blueprint for the future of New College Durham. It builds on the recent outstanding financial and educational foundations and sets out priorities to realise our ambitious vision for the future of the College in the years to come. We will become the education provider of choice, the education employer of choice, the preferred partner for industry, recognised locally and nationally for excellence in our academic programmes and student experience.

As a 'Mixed Economy College' New College Durham offers a range of further and higher level courses. This not only enables students in the College to progress from further to higher education in one institution, it also provides employers with a wide range of provision appropriate to the skills needs of their employees across an equally broad range.

The College positions itself to respond to skills needs locally and across the region and works with employers and their representative groups to ensure that future skills needs are being addressed. Strong links have been established with the North East England Chamber of Commerce (NEECC), the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP), the North East Automotive Alliance (NEAA), the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (TVLEP) and the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NoTCA) and an ongoing priority is to develop further links with employers. Key in addressing the current and future skills need is responding to the demand for a literate and numerate work force as well as the increased demand for level four and five skills.

The College's strategic plan includes curriculum and corporate plans. The Corporation monitors the performance of the College against these plans on a regular basis. The plans are reviewed and updated annually.

The College continues to monitor and respond to national developments which might affect its activities and viability.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College's strategic aims are:

- To be a recognised leader in further and higher education and a destination of choice for learning in the North East, nationally and internationally.
- To be a preferred partner for government, business, industry and other colleges and universities in creating technological solutions, digital transformation and policy innovation.
- To be an education employer of choice, recognised as a rewarding place to work and for delivering a supportive culture.
- To be a financially astute and sustainable institution with diverse funding support and with operational excellence and continuous improvement in process efficiency and effectiveness.
- To be an engaged and connected college with businesses, funders and the local community.

To achieve our ambitions, we need to have adequate and sustainable resources (facilities and personnel). We need to sustain and grow where appropriate the size of the College in terms of student numbers and revenue, as well as our engagement with communities and businesses. Growth will not only provide economies of scale and more resources, but also better facilities and services to students. Growth and recognised success will help attract talented people to study and work here, improving the learning offer. Our future growth will depend on opportunities for funding through government initiatives and from strengthening our curriculum offer with new and relevant provision.

Our strategic aims will be delivered through interlinked strategic priorities covering every aspect of the College's business recognising and building on the 'One Team' approach.

Financial Objectives

The College has recently submitted a new two-year financial plan to the ESFA as part of the College Financial Forecasting Return (CFFR) and confirms its financial objectives to:

- Achieve at least a break-even position before FRS102-28 pension adjustments;
- Achieve EBITDA (Education Specific) > 4%;
- Maintain Adjusted Current Ratio > 2.0 : 1;
- Maintain Nil Borrowing;
- Generate sufficient funds to ensure that the Corporation can maintain the College estate and invest in new technology and equipment required to support learning and administration;
- Maintain the level of free reserves above 10% of annual turnover in line with the Board approved reserves policy.

A series of performance indicators have been agreed to monitor the successful implementation of the policies.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Performance Indicators

Throughout the financial year the College has monitored key performance indicators set as part of the two-year financial plan submitted to the ESFA in July 2023. Actual performance against these performance indicators is shown below;

Description	Target	Actual
Surplus before FRS102-28 Pension Adjustment	£281k	£1,525k
(Deficit) / Surplus after FRS102-28 Pension Adjustment	£(2,670)k	£765k
Net Current Assets	£17.4m	£13.3m
Cash Days in Hand	85	133
Adjusted Current Ratio	2.46:1	2.96:1
EBITDA as a percentage of income (Education Specific)	4.35%	5.61%
Gearing	0%	0%
Financial Health Score 'Provisional'	240	250
Financial Health Rating 'Provisional'	Outstanding	Outstanding

FINANCIAL POSITION

The College is committed to observing the importance of sector measures and uses the FE Choices data available on GOV.UK website which looks at measures such as success rates. The College is required to complete the College Financial Forecasting Return (CFFR) for the ESFA. The College is assessed by the ESFA as having an '**Outstanding**' financial health rating.

Financial Results

The Annual Report and Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS102) and the 2015 FE HE Statements of Recognised Practice (SORP).

The Group (New College Durham and its subsidiary company Westfirst Limited) generated an operating surplus (before FRS102-28 LGPS Pension Charge and other gains and losses) of £1,525,000 in 2022/23 (2021/22 – surplus of £1,382,000). No expenditure is included in the College accounts, however the college has granted support to its subsidiary Westfirst Limited, to a total value of £6,059.

After FRS102-28 the Group generated a surplus of £765,000 (2021/22 deficit of £1,358,000).

The Group has accumulated reserves of £54,398,000 (stated net of pension reserve) and cash at bank and short term investment balances of £17,768,000. The Group will continue to accumulate reserves and cash balances in order to finance the upcoming capital developments, plant and equipment as necessary and to further strengthen its financial position in order to deliver its strategic plan.

Tangible and intangible fixed assets additions during the year amounted to £11,856,000. This was split between land and buildings costs of £615,000, software costs of £84,000 and equipment, furniture & fittings costs of £3,504,000 and assets under construction of £7,653,000.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The Group has significant reliance on the ESFA for its principal funding source, largely from recurrent grants. In 2022/23 the ESFA provided 43.80% (2021/22 45.18%) of the Group's total income in respect of 16-19 Further Education, Apprenticeship and Adult Education funding. European Social Fund (ESF) contracts accounted for 8.21% (2021/22 9.10%) while the College's collaboration with the London School of Commerce accounted for 20.07% (2021/22 23.40%).

The College has a subsidiary company, Westfirst Limited. The principal business activities were those of boiler house management, the supply of heat, gas and electricity until 30 June 2022 whereby this activity transferred to New College Durham. The company's principal activity is lettings of New College Durham premises to external organisations. Any taxable surpluses generated by the subsidiary company are assessed, and where appropriate transferred to the College under Gift Aid.

The subsidiary company has an un-provided for deferred tax asset of £2,743 arising from the difference between the net book value and written down value of fixed assets. In the current year, the subsidiary company generated a loss after taxation of £1,282. No gift aid payment will be made to the College for this financial year.

Treasury Policies and Objectives

Treasury management is the management of College cashflows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

The College has a specific treasury management policy in place.

In the fiscal year 2022/23, there was no need for short-term borrowing for immediate revenue needs. For any borrowing, the approval of the Corporation is required, and it must adhere to the guidelines outlined in the Financial Memorandum. Additionally, the College must adhere to the new borrowing controls established by the Department for Education when Colleges transitioned to the public sector in November 2022.

Cash Flows and Liquidity

The College's operating cash-in-flow from operating activities was strong at £7,345,000 (2021/22 cash in-flow £5,078,000). The strong cash-in-flow along with Capital Grants received enabled the College to invest £11,856,000 in tangible and intangible assets (2021/22 £2,748,000).

At 31 July 2023 the College does not hold any financing debt.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Financial Risk Management

The College's operations expose it to a variety of financial risks that include the effect of changes in credit risk and liquidity. The College has in place a risk management programme that seeks to limit the adverse effects on the financial performance of the College where appropriate.

Credit Risk

The College has implemented policies that require appropriate credit checks on potential customers and sub-contractors.

Liquidity Risk

The College actively manages its risk profile on a regular basis to ensure the College has sufficient available funds for operations and any planned expansions.

Reserves Policy

The College is required to hold reserves in order to:

- Ensure that adequate funds are available to safeguard the College;
- Ensure that the College has sufficient cash to meet its short term financial liabilities as they fall due;
- Provide the financial resources to enable investment in premises, facilities and equipment in order to enhance the range of services and education the College is able to provide for its stakeholders;
- Maintain sufficient funds to enable operational activities to be maintained, taking account of potential financial risks, uncertainties and contingencies that may arise from time to time.

In light of the above, the College aims to maintain a minimum level of free reserves of 10% of annual turnover to support continuing operations. The College will aim to generate in year outturns in excess of 10% to support future investment in premises, facilities and equipment. For the purposes of this calculation, free reserves are defined as Net Current Assets excluding deferred capital grants, less designated funds. Turnover excludes income from capital grants.

The level of free reserves held at the end of the financial year was 22.34% of annual turnover (2021/22 18.34%). The increase in free reserves is due largely to income increasing 9.3% on 2021/2022. This was due to the College being successful in growing Devolved Adult and Apprenticeship provision along with agreeing Bootcamp contracts with the North of Tyne Combined Authority and the North East Local Enterprise Partnerships throughout the year. The balance remains above the College target of 10% and puts the College in a strong position to overcome any future challenges and fund further capital developments identified below.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Designated Reserves (Note 27) total £10.591m and relate to a variety of capital projects, the largest of which is the Multi Use Games Area and Car Park. The tendering process for the Car Park element was recently completed and is expected to cost £4.364m.

The refurbishment of Promotion House at Langley Moor has also been contracted and is set to start in January 2024.

The costs committed at 31 July 2023 to external contractors total £3.361m and are disclosed as capital commitments in Note 20.

The College's intention is to continue to invest within the estate in order to deliver its strategy. Budgets have been set to further grow reserves, and the Board intend to make the following investments in the medium term, whilst retaining free reserves in line with the above policy:-

- Multi Use Games Area and Car Park - £4.364m
- Refurbishment of Promotion House at Langley Moor - £2.20m
- Completion of T.H.E. Hub - £1.83m
- Sports and Music Building Refurbishment - £0.50m
- Upgrade of the Training Restaurant - £0.38m
- Digital Learning Hub - £0.26m
- College Modernisation Programme - £0.25m (in each of the next five years)
- Other Projects - £0.807m

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

With the reclassification of further education colleges into the public sector, there emerges a heightened responsibility to align their financial and operational practices with the broader principles and regulations that govern public entities. One of the most critical aspects of this transition is adhering to the "Managing Public Money" (MPM) rules. These guidelines, established by the government, are geared towards ensuring that taxpayers' money is dealt with appropriately, economically, efficiently, and effectively.

As the college navigates this public sector landscape, adherence to MPM rules ensures that financial decisions are made with utmost transparency, accountability, and integrity. These principles not only solidify public trust but also foster a culture of fiscal responsibility within the institution. Colleges are now more than ever, under scrutiny to demonstrate value for money in their programs, courses, and initiatives. This can lead to enhanced long-term planning, robust risk assessment, and more strategic deployment of resources.

However, this transition also brings challenges. The MPM guidelines can be perceived as restrictive, potentially limiting the agility of colleges to make swift financial decisions in response to emerging educational needs. Balancing the rigors of MPM rules with the dynamic nature of further education will be crucial. Nevertheless, by viewing MPM compliance as an opportunity rather than an obligation, colleges can optimise their financial practices, creating a more sustainable and accountable educational environment.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College has always looked to find new funding sources. This is more important than ever following the June 2016 referendum to leave the European Union which will ultimately reduce the funds available through the European Social Fund (ESF). The College has won several large ESF contracts which will end in late 2023. The College is continually in discussions around contracts that will replace their ESF counterparts. As the ESF comes to an end, contracts from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Bootcamps and further procured Adult Education Budget (AEB) will be sought as further information becomes available.

Changes to the way that apprenticeships are funded (large employer levy) give the College the opportunity to increase its delivery of apprenticeships in the coming years. This is at a time when non-levy allocations from the ESFA are being phased out and all provision will be procured through employer digital accounts. The devolution agreement within both Tees Valley and North of Tyne has provided tendering opportunities for the College to deliver adult funded courses within these regions. The College has been and continues to be successful in the opportunities presented to date. Looking forward the creation of the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) will be a significant opportunity for the College to compete for business across the North East region.

The North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) opened in October 2019 and became fully operational in July 2021. The College, as the license holder of the NEIoT, is offering top quality training and apprenticeships in higher-level technical skills, ranging from A-Level equivalents up to degree level and above. The NEIoT was created in partnership with Newcastle University, Nissan Motors and Esh Group, this also includes a range of other colleges from across the region. The College consulted with twenty key employers, including Nissan, Esh Group, Komatsu, Siemens, and Tarmac, when developing the proposal, to ensure employers would support the College and students by providing training that addresses the gaps in skills, and the emerging skills required by the region. The facility opened in October 2019 and the final area in the facility was finalised in 2020/21 being a Building Information Modelling (BIM) suite, offering state of the art facilities and equipment in the architecture, engineering and construction (AEC) industry. The NEIoT has enabled the College and its partners to leverage a range of funding including Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQ's) Growth Fund and Skills Injection Fund.

In September 2023 the Technical and Higher Education Hub (T.H.E. Hub) building was opened. The project cost £11,000,000 of which £2,950,000 was contributed through T-Level Wave 4 Capital monies awarded. The building includes state-of-the-art specialist facilities so the College can deliver higher and technical skills qualifications. T.H.E. Hub features 23 new teaching spaces, including an immersive suite, an early years foundation stage nursery, a sensory room, a hospital ward, a dental suite, an opticians, an esports arena, cyber security facilities, specialist IT classrooms and science laboratories. The building also features several modern breakout spaces for students to work and socialise.

Furthermore, the College has expanded its estate and purchased a property at Langley Moor which is identified to house Construction Crafts (Property Maintenance & Bricklaying), the refurbishment of the building is due to start in January 2024 and be complete by May 2024. The move of these two curriculum areas will release space for the College to develop an Electrical Vehicle Battery Training Facility in conjunction with Newcastle University. Funds have been awarded by Innovate UK totalling £1,332,772 in order to put the facility in place by March 2025. The College will work with both the University and the specialist private sector employers in developing the equipment and design of the facility.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College has also leased a property in Ashington, Northumberland where delivery of Adult Education Budget (AEB) for the North of Tyne Combined Authority and Green Skills Bootcamps are currently being delivered.

The College Financial Forecast Return (CFFR) was submitted in July 2023 to the ESFA alongside its Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) which shows that the College is expecting to maintain financial strength across the next five financial years.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The quality of provision at the College continues to be consistently good with elements of outstanding practice.

The College underwent a full Ofsted inspection in November 2022, securing an overall grading of "Good" and a skills judgment of "Strong" for the contribution made to meeting the local, regional and national skills needs.

Achievement rates for our adult learning programmes have sustained their consistently high performance, the best-case achievement rate for adult students is 94.7% which would be an improvement of 2.9% compared to 2021/22 and exceed the most recently published national achievement rate by 8.5% (86.2%).

The College achievement rate in 2022/23 for students aged 16 to 18 was 84%. This was an improvement of 9.1% from the previous academic year. This performance also placed the College above the most recently published national achievement rate for this age group (80.7%). Through a robust analysis of the 16-18 performance in 2021/22, leaders and managers implemented robust actions across all curriculum areas of the College to secure improvements in performance.

New College Durham continues to be at the forefront of curriculum innovation and 2022/23 saw the second year of students complete their T-level qualifications. 32 students completed T-level qualifications in five T-level routes. This was an increase in volume of 100% with two new T-level routes seeing the first cohort of students completing. Pass and high-grade results continued to be excellent with 91% of students passing their T-level qualification and 66% of students achieving a high grade of distinction or merit.

The DfE has continued to support a return to normal exam practices since the use of mitigation arrangements implemented during the years impacted and immediately following Covid-19. The DfE used the Summer 2023 examination series to initiate a return to the grading levels seen before Covid-19. The College's A-level performance in 2022/23 was excellent with a pass rate of 96.9%. The volume of students achieving a high grade (A* to B) continued to be strong with 37.5% of grades at this standard. This maintained the performance from 2021/22 and was an improvement of 2.1% from 2018/19.

The GCSE examinations in maths and English were also impacted by the DfE decision to move grades to pre-Covid-19 levels. In 2022/23, the GCSE English pass rate was 99.7% and 37.5% of students achieved a high-grade (9 to 4). In maths, the pass rate was 98.3%, with 19.5% of students achieving a high-grade. The performance in both subjects was positive to that recorded in other FE establishments provided via Ofqual Analytics, with GCSE English 14.6% above the rate (22.9%) and maths 5% above (14.5%).

Outcomes for learners on apprenticeships are exceptional at 72.2%, with the College achievement rate performing well above the national achievement rate and maintaining the strong performance that has been established in previous years.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College, like others across the sector, noted a decline in the attendance rates of students in 2022/23. A forensic analysis of this data identified that attendance in a few subjects on education programmes for young people was lower than college expectations. The Ofsted inspection ratified this position and also the fact that college leaders were taking appropriate action to improve this. The college continued to be proactive in its support to students with additional support and extra lessons provided. Whilst this has supported the achievement rates of students, the attendance rates in a few subjects remains an area for improvement in 2023/24.

The quality of work produced by students is exceptional and is frequently commended by awarding bodies as not only meeting, but in the large majority of cases, exceeding the standards expected nationally. Consequently, our students are typically very successful in the regional and national skills competitions in which they take part. This has a positive impact on their progression opportunities.

Care, guidance and support continue to be considered some of the key strengths of the College's provision. Specialist support services augment a broader suite of welfare support services and are easily accessible by students to support their learning. The College has adopted a Recovery Curriculum model that has been implemented to address the lost learning and any skills gaps that have resulted from the disrupted education caused by Covid-19. Initial assessment has been central to this and is employed to rapidly identify learners' individual needs at a point prior to, or close to enrolment. Students identified as being in need of support, in the vast majority of instances access it regularly and, as a consequence, progress well and successfully achieve their qualifications.

In addition to the qualifications a student undertakes, the College has established an exceptional "beyond the curriculum" approach. This approach combines an internally developed Personal Development Framework and additional curriculum-based activities including, guest speakers, external visits, voluntary work and work-related activities, to provide students with knowledge, skills and behaviours additional to the qualification they study. This framework is designed in line with key requirements but is dynamic and informed by local intelligence and emerging risk. The impact of this provides students with additional knowledge, skills and behaviours that prepare them for life within society.

The combined effect across education and training is that 93% of students progress to positive destinations.

Academies

The College is lead sponsor for New College Durham Academies Trust (the Trust) which is an established multi-academy trust (MAT). The Academy Trust has been operating two academies: North Durham Academy and Consett Academy, however Wellfield School joined the Trust on 1st June 2023.

The Trust is set up as a company limited by guarantee and has Members and Directors. It has exempt charity registration and is governed by company and charity law and bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The company was set up by lead sponsor New College Durham and co-sponsor Durham County Council to run one or more academies. North Durham Academy opened in September 2011 and Consett Academy opened in January 2012. Both academies enjoy excellent facilities on purpose-built campuses.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

New College Durham's sponsorship of the MAT has allowed the Trust to extend the values of progression, inclusion, and excellence to a wider community. The College participation brought much needed investment to communities hard hit by economic downturn and provided better educational opportunities for the whole community.

The Academy Trust's Chief Executive and the team of School Improvement Directors have played a significant role in North Durham Academy securing a "Good" Ofsted rating at its latest inspection on 21 June 2022. Consett Academy was also rated as "Good" in its latest inspection on 10 May 2023. Wellfield also are assessed as "Good" by Ofsted.

The Trust has an established strategy for growth, Wellfield School joining the Academy Trust on the 01 June 2023 was the first phase of the expansion program. Phase 2, is looking to further expansion with potentially four local Primary Schools joining the Academy Trust. Initial approval has already been agreed by the Regional Schools Commissioner and it is expected that subject to due diligence these schools will join the Trust in the Spring Term 2023. The Academy Trust Board is keen to support expansion of the MAT in a sustainable manner to transform the educational landscape in their area by driving up standards and raising levels of aspiration.

New College Durham will continue to have an 'arm's length' relationship with the Academy Trust.

Higher Education

The College has held Foundation Degree Awarding powers since August 2011. In this time the College has established a reputation regionally and nationally as an outstanding provider of higher education. The College now has over 35 Foundation Degrees, Honours Degrees and Professional Qualifications at levels 4 and above. In July 2023, the College received notification from the Office for Students (OfS) of the approval of the variation of the DAPs (Degree Awarding Powers) order and received a certified copy of the legal order to reflect the indefinite powers that have been granted. The order includes the removal of the restrictions on our current DAPs authorisation and therefore New College Durham have the powers to authorise other providers to grant awards on our behalf which provides additional opportunities for future partnership work.

Over the last few years, the College has strengthened its HE portfolio to include Higher Apprenticeships. The College utilises its Foundation Degree Awarding Powers by working closely with employers on the benefits of higher and degree apprenticeships. Working in partnership with Sector Skills Councils to map Foundation Degrees into the current frameworks gives both students and employers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum offer which allows progression from Intermediate Apprenticeships right through to Degree Apprenticeships.

New College Durham is continuing to be a front runner as part of the Governments initiative to increase higher technical skills at levels 4 and 5. HTQs are higher technical qualifications that employers have helped develop so students can access the right training and skills they need to succeed in future work. HTQs are an alternative to apprenticeships or degrees and can be NCD validated Foundation Degrees that are mapped to Occupational standards or Higher National Certificates/Diplomas mapped to HTQs validated by Pearson's.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

All programmes are designed and developed in conjunction with local and regional employers, ensuring graduates have the skills and knowledge required for their chosen sector. The College continues to enjoy a successful working relationship with the Open University. Part-time enrolments continue to follow national trends and remain low compared with previous years due to the global pandemic and more recently the cost-of-living crisis which has led to potential students taking low paid and unsustainable jobs.

The College has been on the Office for Students (OfS) provider register since December 2018 and has successfully met all annual monitoring of the OfS general ongoing conditions of registration. In May 2021 the Department of Education (DfE) confirmed their non-objection for the college to use the title 'New College Durham University Centre' as a sub brand of New College Durham. This has provided the opportunity for further development and the rebranding of our HE offer for New College Durham University Centre establishing a distinct brand for HE.

In June 2016 New College Durham received a silver rating for the Teaching and Excellence Framework (TEF) from the Office for Students. The high standards identified in the report continued which led to New College Durham receiving a silver rating in August 2023 based on its comprehensive submission. The data used to formulate the judgement included Durham students and some data from the London School of Commerce (LSC).

The partnership agreement with London School of Commerce (LSC) has been in place since September 2019, and there have now been 9 cohorts of FdA Business and Management and 8 cohorts of FdSc Supporting Innovation in Health and Social Care students. There are 800 new starts planned for 2023/24. The partnership has had significant review during 2022/23 and systems put in place in an attempt to improve performance data to achieve Office for Students benchmarks.

As well as pursuing the reviewing of the contract with LSC, and in line with the College's Higher Education Strategy, the Senior Leadership Team have continued to carry out due diligence reviews on potential new partnerships. This has led to a partnership being approved by Corporation to contract with CECOS Computing Ltd to deliver FdA Business & Management programmes across campuses in London, Birmingham and Bradford. Corporation also approved the College to contract with Gateway Studio, a dance-based organisation based in Gateshead to deliver a FdA in Dance Performance. This will commence in September 2024 which will allow sufficient marketing activity to take place during 2023/24.

Discussions with other potential partners continue and it is envisaged that diversifying the number, location and subject areas of partnerships will have a positive impact on the College HE strategy, community, and income streams.

Results from the National Student Survey continue to remain strong. The data indicates that New College Durham students are satisfied with the experience that they receive. Responses from students include:

- 89.6% of students are satisfied with the quality of teaching provided, which is 4.72% above the sector average.
- 88.18% of students are satisfied with the learning opportunities available to them, which is 6.83% above the sector average.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Stakeholder Engagement

The College's apprenticeship provision continues to grow across the curriculum areas ensuring that needs are aligned to that of local and regional employers. The apprenticeship achievement rates continue to be successful with the College performing higher than the national average. The College has responded positively to the apprenticeship reforms, having successfully adapted its delivery, support, and management structures. Key stakeholders and subcontractors continue to play an integral role in the delivery of Education Skills and Funding Agency (ESFA) Adult Education Budget (AEB), Bootcamps and European Social Fund (ESF) qualifications. Training programmes are designed in conjunction with employers ensuring that the skills gaps and emerging needs within the region are met. Robust monitoring and performance management undertaken by the Business Development and Apprenticeship teams supported by the Colleges Quality department ensures that the provision is of a high quality and are outstanding in their performance. Following the devolution of funding to Tees Valley and the North of Tyne, the College continues to be successful in growing the AEB budgets in both regions.

Over 250 employers and key stakeholders actively support the College in many aspects of core curriculum delivery. In Higher Education, employers continue to inform the College's foundation degree offer, supporting many students with effective work placements. In Further Education, employers deliver sessions within the College and the workplace and provide real life projects for students to practice their vocational skills alongside advising on the Colleges Curriculum offer. Furthermore, the study programme offers opportunities for college staff, students, and employers to work together to enhance the student experience. This has proved very effective, by supporting students to take part in meaningful work experience and work placement programmes resulting in many students gaining employment.

The College is the license holder for the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT). This affords the College a prestige position to work collaboratively both regionally and nationally in response to existing and emerging employer needs.

Staff and Student Involvement

In July 2023 the College held Team NCD Day. Staff from all parts of the College came together to join in the numerous organized workshops and activities to celebrate the end of the academic year together. The day has become a regular fixture in the New College Durham calendar and gives staff the chance to network with colleagues from all areas of the College whilst competing in activities such as dragon boat racing, axe throwing, foot golf, archery and much more. For those that are more creative there is ceramic painting, knitting, cloth painting to name just a few.

The College has supplemented communications with additional regular updates through digital means, and notable with these efforts has been the development of College newsletters from the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to enable New College Durham staff to receive updates on the College plans and key messages, as well as through our staff focus groups and SLT 'meet and greet' sessions. The feedback on this communication has been extremely positive in maintaining links with the both the College and supporting staff over the course of the year.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

A further staff survey (in line with our annual cycle) was completed in January 2023. The survey allowed staff the opportunity to provide feedback on what they viewed as the college strengths and what we do well but also assisted in identifying any areas where we can improve. The results of this year's survey were very positive; demonstrating that staff acknowledge that the college is on a journey in responding to issues and that some of the changes made following last year's survey are having a real positive impact on the workforce (ie introduction of hybrid working as one key example). The results of the survey and future actions have been shared with staff throughout the year. Indeed, the College released "You said, we are doing" newsletters to provide updates to staff on the actions taken in response to the feedback received. It is the college's intention to issue next year's staff survey in January 2024.

Payment Performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 01 November 1998, requires Colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. The target set by the Treasury for payment to suppliers within 30 days is 95.00%.

During the financial year 01 August 2022 to 31 July 2023, the College paid 98.4% by count (99.4% by value) of its invoices within 30 days. The College incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this financial year.

Events after the end of the reporting year

There were no events after the end of the reporting year.

Planned maintenance programme

The College plans to spend an average £500,000 per annum in maintaining its buildings to keep them in good order. In 2022/23 £458,524 of this fund was spent on replacing the roof, new boilers, cooling system, CCTV, LED Lighting and general planned maintenance. The remaining funds were used to contribute to the £170,504 cost of installing Electric Vehicle Charging Points and fencing the football pitch.

Future Prospects

The College has continued to improve the facilities available to its students. A further series of capital developments are planned to ensure that the College remains at the forefront of vocational and technical education and training.

The College continues to successfully tender for both Adult funding and Bootcamp funding with the North East Local Enterprise Partnerships, North of Tyne Combined Authority and Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnerships. The Shared Prosperity Fund which will replace the current European Social Funding will also provide the College with opportunities to tender to win new business.

The College continues to drive through efficiencies in its procurements and be as economic, efficient and effective as possible.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College continues to be at the forefront of curriculum developments across the FE Sector. The College will deliver T-Levels across Construction and the Built Environment, Engineering and Manufacturing, Business and Administration, Digital, Education and Childcare, Health and Science, Creative and Design and Legal, Finance and Accountancy.

The College continues to explore possibilities to establish associate agreements with other education providers to utilise its Foundation Degree Awarding Powers for the delivery of qualifications elsewhere in the UK similar to its arrangement with the London School of Commerce. Indeed, a further agreement has been reached with CECOS Computing Ltd to deliver Foundation degrees in Business and Management across its campuses in London, Birmingham and Bradford with an initial intake scheduled for September 2023. This will open new markets and mitigate some of the decreases the College has seen in its Higher Education numbers.

RESOURCES:

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

Tangible resources include tangible fixed assets with a value of £59,209,000 which includes the main College campus, Bishop Auckland Podiatry Clinic and Promotion House and net current assets of £13,438,000. The College also has leased premises at Low Carrs podiatry training facility located in Durham.

Financial

The College has £54,398,000 of net assets (stated after £0 pension liability) and has successfully maintained its financial debt at nil.

People

The average number of persons employed by the College during the year, expressed as head count was 629, of which 441 were teaching and teaching support staff.

The College has 421 staff registered on supply pool of whom 122, on average work monthly.

The College spent £901,000 on Contracted out staffing services in 2022/23 (£490,000 in 2021/22). The increase was largely due to the difficulty in recruiting posts right across the curriculum as national labour shortages led to delays in recruitment. The College used staff from external agencies to ensure there was no break in learning for students.

Reputation

The College has a good reputation locally, nationally and internationally. Maintaining a quality brand is essential for the College's success in attracting students and improving external relationships.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

Based on the strategic plan, the Risk Management Group undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the College is exposed. This group identifies systems and procedures, including specific preventable actions which should mitigate any potential impact on the College. The internal controls are then implemented and the subsequent year's appraisal reviews their effectiveness and progress against risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the Risk Management Group also considers any risks which may arise as a result of a new area of work being undertaken by the College.

A strategic risk register is maintained for the College which is reviewed termly by the Risk Management Group and the Senior Leadership Team. The register is regularly reviewed by the College Audit Committee. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system agreed by the Corporation.

This is supported by a risk management training programme to raise awareness of risk throughout the College.

Outlined is a description of the principal risk factors that could affect the College's financial statements and financial position. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below also adversely affect the College. The College's top strategic risks are set out in the Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control.

1. Government Funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through ESFA for its 16 to 19 Further Education provision.

Adult skills funding is now predominantly for apprenticeships (16 to 18 and adults) and an increasing element of the funding for general further education is received through tuition fees paid via the Students Loans Company (SLC).

The College now receives most of its higher education funding through tuition fees paid via the SLC as all students are now funded through the new system. The remaining funding from the Office for Students (OfS) largely relates to widening participation and targeted allocations.

European Social Fund (ESF) provision relies heavily on subcontractors to deliver the large volumes associated with each contract and to target the specific priority sectors. This in turn makes the contracts subject to employer demand and the College needs to build the provision around their changing requirements. There is great volatility within the Small Medium Enterprise (SME) sector particularly in regard to redundancies especially as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and cost of living crisis. With the uncertainty in the working environment employers will become more cautious about recruitment and training and development.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

There can be no assurance that Government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same level or on the same terms.

The College is aware of issues which may impact on future funding, including the FE white paper, further apprenticeship reforms and incentives, further devolution of the adult education budget and the ongoing impact of Brexit. The College, in conjunction with its key stakeholders, is developing a strategy for growth in response to the devolution agenda and to the apprenticeship's reforms.

The College submitted a financial forecast to the ESFA covering the period to July 2025 and within that plan this identified the possible reductions in funding and the measures by which the College will ensure that remains financially strong during that period. This will involve a combination of cost efficiencies, growth in learner numbers and the pursuit of new income sources.

The College will continue to mitigate against potential loss of income by:

- Ensuring that the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training;
- Focusing on and investing in maintaining and managing key relationships with the various funding bodies;
- Ensuring that the College is focused on the priorities of our stakeholders which will continue to benefit from public funding;
- Maintaining its robust financial health as it enters the new academic year;
- Strengthening the College's internal delivery teams to increase the volume of direct delivery and provide a more comprehensive offer to employers; and
- Planning for cost efficiencies in operations without affecting front line delivery to learners.

2. Maintain adequate funding of pension liabilities

The financial statements show that there is no longer a pension liability and the College have a small £280,000 surplus that has not been recognised in the financial statements. A surplus can only be recognised if the Employer can gain an economic benefit from it which could be either a refund or reduced future contributions. The actuary has concluded that the economic value from a reduction in future contributions would be nil therefore the college have restricted the surplus meaning no asset has been recognised.

The College Employer Contribution rate remains at 20.4% going forward with the continued risk that this could either increase or decrease at each valuation date. Key factors regarding the existing and prospective obligations, employers funding level and number of new entrants all affect future Contribution rates.

3. Government Policy

The UK government policies for further education are presently focused on several key areas:

- T Level Qualifications
- Apprenticeships
- Skills Bootcamps
- Higher Technical Education
- Lifetime Skills Guarantee

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

- Nations Skill Fund
- Adult Education

The College continue to bid for new Government Initiatives as they become available such as Higher Technical Education Skills Injection Fund

The College have been involved with 'Skills Bootcamps' across both the North East Local Education Partnership (NELEP) and North of Tyne Combined Authority (NoTCA) areas. The College are also starting to work with the Tees Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (TVLEP) to deliver Skills Bootcamps. New Bootcamp activity including hydrogen, air source heat pump assessor and installer and building information modelling (BIM) have been introduced throughout the year. The College are also looking at designing next year's bootcamps and are working with employers and partners to identify local and regional skills demands.

The Employer Representative Body (ERB) for the North East Local Education Partnership (NELEP) effective from 05 September 2022 has been confirmed as the North East Automotive Alliance Ltd (NEAA). Appointed by DfE, the NEAA are responsible for leading and developing the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). The College along with other providers will be involved in regular meetings to discuss emerging themes and help ensure post-16 technical education is responsive and flexible in meeting local labour market skills needs.

The North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) is expected to come into force in May 2024 as NELEP and NoTCA merge. This will provide further opportunities for the College to continue building strong partnerships across the northern region.

The Skills and Post 16 Education Act places LSIP's on a statutory footing and will place duties on providers to co-operate with ERB's in the design and delivery of plans when considering training and education offer. This will feed into the new accountability agreements for providers. The North East LSIP strategic priorities target areas that the College are historically strong in such as Advanced Manufacturing, Construction, Digital and Health and this represents an opportunity for the College.

The College continue to operate in an uncertain environment but are well placed to meet future challenges and bid for any funds that become available through new initiatives announced by the Government.

4. Demographic changes and increased competition

The College is in a period of increased competition for 16-18 provision whilst demographic changes mean the number of 16-18 year old learners are beginning to recover.

This risk is mitigated by:

- Continuing to improve the quality of provision and success rates to encourage learners to the College and;
- Working closely with feeder schools and academies to improve links and the offer to young people.

The College is in a period of increased competition for Higher Education provision and demographic changes have resulted in an aggressive market place.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

This risk is mitigated by:

- Continuing to provide quality provision that is relevant to the employment market;
- Capturing and promoting excellent student feedback and destination data; and
- Assessing new ways of working and new collaborative arrangements with other Higher Education Institutions.

5. Failure to maintain the financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health grade is classified as 'Outstanding' as described above. The continuing challenge to the College's financial position remains the constraint on further education funding arising from the ongoing cuts in public sector spending whilst maintaining the student experience and the increased pressure on the College's staffing costs as a result of increased employer pension contributions and the demand for significant increases to staffing salaries following a prolonged period of below inflation pay awards.

This risk is mitigated in several ways:

- By rigorous budget setting procedures and sensitivity analysis;
- Regular in-year budget monitoring;
- Robust financial controls; and
- Exploring new cost efficiencies.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other colleges and universities, New College Durham has many stakeholders.

These include:

- Students
- Education Sector Funding Bodies
- FE Commissioner
- Staff
- Local Employers
- Local Authorities
- Combined Authorities
- Local Enterprise Partnerships
- The Local Community
- Local Schools and Academies
- Universities
- Other FE Institutions
- Trade Unions
- Professional Bodies
- Employer Representative Bodies

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communications with all stakeholders.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The College is proud of the social and cultural diversity of its community and sees it as a strength that inspires innovation and creativity. New College Durham is a place where learning and working exists in an environment that advances equality of opportunity, celebrates diversity and allows everyone to achieve their fullest potential. The College is opposed to any form of discrimination and will ensure that its practices are **legal, accessible** and **fair** to students, staff, stakeholders and service users. We are committed to:

- Ensuring potential and current staff, students, stakeholders and visitors do not experience discrimination;
- Creating a positive and inclusive work and study environment where everyone feels valued and respected;
- Raising the awareness with regards to discrimination and ensure that all students, staff, stakeholders and service users are aware of their responsibilities under the current equality legislation;
- Supporting the recruitment, retention, progression, personal and professional development of all of our students, staff, stakeholders and service users. The College is proud of the social and cultural diversity of its community and sees it as a strength that inspires innovation and creativity. In pursuit of the goals, we have developed this Single Equality Scheme, which is reflective of the vibrant and inclusive environment at New College Durham. The Scheme serves to complement the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy that has been developed in consultation with staff, students, stakeholders and service users and reflects our commitment to working in partnership to create an inclusive environment for all.

Any complaints relating to equality and diversity issues are effectively dealt with as part of the College's complaints procedure.

The College works hard to promote a cohesive community based on respect, shared values and a celebration of diversity and inclusion. Staff ensure that the delivery of the curriculum promotes personalised learning and ethos of valuing diversity and difference with students and ensure that everyone is supported to their full potential.

In addition, learners targets are sensitive to differences, appropriately challenging targets are set for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to ensure that any gap in achievement/success is narrowed and to also create more independent learners.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The Training and Development Manager works in partnership with the Head of Improving Learning and Learner Development Co-ordinator for Progression & Student Support to ensure that Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion is fully embedded in staff development, teaching, learning and assessment. This is reviewed termly to ensure that appropriate and relevant training is available to all staff. Staff Development Days effectively support staff to further develop session planning and schemes of learning to promote Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the curriculum. This is monitored as part of the lesson observation process and has also been strengthened with the development of a database and through staff development on embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the curriculum. This is monitored as part of the learning walks, work scrutiny and lesson observation process. These processes are used to support the development of staff training to ensure that activities are purposeful and relevant.

All staff are required to refresh online Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training every three years. In addition to this training staff engage with a variety of activities on staff development days that continues to raise the awareness of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, supports them within their work and ensures that they have the confidence and skills to share this knowledge with our students and stakeholders. Governors are also briefed on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion during their induction and receive regular updates.

The College is constantly striving to move beyond legal compliance towards promoting and celebrating Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. The College is proud to have achieved bronze for the Better Health at Work Award and has already started to collate evidence towards silver, as this is an incremental award the College will strive to become maintaining excellence, the highest award that can be achieved. The College is a level 3 Disability Confident Employer continuous improvement for this award involves the Training and Development Manager being a mentor for external organisations which allows for expertise and collaboration with partners.

The College Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Mental Health & Wellbeing Steering Group is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive. Both groups convene four times a year to ensure appropriate Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plans, health and wellbeing and to ensure that relevant policies are in place and to monitor progress against objectives.

Disability statement

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

- Holding Level 3 Disability Confident (Leader). This process involves self-assessment to an external challenge and validation panel and ensures that the college actively encourages and supports employers and students to engage in their work and studies.
- Our Occupational Health and Health and Safety Team provides advice, guidance and support for all staff.
- Utilising Access Co-ordinators, who provide information, advice and arrange support where necessary for students with disabilities.
- Signing up to the Disabled Student Commitment a framework used to conduct an assessment to look holistically at our practices and policies, influencing our fulfilment of the Commitment for our disabled students.
- Having an Access and Participation Plan and Steering Group setting out how

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

the College will improve equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education.

- Ensuring that the Equality, Diversity Inclusion Health and Wellbeing Steering Group monitor data and practice to ensure that any areas of improvement are address and good practice is celebrated.
- Fully embedding Alternative Assessment Plan & Reasonable Adjustments. Ensuring the College continues to provide timely adjustments for HE students (disclosed that they have a disability) and how a student support plan can be used more effectively to enable a student to complete their studies.
- The availability of assistive technology such as radio aids, which the college can make available for use by students available through learning support.
- The admissions policy for all students is described in the college charter. Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy.
- Working towards Maintaining Excellence through Better Health at Work which explores a holistic approach to supporting staff and students in the broader context of the Equality Act.
- Increasing the number of students who can access bursary support in recognition of the barriers financial hardship can cause to learning.
- Investment in Foundation Studies specialist lecturers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.
- Having a dedicated budget to support upskilling of staff skill.
- Specialist programmes are described in college prospectuses, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published in the standard college format.
- Counselling and welfare services are described in the College student Guide, which is issued to students together with the Complaints and disciplinary Procedure leaflets at induction.

SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

We have implemented our Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026 via our Environmental Sustainability Steering Group, which will continue to embed our six sustainability focal points throughout all activities within the College.



NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Energy

As energy costs escalate our focus has been on sustained efforts to optimise our energy usage. We targeted a 5% reduction in energy costs for 22/23, based on our 21/22 base line year data. From 01 August 2022, we have seen a decrease of 24.18% in gas consumption and 1.77% reduction in electricity consumption. This small reduction has been acknowledged due to the sports/music block extension.

We are promoting a “switch off” campaign to staff and students to educate and encourage our end users to take full responsibility and reduce their energy usage.

Water usage has seen an increase of 28.70%. This increase has been acknowledged due to two water leaks within the college grounds, caused by external contractors and an extension built in 22/23.

To continue with the drive-in efficiency we have carried out the following; -

- Replaced heating/cooling a/c units within Green, Blue and Orange with sensors to minimise the strain on the gas boilers.
- Revised the heating set points within the College to reduce heating areas unnecessarily.
- Continued ongoing replacement of LED lighting, including PIR sensors.
- Extending the usage of the Building Energy Management System (BEMS) to outlying College properties.
- Additional valve and pipe work insulation.
- Implemented a heating strategy to look at usage, which in turn we have adjusted set points, timings and temperatures to increase efficiency.

Waste

Recycling 30.28% (of all college waste)

Our waste management policy is in the process of being reviewed and implemented to significantly drive down the amount of general waste produced setting a year or year targets, and significantly increasing our recycling.

This will also include tackling focus areas on behaviour management, including educating our staff and students on the implications, and looking at alternative recyclable resources.

We are tackling single use plastic by reducing them from our canteens, including the introduction of recyclable food boxes and cutlery. Aramark have introduced further lines of cans to be sold, and also working towards eliminating non-recyclable bottles.

Travel

Our Green Travel Plan has been reviewed and updated. The measures which have taken place are-

- 16 electric charging points, situated within the West and East car park and one within motor vehicle to assist the team to work on electric cars when the curriculum adjusts to working on such vehicles.
- Two areas for bicycle storage, one which contain lockers and one which is a compound for all remaining bikes.
- Green Travel Survey Completed June 2022.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

- Main Findings

- The results of the survey demonstrate that travel by bus is the main method of travel to college 50.2% This is largely down to the 16-18 travel scheme in place for the students.
- Travelling by car was 38.8% which is a decrease from 77.45% in 2018.
- We also noted that staff and students were asked, would they consider car sharing which resulted in 53% agreeing.

Staff/Student Engagement

Communication is critical to firstly understand the principals of sustainability, but also to integrate them into working practices to change behaviour. The Environmental Sustainability Steering Group meets quarterly to review a target focused action plan.

Aspiring to achieve Net Zero is a challenge for the College, but to assist with the implementation we have introduced Carbon Literacy Training for staff and students on a phased approach. This is designed to provide awareness and knowledge of climate change and sustainability, learning the facts and science but also what actions can be taken to improve the individuals impact. Since the introduction at the end of 2022, 22 people have successfully completed the course.

The College have successfully held a sustainability afternoon with external employers, for all staff and students to attend, with a primary focus on alternative products, tools and ideas to support a sustainable lifestyle.

Carbon Emissions

A scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions report has been created, with a primary focus on energy consumption and fleet travel (in line with EAUC guidelines for 21/22 template), Please see below report.

Further detailed data collection is required to produce a fully comprehensive report, which we are collating. Please note this is not a mandatory requirement at this stage.

To effectively monitor and reduce our carbon emissions, we must

- Set and propose realistic carbon reduction targets.
- Create a Carbon Management reduction Plan.
- Communicate the targets set to all staff and students.

Achievements

The College are one of the few colleges in the North East to receive the ISO 14001:2015 accreditation, which continues to be a recognised global achievement. To take this a step further, the College will be working towards achievement of the ISO 50001, which is a globally recognised energy management accreditation. This is based on optimising energy-related performance and making targeted improvements on an ongoing basis.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Trade Union Facility Time

The Trade Union (Facility Time Publication Requirements) Regulations 2017 require the College to publish information on facility time arrangements for trade union officials.

Number of employees who were relevant in financial year	FTE employee number
5	4.8

Percentage of Time	Number of Employees
0%	0
1 – 50 %	5
51 – 99%	0
100%	0

Total Cost of Facility Time	£27,924.15
Total Pay Bill	£23,634,912.51
Percentage of Pay Bill Spent on Facility Time	0.12%
Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	100%

Going Concern

The College has submitted the College Financial Forecasting Return (CFFR) to the ESFA covering the period to July 2025 and in that plan it has identified the possible reduction and growth in funding and the measures by which the College will ensure that it remains financially viable during the period. This will involve a combination of cost efficiencies, growth in learner numbers and pursuit of new income sources. As part of the CFFR the College conducted sensitivity analysis to assess the impact of changes in assumptions and found that the College would continue to remain financially strong.

The College cashflow remains extremely strong and the College continues to plan for future operational surpluses that will be reinvested in the College site and curriculum. The College has designated reserves of £10,591,000 for further projects including a Multi Use Games area and Car Park, Refurbishments of Promotion House at Langley Moor and the Sports and Music Building.

An updated Medium Term financial plan was approved by Corporation on 06 July 2023 which looks ahead over a five year period and describes the direction of the College based on several assumptions. The plan continues to project that the College will make surpluses and be rated financially outstanding throughout the five year period. The plan continues to show strong cash balances which will be utilised to invest in the College's ambitious Capital programme whilst ensuring that the College's Reserves policy target is met.

For this reason, the College continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Events after the Reporting Period

There were no events of note after the reporting period.

Disclosure of Information to Auditors

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

RSM UK Audit LLP were appointed on 13 July 2020 for three annual audits with an option to extend for a further 24 months. The option to extend has been exercised and RSM UK Audit LLP will continue for the next two annual audits.

Approved by order of the Members of the Corporation on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



C Warren

Chair

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and financial statements of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the financial year from 01 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- I. In accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity, Accountability, Openness, Honesty and Leadership)
- II. In full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code").

The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times.

In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes full account of The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges, which it formally adopted on 8 July 2015. In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2023.

This opinion is based on an internal review of compliance with the Code reported to the board on 09 November 2023.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The Corporation

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

Name	Date first appointed & last reappointed	Current Term of Office	Resignation Date	Category of Members	Committees Served during 2022/23	Attendance Rate and Number of Meetings in 2022/23	
Emily Baxter	2.11.22 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Audit Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students	75%	9/12
Davey Benson	6.7.22	3 years		Staff	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Academy Sponsorship	92%	12/13
Andy Broadbent	6.6.20	Ongoing		Principal and Chief Executive	All except Audit and Remuneration	100%	27/27
Joy Brindle	13.7.16 11.3.20	4 years		Member	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Finance & Resources Remuneration	100%	16/16
Joyce Drummond-Hill	22.6.16 1.7.19 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Audit Academy Sponsorship	80%	12/15
Allen Eccles	15.9.21 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Audit	92%	11/12
Ben Fisher	18.5.21 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Higher Education Quality, Curriculum and Students Finance & Resources	83%	10/12
Mark Gomersall	1.9.21	3 years		Staff	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Higher Education Quality, Curriculum & Students	85%	11/13
Ian Green	16.3.22 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Audit Higher Education Quality, Curriculum & Students	69%	11/16
Stephen King	18.5.21 23.3.23	4 years		Member	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Finance & Resources	77%	10/13
Chris Patterson	6.7.22 15.9.22 23.3.23	4 years		Co-opted Member	N/A	100%	14/14
Sarat Pediredla	18.5.21	3 years	2.11.22	Member	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Finance & Resources	0%	0/3
Megan Poole	2.8.21 6.7.22	Expired 30.6.23		Student	Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students Higher Education Quality, Curriculum & Students	92%	11/12
Heather Raistrick	16.9.20	Expired 15.9.22		Member	Corporation only	100%	1/1
Suzanne Slater	12.7.23	4 years		Member	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alice Tomlinson	25.5.23	1 year		Student	N/A	N/A	N/A
Christine Warren (Chair)	22.4.15 16.12.20 23.3.23	1 year		Member	All except Audit and Higher Education Quality Curriculum & Students	100%	25/25
Nicola Watchman-Smith	14.5.21	3 years	31.7.23	Member	Corporation only	57%	4/7
Linda Wight	9.7.14 17.3.21 16.3.22	1 year	30.6.23	Member	All except Finance & Resources and Further Education Quality, Curriculum & Students	96%	22/23

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Combined attendance rate and numbers of meetings: disclosure of Members' individual attendance at Corporation and Committee meetings during 2022/23. Overall attendance was:

- Corporation Meetings 83%
- Committee Meetings 93%
- Combined 88%

Target attendance for all meetings is 75%

Caroline Winter was appointed as Head of Governance and Corporation Secretary from 01 October 2021.

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

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

The Corporation conducts its business through several committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are Finance & Resources, Further Education Quality Curriculum & Students, Higher Education Quality Curriculum & Students, Academy Sponsorship, Remuneration, Search and Audit. Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available on the College's website at www.newcollegedurham.ac.uk or from the Head of Governance & Corporation Secretary at:

New College Durham
Framwellgate Moor Campus
Durham
DH1 5ES

The Head of Governance & Corporation Secretary maintains a register of financial and personal interests of the Governors. The register is available for inspection at the above address.

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

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

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

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

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

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a Search & Governance Committee, consisting of a minimum of three members of Corporation including the Chair and Vice Chairs, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new member for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Members of the Corporation are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years. The usual term of service for a governor will not exceed 8 years.

Corporation Performance

An external governance review was undertaken in 2021/22 and the Corporation carried out an annual self-assessment of its own performance in 2022/23. The College has strong governance that enables Governors to effectively challenge senior leaders so that effective deployment of staff and resources secure excellent outcomes for students. Governors promote a culture of high expectations of staff and students. Governors actively engage and challenge leaders about variation in performance, through its committee arrangements for example that monitor finance and quality, as well as taking an active role in the self-assessment process.

The governing body is committed to continuous development and held its annual strategic review session on 26 April 2023. An hour was held before each Corporation meeting for governor briefing/development activity including a mandatory annual update on Safeguarding and Prevent. Governors received a range of internal briefings and development activities during the year in addition to the following external training and development:

- Governors Briefing session – North East LEP skills update.
- AoC New Governor Inductions
- AoC Curriculum & Quality Chairs' Network
- AoC Audit Masterclass
- AoC Regional Governance Conference
- ETF Governance Development Programme
- AoC NE Principals and Chairs Forum
- AoC Staff Governor Induction
- AoC Northern Regional Governance Conference
- AoC Webinar - Culture, people and organisational development
- ETF Online workshop - Coaching for higher performance: strengthening and enabling board relationships.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

- ETF Online workshop - Developing and Sustaining Governance Impact: wellbeing, wellness, resilience and belonging (a governance perspective)
- Governors' Briefing session – Accountability Agreement
- AoC Finance and Audit Committee Chairs' Network

Activity to support the development of the Head of Governance and Corporation Secretary included the following:

- Governance Professionals' Development Programme – Induction and Mentoring Programme
- Governance Professionals' Development Programme - Expert Level
- AoC Annual Conference 2022
- AoC Governance Professionals Conference 2023
- NCD Online Staff Development – Time Management
- ETF/AoC North Regional Governance Conference 2023
- Governance Development Programme – Meeting local needs webinar.
- Eversheds Webinar series:
 - Subsidiary Companies – legal considerations
 - Company law refresher for education institutions
- Institute of Directors – Award for Further Education Governance Professionals (FEGP)

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2023 the College Remuneration Committee comprised three members of the Corporation (including the Chair and a Vice Chair). The Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board of Corporation on the general principles for remuneration and terms and conditions of employment of the Principal and other Senior Post Holders. The Committee has delegated authority from the Board to approve pay awards for the Principal and Senior Post Holders under a salary progression methodology approved by the Board of Corporation. The Governing Body adopted the Association of College's Senior Staff Remuneration Code in March 2019 and assesses senior staff pay in line with its principles.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2023 are set out in note 8 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

During 2022-23 the Audit Committee comprised a minimum of four members of the Corporation (excluding the Principal and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis as a minimum and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal auditors, reporting accountants and financial statements auditors, who have access to the Committee for independent discussion, without the presence of College management. The Committee also receives and considers reports from the main funding bodies as they affect the College's business.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The College's internal auditors review the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit Committee.

Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations and internal audit undertakes periodic follow-up reviews to ensure such recommendation have indeed been implemented.

The Audit Committee also advises the Corporation on the appointment of internal auditors, reporting accountants and financial statements auditors and their remuneration for audit and non-audit work as well as reporting annually to the Corporation.

The audit committee met five times in the year to 31 July 2023. The members of the Committee and their attendance records are shown below:

Committee Member	Meetings attended
Joyce Drummond-Hill	5
Allen Eccles	4
Linda Wight	5
Ian Green	4
Emily Baxter (from 2.11.22)	4

Internal Control

Scope of Responsibility

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

The Corporation has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Principal and Chief Executive, as Accounting Officer, for maintaining a sound system of internal control that supports the achievement of the College's policies, aims and objectives, whilst safeguarding the public funds and assets for which they are personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to them in the Financial Agreement between the College and the funding bodies and the Office for Students registration conditions. They are also responsible for reporting to the Corporation any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal controls.

The Purpose of the System of Internal Control

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

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Capacity to Handle Risk

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

The Risk and Control Framework

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

- Comprehensive budgeting systems with an annual budget, which is reviewed and agreed by the Governing Body.
- Regular reviews by the Governing Body of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts.
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance.
- Clearly defined capital investment control guidelines.
- The adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

The College has an Internal Audit Service which operates in accordance with the requirements of the ESFA's Post 16 Audit Code of Practice. The work of the Internal Audit Service is informed by an analysis of the risks to which the College is exposed, and annual internal audit plans are based on this analysis. The analysis of risks and the internal audit plans are endorsed by the Corporation on the recommendation of the Audit Committee. As a minimum annually, the Internal Audit Service provides the Corporation with a report on internal audit activity in the College. The report includes the Internal Audit Service's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the College's system of risk management, controls and governance processes.

Risks faced by the Corporation

The College is committed to the achievement of its business objectives as approved by the Corporation. In doing so, the College realises that it will face all manner of risks which need to be managed through a formal risk management strategy. The establishment of effective risk management is recognised as being fundamental in ensuring good corporate governance. The arrangements at New College Durham are upheld by the College and Principalship through the implementation of cyclical risk management reporting and monitoring regimes.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The Corporation is committed to ensuring that the management of risk underpins all key business processes and activities that lead to the achievement of the College's main objectives. College risks have been categorised into the following risk types:

- Financial
- Reputational
- Health, Safety and Security
- Resources
- Legislative
- Information
- Other

The College recognises that the application of risk management practices should not and will not eliminate all risk exposure. Moreover, through the application of the risk management approach identified in the College's Risk Management Statement and Strategy, then there is expected to be a better understanding of the risks being faced and their implications for the College, therefore informing decision making and creating opportunities for service improvement.

The College's key strategic risks are detailed below, these can change during the year as emerging risks materialise and are evaluated and scored in line with the College's Risk Scoring matrix. All risks identified have mitigating controls in order to ensure every effort is in place to stop the risk from materialising:

- Safeguarding – Any potential failure in the College's Safeguarding arrangements could lead to the harm or in extreme cases death of a student.
- Risk of Cyber Attack – If the College was to suffer a major cyber attack then it may be unable to deliver key services.
- Fraud or Theft – The risk that the College could suffer a major financial fraud or theft.
- Loss of Key Staff, Failure to Recruit Suitably Qualified Staff – the risk of losing key staff or not being able to properly recruit could mean the College may not be able to deliver key areas of the Curriculum or deliver vital services.
- College Budget – Failure to achieve the College's budgeted position could lead to financial issues in year or in future years and jeopardise the College's Financial Health Grade.
- The implementation of the new Student Management Information System (SMIS) – this system holds all student information, as well as linking the funding with the financial systems. It is imperative that the new system is implemented seamlessly so no services in the College are affected.
- Adverse Ofsted Judgement – Any judgement from Ofsted below 'Good' could effect the attractiveness of the College to current and future students, while also impacting on the College's ability to apply for and attract funding.
- Student Numbers – The risk that the College does not attract the planned number of students could impact on financial viability and also on the recruitment and retention of staff.
- Health and Safety – The risk of a serious breach of health and safety could lead to serious harm or at its most extreme even death.
- Course Development – The College must continually adapt its curriculum in order to fulfill the needs of employers and students to attract them to the College and also deliver against the regional skills needs.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The above risks link directly to the principal risks noted in the College strategic report in terms of the financial sustainability of the College and delivering an excellent student experience which will ultimately attract more learners and ensure the viability of the organisation.

Control weaknesses identified

There were no significant internal control weaknesses or failures reported during the year.

Responsibilities under funding agreements

The Corporation has met its statutory responsibilities for the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the corporate body and the safeguarding of their assets as required by Section 5(3)(c) of Schedule 4 of the Further and Higher education Act 1992. This has been achieved by following established systems and processes detailed in the College Financial regulations and Procedures along with strong financial planning.

The Corporation has met its contractual responsibilities under its funding agreements and contracts with both the Education and Skills Funding Agency and Office for Students by following robust processes that strictly adhere to the respective bodies' guidance. All financial returns were completed on-time throughout the financial year and members of the Corporation received regular updates regarding the College's financial position.

The Department for Education and Education and Skills Funding Agency introduced new controls for the college on 29 November 2022 on the day that the Office for National Statistics reclassified colleges as public sector organisations in the national accounts. The ESFA chief executive communicated these changes to all college accounting officers and explained plans to introduce a college financial handbook in 2024. The college has reviewed its policies, procedures and approval processes in line with these new requirements to ensure there are systems in place to identify and handle any transactions for which DfE approval is required.

Statement from the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee has advised the board of governors that they can give reasonable assurance that the Corporation has an effective framework for governance, control and risk management in place.

The specific areas of work undertaken by the Audit Committee in 2022/23 and up to the date of the approval of the financial statements are:

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Review of the following final reports prepared by the Internal Audit Service (IAS) in 2022/23:

- **Cyber Security**
The review provided a substantial level of assurance, including one medium priority recommendation relating to the review and deletion of disabled user accounts, which was addressed through a review of the existing process.
- **Counter Fraud Data Analysis – Creditors**
The review provided a substantial level of assurance, including two medium priority recommendations relating to payment approvals, recovery of overpayments and the setup of new, and review of old, suppliers, all of which had been addressed.
- **Treasury Management and Income Arrangements**
The review provided a substantial level of assurance including four medium priority recommendations relating to the review of insurance policies, updating of cash handling, banking and refund procedures which were promptly addressed, and three best practice recommendations.
- **Student Management Information System**
The review provided a moderate level of assurance, including four medium priority recommendations relating to the recording of funding hours and additional learning support, development of a single central record of rooms and subsequent reporting arrangements. Implementation of all recommendations is being addressed/All recommendations have been addressed by management.
- **Curriculum Planning**
The review provided a substantial level of assurance and did not raise any recommendations.
- **Personnel and Payroll**
The advice and consultancy review concluded that phase 1 of the project had been implemented successfully and the Personnel & Payroll system went live, processing its first payroll in April 2023.
- **Actions Follow Up**
The review followed up on 18 actions raised by the previous internal auditor and the 11 medium priority actions raised by Durham County Council. The audit concluded that sufficient evidence was provided to confirm that all of the actions had been implemented.
- **Sub-contracting Grant controls**
The review confirmed that appropriate systems and controls are in place to manage the College's sub-contractors.
- **Higher Technical Education Provider Growth Fund**
The review confirmed that expenditure was sufficiently recorded, evidenced, and in accordance with the terms of the grant.

All audit recommendations have been, and will continue to be, monitored for their implementation by the Audit Committee.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Committee Discussions with Auditors

Throughout the year, the Committee held private discussions with internal and external auditors at the start of each meeting and were involved in the development of the Audit Plan for 2022/23.

Risk Management

Audit Committee has a key role in advising Corporation on the College's framework of risk management and control. The College's Risk Management Policy established the framework for managing and monitoring risks including establishment of the Risk Management Group, which reports to the Audit Committee every term.

The Risk Management Statement and Strategy was updated and approved by Corporation on 7 July 2021 and is subject to review every 5 years. The Strategy sets out the Audit Committee's responsibilities in respect of risk management.

During 2022/23 the Committee received regular updates on the College Risk Register. The Risk Management Group has monitored the identified risk areas and has ranked them according to likelihood, potential financial consequences and the effect on reputation. In addition, an action plan for 2022/23 was prepared to mitigate the identified risks.

The Audit Committee has considered and provided constructive challenge to the work undertaken by the Risk Management Group during the year and is satisfied that progress is being made to minimise the risks faced by the College. All Risk Management Group minutes are circulated to the Committee and available to any member wishing to access them.

Within the broader remit on risk management, the Audit and Risk Committee oversees the College's policies on fraud and irregularity and whistleblowing. The Committee received and provided challenge on the annual report on fraud and whistleblowing and also considered the College's arrangements to deal with academic malpractice. There have been no allegations of fraud, malpractice or public interest disclosures during the year.

Audit Committee Opinion

On the basis of the work summarised in the Audit Committee Annual Report, Audit Committee can provide reasonable assurance that Corporation's audit arrangements, its framework of governance, risk management and control are adequate and effective.

Review of Effectiveness

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

- The work of the internal auditors.
- The work of the executive managers within the College who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Comments made by the College's Financial Statements Auditors, the regularity auditors and any appointed funding auditors in their management letters and other reports.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

The Principal has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditors (and risk management group) and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The senior managers monitor reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and consider possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Senior Leadership Team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from internal audit and other sources of assurance, which include recommendations for improvement.

The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control and receiving reports thereon from senior managers. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception.

At its meeting on 14 December 2023, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2023 by considering documentation from the senior management team and internal audit and taking account of events since 31 July 2023.

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

Approved by order of the Members of the Corporation on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



C Warren

Chair



A Broadbent

Accounting Officer

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance

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

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

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



A Broadbent

Accounting Officer

14 December 2023

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



C Warren

Chair of governors

14 December 2023

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The Members of the Corporation are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

Within the terms and conditions of the Corporation's grant funding agreement and contracts with the ESFA, the Corporation is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the College for that period.

Corporations must also prepare a strategic report which includes an operating and financial review for the year. The bases for the preparation of the financial statements and strategic report are the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, the ESFA's College Accounts Direction and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Assess whether the Corporation is a going concern, noting the key supporting assumptions, qualifications or mitigating actions, as appropriate (which must be consistent with other disclosures in the accounts and auditor's report).
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the College will continue in operation.

The Corporation is also required to prepare a strategic report, which describes what it is trying to do and how it is going about it, including information about the legal and administrative status of the College.

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

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

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Members of the Corporation are responsible for ensuring that expenditure and income are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from the ESFA are used only in accordance with the ESFA's grant funding agreements and contracts and any other conditions that may be prescribed from time to time. Members of the Corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place in order to safeguard public and other funds and to ensure they are used properly. In addition, Members of the Corporation are responsible for securing economical, efficient and effective management of the College's resources and expenditure, so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds by the ESFA are not put at risk.

Approved by order of the Members of the Corporation on 14 December 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



C Warren

Chair

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of New College Durham (the "College") and its subsidiary (the "Group") for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the consolidated and college statements of comprehensive income, the consolidated and college balance sheets, the consolidated and college statements of changes in reserves, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of the Group's and the College's surplus of income over 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 Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the governors' 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 college'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 governors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Report and Financial Statements other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The governors are responsible for the other information contained within the Report and Financial Statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and 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 Office for Students' Accounts Direction

In our opinion, in all material respects:

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

- the College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the note 8a to the accounts, has been materially misstated.
- The College's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated.

Responsibilities of the Corporation of New College Durham

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Member of the Corporation's Responsibilities set out on pages 44 to 45, the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Irregularities are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. The objectives of our audit are to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding compliance with laws and regulations that have a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, to perform audit procedures to help identify instances of non-compliance with other laws and regulations that may have a material effect on the financial statements, and to respond appropriately to identified or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations identified during the audit.

In relation to fraud, the objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud, to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud through designing and implementing appropriate responses and to respond appropriately to fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit.

However, it is the primary responsibility of management, with the oversight of those charged with governance, to ensure that the entity's operations are conducted in accordance with the provisions of laws and regulations and for the prevention and detection of fraud.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud, the group audit engagement team:

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the group and College operate in and how the group and college are complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;
- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

- discussed matters about non-compliance with laws and regulations and how fraud might occur including assessment of how and where the financial statements may be susceptible to fraud.

As a result of these procedures we consider the most significant laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the financial statements are FRS 102, Further and Higher Education SORP, the College Accounts Direction published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, Regulatory Advice 9: Accounts Direction published by the Office for Students' and tax compliance regulations. We performed audit procedures to detect non-compliances which may have a material impact on the financial statements which included reviewing financial statement disclosures inspecting correspondence with local tax authorities and evaluating advice received from external tax advisors.

The most significant laws and regulations that have an indirect impact on the financial statements are those which are in relation to the Education Inspection Framework under the Education and Inspections Act 2006, Keeping Children Safe in Education under the Education Act 2002 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. We performed audit procedures to inquire of management and those charged with governance whether the group is in compliance with these law and regulations and inspected correspondence and inspected correspondence with licensing or regulatory authorities.

The group audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and income recognition as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates and review of income transactions surrounding the year end.

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

Use of our report

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

RSM UK AUDIT LLP

RSM UK AUDIT LLP
1 St James' Gate
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 4AD

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Consolidated and College Statements of Comprehensive Income

	Note	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
		Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
Income					
Funding body grants	2	33,420	33,420	28,937	28,937
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	14,999	14,999	15,960	15,960
Research grants and contracts	4	0	0	9	9
Other income	5	705	704	502	507
Investment income	6	577	577	84	84
Total Income		49,701	49,700	45,492	45,497
Expenditure					
Staff costs	7	25,194	25,194	25,809	25,809
Other operating expenses	8	20,752	20,750	18,120	18,123
Amortisation	11	146	146	120	120
Depreciation	12	2,523	2,523	2,310	2,310
Interest and other finance costs	9	320	320	490	490
Total Expenditure		48,935	48,933	46,849	46,852
Surplus / (deficit) before other gains and losses		766	767	(1,357)	(1,355)
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	11,12	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Surplus / (deficit) before tax		765	766	(1,358)	(1,356)
Taxation	10	0	0	0	0
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		765	766	(1,358)	(1,356)
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	23	11,250	11,250	21,500	21,500
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		12,015	12,016	20,142	20,144
Represented by:					
Unrestricted comprehensive income		12,015	12,016	20,142	20,144
		12,015	12,016	20,142	20,144
Surplus / (deficit) for the year attributable to:					
Corporation of the College		765	766	(1,358)	(1,356)
Total Comprehensive income for the year attributable to:					
Corporation of the College		12,015	12,016	20,142	20,144

The statement of comprehensive income is in respect of continuing activities.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Consolidated and College Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income and Expenditure account	Revaluation reserve	Restricted Reserves	Total excluding Non Controlling interest	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Group					
Balance at 1st August 2021	10,380	11,859	2	22,241	22,241
Deficit from the statements of comprehensive income	(1,358)	0	0	(1,358)	(1,358)
Other comprehensive income	21,500	0	0	21,500	21,500
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	156	(156)	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	20,298	(156)	0	20,142	20,142
Balance at 31st July 2022	30,678	11,703	2	42,383	42,383
Balance at 1st August 2022	30,678	11,703	2	42,383	42,383
Surplus from the statements of comprehensive income	765	0	0	765	765
Other comprehensive income	11,250	0	0	11,250	11,250
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	156	(156)	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	12,171	(156)	0	12,015	12,015
Balance at 31st July 2023	42,849	11,547	2	54,398	54,398
College					
Balance at 1st August 2021	10,383	11,859	2	22,244	22,244
Deficit from the statements of comprehensive income	(1,356)	0	0	(1,356)	(1,356)
Other comprehensive income	21,500	0	0	21,500	21,500
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	156	(156)	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	20,300	(156)	0	20,144	20,144
Balance at 31st July 2022	30,683	11,703	2	42,388	42,388
Balance at 1st August 2022	30,683	11,703	2	42,388	42,388
Surplus from the statements of comprehensive income	766	0	0	766	766
Other comprehensive income	11,250	0	0	11,250	11,250
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	156	(156)	0	0	0
Total comprehensive income for the year	12,172	(156)	0	12,016	12,016
Balance at 31st July 2023	42,855	11,547	2	54,404	54,404

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Balance Sheets as at 31 July 2023

	Note	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Non current assets					
Intangible assets	11	416	416	478	478
Tangible fixed assets	12	59,209	59,209	49,968	49,968
Non-current investments	13	2	4	2	4
Total non current assets		59,627	59,629	50,448	50,450
Current assets					
Debtors	14	4,793	4,843	5,136	5,182
Investments	15	8,718	8,718	12,646	12,646
Cash at bank and in hand	19	9,050	9,004	9,049	9,006
Total current assets		22,561	22,565	26,831	26,834
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	16	(9,298)	(9,298)	(9,405)	(9,405)
Net current assets		13,263	13,267	17,426	17,429
Total assets less current liabilities		72,890	72,896	67,874	67,879
Creditors - amounts falling due after one year	17	(18,492)	(18,492)	(15,001)	(15,001)
Provisions					
Defined benefit obligations	18	0	0	(10,490)	(10,490)
TOTAL NET ASSETS		54,398	54,404	42,383	42,388
Unrestricted Reserves					
Income and expenditure account		32,733	32,739	27,317	27,322
Designated reserve	27	10,116	10,116	3,361	3,361
Revaluation reserve		11,547	11,547	11,703	11,703
Total unrestricted reserves		54,396	54,402	42,381	42,386
Restricted Reserves					
Restricted Reserves		2	2	2	2
Total restricted reserves		2	2	2	2
TOTAL RESERVES		54,398	54,404	42,383	42,388

The financial statements on pages 50 to 83 were approved by the governing body on 14 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:



C Warren - Chair



A Broadbent - Principal & Chief Executive (Accounting Officer)

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

	Note	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Cash inflow from operating activities			
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		765	(1,358)
Adjustment for non cash items			
Amortisation	11	146	120
Depreciation	12	2,523	2,310
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	14	343	(1,114)
(Decrease) / Increase in creditors due within one year	16	(107)	2,400
Increase in creditors due after one year	17	3,491	63
Pensions costs less contributions payable	23	760	2,740
Adjustment for investing or financing activities			
Investment income	5	(577)	(84)
Loss on disposal of fixed assets		1	1
Net cash inflow from operating activities		7,345	5,078
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets		7	5
Investment income	5	577	84
Withdrawal of deposits		3,928	0
New deposits		0	(96)
Payments made to acquire intangible assets	11	(84)	(411)
Payments made to acquire tangible fixed assets	12	(11,772)	(2,337)
		(7,344)	(2,755)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Interest paid	9	0	0
New unsecured loans		0	0
Repayments of amounts borrowed		0	0
		0	0
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		1	2,323
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	19	9,049	6,726
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	19	9,050	9,049

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of accounting policies and estimation techniques

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

Basis of preparation

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

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

Basis of accounting

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the College and its subsidiary undertaking Westfirst Limited, controlled by the Group. Control is achieved where the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. Under the purchase method of accounting, the results of subsidiary and associated undertakings acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the consolidated income and expenditure account from or up to the date on which control of the undertaking passes. Intra-group sales and profits are eliminated fully on consolidation. In accordance with FRS 102, the activities of the student union have not been consolidated because the College does not control those activities. All financial statements are made up to 31 July 2023.

Going concern

The activities of the Group, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the College, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes.

The College does not have any loan financing as at 31 July 2023. The College has submitted a financial forecast to the ESFA covering the period to July 2025 and, in that plan, has identified the possible reductions and growth in funding and the measures by which the College will ensure that it remains financially viable during this period.

The budget forecasts for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years plan for a surplus before pension adjustments and the college have both strong cash flows and free reserves to ensure financial stability for the foreseeable future. Included in the budget forecasts is £6,000,000 for the Multi Use Games Area and Car Park and a further £2,200,000 investment in Promotion House at Langley Moor along with the College’s annual capital investment in equipment. The College continue to review forecasts, monitor costs and update plans on a regular basis to ensure future challenges can be met.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Student recruitment in full time 16-19 year olds has improved in 2023/2024 , and the College has seen a further increase in students undertaking Apprenticeships. The College budget for both 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 was set very prudently allowing for fluctuations in learner numbers and enables the College to be resilient against the ever changing Education landscape.

A Medium Term financial plan was approved by Corporation on 05 July 2023 which looks ahead over a five year period and describes the direction of the College based on several assumptions. The plan continues to project that the College will make surpluses and be rated financially outstanding throughout the five year period. The plan continues to show strong cash balances which will be utilised to invest in the College's ambitious Capital programme whilst ensuring that the College's 10% reserves policy target is exceeded.

There will be further challenges ahead with the College being reclassified as public sector however, the College are well positioned to meet the needs of the people and employers of County Durham. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Recognition of income

Revenue grant funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under achievement for the Adult Education Budget is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end, and the result of any funding audits. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

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

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

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

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Capital grant funding

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the asset, under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Other, non-governmental, capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as deferred income within creditors on the Balance Sheet and released to income as conditions are met.

Fee income

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

Investment income

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis. Income from restricted purpose endowment funds not expended in accordance with the restrictions of the endowment in the period is transferred from the Statement of Comprehensive Income to accumulated income within endowment funds.

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain discretionary support funds and employer incentives. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursement to students and employers, are excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the College where the College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Accounting for post-retirement benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which are multi-employer defined benefit plans.

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of valuations using a prospective benefit method. The TPS is a multi-employer scheme and there is insufficient information available to use defined benefit accounting. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution plan and the contributions recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Durham Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The LGPS is a funded scheme, and the assets of the scheme are held separately. Pension schemes are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. 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. The net interest cost on the net defined benefit liability/asset is charged to comprehensive income and included within finance costs. Re-measurement comprising actuarial gains and losses and the return on scheme assets (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability) are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

The LGPS assets are managed by the scheme trustees at scheme level, and the allocation of assets to each individual employer in the scheme is managed by the scheme actuary. The assets are allocated to each employer for accounting purposes based on the valuation of the assets at the latest triennial valuation as adjusted for subsequent contributions received from the employer, asset returns and benefit payments made (either on a cash basis or actuarial basis).

The retirement benefit obligation recognised represents the deficit or surplus in the defined benefit plans. Any surplus resulting from this calculation is limited to the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plans or reductions in future contributions to the plans.

Short term Employment benefits

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

Enhanced pensions

The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by the Group annually. An estimate of the expected future cost of any enhancement to the ongoing pension of a former member of staff is charged in full to comprehensive income in the year that the member of staff retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet using the enhanced pension spreadsheet provided by the funding bodies.

Termination Benefits

Termination benefits such as redundancy, severance pay and payment in lieu of notice are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employee's employment to the College is terminated.

Non-current Assets - Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the 2019 FE HE SORP, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Land and buildings

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

Freehold buildings are depreciated on a straight-line basis over their expected useful economic life to the College of between 20 and 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of between 20 and 65 years. College land and buildings are held at depreciated replacement cost.

The substation held by the subsidiary company (Westfirst Limited) remains to be held at historic cost and is depreciated over 20 years. This is considered to be the most appropriate treatment due to the specialist nature of the building.

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

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

On adoption of FRS 102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 2013, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

Assets under construction

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

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on a tangible fixed asset it is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period it is incurred, unless it meets one of the following criteria, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis:

- Market value of the fixed asset has subsequently improved
- Asset capacity increases
- Substantial improvement in the quality of output or reduction in operating costs
- Significant extension of the asset's life beyond that conferred by repairs and maintenance

Buildings owned by third parties

Where land and buildings are used, but the legal rights are held by a third party, for example a charitable trust, they are only capitalised if the College has rights or access to ongoing future economic benefit. These assets are then depreciated over their expected useful economic life.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £2,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

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

- motor vehicles and general equipment – 5 years
- computer equipment – 5 years
- furniture, fixtures and fittings – 20 years
- large items of equipment and specialist IT/computer equipment – useful economic life

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

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

Non-current Assets - Intangible fixed assets

Intangible Assets such as software are amortised on a straight-line basis over their useful economic life of 5 years. Amortisation is shown as a separate line on the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Leased assets

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term to the Statement of Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

Any lease premiums or incentives relating to leases are spread over the minimum lease term.

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

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

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

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Investments

Investments in subsidiaries

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for at cost less impairment in the individual financial statements.

Other investments

Listed investments held as non-current assets and current asset investments, which may include listed investments, are stated at fair value, with movements recognised in Comprehensive Income. Investments comprising unquoted equity instruments are measured at fair value, estimated using a valuation technique.

Stocks

No significant stocks are held by the College and purchases of stock items are charged directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Cash and cash equivalents

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

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

Financial liabilities and equity

Financial liabilities and equity are classified according to the substance of the financial instrument's contractual obligations, rather than the financial instrument's legal form. All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the Group are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the Group has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

Maintenance of premises

The cost of long term and routine corrective maintenance is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period that it is incurred.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange ruling at the end of the financial period with all resulting exchange differences being taken to the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Taxation

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

The College is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so that it can only recover around 2% of the VAT charged on its inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

The College's subsidiary company are subject to corporation tax and VAT in the same way as any commercial organisation.

Provisions and contingent liabilities

Provisions are recognised when

- the College has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event,
- it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required to settle the obligation, and
- a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

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

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

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

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the group's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset and where it is a component of a larger cash-generating unit, the viability and expected future performance of that unit.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- *Tangible fixed assets*

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

- *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit obligation depends on several factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 23, will impact the carrying amount of the pension obligation. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions obligation at 31 July 2023. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension obligation.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

2 Funding body grants

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
Recurrent grants				
Education and Skills Funding Agency - 16-18	14,437	14,437	14,097	14,097
Education and Skills Funding Agency - Adult education non procured	2,694	2,694	2,469	2,469
Education and Skills Funding Agency - Apprenticeships	4,637	4,637	3,986	3,986
Adult education devolved	2,179	2,179	1,209	1,209
Office for Students grant	1,416	1,416	1,158	1,158
Specific grants				
Education and Skills Funding Agency - ESF	4,082	4,082	4,138	4,138
Education and Skills Funding Agency 16-19 Tuition Fund	339	339	356	356
Education and Skills Funding Agency Covid 19 High Value Courses for school and college leavers	0	0	(2)	(2)
Bootcamps	1,885	1,885	0	0
Shared Prosperity Fund	63	63	0	0
Teacher Pension Scheme contribution grant	711	711	588	588
Office for Students non recurrent grant	96	96	143	143
Releases of deferred capital grants	881	881	795	795
Total	33,420	33,420	28,937	28,937
Office for Students analysis				
Grant income from the Office for Students	1,416	1,416	1,158	1,158
Grant income from other bodies	0	0	0	0
Fee income for taught awards	14,125	14,125	14,879	14,879
Fee income for research awards	0	0	0	0
Fee income for non-qualifying course	0	0	0	0
Total	15,541	15,541	16,037	16,037

3 Tuition fees and education contracts

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
Adult education fees	293	293	462	462
Apprenticeship fees and contracts	84	84	84	84
Fees for FE loan supported courses	166	166	343	343
Fees for HE loan supported courses	14,125	14,125	14,879	14,879
International students' fees	108	108	82	82
Total tuition fees	14,776	14,776	15,850	15,850
Education contracts	223	223	110	110
Total	14,999	14,999	15,960	15,960

4 Research grants and contracts

	Year ended 31 July 2023		Year ended 31 July 2022	
	Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
European Commission funds	0	0	9	9
Non-government capital grants	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	9	9

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

5 Other income

	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Catering and residences	20	19	15	15
Other grant income	132	132	129	129
Miscellaneous income	553	553	358	363
Total	705	704	502	507

6 Investment income

	Year ended 31 July		Year ended 31 July	
	2023	2023	2022	2022
	Group	College	Group	College
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other investment income	351	351	59	59
Other interest receivable	226	226	25	25
Total	577	577	84	84

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs - Group and College

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Teaching staff	441	439
Non-teaching staff	188	193
	629	632

Staff costs for the above persons:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Wages and salaries	17,850	17,327
Social security costs	1,754	1,727
Apprenticeship Levy	75	72
Other pension costs (including FRS102-28 adjustments of £440,000 - 2022 £2,250,000)	4,527	6,083
Payroll sub-total	24,206	25,209
Contracted out staffing services	901	490
	25,107	25,699
Restructuring costs - contractual	16	39
Restructuring costs - non contractual	71	71
Total Staff Costs	25,194	25,809

The College paid two severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands

	2023	2022
£ 0 to £ 25,000	2	3
£ 25,001 to £ 50,000	-	-
£ 50,001 to £ 100,000	-	-
£ 100,001 to £ 150,000	-	-
£ 150,000 +	-	-

Included in staff restructuring costs are severance payments totalling £16,173.54 (2022: £ 9,310). Individually, the payments were: £8,000 and £8,173.54.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs - Group and College (continued)

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprises the Principal and Chief Executive (also Accounting Officer), Deputy Chief Executive, Deputy Principal, Chief Financial Officer, four Vice Principals and four Executive Directors. During the year, two Vice Principals retired and were replaced.

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

	2023 No.	2022 No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	12	8

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

	Other Staff	
	2023 No.	2022 No.
£ 60,001 to £ 65,000	5	1
£ 65,001 to £ 70,000	1	3
£ 70,001 to £ 75,000	1	-
£ 75,001 to £ 80,000	-	2
	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

The number of key management personnel who received annual emoluments above £100,000, excluding pension contributions and employer's national insurance but including benefits in kind, in the following ranges was:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
£ 100,001 to £ 110,000	1	1
£ 110,001 to £ 120,000	-	-
£ 120,001 to £ 130,000	-	1
£ 130,001 to £ 140,000	2	1
£ 140,001 to £ 150,000	-	-
£ 150,001 to £ 160,000	-	-
£ 160,001 to £ 170,000	-	1
£ 170,001 to £ 180,000	1	-
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs - Group and College (continued)

Key management personnel compensation is made up as follows:

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Basic Salary	1,153	864
Performance related pay and bonus	27	23
Benefits in kind	9	7
Pension contributions	227	194
Total key management personnel compensation	1,416	1,088

There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year. Salary sacrifice arrangements available to all staff included electric car scheme, cycle scheme, childcare vouchers and holiday entitlement purchase.

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

Mr A Broadbent - Accounting Officer

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Salaries	161	157
Performance related pay and bonus	8	7
Benefits in kind	1	1
	<u>170</u>	<u>165</u>
Pension contributions	<u>31</u>	<u>34</u>

The remuneration committee at its meeting on Monday 10 October 2022 considered recommendations from the Chair of Corporation in relation to Incremental progression based on performance and a revised salary range for the Accounting Officer. The Accounting Officer was not involved in setting their remuneration. The factors taken into account by the Committee in determining the accounting officer's remuneration for the year to 31 July 2023 included the continuing strong financial health, maintenance of an effective Corporate Services team and a revised curriculum which is far more inclusive. Accomplishments included the strong culture and ethos enabling learners to learn, development of the Institute of Technology, achievement of Foundation Degree Awarding Powers and the development of a strategy schema which underpins key strategic decisions. A similar approach was used to determine the remuneration of other key management personnel.

The governing body adopts the AoC's Senior Post Holder Remuneration Code and has followed the minimum requirements of the code.

The remuneration package of Key management staff, including the Principal and Chief Executive, is subject to annual review by the Remuneration Committee of the governing body who use benchmarking information to provide objective guidance.

The remuneration committee assesses the corporation's performance against KPIs and the attainment of students in the year, as well as the progress against the college's long term strategic objectives when reviewing the remuneration package of the key management personnel, including the Principal and Chief Executive. Qualitative measures of success, such as level of engagement of the staff and students are also considered.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

7 Staff costs - Group and College (continued)

The level of pay is benchmarked against the pay of similar colleges in the prior financial year, taken from their financial statements, and the general trend within the sector is also considered.

In the academic year 2022/23 the College performances was in line with the expectations of the Board and remains strong both on key financial and curriculum milestones. The Remuneration Committee considered these factors in determining the remuneration of Senior Postholders (including the Principal and Chief Executive) in 2022/23.

Relationship of Principal and Chief Executive pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Principal and Chief Executive's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.21	4.95
Principal and Chief Executive's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.23	4.98

The above median calculations are based on substantive posts only and therefore exclude any internal and external agency staff.

The members of the Corporation other than the Principal and the staff members did not receive any payment from the institution other than the reimbursement of travel and subsistence expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

During the year 2 (2022 - 5) governors with total expenses of £285 (2022 - £278) were paid or on their behalf in respect of travel and subsistence and other out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of their duties.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

8 Other operating expenses

	2023 Group £'000	2023 College £'000	2022 Group £'000	2022 College £'000
Teaching costs	17,063	17,063	14,904	14,904
Non-teaching costs	1,787	1,785	1,637	1,635
Premises costs	1,902	1,902	1,579	1,584
Total	20,752	20,750	18,120	18,123

Other operating expenses include (excluding VAT):

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Auditors' remuneration:		
Financial statements audit - RSM *	47	33
Internal audit **	17	17
Other services provided by the financial statements auditors	1	4
Other services provided by the internal auditors	3	3
Amortisation	146	120
Depreciation	2,523	2,310

* includes £46,530 in respect of the College (2022 £33,230)

** includes £16,875 in respect of the College (2022 £16,875)

Operating expenses also includes a payment made to an incorrect company of £43,017 that the College are in the process of taking action to recover.

The College have provided it's subsidiary Westfirst Ltd with a letter of comfort to the value of £6,059, although no expenditure is included in the accounts.

8a Access and participation spending

	2023 Group & College £'000	2022 Group and College £'000
Access investment	341	325
Financial Support to students	50	35
Disability support	17	16
Research and evaluation	69	72
Total	477	448

The access and participation plan is available through the College website.

9 Interest and other finance costs

	2023 Group £'000	2023 College £'000	2022 Group £'000	2022 College £'000
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 23)	320	320	490	490
Total	320	320	490	490

10 Taxation

	2023 Group £'000	2023 College £'000	2022 Group £'000	2022 College £'000
United Kingdom corporation tax at 25.00% (2022: 19.00%)	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0

The members do not believe that the College was liable for any corporation tax arising out of its activities during the year. The tax charge above relates to its trading subsidiary company.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

11 Intangible assets (Group and College)

	Software
	£'000
Cost or valuation	
At 1 August 2022	2,836
Additions	84
Disposals	(74)
At 31 July 2023	2,846
Accumulated Amortisation	
At 1 August 2022	2,358
Charge for year	146
Eliminated in respect of disposals	(74)
At 31 July 2023	2,430
Net book value	
At 31 July 2023	416
Net book value	
At 31 July 2022	478

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12 Tangible fixed assets (Group)

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £'000	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 August 2022	166	49,313	480	17,730	67,689
Additions	0	615	7,653	3,504	11,772
Reclassification of asset	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	(3)	0	(581)	(584)
At 31 July 2023	166	49,925	8,133	20,653	78,877
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 August 2022	166	6,347	0	11,208	17,721
Charge for year	0	876	0	1,647	2,523
Eliminated in respect of disposals	0	0	0	(576)	(576)
At 31 July 2023	166	7,223	0	12,279	19,668
Net book value					
At 31 July 2023	0	42,702	8,133	8,374	59,209
Net book value At 31 July 2022	0	42,966	480	6,522	49,968

Buildings held by the Subsidiary company (Westfirst Limited) are held at historic cost and depreciated over a period of 20 years.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

12 Tangible fixed assets (College only)

	Leasehold Land and Buildings £'000	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Assets Under Construction £'000	Equipment £'000	Total £'000
Cost or valuation					
At 1 August 2022	166	49,248	480	17,540	67,434
Additions	0	615	7,653	3,504	11,772
Reclassification of asset	0	0	0	0	0
Disposals	0	(3)	0	(581)	(584)
At 31 July 2023	166	49,860	8,133	20,463	78,622
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 August 2022	166	6,286	0	11,014	17,466
Charge for year	0	876	0	1,647	2,523
Eliminated in respect of disposals	0	0	0	(576)	(576)
At 31 July 2023	166	7,162	0	12,085	19,413
Net book value					
At 31 July 2023	0	42,698	8,133	8,378	59,209
Net book value					
At 31 July 2022	0	42,962	480	6,526	49,968

Cost and depreciation relating to fully depreciated assets which are no longer used have been removed.

Land and buildings were valued on 31 July 2013 by a firm of independent chartered surveyors (Ashley Smith Chartered Surveyors) at depreciated replacement cost as defined in the glossary of terms of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Appraisal and Valuation Standards (5th Edition).

The valuation of land at 31 July 2013 was £5,000,000 and its historic cost was £2,730,000 (land is not depreciated). The valuation of the buildings was £37,875,000 which had a historic cost of £35,693,000 and accumulated depreciation of £5,993,000 as at 31 July 2013.

On adoption of FRS 102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were revalued in 2013, as deemed cost but not to adopt a policy of revaluations of these properties in the future.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

13 Non-current investments

	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Investments in subsidiary companies	0	2	0	2
Charities Official Investment Fund - Re	2	2	2	2
Edgar Stephenson Memorial Trust				
Total	2	4	2	4

The College owns 100% of the issued £1 ordinary shares in Westfirst Limited, a company incorporated in England and Wales (Registered Office: New College Durham, Framwellgate Moor Campus, Durham, County Durham, DH1 5ES). The principal business activities of Westfirst Limited is lettings of the College to external organisations.

The directors believe that the carrying value of the investments is supported by their underlying net assets.

14 Trade and other receivables

	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade receivables	1,348	1,348	1,808	1,808
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	0	51	0	51
Prepayments and accrued income	2,681	2,680	1,969	1,964
Amounts owed by the ESFA	764	764	1,359	1,359
Total	4,793	4,843	5,136	5,182

15 Investments

	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Short-term deposits	8,718	8,718	12,646	12,646
Total	8,718	8,718	12,646	12,646

Deposits are held in short term notice accounts with a number of UK clearing banks.

16 Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Trade payables	469	469	743	741
Payments received in advance	1,267	1,267	1,121	1,121
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	0	2	0	2
Other taxation and social security	970	970	1,484	1,484
Accruals	4,637	4,635	4,461	4,461
Holiday pay	666	666	592	592
Deferred income - government capital grants	1,002	1,002	886	886
Amounts owed to the ESFA	287	287	118	118
Total	9,298	9,298	9,405	9,405

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

17 Creditors - amounts falling due after one year

	Group 2023 £'000	College 2023 £'000	Group 2022 £'000	College 2022 £'000
Deferred income - government capital grants	18,492	18,492	15,001	15,001
Total	18,492	18,492	15,001	15,001

18 Provisions - defined benefit obligations (Group and College)

	Defined benefit Obligations £'000
At 1 August 2022	(10 490)
Utilised in the year	2,200
Additional provision in the year	8,290
At 31 July 2023	0

Defined benefit obligations relate to the surpluses and liabilities under the College's membership of the Local Government pension Scheme. Further details are given in Note 23.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

19 Cash and cash equivalents

Group	At 1 August 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	Other changes £'000	At 31 July 2023 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	9,049	1	0	9,050
Total	<u>9,049</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,050</u>

College	At 1 August 2022 £'000	Cash flows £'000	Other changes £'000	At 31 July 2023 £'000
Cash and cash equivalents	9,006	(2)	0	9,004
Total	<u>9,006</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9,004</u>

20 Capital and other commitments

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Commitments contracted for as at 31 July (payable within 1 year)	<u>3,361</u>	<u>10,116</u>

21 Contingencies

There were no contingent liabilities (2022 none).

22 Events after the reporting year

There were no events after the reporting year.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Defined benefit obligations

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

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

Total pension costs for the year	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	1,887	1,853
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	2,200	1,980
FRS 102 (28) charge	440	2,250
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	2,640	4,230
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs	4,527	6,083

Contributions amounting to £443,000 (2022 £465,000) were payable to the scheme at 31 July 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. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer. The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme on as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary ("GA"), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors. The latest actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2023 and the Employer Contribution Rate was assessed using agreed assumptions in line with the Directions and was accepted at the original assessed rate as there was no cost control mechanism breach.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The valuation report was published on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (the capital sum needed at 31 March 2020 to meet the stream of future cash flows in respect of benefits earned) of £262 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion (2016 £22 billion)
- Discount rate is 1.7% in excess of CPI (2016 2.4% in excess of CPI (this change has had the greatest financial significance))

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates have been set at 28.6% of pensionable pay from 1 April 2024 until 31 March 2027 (compared to 23.68% under the previous valuation including a 0.08% administration levy). DfE agreed to pay a Teachers Pensions employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2022-23 academic year, and currently through to July 2024. The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £1,887,000 (2022: £1,853,000).

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Durham County Council. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 July 2023 was £2,800,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £2,200,000 and employees' contributions totalled £600,000. The agreed contribution rates for employer contributions from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 has been set at 20.4% with lump sum payments of £262,000 in year 1, £270,000 in year 2 and £278,000 in year 3. The triennial valuation results from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 sets employer contribution at 20.4% with lump sum payments of £287,000 in year 1, £296,000 in year 2 and £306,000 in year 3. The employees contribution rate is dependent on the employees pensionable pay, with bands ranging from 5.5% to 12.5%.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 July 2023 by Aon Hewitt Limited.

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
CPI Inflation	2.6%	2.6%
Rate of increase in salaries	3.6%	3.6%
Rate of increase for pensions	2.6%	2.6%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	5.0%	3.4%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	85%	85%

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

	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	21.70	22.10
Females	23.90	24.20
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	22.90	23.20
Females	25.00	25.70

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

The College's share of the assets in the plan at the balance sheet date were:

	Fair Value at 31 July 2023 £'000	Fair Value at 31 July 2022 £'000
Equities	23,320	23,406
Property	3,440	3,594
Government Bonds	4,860	4,835
Corporate Bonds	4,310	1,883
Multi Asset Credit	7,010	6,205
Cash	920	599
Other	1,970	2,268
Total fair value of plan assets	45,830	42,790

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	45,830	42,790
Present value of plan liabilities	(45,550)	(53,280)
Net pensions asset/(liability)	280	(10,490)
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(280)	0
Net asset/(liability) balance sheet (note 18)	0	(10,490)

The value of the college's share of net assets has been restricted due to the effect of the asset ceiling being the maximum value of the present of the economic benefits available in the form of the unconditional right to reduced contributions from the plan. A corresponding change has been made to other comprehensive income in the period.

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	2,610	4,230
Past service cost	30	0
Loss / (gain) on curtailments/settlements	0	0
Total	2,640	4,230

Amounts included in interest and other finance costs

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Interest on scheme assets	1,480	770
Interest on pension liabilities	(1,800)	(1,260)
Total	(320)	(490)

Amounts recognised in Other Comprehensive Income

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Return on pension plan assets	210	(4,130)
Experience gains and losses arising on defined benefit obligations	0	0
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan liabilities	11,320	25,630
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(280)	0
Total	11,250	21,500

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

Local Government Pension Scheme (continued)

Movement in net defined benefit liability during the year

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Net defined liability in scheme at 1 August	(10,490)	(29,250)
Movement in year:		
Current service cost	(2,610)	(4,230)
Employer contributions	2,200	1,980
Past service costs	(30)	0
Net interest on the defined liability	(320)	(490)
Actuarial gain	11,250	21,500
Net defined liability at 31 July	0	(10,490)

Asset and Liability Reconciliation

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Changes in present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of year	53,280	74,230
Current service cost	2,610	4,230
Interest cost	1,800	1,260
Contributions by scheme participants	600	520
Changes in financial assumptions	(11,320)	(25,630)
Estimated benefits paid	(1,450)	(1,330)
Past service cost	30	0
Defined benefit obligations at end of year	45,550	53,280

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Changes in fair value of plan assets		
Fair value of plan assets at start of year	42,790	44,980
Interest on plan assets	1,480	770
Return on plan assets	210	(4,130)
Employer contributions	2,200	1,980
Contributions by scheme participants	600	520
Estimated benefits paid	(1,450)	(1,330)
Fair value of plan assets at end of year	45,830	42,790
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(280)	0
Revised Fair value of plan assets at end of year	45,550	42,790

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

23 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

These accounts previously showed a past service cost of £1,010,000 for 2019 in respect of the McCloud / Sergeant judgment which ruled that the transitional protection for some members of public service schemes implemented when they were reformed constituted age discrimination. This provision is 14.2% of the annualised pensionable pay over the accounting period ending 31 July 2019. The calculation of adjustment to past service costs arising from the outcome of the Court of Appeal judgment is based on a number of key assumptions including:

- the form of remedy adopted
- how the remedy will be implemented
- which members will be affected by the remedy
- the earning assumptions
- the withdrawal assumption

In years ending 31 July 2020 and 31 July 2021 the potential McCloud liability has been calculated at the opening balance sheet date, and an uplift to the current service costs for future service, based on updated membership data provided for the valuation. No further McCloud re-measurements have taken place upto 31 July 2023.

The Covid Pandemic has impacted on mortality rates in that current thinking is starting to move from 'neutral' to 'negative outlook'. On this basis an allowance has been made through a 3% increase to the scaling factors adopted for the 2019 valuations, leading to an estimated reduction in liabilities of 1% to 2%.

The other financial and demographic assumptions adopted to calculate the past service cost are the same as those used to calculate the overall scheme liability. Adopting different assumptions, or making other adjustments to reflect behavioural changes stemming from the judgement, would be expected to change the disclosed past service cost. Similarly, allowing for variations in individual members' future service or salary progression is expected to produce higher costs. The past service cost is particularly sensitive to the difference between assumed long term general pay growth and the CPI. If the long term salary growth assumptions were 0.5% pa lower, then the past service cost disclosed here would be expected to reduce by 50% and conversely a 0.5% pa increase would increase the estimated cost by 65%.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

24 Related party transactions

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

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £285 ; 2 governors (2022: £46 ; 1 governor). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

No Governor has received any remuneration or waived payments from the College or its subsidiaries during the year (2022: None).

New College Durham Academies Trust - a company for which Mr Broadbent (Principal and Chief Executive) serves as a Member, and Mrs Warren (a Board Member) serves as Director.

Purchase transactions totalling £1,520 (2022 £1260) relating to 3G pitch hire and transport. At the year-end £0 was outstanding and included in creditors (2022 £0).

Sales transactions totalling £0 took place (2022 £107). At the year-end £0 was outstanding (2022 £0).

Durham County Council - a company for which Mrs Drummond Hill (a Board Member) is a member of the Councils Independent Remuneration Panel and Mr Broadbent (Principal and Chief Executive) serves as a member of the Durham LGPS Committee.

Purchase transactions totalling £107,583 (2022 £145,477) relating to Placement fees, Incentive Payments, Internal Audit, Hire of the Gala theatre and Pension costs. At the year-end £0 was outstanding and included in creditors (2022 £0).

Sales transactions totalling £19,112 took place (2022 £21,049). At the year-end £0 was outstanding (2022 £0).

Go North East Ltd - a company for which Mr King (a Board Member) was in paid employment until 02 December 2022.

Purchase transactions totalling £592,251 (2022 £525,230) relating to student bus passes took place. At the year-end £0 was outstanding (2022 credit note totalling 2022 £14). The College hold contracts with both local transport companies to provide bus passes to students to enable them to attend College.

Sales transactions totalling £0 took place(2022 £0) . At the year-end £0 was outstanding (2022 £0).

Visit County Durham - a company for which Mr King (a Board Member) is a Director.

Purchase transactions totalling £1,980 (2022 £2,880) relating to partnership fees took place. At the year-end £0 remained outstanding (2022 £0).

Sales transactions totalling £0 took place(2022 £0) . At the year-end £0 was outstanding (2022 £0).

Newcastle University - a company for which Mr Green (a Board Member) is in paid employment

Purchase transactions totalling £0 (2022 £2,114) took place during the year. At the year-end £0 was outstanding and included in creditors (2022 £0).

Sales transactions totalling £3,000 in relation to re-imbursement of legal costs regarding a project (£2022 £750 with respect to the Institute of Technology). At the year-end £3,000 was outstanding (2022 £0).

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

25 Amounts disbursed as agent

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Funding body grants - Learner Support Funds	1,272	935
Other funding body grants	233	193
	<u>1,505</u>	<u>1,128</u>
Disbursed to students	781	565
Disbursed to employers	232	193
	<u>492</u>	<u>370</u>
Balance unspent at 31 July, included in creditors		

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

26 Commitments under operating leases

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

	2023 £'000	2022 £'000
Payments due		
Not later than one year	66	0
Later than one year and not later than five years	263	0
Later than five years	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>329</u>	<u>0</u>

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

27 Designated Reserves

	Opening Balance £'000	Additions £'000	Expenditure £'000	Closing Balance £'000
Funds Designated				
Multi Use Games Area and Car Park	0	4,280	-	4,280
Refurbishment of Promotion House at Langley Moor	0	2,200	-	2,200
Refurbishment of Sports and Music Building	0	500	-	500
College Modernisation Programme	0	250	-	250
Sub-Total	0	7,230	-	7,230
Included in Capital Commitments				
T.H.E. Hub	9,035	0	(7,207)	1,828
Reception Refurbishment	438	86	(524)	0
Human Resources/Payroll System	202	0	(121)	81
Replacement Roof	151	221	(151)	221
E-Sports Suite	71	45	(116)	0
Training Restaurant Refurbishment	0	376	-	376
Digital Learning Hub	0	262	-	262
Management Suite Refurbishment	0	244	-	244
Multi Use Games Area and Car Park	0	84	-	84
Fire Door Replacements	0	71	-	71
Other Capital Projects	219	0	(25)	194
Sub-Total	10,116	1,389	(8,144)	3,361
Total Designated Reserves	10,116	8,619	(8,144)	10,591

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CORPORATION OF NEW COLLEGE DURHAM AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION ACTING THROUGH EDUCATION AND SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated November 2022 and further to the requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (the "ESFA") or those of any other public funder, to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by New College Durham during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

Basis for conclusion

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

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the FRC's Ethical Standard and the ethical pronouncements of the ICAEW. We also apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements and accordingly maintain comprehensive systems of continuing quality management.

Responsibilities of Corporation of New College Durham for regularity

The Corporation of New College Durham is responsible, under the grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and the requirements of the Further & Higher Education Act 1992, subsequent legislation and related regulations and guidance, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The Corporation of New College Durham is also responsible for preparing the Governing Body's Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance.

Reporting accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Code.

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 the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement 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.

NEW COLLEGE DURHAM

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our work included identification and assessment of the design and operational effectiveness of the controls, policies and procedures that have been implemented to ensure compliance with the framework of authorities including the specific requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with the ESFA and those of any other public funder and high level financial control areas where we identified a material irregularity is likely to arise. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions.

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

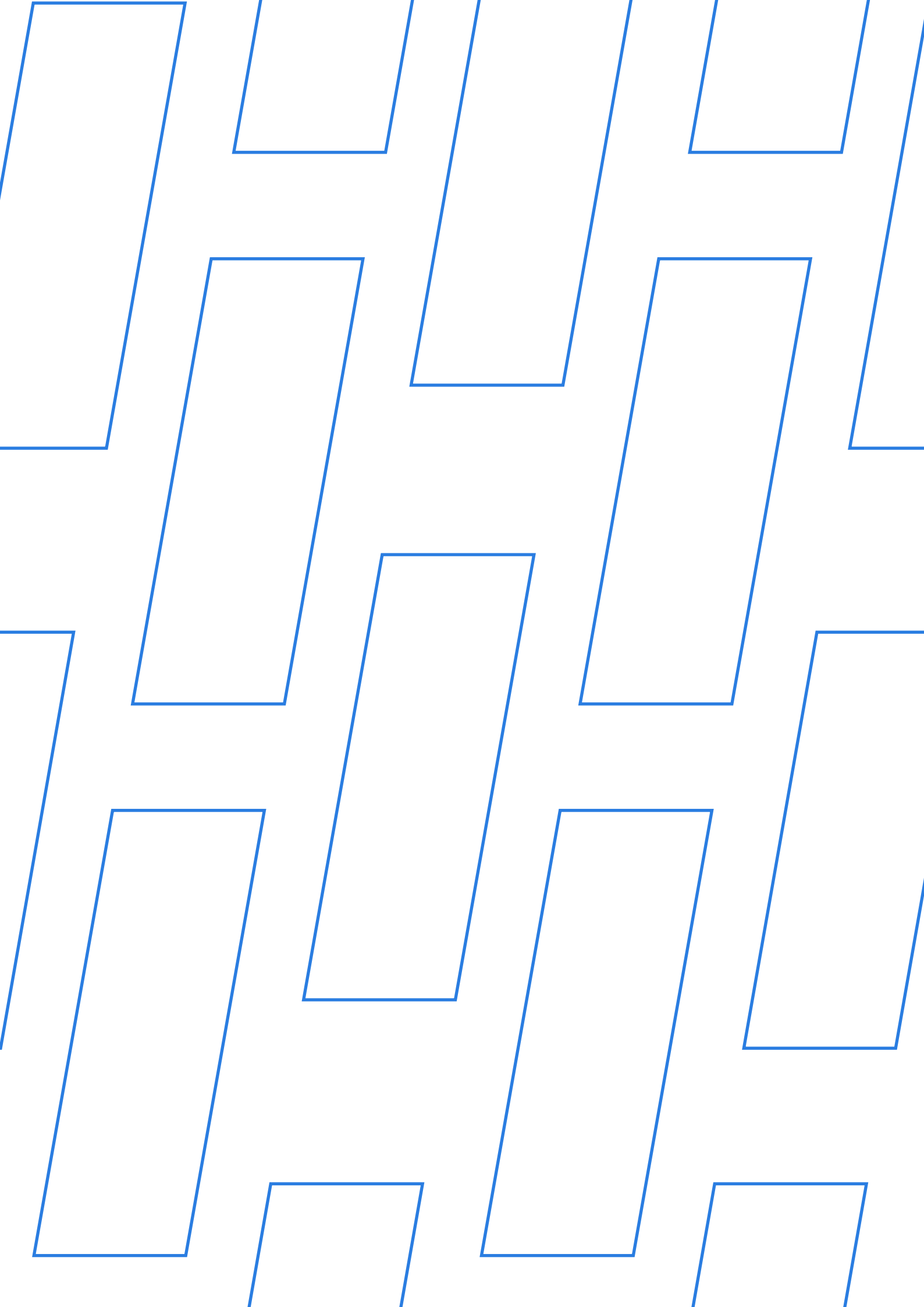
Use of our report

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

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