

Registration number: 08597784

# The Cornovii Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

# The Cornovii Trust

## Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1 to 2
trustees' Report	3 to 13
Governance Statement	14 to 17
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	18
Statement of trustees' Responsibilities	19 to 20
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	21 to 24
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cornovii Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency	25 to 26
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)	27 to 30
Balance Sheet	31 to 32
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2022	33
Notes to the Financial Statements	34 to 65

# The Cornovii Trust

## Reference and Administrative Details

<b>Members</b>	Mr Allan Richard Ward (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mr Julian Timothy Brooks Mr Jonathan Masters (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mrs Naomi Willoughby-Foster Mr Edwin Forshaw (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Chris Penn (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mrs Gill Price (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022)
<b>Trustees</b>	Mr Allan Richard Ward Mr Richard Middlebrook (resigned as Trustee 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mr Carl Mark Cooke (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mr Peter Robin Cox (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mr William James Clayton Mr James Rupert Lowery Mrs Theresa Eugena Shirley Jones (term of office ended 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2021) Miss Sally-Anne Ward (resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022) Mr Paul Scales Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair) (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mrs Sarah Irene Burns (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Nigel John Cliffe (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mrs Susan Anne Day (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Carl Leech (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Barrie Pitt (appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022)
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	Mr Richard Middlebrook (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer) Mrs Susan Reissing (Chief Financial Officer) Mrs Andrea O'Neill (Head of School, Alsager School) Mrs Liane Young (Deputy Head, Alsager School) Mrs Adele Snape (Deputy Head, Alsager School) – resigned 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022 Ms Lianne Jardine (Assistant Head, Alsager School) Mr Robert Pearce (Assistant Head, Alsager School) Mr Steve Rubin (Assistant Head, Alsager School) Mrs Sally Martin (Assistant Head, Alsager School – appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mrs Elizabeth Brazier (Assistant Head, Alsager School – appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Thomas Adam Cutts (Headteacher, Weston Village Primary School) Mrs Terri Lawton (Assistant Head, Weston Village Primary School) Mrs Emma Loveland (Assistant Head, Weston Village Primary School) Miss Charlotte Armit (SLT (EYFS) – Weston Village Primary School) Mrs Rachel Woolham (Headteacher, Alsager Highfields Primary School) Mrs Lisa Henshall (Assistant Headteacher, Alsager Highfields Primary School) Mrs Marianne Dyde (Assistant Headteacher, Alsager Highfields Primary School) Mr David Cole (Headteacher, Brine Leas School – appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022) Mr Andy Perry (Headteacher, Audlem St James' CofE Primary School – appointed 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022)
<b>Registered Office</b>	Hassall Road Alsager Cheshire ST7 2HR
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	08597784

## The Cornovii Trust

**Auditors**           Xeinadin Audit Limited  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor Becket House  
36 Old Jewry  
London  
EC2R 8DD

**Bankers**             Lloyds Bank PLC  
PO Box 1000  
BX1 1LT

**Solicitors**         Browne Jacobson  
3 Piccadilly Place  
Manchester M1 3BN

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report

The trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

Alsager Multi Academy Trust (AMAT) merged with Brine Multi Academy Trust (BMAT) on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022; at that point the name of the trust was changed to The Cornovii Trust (TCT). During the 2021-22 year the trust operated 3 academies for pupils aged 4 to 18 serving a catchment area in South Cheshire and Staffordshire. Two further academies transferred from Brine Multi Academy Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

### Academies in the trust:

- Alsager School (academised and formed Alsager Multi Academy Trust 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013)
- Weston Village Primary School (academised and joined AMAT 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)
- Alsager Highfields Community Primary School (academised and joined AMAT 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020)
- Brine Leas School (academised and formed BMAT 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010, transferred to TCT 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022)
- Audlem St James' CofE Primary School (academised and joined BMAT 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021, transferred to TCT 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022)

In the Summer 2022 census the 3 schools in The Cornovii Trust had a combined pupil capacity of 2156 and had a roll of 2060.

In September 2022 the 5 schools in The Cornovii Trust had a combined pupil capacity of 3716 and in the October 2022 census had a roll of 3670.

## Structure, Governance and Management

### Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust. The trustees of TCT are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. The charitable company operates as The Cornovii Trust (prior to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 known as Alsager Multi Academy Trust).

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

### Members' Liability

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

### Trustees' Indemnities

Professional Indemnity Insurance is in place to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring on trust business.

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

Trustees are recruited by invitation, dependent on their expertise, experience and skills. Trustees may appoint other trustees as referenced in the Articles of Association (56: 58) and are appointed for a term of four years.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

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

New Trustees are inducted into the workings of the academy trust, including policies and procedures, together with an appropriate training schedule depending upon their existing area of expertise.

### Organisational Structure

The trustees are responsible for:

- Setting trust policies
- Adopting an annual plan and budget
- Monitoring the trust by the use of financial management information
- Making strategic decisions about the direction of the trust
- Making strategic decisions about capital expenditure
- Making senior appointments
- Approving the Annual Report and Statements.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the accounting officer. The day to day management of the trust is delegated to him and the Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) of each school. Membership of the SLT in each school is set out on page 1. All these managers control the trust at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the Trustees and reporting back to them. As a group the SLTs are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff – though appointment boards for posts in the SLTs always contain a trustee. Some spending control is devolved to members of the management team within agreed limits in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

Governing body sub committees meet on at least a termly basis and report to the local full governing bodies which ratifies their decisions. The local full governing bodies then report to the board of Trustees. The trust has 2 sub committees (Finance & Audit and Standards) and they meet at least each term, as do the full board of trustees, with the first meeting in each academic year being the Annual General Meeting.

Roles and responsibilities of Trustees and senior managers are clearly defined in the trust scheme of delegation.

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

The board of trustees annually agree the pay policy; the LGBs implement the policy. This policy states that all teachers pay will be set in line with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). The CEO's, Headteacher/Head of Schools', Deputy's and Assistant Heads' pay and remuneration are thus set in accordance with the STPCD and are also benchmarked against other schools in the Local Authority. The Chief Financial Officer's pay and remuneration is set in accordance with the academy trust's pay policy and is also benchmarked against other schools in the Local Authority.

### Trade union facility time

#### Relevant union officials

Number of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	Full-time equivalent employee number
1	1

#### Percentage of time spent on facility time

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

**The Cornovii Trust**  
**Trustees' Report (continued)**

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

Provide the total cost of facility time	£0
Provide the total pay bill	£9,343,881.09
Provide the percentage of the total pay bill spent on facility time, calculated as: (total cost of facility time ÷ total pay bill) × 100	£0

**Paid trade union activities**

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time hours calculated as: (total hours spent on paid trade union activities by relevant union officials during the relevant period ÷ total paid facility time hours) × 100	0%
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**Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations**

Cheshire East	Leisure Centre and Facilities Accessed Agreement
Alsager School Trust (Parents in Partnership)	CEO is a trustee along with Alsager School Governor, staff and parent representatives. Charity formed to provide additional educational benefits for the pupils of Alsager School.
Chimney House Teaching School Foundation	CEO is a director. Alsager School is a strategic partner.
Everybody Health and Leisure	CEO is a trustee. Everybody Health and Leisure is the charitable arm of Cheshire East Council which runs their Leisure facilities.
Brine Multi Academy Trust	CEO is the Acting CEO of Brine Multi Academy Trust for the 2021-22 academic year.
Alsager Community Trust (ACT)	Group of schools in Alsager formed to provide increased opportunities and raise achievement for all young people aged 5-18 within the town of Alsager. ACT dissolved at Companies House 17th August 2021.
Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub	CEO is the senior lead and several staff fulfill part time roles for the Maths Hub. The Trust holds and processes the funds for the Hub.

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

The trust takes its engagement of employees very seriously. We recognise that in order to be successful and deliver the very best outcomes for our young people our staff need to be passionate about working in our schools. The trust allows staff representatives access trade union facility time. This is important to ensure that staff are fully informed, represented and protected in the workplace. Each school and the trust central team are encouraged to have effective relationships with union representatives.

The trust have clear staff policies which support staff. The policies cover but are not restricted to attendance, leave of absence, code of conduct and social media. Staff who have experienced a significant absence from school are offered a phased return to their duties where this is appropriate and occupational health referrals are undertaken to support staff who are experiencing difficulties with their health and well-being. Staff who require access to counselling are able to request sessions with an independent counsellor.

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

The pandemic has meant that employee engagement is more important than ever. In order to support staff and also to ensure that they understand the importance of their role in keeping schools open to children we have taken a number of measures to ensure the care of our staff. Staff have completed regular surveys on the impact of Covid and the trust has accessed vaccines for staff if they want them. All staff are kept up to date with Covid Risk Assessments and working practices so that they understand how they should work and respond to the pandemic. Staff are supported by their line manager in understanding the safest way to access the work environment during the pandemic and some staff who are clinically vulnerable are supported to work at home where possible.

Each school holds regular staff meetings, briefings are held at least weekly and regular bulletins are sent out to communicate with staff. Staff have been trained to use remote technology and during the pandemic the majority of our meetings have been remote. Each school has a set timetable of meetings each week organised

following union guidance. There is recognition that senior staff who have significant responsibilities will be unable to discharge their duties without the ability to meet more frequently .

The Trust is opposed to any discrimination against a person with disabilities based on assumptions of their ability or otherwise. Where an employee who has a disability is appointed to a post in an academy or a pupil is admitted, reasonable provision will be made for adjustments to the working conditions or environment where this is practicable.

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

We work closely with our suppliers and key partners to ensure a common goal in providing the best possible environment for pupils to thrive and achieve their potential.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought huge challenges to Trust suppliers and partners. We engaged in regular operational dialogue to ensure that continuity of supplies and services were able to be maintained. Despite the challenges, our suppliers have welcomed the support they have received from the Trust in assisting their businesses by making timely payments for goods and services.

Trustees recognise the key role played by the Trust's suppliers and partners in the delivery of its objectives. They have worked tirelessly with the Trust's executive and senior management team to keep the flow of crucial resources for the delivery of education and to mitigate the disruption to business.

#### **Objectives and Activities**

The main objects and aims of the trust during the year ending 31 August 2022 are summarised below:

- To rapidly improve Alsager Highfields Primary School and ensure it is judged to be a 'Good' school by Ofsted as soon as possible.
- Increase pupil numbers at Alsager Highfields
- To continue to grow / expand the MAT in line with our 'growth strategy' and successfully merge with Brine Multi Academy Trust.
- To continue to manage the major challenges schools face as they recover from the Covid 19 pandemic and provide support for all pupils.
- To raise the standard of educational achievements of all pupils in the trust and ensure all schools are at least 'Good' in terms of Ofsted ratings.
- To ensure that every child aged 4-18 enjoys the same high quality education in terms of resourcing, teaching and learning.
- To improve the effectiveness of the trust and schools involved by keeping the curriculum and organisational structure under continual review.



# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

- To comply with all appropriate statutory and curriculum requirements.
- To provide value for money for the funds expended.
- To conduct the trust business in accordance with the highest standards of integrity, probity and openness.
- To effectively manage major capital projects at all sites.
- To plan for financially challenging future years, in light of uncertainty over the levels of Government funding and the additional uncertainty over the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, unfunded pay awards and the rising utility costs and risks associated with it.
- To plan financially for other schools joining the MAT and any future MAT developments.

### Objectives, Strategies and Activities

The trust's main strategy is to develop and maintain a culture of excellence and provide enriching opportunities for all the children aged 4-18 across the MAT, while allowing individual schools to retain their individuality.

The trust is an organisation that provides opportunities for staff and students alike but always embraces the local community so as to ensure that each academy is at the centre.

The trust's approach to the strategy includes:

- Teaching and learning opportunities for all students to attain appropriate academic qualifications
- To give all pupils the best possible start to their educational experience.
- A rich programme of after school activities for all students.
- A career advisory service to help students access the best pathway post 16 and post 18, be that employment, apprenticeship or higher education.
- A wide range of enrichment opportunities.
- High quality professional learning opportunities for all trust employees.
- A process of continual monitoring and review of teaching and learning together with rigorous data analysis of individual pupil achievement.
- Successfully merge AMAT and Brine MAT to form one larger trust.

### Public Benefit

The trust's purpose is to advance, for public benefit, education as described in the principal activities above. The trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their duties.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the trustees have carefully considered the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### Strategic Report

#### Achievements and Performance

The academy trust gained several notable achievements in the year ending 31 August 2022, notably:

- Achieved a strong set of external exam outcomes at both primary and secondary level, despite two years without exams, and the impact of the Covid pandemic.
- Improved results at both Weston Village Primary School and Alsager Highfields Primary School.
- Approved by the Department for Education to merge with Brine MAT.
- Successfully supporting all children, families and staff in the face of a pandemic and recovery from it.
- Staff across the Trust are now very efficient when it comes to teaching and working remotely.
- Successful completion of Condition Improvement Fund projects at both Alsager Highfields Primary School and Alsager School totaling £402k.
- Successfully drawing in funding of £67k through school to school support deployments and system leadership and £76k from Maths Hub.
- Ensuring a healthy budget forecast for AMAT, despite all the challenges posed by Covid 19 and sponsoring Alsager Highfields Primary School.
- Continued growth in pupil numbers at Alsager School Sixth Form.
- Successfully led the Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub, despite the difficulties posed by Covid.
- Secured external funding to replace the aged artificial grass pitch at Alsager School.
- Ensured Alsager School retained its 'Outstanding' Ofsted judgement in a September 2021 inspection.

#### Secondary Key Performance Indicators

Measure	2020*	2021*	2022
% 4+ in GCSE English & Maths	N/A	N/A	78%
% 5+ in GCSE English & Maths	N/A	N/A	54%
% achieving EBACC GCSE	N/A	N/A	20%
Attainment 8	N/A	N/A	53.6
Progress 8	N/A	N/A	0.26
A Level grades A*-E	N/A	N/A	99%
A Level grades A*-C	N/A	N/A	89%
L3 VA score	N/A	N/A	-0.07

\*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all examinations and external assessments were cancelled in 2020 and 2021.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

### Primary Key Performance Indicators 2022

Primary Schools	Yr1 phonics	KS1 Reading	KS1 Writing	KS1 Maths	KS2 Reading	KS2 Writing	KS2 Maths	KS2 RWM
Alsager Highfields	87%	EXS 70% GDS 11%	EXS 56% GDS 0%	EXS 67% GDS 22%	EXS 63% GDS 22%	EXS 69% GDS 8%	EXS 69% GDS 22%	57%
Weston Village	79%	EXS 72% GDS 13%	EXS 62% GDS 5%	EXS 74% GDS 13%	EXS 82% GDS 29%	EXS 74% GDS 15%	EXS 79% GDS 26%	67%

Progress KS1 – KS2	Reading	Writing	Maths
Alsager Highfields	-0.8 (in line with national)	-0.8 (in line with national)	-0.1 (in line with national)
Weston Village	-0.5 (in line with national)	-0.5 (in line with national)	-0.8 (in line)

\*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all SATs and external assessments were cancelled in 2020 and 2021.

### Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the board of trustees has a reasonable expectation that the academy trust has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

### Promoting the success of the company

The Trust Board promote the success of the MAT by regularly monitoring its progress towards achieving its objectives through the CEO's half termly reports which highlight progress against the various development plans and use the ESFA document "understanding your data: a guide for school Governors and Academy Trustees" to highlight issues to address.

Please refer to "Achievements and Performance" in the section of the report to see the impact of the MAT's work on Ofsted judgements, number of students on roll, attendance and destinations data.

The Trust Board have asked the CEO to develop and grow the MAT to continue to improve the education and life chances of a larger group of students. It is anticipated that the MAT will grow in a planned, gradual and carefully considered way and there are certainly no plans to develop at speed. The priority is to ensure that

the MAT grows at a rate which can be best managed so as to support all its schools to maintain and improve performance. The Trust is approved as a sponsoring MAT.

### Financial Review

Most of the trust income is obtained from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in the form of recurrent grants, the use of which is restricted to particular purposes. The grants received from the ESFA in the year ending 31 August 2022 and associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. The trust also previously received other grants from the ESFA and other organisations, notably £402,325 from the ESFA for two successful Condition Improvement Fund applications at Alsager School and Alsager Highfields. In accordance with the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP 2005), such grants are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities as restricted income in the restricted general fund and fixed asset fund. The restricted fixed asset fund balance is reduced by depreciation charges over the expected useful life of the assets concerned.

During the year ending 31 August 2022, total expenditure of £11,926,150 (which excludes depreciation of £1,028,316 and FRS17 service cost and interest of £810,000) was funded by recurrent grant income from the ESFA together with other incoming resources which totalled £12,361,242 (excluding capital grant funding). This is in line with the trust's strategy to build and maintain adequate reserves to fund an ambitious plan of future improvements and development of the organisation and its infrastructure.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

Unrestricted income in the year ending 31 August 2022 amounted to £289,748. Unrestricted expenditure amounted to £52,202.

At 31 August 2022 the net book value of fixed assets amounted to £28,177,838. Movements in fixed assets are shown in note 12 to the financial statements. The cost of fixed asset additions in the year ending 31 August 2022 amounted to £744,760 and £2,195,000 in respect of Alsager Highfields L&B transferred on conversion.

There has been a total in-year surplus of £215,592 comprised of restricted general funds (excluding pension reserve, fixed asset reserve) plus unrestricted funds.

### Reserves Policy

The trustees review the level of reserves on an annual basis. The review encompasses the nature of the income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of the reserves. The trust's current level of free reserves (total reserves less the amounts held in the fixed asset reserve and restricted pension fund reserve) is £1,160,785. The amount is kept secure for the time when it is needed to self-finance a scheme of major capital projects.

The total reserves held at 31 August 2022 is £29,096,752 which is made up of the following;

Unrestricted reserves	£999,203
Restricted reserves	£161,582
Fixed asset reserves	£28,984,657
Restricted pension deficit	(£1,049,000)

It is the trustees' intention to adopt a prudent approach to reserves and aim to build a reserve of designated funds of at least 5% of annual income to safeguard against unforeseen circumstances, capital improvements or developments, late ESFA payments, emergencies and other catastrophes. This is sound commercial practice designed to safeguard the quality of education received within the trust.

In addition, the net liability due to the trust's participation in the Local Government Scheme (LGPS) amounts to £1,049,000. Parliament has agreed, at the request of the Secretary of State for Education, to guarantee that, in the event of academy closure, outstanding LGPS liabilities would be met by the Department for Education. This guarantee provides comfort to the trustees in the unlikely event of academy closure.

### Investment Policy

Cash balances are safeguarded by investing them in an interest-bearing current account, a 32 day notice deposit account and a fixed term deposit account with a sound commercial bank (currently Lloyds Bank plc).

### Principal Risks and Uncertainties

The principal risks to the trust are documented and managed using a risk management policy and a risk register which is regularly reviewed.

The main risks are seen as the continuing uncertainty of school funding levels, the loss of reputation through failing standards at the schools within the trust, falling student numbers, failure to safeguard our students, failure on high profile school to school support commissions and the financial impact of our reliance around use of the integrated leisure centre facilities at Alsager School.

Covid-19 remains a risk particularly around staff absence at all levels. Recruitment of staff is also a challenge at all levels.

Key controls in place to mitigate these risks are:

- An organisational structure with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and authorisation levels.
- Documented terms of reference of the committees of the trust.

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Trustees' Report (continued)**

- Financial planning, budgeting and regular management reporting highlighting key areas of financial risk.
- External benchmarking
- Additional Trustee Audit Committee meetings
- Monthly reporting of accounts to the Finance and Audit Committee
- Formal written and published policies for employees
- Vetting procedures as required by legislation for the protection of the vulnerable
- Robust due diligence procedures for new contracts and commissions, and
- Continual monitoring of sports facility costs.

The two main financial risks both relate to per pupil funding. Firstly, the trust resides in Cheshire East which is one of the lowest funded authorities; as such the trust's overall funding is considerably lower than almost all other local authorities; pupil funding rates continue to be lower than some of our closest neighbours and therefore remains the trust's most significant risk. The Government's announcements regarding the implementation of the National Funding Formula continue to cause concern and uncertainty, the implementation has been delayed again meaning funding for 2022-23 will continue to be allocated to local authorities first, allowing some elements of the formula to be adjusted for localised issues. Secondly, Alsager School has expanded its PAN to accommodate pupils moving into the area due to the high demand from ongoing local house building. 150 additional pupils will be educated at Alsager School over a 5-year period starting September 2019. Lagged funding means that the school is funding these students upfront from their depleting reserves. This also gives the school additional challenges around the size of the sixth form.

The Local Government Pension Scheme deficit (£1,049,000 at 31 August 2022) remains a considerable risk. Pension contributions rates have become more affordable with the introduction of a MAT rate following the 2020 valuation. The prevailing MAT rate since April 2020 has been 21.9% (previously 32.9% for Weston Village Primary School and 30.5% for Alsager School).

The other main financial risks are mitigated through the employment of sound financial management and internal control processes. Balanced budgets are set by the trust and limited budgets are further delegated to departments and faculties. Actual performance against agreed budgets is closely monitored by the trust's finance team and via regular meetings of the finance committees of the local governing bodies.

Bank and cash reconciliations are carried out routinely and signed by the authorised officers of the trust's finance team. All orders and payments are signed off by the finance team with appropriate segregation of duties in place. Fixed asset registers are in place and there are processes in place for the acquisition and disposal of assets. Payroll is outsourced and checked by more than one individual each month. The

appropriateness and integrity of internal controls is assessed and reported to the trustees by the Responsible Officer and external auditors.

The security of data is administered by a mix of in-house and bought-in IT professionals at Alsager School and by the same outsourced contractor at Weston Village Primary School and Alsager Highfields Primary School. AMAT has undertaken a review of cyber security across the MAT in response to recent ransomware attacks on educational establishments and are putting stringent security measures in place to further protect the trusts' data and IT systems.

Remaining risks are mitigated to a large extent via membership of the ESFA's Risk Protection Arrangement (RPA).

# **The Cornovii Trust**

## **Trustees' Report (continued)**

### **Fundraising**

The academy trust does not use any external fundraisers. All fundraising undertaken during the year was monitored by the Trustees.

### **Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting**

As the trust does not meet the criteria it is not required to report on its emissions, energy consumption or energy efficiency activities.

### **Plans for Future Periods**

The overall performance in this reporting period was extremely robust and as a consequence will directly reinforce the trust's medium to long term strategy. The trust's main annual objectives for the next year are:

- To continue to focus on rapid school improvement at Alsager Highfields. The focus is to make sure Alsager Highfields is judged a 'Good' school by Ofsted as soon as possible.
- To strive for continuous improvement in examination results and all indicators of performance in the trust KS1-KS5.
- To increase numbers on roll at Alsager Highfields.
- To build, where possible, adequate financial reserves to help stabilise, as far as possible, the uncertainty of revenue funding before and once the National Funding Formula is established, fund building and other investment needs.
- To continue to deliver a more personalised, inclusive and varied post 16 provision to meet the needs of all young people.
- To ensure the smooth merger with Brine MAT and a compliant, consistent and collaborative Trust is in place for the benefit of all young people and staff.
- To further expand The Cornovii Trust in line with the trust's growth strategy. The trust will also continue to explore the opportunities available through academy sponsorship and Trust mergers.
- To ensure that all the schools in the trust are fully immersed in TCT and feel the benefit of joining the trust.

Excellent standards of behaviour will be maintained to create a well-ordered community with learning and the support of students at the heart. The trust's aim is to increase pupil numbers. The curriculum will be broad, balanced and relevant in all key stages allowing all students to achieve success.

Teaching and learning will have pace, purpose, variety and rigour. Students will be able to progress as a result of personalised programmes of study and the provision of online curriculum. Students will continue to be aware of their own strengths and weaknesses and, through assessment for learning, know what they need to do to improve.

Staff will be confident practitioners with appropriate professional development opportunities. Educational outcomes in all performance indicators will be well above national averages and the trust will be in the 'high performing' category within the communities which we serve. The strategic development of the trust will be effectively planned, monitored and supported by a well-equipped and committed board of trustees.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Trustees' Report (continued)

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

The Cornovii Trust acts as a custodian trustee for Alsager Community Trust (ACT). The aim of ACT is to provide increased opportunities for all young people aged 5-18 within the town of Alsager and raise achievement across all 6 schools in the community trust.

The schools are :-

Alsager School

Alsager Highfields Primary School

Cranberry Academy

Excalibur Primary School

Pikemere Primary School

St Gabriel's Primary School

The Cornovii Trust also holds funds on behalf of Alsager School Trust (known as Parents in Partnership) to provide additional educational benefits for the pupils of Alsager School.

Alsager School is one of the joint-lead schools for the Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub and holds the funds for this organisation.

### Auditor

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

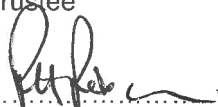
### Reappointment of auditor

The auditors Xeinadin are deemed to be reappointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 6 December 2022 and signed on the board's behalf by:



.....  
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)  
Trustee



.....  
Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (Vice Chair)  
Trustee

# The Cornovii Trust

## Governance Statement

### Scope of Responsibility

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

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

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the CEO, Mr Richard Middlebrook, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between The Cornovii Trust and the Secretary of State for Education. The CEO is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

### Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 4 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Board of Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
Mr Allan Richard Ward	4	4
Mr Richard Middlebrook	4	4
Mrs Theresa Eugena Shirley Jones	0	0
Mr Carl Mark Cooke	4	4
Mr Peter Robin Cox	4	4
Mr William James Clayton	2	4
Mr James Rupert Lowery	3	4
Miss Sally-Anne Ward	0	4
Mr Paul Scales	3	4

### Governance Reviews

Leadership and Management was judged outstanding during Alsager School's last Ofsted visit with the quality of governance being stated as very strong. Having undertaken a review of governance within the Trust there has been considerable changes in its composition, particularly at the time of the merger, which has brought new Members, Trustees and Governors. This has been done at all layers of governance to strengthen both the Trust and governance at individual schools. The crossover between all three layers are now distinct but an important link remains to allow for a flow of information and continuity. The structure is in line with DfE expectations.

### Conflicts of Interest

The Trust manages conflicts of interest through the Register of Pecuniary Interests across all levels of governance and at individual schools; this is collated annually and reviewed at meetings. All parties are aware of the need to avoid conflicts of interest; all levels of governance as well as officers of the trust monitor any potential conflicts on a day to day basis through scrutiny of procurement routes.

### Meetings

The Board of Trustees meets 4 times per year; in addition to this the Finance and Audit Committee meet 6 times per year and the Standards Committee meet 3 times per year. This allows then the opportunity to discharge their responsibilities as detailed in the Academy Trust Handbook and ensures robust governance



## The Cornovii Trust

### Governance Statement (continued)

and provides for effective management arrangements. The Board are provided with monthly management accounts to allow them to maintain effective oversight of funds throughout the year.

The Cornovii Trust's Finance and Audit Committee purpose is to formally approve the consolidated budget, monitor budgets as well as audit arrangements and risk management. Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

<b>Finance and Audit Committee</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>	<b>Out of a possible</b>
Mr Allan Richard Ward	6	6
Mr Richard Middlebrook	6	6
Mr James Rupert Lowery	6	6
Mr William James Clayton	6	6
Mr Peter Cox	3	4

The trust also has a Standards Committee which meets 3 times per year and which monitors standards across the trust.

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

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

The accounting officer considers how the trust's use of its resources has provided good value for money during each academic year, and reports to the board of trustees where value for money can be improved, including the use of benchmarking data or by using a framework where available. The accounting officer for the academy trust has delivered improved value for money during the year by:

#### ***Improving Educational Outcomes***

The trust has sophisticated processes in place to track pupil progress and as a result deploy intervention plans and support where needed. The schools' development plans are focused on staff supporting key groups, identifying any areas of under achievement and ensuring that suitable actions are taken. This is evidenced by:

- Pupil outcomes – see pages 8 and 9.

#### ***Areas to improve***

The schools' development plans have identified key areas to improve:

- Improve outcomes in all areas and the Ofsted rating at Alsager Highfields Primary School.
- Improve outcomes and the Progress 8 score for Pupil Premium pupils at KS4 at Alsager School.
- Improve the Level 3 VA score at Alsager Sixth Form.

#### ***Supporting Suppliers During and after the Pandemic***

Whilst the trust always strives to ensure good value for money, working through and in the aftermath of the pandemic has raised unprecedented challenges. The Procurement Policy Note (PPN) 04/20, supported by additional DfE guidance, set out information and guidance for public bodies on payment of schools' suppliers to ensure service continuity during the pandemic. As the nation emerges out of the pandemic, the trust has worked, and continues to work, in partnership with our suppliers to ensure contracts are relevant and sustainable and deliver value for money over the medium to long term. The contracts in question are extensive but examples include exam boards, catering and refuse collections, grounds maintenance and hygiene services.

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Governance Statement (continued)**

During the pandemic catering proved to be difficult to manage; the unpredictability of numbers of pupils in schools inevitably had an adverse impact on value for money. The need to keep 'bubbles' protected meant that normal levels of catering income could not be maintained. Although all schools in the trust have external catering providers, the financial impact of staffing, food waste and other overheads was challenging to manage. Where it was possible for the catering providers to furlough staff this was done and the trust continues to work hard with the catering providers to plan for continuity of service now that covid restrictions have been officially lifted. Staffing levels have been particularly difficult to manage post-covid and have thus had an impact on service provision.

#### **Capacity to Handle Risk**

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

#### **The Risk and Control Framework**

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

- comprehensive budgeting and monitoring systems with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the board of trustees;
- regular reviews by the finance and audit committee of reports which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- setting targets to measure financial and other performance;
- clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines;
- delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- identification and management of risks.

The board of trustees has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided not to appoint an internal auditor. However, the board of trustees have appointed specialist in key areas to perform appropriate checks. The board considers this to be a proportionate service whilst maintaining professional independence and to avoid any potential for conflict of interest by appointing a trustee or a CFO from another trust; the key areas for 2021-22 were the manual of internal financial procedures and scheme of delegation as well as insurance cover. The specialist auditors undertook a range of checks and reported their findings to the board of trustees. Any recommendations have been reviewed and an action plan is in place to rectify minor issues.

On a regular basis, the reviewer reports to the board of trustees, through the finance and audit committee on the operation of the systems of control and on the discharge of the board of trustees' financial responsibilities. On an annual basis the reviewer prepares a summary report to the committee outlining the areas reviewed, key findings, recommendations and conclusions to help the committee consider actions and assess year on year progress.

The reviewer was able to deliver their schedule of work as planned although it was not possible to procure the summer term's service due to other pressures associated with the merging of the 2 trusts. Recommendations from the reviews that took place were:

- A debt management policy should be formalized; this work will be completed within the review of the manual of internal procedures in the Autumn 2022 term.

# The Cornovii Trust

## Governance Statement (continued)

- A review should take place around the authorization limits in the financial scheme of delegation; this work will be completed within the review of the manual of internal procedures in the Autumn 2022 term.
- Cyber risk insurance should be considered against the relevant costs; the trust insures through the Risk Protection Agreement (RPA) and this includes for cyber cover from September 2022.

### Review of Effectiveness

As accounting officer, Mr Richard Middlebrook has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- the work of Dains Accountants;
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process and the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Correspondence from ESFA eg. FNtl/Ntl and 'minded to' letters.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the finance and audit committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 6 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)  
Trustee



.....  
Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (Vice Chair)  
Trustee

## The Cornovii Trust

### Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance

As Accounting Officer of The Cornovii Trust I have considered my responsibility to notify the academy trust board of trustees and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding received by the academy trust, under the funding agreement in place between the academy trust and the Secretary of State for Education. As part of my consideration I have had due regard to the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the academy trust, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the academy trust's funding agreement and the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

I confirm that the following instances of material irregularity, impropriety or funding non-compliance discovered to date have been notified to the board of trustees and the ESFA. If any instances are identified after the date of this statement, these will be notified to the board of trustees and ESFA



.....  
Mr Richard Middlebrook (CEO and Accounting Officer)  
Accounting officer

Date: 6/12/22 .....

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Statement of trustees' Responsibilities**

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

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 and the Annual Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

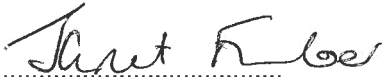
The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been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

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

**The Cornovii Trust**

**Statement of trustees' Responsibilities (continued)**

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on 6/12/22 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)  
Trustee



.....  
Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (Vice Chair)  
Trustee

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Cornovii Trust**

#### **Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Cornovii Trust (the 'Academy') for the year ended 31 August 2022, which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

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 Academy in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### **Conclusions relating to going concern**

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

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

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

#### **Other information (covers the Reference and Administrative Details, the trustees' Report and the Governance Statement)**

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Cornovii Trust (continued)

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

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

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

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

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' Report.

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

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

#### Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of trustees' Responsibilities [set out on page 19], the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

#### Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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



## The Cornovii Trust

### Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The Cornovii Trust (continued)

- the engagement partner ensured that the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence, capabilities and skills to identify or recognise non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- we identified the laws and regulations applicable to the trust through discussions with directors and other management, and from our commercial knowledge and experience of the academies sector;
- we focused on specific laws and regulations which we considered may have a direct material effect on the financial statements or the operations of the trust, including the Companies Act 2006, taxation legislation and data protection, anti-bribery, employment, environmental, and health and safety legislation;
- we assessed the extent of compliance with the laws and regulations identified above through making enquiries of management and inspecting legal correspondence; and
- identified laws and regulations were communicated within the audit team regularly and the team remained alert to instances of non-compliance throughout the audit.

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

- making enquiries of management as to where they considered there was susceptibility to fraud, their knowledge of actual, suspected and alleged fraud; and
- considering the internal controls in place to mitigate risks of fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- performed analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships;
- tested journal entries to identify unusual transactions;
- assessed whether judgements and assumptions made in determining the accounting estimates were indicative of potential bias; and

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

- agreeing financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- reading the minutes of meetings of those charges with governance
- enquiring of management as to actual and potential litigation and claims; and
- reviewing correspondence with HMRC, and the trust's legal advisors

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: [www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities](http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities). This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### Use of our report

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

**The Cornovii Trust**

**Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements to the Members of The  
Cornovii Trust (continued)**



.....  
Anna Bennett (Senior Statutory Auditor)  
For and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor

8th Floor Becket House  
36 Old Jewry  
London  
EC2R 8DD

Date:..... 16-12-22 .....

## **The Cornovii Trust**

### **Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cornovii Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency**

In accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 23 May 2022 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Annual Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency, we have carried out an engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by The Cornovii Trust during the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

#### **Respective responsibilities of the The Cornovii Trust's accounting officer and the reporting accountant**

The Accounting Officer is responsible, under the requirements of The Cornovii Trust's funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education dated 1 April 2018 and the Academies Financial Handbook extant from 1 September 2021, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Annual Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by the Education & Skills Funding Agency. We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

#### **Approach**

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

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

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

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

The work undertaken to draw to our conclusion includes:

- We have confirmed that the activities conform to the trust's framework of authorities. As identified by review of minutes, management accounts, discussion with the accounting officer and other key management personnel.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cornovii Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (continued)

- We have carried out an analytical review as part of the consideration of whether general activities of the trust are within the trust's framework of authorities.
- We have considered the evidence supporting the accounting officer's statement on regularity, propriety and compliance and have evaluated the general control environment of the trust and extended the procedures required for financial statements to include regularity.
- We have assessed and tested a sample of the specific control activities over regularity of a particular activity. In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have considered whether the activity is permissible within the trust's framework of authorities. We confirm that each item tested has been appropriately authorised in accordance with the trust's delegated authorities and that the internal delegations have been approved by the Trust Board and conform to the limits set by the Department for Education.
- Formal representations have been obtained from the governing body and the accounting officer acknowledging their responsibilities including disclosing all non-compliance with laws and regulations specific to the authorising framework, access to accounting records, provision of information and explanations, and other matters where direct evidence is not available.
- In performing sample testing of expenditure, we have reviewed against specific terms of grant funding within the funding agreement. We have reviewed the list of suppliers and have considered whether supplies are from related parties and have reviewed minutes for evidence of declaration of interest, and whether or not there was involvement in the decision to order from this supplier.
- We have performed sample testing of other income and tested whether activities are permitted within the trust's charitable objects.

#### Conclusion

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the year from 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

  
.....

Reporting Accountant

Xeinadin Audit Ltd

8th Floor Becket House  
36 Old Jewry  
London  
EC2R 8DD

Date:.....16-12-22.....

## The Cornovii Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2021/22 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Voluntary income					
Donations and capital grants					
2	-	53,913	-	414,570	468,483
Transfer from local authority on conversion					
	-	-	-	2,195,000	2,195,000
Other trading activities					
4	289,235	49,912	-	-	339,147
Investments					
5	513	-	-	-	513
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations					
3	-	<u>11,967,669</u>	-	-	<u>11,967,669</u>
<b>Total</b>					
	<u>289,748</u>	<u>12,071,494</u>	-	<u>2,609,570</u>	<u>14,970,812</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds					
6	52,202	-	-	-	52,202
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations					
7	-	<u>11,873,948</u>	<u>810,000</u>	<u>1,028,316</u>	<u>13,712,264</u>
<b>Total</b>					
	<u>52,202</u>	<u>11,873,948</u>	<u>810,000</u>	<u>1,028,316</u>	<u>13,764,466</u>
Net income/(expenditure)					
	237,546	197,546	(810,000)	1,581,254	1,206,346
Transfers between funds					
	(78,693)	(140,807)	-	219,500	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes					
27	-	-	<u>4,572,000</u>	-	<u>4,572,000</u>
Net movement in funds					
	158,853	56,739	3,762,000	1,800,754	5,778,346
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2021					
	<u>840,350</u>	<u>104,843</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>	<u>27,184,213</u>	<u>23,318,406</u>

**The Cornovii Trust**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2022  
(including Income and Expenditure Account) (continued)**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Pension Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £</b>	<b>2021/22 Total £</b>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2022		<u>999,203</u>	<u>161,582</u>	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>28,984,967</u>	<u>29,096,752</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2021 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2020/21 Total £
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Voluntary income					
Donations and capital grants	208	23,135	-	660,946	684,289
Transfer from local authority on conversion	55,550	-	(117,000)	-	(61,450)
Other trading activities	264,912	28,373	-	-	293,285
Investments	392	-	-	-	392
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	-	11,574,183	-	-	11,574,183
<b>Total</b>	<u>321,062</u>	<u>11,625,691</u>	<u>(117,000)</u>	<u>660,946</u>	<u>12,490,699</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds	54,117	-	-	-	54,117
<i>Charitable activities:</i>					
Academy trust educational operations	-	11,213,956	543,000	998,458	12,755,414
<b>Total</b>	<u>54,117</u>	<u>11,213,956</u>	<u>543,000</u>	<u>998,458</u>	<u>12,809,531</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	266,945	411,735	(660,000)	(337,512)	(318,832)
Transfers between funds	(105,350)	(378,674)	-	484,024	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>					
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	-	-	(1,078,000)	-	(1,078,000)
Net movement in funds/(deficit)	161,595	33,061	(1,738,000)	146,512	(1,396,832)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2020	<u>678,755</u>	<u>71,782</u>	<u>(3,073,000)</u>	<u>27,037,701</u>	<u>24,715,238</u>

**The Cornovii Trust**

**Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2021  
(including Income and Expenditure Account) (continued)**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted General Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Pension Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £</b>	<b>2020/21 Total £</b>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2021		<u>840,350</u>	<u>104,843</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>	<u>27,184,213</u>	<u>23,318,406</u>



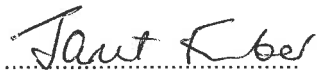
**The Cornovii Trust**  
**(Registration number: 08597784)**  
**Balance Sheet**

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	28,177,838	26,266,393
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	429,293	901,210
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,671,619</u>	<u>2,090,159</u>
		3,100,912	2,991,369
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(912,354)</u>	<u>(913,387)</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,188,558</u>	<u>2,077,982</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		30,366,396	28,344,375
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	15	<u>(220,644)</u>	<u>(214,969)</u>
Net assets excluding pension liability		30,145,752	28,129,406
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>
Net assets including pension liability		<u>29,096,752</u>	<u>23,318,406</u>
<b>Funds of the Academy Trust:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Restricted general fund	16	161,582	104,843
Restricted fixed asset fund	16	28,984,967	27,184,213
Restricted pension fund	16	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>
		28,097,549	22,478,056
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Unrestricted general fund	16	<u>999,203</u>	<u>840,350</u>
Total funds		<u>29,096,752</u>	<u>23,318,406</u>

**The Cornovii Trust**

**(Registration number: 08597784)  
Balance Sheet (continued)**

The financial statements on pages 27 to 65 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ...~~6/12/22~~... and signed on their behalf by:



.....  
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)  
Trustee



.....  
Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (Vice Chair)  
Trustee

## The Cornovii Trust

### Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Net cash provided by operating activities	20	902,236	781,890
Cash flows from investing activities	22	(329,677)	(326,581)
Cash flows from financing activities	21	<u>8,901</u>	<u>21,515</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		581,460	476,824
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>2,090,159</u>	<u>1,613,335</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	23	<u><u>2,671,619</u></u>	<u><u>2,090,159</u></u>

# The Cornovii Trust

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022

### 1 Accounting policies

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

#### **Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements of the academy trust, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Academies Accounts Direction 2021 to 2022 issued by ESFA, the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

Alsager Multi Academy Trust meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

#### **Going concern**

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

#### **Income**

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

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### **Grants**

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

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

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

##### **Sponsorship income**

Sponsorship income provided to the academy trust which amounts to a donation is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities in the period in which it is receivable (where there are no performance-related conditions), where the receipt is probable and it can be measured reliably.

##### **Donations**

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

##### **Other income**

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

##### **Donated goods, facilities and services**

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

##### **Transfer on conversion**

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

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### **Donated fixed assets**

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

##### **Expenditure**

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

##### **Expenditure on raising funds**

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

##### **Charitable activities**

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

All resources expended are inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

##### **Tangible fixed assets**

Assets costing £500 or more are capitalised as tangible fixed assets and are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Where tangible fixed assets have been acquired with the aid of specific grants, either from the government or from the private sector, they are included in the Balance Sheet at cost and depreciated over their expected useful economic life. The related grants are credited to a restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities and carried forward in the Balance Sheet. Depreciation on such assets is charged to the restricted fixed asset fund in the Statement of Financial Activities so as to reduce the fund over the useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the academy trust's depreciation policy.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets other than freehold land, at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset over its expected useful lives, per the table below.

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Buildings	2% & 5% straight line
Plant & Machinery	10% & 20% straight line

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fixtures & Fittings	10% & 20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33 1/3% & 20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line
Leasehold Land	2% straight line

Assets in the course of construction are included at cost. Depreciation on these assets is not charged until they are brought into use and reclassified to freehold or leasehold land and buildings.

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

#### Liabilities

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

#### Provisions

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

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

#### Leased assets

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

#### Taxation

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

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

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

##### **Pension benefits**

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the academy trust in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective unit credit method. As stated in the notes to the financial statements, 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 scheme for accounting purposes and the contributions recognised in the period to which they relate.

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

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

##### **Fund accounting**

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

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

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

Restricted pension funds comprise all income, costs and actuarial valuations associated with the Local Government pension scheme (LGPS).



## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 1 Accounting policies (continued)

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

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

##### ***Critical accounting estimates and assumptions***

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

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in determining the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 27, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2022. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

##### **Financial Instruments**

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

Financial assets - trade and other debtors are basic financial instruments and are debt instruments measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 13. Prepayments are not financial instruments. Amounts due to the charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

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

Financial liabilities - trade creditors, accruals and other creditors are financial instruments, and are measured at amortised cost as detailed in note 14. Taxation and social security are not included in the financial instruments disclosure definition. Deferred income is not deemed to be a financial liability, as the cash settlement has already taken place and there is an obligation to deliver services rather than cash or another financial instrument. Amounts due to charity's wholly owned subsidiary are held at face value less any impairment.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 2 Donations and capital grants

	Restricted funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
<b>Other voluntary income</b>				
Educational trips and visits	44,946	-	44,946	2,689
Capital grants	-	411,400	411,400	568,567
Other donations	8,967	-	8,967	20,446
Donated fixed assets	-	3,170	3,170	92,379
Revenue donations - unrestricted	-	-	-	208
	53,913	414,570	468,483	684,289

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

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

	Restricted funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
<b>DfE/ESFA revenue grants</b>			
UIFSM	67,523	67,523	48,055
Other DfE/ESFA grants	184,051	184,051	31,020
Teachers Pay Grant	23,009	23,009	124,605
Pupil Premium	320,348	320,348	308,665
Teachers Pension Grant	65,016	65,016	352,099
PE & Sports Grant	36,200	36,200	36,398
General Annual Grant	10,107,819	10,107,819	9,327,639
Maths Hub	629,762	629,762	636,012
FSM Supplementary grant	-	-	16,133
Rates Relief	23,220	23,220	39,284
	<u>11,456,948</u>	<u>11,456,948</u>	<u>10,919,910</u>
<b>Other government grants</b>			
Local Authority Grants	489,951	489,951	467,537
<b>Non-government grants and other income</b>			
Other non-government grant	1,000	1,000	2,834
<b>Covid-19 additional funding (DfE/ESFA)</b>			
Covid catch-up premium	-	-	128,901
Other DfE/ESFA COVID -19 funding	19,770	19,770	55,001
	<u>19,770</u>	<u>19,770</u>	<u>183,902</u>
Total grants	<u>11,967,669</u>	<u>11,967,669</u>	<u>11,574,183</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
Hire of facilities	7,543	-	7,543	7,375
Catering income	38,166	-	38,166	21,459
Other sales	86,501	1,250	87,751	60,318
Misc Income	-	7,443	7,443	12,381
Insurance Income	16,785	-	16,785	11,515
Apprenticeship levy income	-	12,500	12,500	15,001
Music income	-	28,719	28,719	4,256
Placement income	140,240	-	140,240	160,980
	<u>289,235</u>	<u>49,912</u>	<u>339,147</u>	<u>293,285</u>

#### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds £	2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
Interest received	<u>513</u>	<u>513</u>	<u>392</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 6 Resources expended

	Non Pay Expenditure			2021/22 Total £	2020/21 Total £
	Staff costs £	Premises £	Other costs £		
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>					
Allocated support costs	52,202	-	-	52,202	54,117
<b>Academy's educational operations</b>					
Direct costs	8,669,097	952,721	1,312,486	10,934,304	10,251,079
Allocated support costs	<u>1,627,739</u>	<u>598,218</u>	<u>552,003</u>	<u>2,777,960</u>	<u>2,504,335</u>
	<u><u>10,349,038</u></u>	<u><u>1,550,939</u></u>	<u><u>1,864,489</u></u>	<u><u>13,764,466</u></u>	<u><u>12,809,531</u></u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 6 Resources expended (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Operating leases - other leases	30,323	33,705
Fees payable to auditor - audit	10,500	10,100
- other audit services	5,000	5,400
Depreciation	<u>1,028,315</u>	<u>999,212</u>

#### 7 Charitable activities

	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	10,934,304	10,251,079
Support costs - educational operations	<u>2,777,960</u>	<u>2,504,335</u>
	<u>13,712,264</u>	<u>12,755,414</u>

	Educational operations	2021/22 Total	2020/21 Total
	£	£	£
<b>Analysis of support costs</b>			
Support staff costs	1,627,739	1,627,739	1,309,762
Depreciation	75,595	75,595	89,347
Technology costs	99,182	99,182	113,748
Premises costs	522,623	522,623	513,625
Legal costs - conversion	4,073	4,073	2,992
Legal costs - other	7,088	7,088	8,119
Other support costs	424,736	424,736	450,987
Governance costs	<u>16,924</u>	<u>16,924</u>	<u>15,755</u>
Total support costs	<u>2,777,960</u>	<u>2,777,960</u>	<u>2,504,335</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 8 Staff

##### Staff costs

	2021/22 £	2020/21 £
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	7,056,552	6,717,049
Social security costs	724,337	643,611
Pension costs	<u>2,278,745</u>	<u>1,983,120</u>
	10,059,634	9,343,780
Agency staff costs	191,498	95,466
Staff restructuring costs	<u>45,704</u>	<u>16,552</u>
	<u><u>10,296,836</u></u>	<u><u>9,455,798</u></u>

##### Staff numbers

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

	2021/22 No	2020/21 No
Teachers	116	113
Administration and support	129	118
Management	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>
	<u><u>260</u></u>	<u><u>244</u></u>

##### Higher paid staff

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

	2022 No	2021 No
£60,001 - £70,000	4	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	1
£110,001 - £120,000	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 8 Staff (continued)

##### Key management personnel

The key management personnel of the academy trust comprise the trustees and the senior management team as listed on page 1. The total amount of key management personnel benefits (including employer pension contributions and employer national insurance contributions) received by key management personnel for their services to the academy trust was £1,100,127 (2021: £1,198,811).

##### Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £45,704 (2021: £Nil). Individually, the payments were: £5,475, £34,754, £5,475

	2022 £	2021 £
<b>Staff restructuring costs comprise:</b>		
Redundancy payments	-	16,552
Severance payments	<u>45,704</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>45,704</u>	<u>16,552</u>

#### 9 Central services

The academy trust charges for these services on the following basis:

2.75% of AWPU (Age Weighted Pupil Units)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Alsager School	335,188	168,300
Weston Village Primary School	51,205	27,162
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	<u>49,808</u>	<u>41,834</u>
	<u>436,201</u>	<u>237,296</u>

#### 10 Related Party Transactions -Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

One or more trustees has been paid remuneration or has received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The principal and other staff trustees only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking the roles of principal and staff members under their contracts of employment.

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



## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 10 Related Party Transactions -Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses (continued)

Mr Richard Middlebrook (CEO and Accounting Officer) (Executive Headteacher):

Remuneration: £115,000 - £120,000 (2021 - £115,000 - £120,000)

Employer's pension contributions: £25,000 - £30,000 (2021 - £25,000 - £30,000)

During the year ended 31 August 2022, travel and subsistence expenses totalling £540 (2021 - £164) were reimbursed or paid directly to 2 trustees (2021 - 1).

Other related party transactions involving the trustees are set out in note 28.

#### 11 Trustees' and Officers' Insurance

In accordance with normal commercial practice the academy has purchased insurance to protect trustees and officers from claims arising from negligent acts, errors or omissions occurring whilst on academy business. The insurance provides cover up to £10,000,000 on any one claim and the cost for the period ended 31 August 2022 is included in the total insurance cost.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

12 Tangible fixed assets	Freehold land and buildings £	Leasehold land and buildings £	Assets under construction £	Furniture and equipment £	Computer hardware £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>							
At 1 September 2021	25,795,116	2,843,671	285,124	2,209,609	1,065,803	63,793	32,263,116
Transferred on conversion	2,195,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,195,000
Additions	589,531	125	37,838	21,765	95,501	-	744,760
Transfers	43,082	242,042	(285,124)	-	-	-	-
At 31 August 2022	<u>28,622,729</u>	<u>3,085,838</u>	<u>37,838</u>	<u>2,231,374</u>	<u>1,161,304</u>	<u>63,793</u>	<u>35,202,876</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>							
At 1 September 2021	3,595,687	174,455	-	1,320,847	873,546	32,188	5,996,723
Charge for the year	530,707	60,029	-	313,658	116,700	7,221	1,028,315
At 31 August 2022	<u>4,126,394</u>	<u>234,484</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,634,505</u>	<u>990,246</u>	<u>39,409</u>	<u>7,025,038</u>
<b>Net book value</b>							
At 31 August 2022	<u>24,496,335</u>	<u>2,851,354</u>	<u>37,838</u>	<u>596,869</u>	<u>171,058</u>	<u>24,384</u>	<u>28,177,838</u>
At 31 August 2021	<u>22,199,429</u>	<u>2,669,216</u>	<u>285,124</u>	<u>888,762</u>	<u>192,257</u>	<u>31,605</u>	<u>26,266,393</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 13 Debtors

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	48,413	163,780
Prepayments	96,054	69,632
Accrued grant and other income	251,455	587,185
VAT recoverable	33,371	80,570
Other debtors	-	43
	<u>429,293</u>	<u>901,210</u>

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

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	127,843	222,370
Other taxation and social security	214,367	162,262
Other creditors	158,772	79,992
Salix Loan	32,463	29,237
Pension scheme creditor	127,446	174,233
Accruals	151,042	86,637
Deferred income	100,421	158,656
	<u>912,354</u>	<u>913,387</u>
	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>

#### Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2021	158,656	184,072
Resources deferred in the period	100,421	158,656
Amounts released from previous periods	(158,656)	(184,072)
	<u>100,421</u>	<u>158,656</u>

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Maths Hub received from the DfE, Recovery premium, UIFSM in respect of the year ended 31st March 2023, amounts received from Afghan Education and ITT funding.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 15 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Loans	45,949	49,175
Other creditors	<u>174,695</u>	<u>165,794</u>
	<u>220,644</u>	<u>214,969</u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy had received a total of £330,939 in CIF/Salix Funding relating to capital projects (2021: £296,939). £189,431 of this was funding was an interest free loan approved by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) repayable in equal instalments over eight years.

The remaining loan balances of £58,333 and £49,175 attract CIF loan interest at rates of 2.29% and 2.07% respectively and are repayable over ten years. £34,000 received in year interest to be confirmed by ESFA. Repayments falling due within one year are included in note 14 above.

#### 16 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	29,231	10,107,819	(9,834,661)	(140,807)	161,582
Other DfE/ESFA grants	6,681	873,233	(879,914)	-	-
Other restricted income	15,415	103,825	(119,240)	-	-
UIFSM	-	67,523	(67,523)	-	-
Teachers pay and pension grant	-	88,025	(88,025)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	320,348	(320,348)	-	-
Other Grants	32,024	490,951	(522,975)	-	-
Covid Funding	<u>21,492</u>	<u>19,770</u>	<u>(41,262)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>104,843</u>	<u>12,071,494</u>	<u>(11,873,948)</u>	<u>(140,807)</u>	<u>161,582</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2022 £
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,197,634	411,400	(191,665)	36,016	5,453,385
Assets transferred on conversion	18,591,733	2,195,000	(710,290)	-	20,076,443
Private donations	59,969	-	(12,300)	-	47,669
Capital expenditure from GAG	698,015	-	(23,851)	183,484	857,648
Private grant	29,162	-	(996)	-	28,166
Other government grants	2,551,019	-	(87,169)	-	2,463,850
DfE/ESFA donated assets	<u>56,681</u>	<u>3,170</u>	<u>(2,045)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,806</u>
	27,184,213	2,609,570	(1,028,316)	219,500	28,984,967
<b>Restricted pension funds</b>					
Restricted pension funds	<u>(4,811,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(810,000)</u>	<u>4,572,000</u>	<u>(1,049,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	22,478,056	14,681,064	(13,712,264)	4,650,693	28,097,549
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>840,350</u>	<u>289,748</u>	<u>(52,202)</u>	<u>(78,693)</u>	<u>999,203</u>
Total funds	<u>23,318,406</u>	<u>14,970,812</u>	<u>(13,764,466)</u>	<u>4,572,000</u>	<u>29,096,752</u>

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

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2021 £
<b>Restricted general funds</b>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	71,782	9,327,639	(8,991,516)	(378,674)	29,231
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	146,107	(139,426)	-	6,681
Other restricted income	-	51,507	(36,092)	-	15,415
Teachers pay and pension grant	-	476,704	(476,704)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	308,665	(308,665)	-	-
Maths Hub	-	636,012	(636,012)	-	-
Other Grants	-	491,886	(459,862)	-	32,024
Covid Funding	-	187,171	(165,679)	-	21,492
	<u>71,782</u>	<u>11,625,691</u>	<u>(11,213,956)</u>	<u>(378,674)</u>	<u>104,843</u>
<b>Restricted fixed asset funds</b>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,041,936	568,567	(412,869)	-	5,197,634
Assets transferred on conversion	19,097,507	-	(505,774)	-	18,591,733
Private donations	40,127	21,215	(1,373)	-	59,969
Capital expenditure from GAG	218,889	-	(4,898)	484,024	698,015
Private grant	29,831	-	(669)	-	29,162
Other government grants	2,609,411	-	(58,392)	-	2,551,019
DfE/ESFA donated assets	-	71,164	(14,483)	-	56,681
	<u>27,037,701</u>	<u>660,946</u>	<u>(998,458)</u>	<u>484,024</u>	<u>27,184,213</u>
<b>Restricted pension funds</b>					
Restricted pension funds	<u>(3,073,000)</u>	<u>(117,000)</u>	<u>(543,000)</u>	<u>(1,078,000)</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	24,036,483	12,169,637	(12,755,414)	(972,650)	22,478,056
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Unrestricted general funds	<u>678,755</u>	<u>321,062</u>	<u>(54,117)</u>	<u>(105,350)</u>	<u>840,350</u>
Total funds	<u>24,715,238</u>	<u>12,490,699</u>	<u>(12,809,531)</u>	<u>(1,078,000)</u>	<u>23,318,406</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

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

General Annual Grant must be used for the normal running expenses of an Academy and any amounts carried forward at the end of the financial year must be in accordance with the terms of the Funding Agreement.

Other DfE/ESFA grants comprise additional funding received for the furtherance of education, which must be used in accordance with the specific terms of each grant.

Other government grants include LA funding for Special Education Needs and growth funding.

Other restricted funds include contributions received for educational visits, donations and the related expenditure.

The pension reserve represents the value of the Academy's share of the deficit in the Local Government Pension Scheme. The deficit at 1 September 2021 was £4,811,000 and had fallen to £1,049,000 at 31 August 2022.

Restricted fixed assets funds are those funds relating to the long term assets of the Academy used in delivering the objects of the Academy.

Unrestricted funds are funds which the Trustees may use in the pursuance of the Academy's objectives and are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees.

#### Total funds analysis by academy

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 were allocated as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Alsager School	876,740	637,468
Weston Village Primary School	110,766	119,472
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	160,238	170,563
Central services	<u>13,041</u>	<u>17,690</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,160,785	945,193
DfE/ESFA capital grants	28,984,967	27,184,213
Restricted pension funds	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>(4,811,000)</u>
Total	<u><u>29,096,752</u></u>	<u><u>23,318,406</u></u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

#### Total cost analysis by academy

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

	<b>Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Other Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Educational Supplies £</b>	<b>Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £</b>	<b>Total 2022 £</b>
Alsager School	6,794,549	459,820	854,669	851,714	8,960,752
Weston Village Primary School	873,498	182,957	50,817	204,286	1,311,558
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	851,867	114,311	34,041	211,872	1,212,091
Central services	149,183	197,853	174	94,494	441,704
Academy Trust	<u>8,669,097</u>	<u>954,941</u>	<u>939,701</u>	<u>1,362,366</u>	<u>11,926,105</u>



## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 16 Funds (continued)

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

	<b>Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Other Support Staff Costs £</b>	<b>Educational Supplies £</b>	<b>Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £</b>	<b>Total 2021 £</b>
Alsager School	6,426,908	536,214	851,707	929,229	8,744,058
Weston Village Primary School	822,231	199,541	46,055	200,666	1,268,494
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	845,575	109,259	40,644	243,917	1,239,394
Central services	<u>99,473</u>	<u>37,865</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>164,242</u>	<u>301,581</u>
Academy Trust	<u><u>8,194,187</u></u>	<u><u>882,879</u></u>	<u><u>938,406</u></u>	<u><u>1,538,054</u></u>	<u><u>11,553,527</u></u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Fund balances at 31 August 2022 are represented by:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	28,177,838	28,177,838
Current assets	999,203	1,294,850	806,859	3,100,912
Current liabilities	-	(912,354)	-	(912,354)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(220,644)	-	(220,644)
Pension scheme liability	-	(1,049,000)	-	(1,049,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>999,203</b>	<b>(887,148)</b>	<b>28,984,697</b>	<b>29,096,752</b>

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

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted general funds £	Restricted fixed asset funds £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	26,266,393	26,266,393
Current assets	840,350	1,233,200	917,820	2,991,370
Current liabilities	-	(913,388)	-	(913,388)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(214,969)	-	(214,969)
Pension scheme liability	-	(4,811,000)	-	(4,811,000)
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>840,350</b>	<b>(4,706,157)</b>	<b>27,184,213</b>	<b>23,318,406</b>

#### 18 Capital commitments

	2022 £	2021 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	476,835	566,944

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

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

##### *Operating leases*

At 31 August 2022 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	28,525	24,567
Amounts due between one and five years	20,831	40,866
Amounts due after five years	295,000	297,500
	<u>344,356</u>	<u>362,933</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

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

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Net income/(expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	1,206,346	(318,832)
Depreciation	1,028,315	998,460
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(411,400)	(568,567)
Donated assets	(3,170)	(92,379)
Interest receivable	(513)	(392)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	725,000	481,000
Defined benefit pension scheme inherited	-	117,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	85,000	62,000
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(1,723,083)	202,988
Decrease in creditors	(1,033)	(99,388)
Assets transferred on conversion	<u>(2,195,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	<u>(1,289,538)</u>	<u>781,890</u>

#### 21 Cash flows from financing activities

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Cash inflows from new borrowing	34,000	49,175
Repayments of borrowing	<u>(25,099)</u>	<u>(27,660)</u>
Net cash provided by financing activities	<u>8,901</u>	<u>21,515</u>

#### 22 Cash flows from investing activities

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	513	392
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(741,590)	(895,540)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	<u>411,400</u>	<u>568,567</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(329,677)</u>	<u>(326,581)</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 23 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>2,671,619</u>	<u>2,090,159</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>2,671,619</u></u>	<u><u>2,090,159</u></u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2021 £	Cash flows £	Other non-cash changes £	At 31 August 2022 £
Cash	2,090,159	581,460	-	2,671,619
Loans falling due within one year	(29,237)	-	(3,226)	(32,463)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(214,969)	(5,675)	-	(220,644)
	<u>(244,206)</u>	<u>(5,675)</u>	<u>(3,226)</u>	<u>(253,107)</u>
Total	<u>1,845,953</u>	<u>575,785</u>	<u>(3,226)</u>	<u>2,418,512</u>

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 25 Contingent liabilities

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

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

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

#### 26 Members' liability

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

#### 27 Pension and similar obligations

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

The latest actuarial valuation of the TPS related to the period ended 31 March 2016 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019.

Contributions amounting to £(127,446) (2021 - £(174,233)) were payable to the schemes at 31 August and are included within creditors.

#### Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

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

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

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

- employer contribution rates set at 23.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy)
- total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £218,100 million, and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £196,100 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £22,000 million
- the SCAPE rate, set by HMT, is used to determine the notional investment return. The current SCAPE rate is 2.4% above the rate of CPI. assumed real rate of return is 2.4% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings. The rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.2%. The assumed nominal rate of return including earnings growth is 4.45%.

The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £961,632 (2021: £949,795). A copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation is on the Teachers' Pensions website.

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

##### Local government pension scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee-administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 August 2022 was £499,000 (2021 - £486,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £384,000 (2021 - £377,000) and employees' contributions totalled £115,000 (2021 - £109,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.9% for employers and banded from 5% to 12.5% for employees.

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



## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Principal actuarial assumptions

	2022 %	2021 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.75	3.60
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	3.05	2.90
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>4.25</u>	<u>1.65</u>

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

	2022	2021
<b>Retiring today</b>		
Males retiring today	21.20	21.40
Females retiring today	23.80	24.00
<b>Retiring in 20 years</b>		
Males retiring in 20 years	22.10	22.40
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.50</u>	<u>25.70</u>

##### Sensitivity analysis

	2022 £	2021 £
Discount rate +0.1%	154,000.00	242,000.00
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	279,000.00	432,000.00
CPI rate +0.1%	146,000.00	205,000.00
Salary increase rate +0.1%	<u>19,000.00</u>	<u>33,000.00</u>

The academy trust's share of the assets in the scheme were:

	2022 £	2021 £
Equities	2,904,000	2,530,460
Government bonds	1,897,000	2,310,420
Property	771,000	550,100
Cash and other liquid assets	<u>355,000</u>	<u>110,020</u>
Total market value of assets	<u>5,927,000</u>	<u>5,501,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was (£471,000) (2021 - £676,000).

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

##### Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
Current service cost	(725,000)	(481,000)
Interest income	102,000	86,000
Interest cost	(187,000)	(148,000)
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(810,000)</u>	<u>(543,000)</u>

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

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
At start of period	10,789,000	7,468,000
Conversion of academy trusts	-	594,000
Current service cost	1,109,000	858,000
Interest cost	187,000	148,000
Employee contributions	115,000	109,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(5,145,000)	1,668,000
Benefits paid	(79,000)	(56,000)
At 31 August	<u>6,976,000</u>	<u>10,789,000</u>

##### Changes in the fair value of academy trust's share of scheme assets:

	2021/22	2020/21
	£	£
At start of period	5,978,000	4,395,000
Conversion of academy trusts	-	477,000
Interest income	102,000	86,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	(573,000)	590,000
Employer contributions	384,000	377,000
Employee contributions	115,000	109,000
Benefits paid	(79,000)	(56,000)
At 31 August	<u>5,927,000</u>	<u>5,978,000</u>

#### 28 Related party transactions

Owing to the nature of the academy trust and the composition of the board of trustees being drawn from local public and private sector organisations, transactions may take place with organisations in which the trustees have an interest. The following related party transactions took place in the financial period.

## The Cornovii Trust

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2022 (continued)

#### 28 Related party transactions (continued)

##### Expenditure related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

##### Everybody Health & Leisure

(A health and wellbeing charity based in Cheshire East that provides the trust with the use of its facilities for a fee. Richard Middlebrook, CEO and Accounting Officer, is a director of the company.)

During the year the trust paid £20,200 for hire of leisure facilities (2021: £12,216).

In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

The element above £2,500 has been provided 'at no more than cost' and Everybody Health & Leisure has provided a statement of assurance confirming this.

At the balance sheet date the amount due to Everybody Health & Leisure was £Nil (2021 - £Nil).

##### Alsager Community Trust (ACT)

(Richard Middlebrook (CEO & Accounting officer) Director of the group of schools in Alsager formed to provide increased opportunities and raise achievement for all young people aged 5-18 within the town of Alsager. ACT dissolved at Companies House 17th August 2021.

At the balance sheet date the amount held on behalf of ACT owed to school was £5,801.)

In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2021.

At the balance sheet date the amount due to Alsager Community Trust (ACT) was £Nil (2021 - £Nil).

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook, including notifying ESFA of all transactions made on or after 1 April 2019 and obtaining their approval where required, and with the academy trust's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures relating to connected and related party transactions.

##### Income related party transactions

During the year the academy made the following related party transactions:

##### Everybody Health & Leisure

(A health and wellbeing charity based in Cheshire East that provides the trust with the use of its facilities for a fee. Richard Middlebrook, CEO and Accounting Officer, is a director of the company.)

During the year, Everybody Health & Leisure paid the trust £Nil for the hire of the outdoor pitches (2021 £539)..

#### 29 Events after the end of the reporting period

On 1st September 2022, Brine Multi Academy Trust (comprising of Brine Leas School and Audlem St James' CofE Primary School) transferred to The Cornovii Trust.