

Registration number: 08597784

The Cornovii Trust

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

The Cornovii Trust

Contents

Reference and Administrative Details	1
trustees' Report	2 to 13
Governance Statement	14 to 17
Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance	18
Statement of trustees' Responsibilities	19
Independent Auditor's Report on the Financial Statements	20 to 23
Independent Reporting Accountant's Assurance Report on Regularity to The Cornovii Trust and the Education and Skills Funding Agency	24 to 25
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)	26 to 27
Balance Sheet	28 to 29
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024	30
Notes to the Financial Statements	31 to 61

The Cornovii Trust

Reference and Administrative Details

Members	Mr Julian Timothy Brooks Mrs Naomi Willoughby-Foster Mr Edwin Forshaw Chester Diocesan Board of Education Sajida Habib (appointed 10 th July 2024)
Trustees	Mr Nigel John Cliffe Mrs Susan Anne Day Mr Stephen Mark Evans (appointed 10 th July 2024) Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair) Mr Paul Robert Gray (appointed 21 st May 2024) Mr Carl Leech Mr Michael James Needham (appointed 21 st May 2024) Mr Barrie Pitt Mr Paul Scales Mrs Ellen Marie Walton Mr William James Clayton (resigned 26 th September 2023) Mr James Rupert Lowery (resigned 5 th January 2024) Mr Richard Andrew Robinson (resigned 31 st August 2024)
Senior Leadership Team	Mr Richard Middlebrook (Chief Executive Officer and Accounting Officer) Mrs Susan Reissing (Chief Financial Officer) Mrs Andrea O'Neill (Headteacher, Alsager School) Mr Thomas Adam Cutts (Headteacher, Weston Village Primary School) Mrs Rachel Woolham (Headteacher, Alsager Highfields Primary School) Mr David Cole (Headteacher, Brine Leas School until 28 th April 2024) Mr Paul Whitehead (Headteacher, Brine Leas School from 1 st May 2024) Mr Andy Perry (Headteacher, Audlem St James' CofE Primary School)
Registered Office	Hassall Road Alsager Cheshire ST7 2HR
Company Registration Number	08597784
Auditors	Xeinadin Audit Limited Riverside House Kings Reach Business Park Stockport SK4 2HD
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 2023 to 31 August 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

The Cornovii Trust (TCT) (formerly Alsager Multi Academy Trust) changed its name when Alsager Multi Academy Trust (AMAT) merged with Brine Multi Academy Trust (BMAT) on 1st September 2022. The Trust operates 2 secondary and 3 primary academies in the Alsager and Nantwich areas. In September 2023 the 5 schools in The Cornovii Trust had a combined pupil capacity of 3716 and in the October 2023 census had a roll of 3607.

Academies in the trust during the accounting year:

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

In September 2024 Pear Tree Primary School joined The Cornovii Trust.

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.

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.

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

Organisational Structure

The trustees are responsible for:

- Setting trust policies
- Monitoring risk
- 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 Financial Statements.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the accounting officer. The day to day management of the trust is delegated to him and the Headteachers / Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) of each school. The Headteachers of each school are listed 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 Headteachers are responsible for the authorisation of spending within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff – though appointment boards for posts in the SLTs always include the CEO or trustee. Some spending control is devolved to members of the management team within agreed limits in accordance with the scheme of delegation.

Local Governing bodies meet on at least a termly basis to consider school business and ratify decisions. The local 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 policies; the LGBs implement the policies. The Teachers Pay Policy states that all teachers pay will be set in line with the School Teachers Pay and Conditions Document (STPCD). The CEO's, Headteachers and SLT 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
2	2

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	2
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	£20,209,343.27
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%
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Related Parties and other Connected Charities and Organisations

Cheshire East Everybody Health and Leisure	Leisure Centre and Facilities Access Agreement CEO is a trustee. Everybody Health and Leisure is the charitable arm of Cheshire East Council which runs their Leisure facilities.
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 to 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.

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 we use a combination of remote and face to face meetings and training. Each school has a set timetable of meetings each week.

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Trustees' Report (continued)

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.

Trustees recognise the key role played by the Trust's suppliers and partners in the delivery of its objectives.

Objectives and Activities

The main objects and aims of the trust during the year ending 31 August 2024 are summarised below:

- To further develop effective collaborative working across the organisation, using the expertise and good practice from within our schools as a driver for school improvement for all.
- To centralise systems and processes in such a way that supports schools as much as possible and which provides trustees with the required oversight.
- To continue to explore future opportunities for growth / expansion of the MAT in line with our 'growth strategy' and at a time and pace that was right for our organisation.
- 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.
- 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, this included using the School Condition Allowance in an effective and sustainable way in accordance with the Trust's Estates Strategy
- To plan for financially challenging future years, especially in light of uncertainty over the levels of government funding in the medium to long term and the impact and timing of pay awards and other overheads along with the risks associated with them.
- 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

The Cornovii Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

- To give all pupils the best possible start to their educational experience.
- A rich programme of after school activities and enrichment opportunities 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.
- Providing 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 grow our trust with other schools joining us, while remaining true to our core values and principles.

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

- Achieved a strong set of external exam outcomes at both primary and secondary level when compared to both regional and national data.
- The improvements at Alsager Highfields Primary School have been thoroughly embedded and sustained, as evidenced by excellent pupil outcomes.
- All schools in the trust remain graded as at least 'Good' by Ofsted, following Audlem St James' inspection in October 2023. In addition, Audlem experienced a very positive Section 48 SIAMS inspection in December 2023.
- Further developed our highly effective shared / central trust team who support all schools in a variety of ways (eg. finance, governance, HR and estates)
- Implementing strategic local governor links in several of the schools instead of local committee structures. Local governing bodies and Headteachers have reported that this has had a positive impact on staff workload, improved governor knowledge and strengthened governor links with the schools.
- Successfully support, stabilise and manager Brine Leas School following the sudden death of their Headteacher, David Cole, in April 2024.
- Continue to successfully lead the Cheshire and Wirral Maths Hub and provide high quality professional development opportunities for teachers across 380 schools in the region.
- Secured external funding to extend the kitchen and dining facilities at Brine Leas School.

Secondary Key Performance Indicators

Measure	2022	2023	2024
% 4+ in GCSE English & Maths	78%	77%	76%
% 5+ in GCSE English & Maths	54%	55%	51%
% achieving EBACC GCSE	20%	23%	39%
Attainment 8	53.6	49.6	49.5
Progress 8	0.26	0.06	0.14
A Level grades A*-E	99%	99%	98%
A Level grades A*-C	89%	82%	74%
L3 VA score	-0.07	-0.53	-0.08

The Cornovii Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

Primary Key Performance Indicators 2024

Primary Schools	Yr1 phonics	KS1 Reading	KS1 Writing	KS1 Maths	KS2 Reading	KS2 Writing	KS2 Maths	KS2 RWM
2022	83%	EXS 71% GDS 12%	EXS 59% GDS 3%	EXS 71% GDS 29%	EXS 73% GDS 26%	EXS 72% GDS 12%	EXS 74% GDS 24%	62%
2023	92%	EXS 72% GDS 13%	EXS 64% GDS 4%	EXS 77% GDS 18%	EXS 78% GDS 28%	EXS 69% GDS 10%	EXS 72% GDS 20%	54%
2024	91%	EXS 85% GDS 33%	EXS 69% GDS 7%	EXS 80% GDS 18%	EXS 79% GDS 41%	EXS 80% GDS 7%	EXS 79% GDS 25%	70%

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 2024 and associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities. 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 2024, total expenditure of £25,535,782 (which excludes depreciation of £1,867,769 and FRS102 service cost and interest of -£84,000) was funded by recurrent grant income from the ESFA together with other incoming resources which totalled £25,757,115 (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 2024 amounted to £882,891. Unrestricted expenditure amounted to £69,048.

At 31 August 2024 the net book value of fixed assets amounted to £48,626,006. 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 2024 amounted to £1,467,908.

There has been a total in-year surplus of £188,557 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 £1,338,972. 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 2024 is £51,436,144 which is made up of the following;

Unrestricted reserves	£1,106,384
Restricted reserves	£232,588
Fixed asset reserves	£50,097,172

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 brought forward due to the trust's participation in the Local Government Scheme (LGPS) of £517,000 has reduced to Nil at 31 August 2024. 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.

Recruitment of staff remains 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 and reviews (eg. ERG, SRMA etc)
- Additional Trustee Finance & 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 main financial risk relates to per pupil funding. All the schools in the trust reside 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 2024-25 will continue to be allocated to local authorities first, allowing some elements of the formula to be adjusted for localised issues

The Local Government Pension Scheme reduced from a deficit of £517,000 to £Nil at 31 August 2024) but is still deemed 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%.

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 both secondary schools and by outsourced contractors at the primary schools. The trust 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).

Fundraising

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

The Cornovii Trust
Trustees' Report (continued)

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

UK Greenhouse gas emissions and energy use data for the period	1 st September 2023 to 31 st August 2024	1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023	1st September 2021 to 31st August 2022
Energy consumption used to calculate emissions (kWh)	3,914,569	4,087,364	4,682,720
Energy consumption breakdown (kWh)			
Gas/Fuel Oil	2,591,501	2,749,750	3,313,983
Electricity	1,297,420	1,330,946	1,360,298
Transport Fuel	25,648	6,668	8,439
Scope 1 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Gas/Fuel Oil	473.05	501.94	604.93
Owned transport - minibuses	1.53	0.92	0.62
Total scope 1 emissions	474.58	502.86	605.55
Scope 2 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Purchased electricity	250.9	257.38	263.05
Scope 3 emissions in metric tonnes CO2e			
Business travel in employee-owned vehicles	5.55	0.94	1.71
Total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e	731.03	761.17	870.32
Intensity ratio			
Tonnes CO2e per pupil	0.20	0.21	0.24
Tonnes CO2e per m ² GIFA	0.02	0.02	0.03
Quantification and Reporting Methodology			
We have followed the 2019 HM Government Environmental Reporting Guidelines. We have also used the GHG Reporting Protocol - Corporate Standard and have used the 2024 UK Government's Conversion Factors for Company Reporting.			
Intensity measurement			
The chosen intensity measurement ratio is total gross emissions in metric tonnes CO2e per pupil, the recommended ratio for the sector.			
A secondary intensity measurement ratio identifies total gross emissions in metric tonnes per m ² of Gross Internal Floor Area (GIFA)			

Measures taken to improve energy efficiency.

The LED lighting replacement programme has been completed at Alsager, Highfields and Weston Village; this will continue to offer energy reductions particularly during the Winter months. We continue to see benefits in terms of increased efficiency of heating plant at Alsager, Weston and Audlem. We have seen a significant increase in emissions in transport costs associated with the new centralised support function. Overall, we have seen a reduction of around 30 tonnes of CO2 emissions for the reporting period.

The Cornovii Trust Trustees' Report (continued)

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 school improvement through meaningful and effective collaboration at all schools.
- To continue to strive for continuous improvement in examination results and all indicators of performance in the trust KS1-KS5.
- To provide and develop career and professional development opportunities for staff through this collaborative model.
- To look to centralise more services for the benefit of all schools, this will ensure consistency in terms of delivery but also help with financial efficiency savings.
- 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 fully 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 further expand The Cornovii Trust in line with the trust's growth strategy. We hope two Nantwich primary schools will join our trust during 2024-25.
- To ensure that all the schools in the trust are fully immersed in TCT and all stakeholders can feel the benefit of being in 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), which has dissolved but a small fund is remaining for final work to be delivered.

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 4 December 2024 and signed on the board's behalf by:

Signed by:

.....
BE81F0439A19414.....
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)
Trustee

Signed by:

.....
F5AF758A97924F6.....
Mr Barrie Pitt (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 6 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
William James Clayton (resigned 26 th Sept 2023)	0	0
Nigel John Cliffe	5	6
Susan Anne Day	4	6
Janet Mary Furber	6	6
Carl Leech	5	6
James Rupert Lowery (resigned 5 th Jan 2024)	0	1
Barrie Pitt	4	6
Richard Andrew Robinson	4	6
Paul Scales	4	6
Ellen Marie Walton	4	6
Paul Robert Gray (appointed 21 st May 2024)	1	1
Michael James Needham (appointed 21 st May 2024)	0	1
Stephen Mark Evans (appointed 9 th July 2024)	0	0

Governance Reviews

Leadership and Management has been judged as 'Good' by Ofsted at all schools in the trust over the last 2 years, with the quality of governance and support from the trust being repeatedly stated as very strong. The External Review of Governance completed during 2022/23 also identified real strengths in terms of governance and identified some areas for development, which are being considered. The range of skills and experience at all layers of governance in the trust is very impressive and communication between the layers of governance is also highly effective. 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.

The Cornovii Trust Governance Statement

Meetings

The Board of Trustees meet at least 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 them the opportunity to discharge their responsibilities as detailed in the Academy Trust Handbook and ensures robust governance 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. During the year Stephen Evans, who is a qualified accountant, joined the committee. Attendance during the year at meetings was as follows:

Finance and Audit Committee	Meetings attended	Out of a possible
William James Clayton (resigned 26 th Sept 2023)	0	0
Nigel John Cliffe	6	6
Janet Mary Furber	6	6
James Rupert Lowery (resigned 5 th Jan 2024)	0	2
Barrie Pitt	5	6
Michael James Needham (appointed 21 st May 2024)	2	2
Paul Robert Gray (appointed 21 st May 2024)	2	2
Stephen Mark Evans (appointed 9 th July 2024)	0	0

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, as well as estates safety and management, 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 7 and 8.

Areas to improve

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

- Improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils at all schools.
- Reduce in school variation at KS4 in both secondary schools
- Further improve KS2-3 transition for our feeder primary and secondary schools in terms of pedagogy, curriculum design and assessment.
- To explore innovative and creative ways to support the well-being of staff.

The Cornovii Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can, therefore, only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritize the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in The Cornovii Trust for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 August 2024 and up to the date of the approval of the annual report and financial statements.

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 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 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 in 2022-23 appointed a new internal auditor – Wylie and Bisset (now known as Wbg). In 2023-24 they conducted x 3 internal audits during the course of the year, looking at Staff Attendance, School Visits and the Business Continuity Plan. The specialist auditors undertook a range of checks in these areas and reported their findings to the board of trustees. Any recommendations from the reports have been reviewed and an action plan is in place to rectify minor issues.

On a regular basis, the auditor 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 Cornovii Trust

Governance Statement (continued)

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:

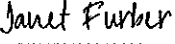
- the work of Wylie and Bisset Accountants (now known as Wbg);
- the work of the external auditor;
- the financial management and governance self-assessment process and the school resource management self-assessment tool;
- the work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.
- Correspondence from ESFA eg. financial notice to improve/notice to improve (FNI/Nti) 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.

Conclusion

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

Approved by order of the members of the board of trustees on 4 December 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:

.....BE81F0439A1941d.....
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)
Trustee

Signed by:

.....F5AF758A97924F6.....
Mr Barrie Pitt (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, including for estates safety and management, under the funding agreement 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 2023, including responsibilities for estates safety and management.

I confirm that I and the academy trust board of trustees are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all 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 2023.

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

DocuSigned by:

Richard Middlebrook

008AC10C992664E6.....

Mr Richard Middlebrook (CEO and Accounting Officer), Trustee
Accounting officer

12/12/2024

Date:.....

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 Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024;
- 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.

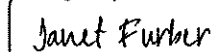
The trustees are responsible for ensuring that in its conduct and operation the charitable company applies financial and other controls, which conform with the requirements both of propriety and of good financial management. They are also responsible for ensuring grants received from ESFA/DfE have been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

4 December 2024

Approved by order of the members of the Board of Trustees on and signed on its behalf by:

Signed by:



.....BE91F0489A19414.....

Mrs Janet Mary Furber (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 2024, 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'.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Academy trust's affairs at 31 August 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP 2019 and Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor 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.

The Cornovii Trust

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the 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 Responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

The Cornovii Trust

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

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 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.

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

- 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
- investigated the rationale behind significant or unusual transactions

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

The Cornovii Trust

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

- 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. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

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

S. Leitch-Devlin.....

Simon Leitch-Devlin (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor

Riverside House
Kings Reach Business Park
Yew Street
Stockport
Cheshire
SK4 2HD

Date: *18/12/2024*.....

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 3 May 2023 and further to the requirements of the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) as included in the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024, 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 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 Trust Handbook extant from 1 September 2023, for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received is applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

Our responsibilities for this engagement are established in the United Kingdom by our profession's ethical guidance and are to obtain limited assurance and report in accordance with our engagement letter and the requirements of the Academies Accounts Direction 2023 to 2024. 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 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.
- 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.

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 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 2023 to 31 August 2024 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Xeinadin
.....

Reporting Accountant

Xeinadin Audit Ltd

Riverside House
Kings Reach Business Park
Yew Street
Stockport
Cheshire
SK4 2HD

Date: *18/12/2024*
.....

The Cornovii Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2023/24 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Voluntary income						
Donations and capital grants						
	2	12,823	499,796	-	1,554,414	2,067,033
	4	803,736	36,670	-	-	840,406
	5	66,332	-	-	-	66,332
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations						
	3	-	24,337,758	-	-	24,337,758
Total		<u>882,891</u>	<u>24,874,224</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,554,414</u>	<u>27,311,529</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds						
	6	69,048	-	-	-	69,048
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations						
	7	-	25,466,734	(84,000)	1,867,769	27,250,503
Total		<u>69,048</u>	<u>25,466,734</u>	<u>(84,000)</u>	<u>1,867,769</u>	<u>27,319,551</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		813,843	(592,510)	84,000	(313,355)	(8,022)
Transfers between funds		211,704	(244,480)	-	32,776	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes						
	27	-	-	433,000	-	433,000
Net movement in funds/(deficit)		1,025,547	(836,990)	517,000	(280,579)	424,978
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2023						
		<u>80,837</u>	<u>1,069,578</u>	<u>(517,000)</u>	<u>50,377,751</u>	<u>51,011,166</u>
Total funds carried forward at 31 August 2024						
		<u>1,106,384</u>	<u>232,588</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>50,097,172</u>	<u>51,436,144</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2023 (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Pension Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2022/23 Total £
Income and endowments from:						
Voluntary income						
Donations and capital grants	2	16,878	241,257	-	1,371,292	1,629,427
Transfer from local authority on conversion		-	449,583	(516,000)	21,572,756	21,506,339
Other trading activities	4	699,279	50,510	-	-	749,789
Investments	5	6,913	-	-	-	6,913
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Funding for the Academy trust's educational operations	3	<u>-</u>	<u>22,888,352</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,888,352</u>
Total		<u>723,070</u>	<u>23,629,702</u>	<u>(516,000)</u>	<u>22,944,048</u>	<u>46,780,820</u>
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	67,021	-	-	-	67,021
<i>Charitable activities:</i>						
Academy trust educational operations	7	<u>-</u>	<u>23,618,326</u>	<u>390,000</u>	<u>2,229,058</u>	<u>26,237,384</u>
Total		<u>67,021</u>	<u>23,618,326</u>	<u>390,000</u>	<u>2,229,058</u>	<u>26,304,405</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		656,049	11,376	(906,000)	20,714,990	20,476,415
Transfers between funds		(1,574,415)	896,620	-	677,795	-
Other recognised gains and losses						
Actuarial (losses) / gains on defined benefit pension schemes	27	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,438,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,438,000</u>
Net movement in (deficit)/funds		(918,366)	907,996	532,000	21,392,785	21,914,415
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds/(deficit) brought forward at 1 September 2022		<u>999,203</u>	<u>161,582</u>	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>28,984,967</u>	<u>29,096,752</u>
Total funds/(deficit) carried forward at 31 August 2023		<u>80,837</u>	<u>1,069,578</u>	<u>(517,000)</u>	<u>50,377,752</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>

The Cornovii Trust
(Registration number: 08597784)
Balance Sheet

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	48,626,006	49,025,870
Current assets			
Stocks	13	-	4,039
Debtors	14	1,300,109	496,314
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>3,826,950</u>	<u>4,082,390</u>
		5,127,059	4,582,743
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year		<u>(2,097,108)</u>	<u>(1,799,418)</u>
Net current assets		<u>3,029,951</u>	<u>2,783,325</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		51,655,957	51,809,195
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16	<u>(219,813)</u>	<u>(281,028)</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset		51,436,144	51,528,167
Defined benefit pension scheme liability	27	<u>-</u>	<u>(517,000)</u>
Total net assets		<u>51,436,144</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>
Funds of the Academy:			
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	17	232,589	1,069,578
Restricted fixed asset fund	17	50,097,171	50,377,752
Pension reserve	17	<u>-</u>	<u>(517,000)</u>
		50,329,760	50,930,330
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted general fund	17	<u>1,106,384</u>	<u>80,837</u>
Total funds		<u>51,436,144</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>

The Cornovii Trust

(Registration number: 08597784)
Balance Sheet (continued)

The financial statements on pages 26 to 61 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 4 December 2014 signed on their behalf by:

Signed by:

Janet Furber

.....BE91F0439A19414.....
Mrs Janet Mary Furber (Chair)
Trustee

Signed by:

Barrie Pitt

.....F5AF758A9792A7E.....
Mr Barrie Pitt (Vice Chair)
Trustee

The Cornovii Trust

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities	30	(353,059)	1,459,732
Cash flows from investing activities	23	152,838	2,601
Cash flows from financing activities	22	<u>(55,219)</u>	<u>(51,562)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(255,440)	1,410,771
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		<u>4,082,390</u>	<u>2,671,619</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August	21	<u><u>3,826,950</u></u>	<u><u>4,082,390</u></u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

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.

The Cornovii 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.

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 of existing academies into the trust

Where assets and liabilities are received on the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust, the transferred net 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 for the transfer of an existing academy into the academy trust within donations and capital grant income to the net assets acquired.

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 is used. The gain is recognised as income from donations and a corresponding amount is included in the appropriate fixed asset category and depreciated over the useful economic life in accordance with the academy trust's accounting policies.

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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.

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Buildings	2% & 5% straight line
Leasehold Land	2% straight line
Plant & Machinery	10% & 20% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings	10% & 20% straight line
Computer Equipment	33.3% & 20% straight line
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line
Fixtures & Fittings (Lift and Astroturf)	15 years 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.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 2024 (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).

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

1 Accounting policies (continued)

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 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 August 2024. 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 14. 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 15. 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.

Stock

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

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)**

2 Donations and capital grants

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Other voluntary income					
Educational trips and visits	-	484,333	-	484,333	224,686
Capital grants	-	-	1,554,414	1,554,414	1,071,292
Other donations	12,823	15,463	-	28,286	333,449
	<u>12,823</u>	<u>499,796</u>	<u>1,554,414</u>	<u>2,067,033</u>	<u>1,629,427</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)

3 Funding for Academy's educational operations

	Restricted General Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Educational operations			
DfE/ESFA revenue grants			
General Annual Grant	17,114,033	17,114,033	16,204,040
16-19 Core Educational Funding	2,972,093	2,972,093	3,067,994
UIFSM	100,227	100,227	86,754
Other DfE/ESFA grants	242,140	242,140	138,281
Mainstream additional schools grant	595,179	595,179	247,990
Recovery premium	110,680	110,680	122,071
Pupil Premium	612,554	612,554	668,140
Teachers pay grant	268,382	268,382	406
Teachers Pension Grant	293,102	293,102	118,224
Maths Hub	845,684	845,684	637,986
Supplementary grant	-	-	499,850
	<u>23,154,074</u>	<u>23,154,074</u>	<u>21,791,736</u>
Other government grants			
Local Authority Grants	1,181,684	1,181,684	1,095,616
Non-government grants and other income			
Other non-government grant	2,000	2,000	1,000
Total grants	<u>24,337,758</u>	<u>24,337,758</u>	<u>22,888,352</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

4 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Hire of facilities	128,930	-	128,930	102,695
Catering income	236,635	-	236,635	263,603
Other sales	159,139	-	159,139	152,748
Misc Income	-	21,669	21,669	7,100
Insurance Income	42,430	-	42,430	6,371
Apprenticeship levy income	-	15,001	15,001	15,009
Music income	71,102	-	71,102	51,090
Placement income	165,500	-	165,500	151,173
	<u>803,736</u>	<u>36,670</u>	<u>840,406</u>	<u>749,789</u>

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
Interest received	<u>66,332</u>	<u>66,332</u>	<u>6,913</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

6 Resources expended

	Staff costs £	Non Pay Expenditure		2024/23 Total £	2023/22 Total £
		Premises £	Other costs £		
Expenditure on raising funds					
Allocated support costs	69,048	-	-	69,048	67,021
Academy trust's educational operations					
Direct costs	17,933,671	1,668,170	2,737,702	22,339,543	20,760,908
Allocated support costs	2,494,420	1,520,213	896,327	4,910,960	5,476,476
	<u>20,497,139</u>	<u>3,188,383</u>	<u>3,634,029</u>	<u>27,319,551</u>	<u>26,304,405</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)

6 Resources expended (continued)

Net income/(expenditure) for the year includes:

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
Operating leases - other leases	35,241	28,419
Fees payable to auditor - audit	14,175	13,700
- other audit services	8,600	6,150
Depreciation	<u>1,867,771</u>	<u>1,887,085</u>

7 Charitable activities

	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Direct costs - educational operations	22,339,543	20,760,908
Support costs - educational operations	<u>4,910,960</u>	<u>5,476,476</u>
	<u>27,250,503</u>	<u>26,237,384</u>

	Educational operations	2023/24 Total	2022/23 Total
	£	£	£
Analysis of support costs			
Support staff costs	2,494,420	2,494,420	2,778,124
Depreciation	199,599	199,599	281,547
Technology costs	256,811	256,811	332,438
Premises costs	1,320,614	1,320,614	1,209,512
Legal costs - conversion	11,685	11,685	21,798
Legal costs - other	5,686	5,686	11,503
Other support costs	591,767	591,767	807,688
Governance costs	<u>30,378</u>	<u>30,378</u>	<u>33,866</u>
Total support costs	<u>4,910,960</u>	<u>4,910,960</u>	<u>5,476,476</u>

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)**

8 Staff

Staff costs and employee benefits

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	15,147,195	14,132,758
Social security costs	1,563,167	1,436,050
Pension costs	<u>3,569,966</u>	<u>3,377,806</u>
	20,280,328	18,946,614
Supply teacher costs	324,816	438,631
Staff restructuring costs	<u>-</u>	<u>5,181</u>
	<u><u>20,605,144</u></u>	<u><u>19,390,426</u></u>

Staff numbers

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	No	No
Teachers	214	210
Administration and support	243	239
Management	<u>24</u>	<u>26</u>
	<u><u>481</u></u>	<u><u>475</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:

	2024	2023
	No	No
£60,001 - £70,000	10	10
£70,001 - £80,000	6	3
£90,001 - £100,000	-	1
£100,001 - £110,000	2	1
£120,001 - £130,000	-	1
£130,001 - £140,000	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(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 £855,071 (2023: £791,375).

Non statutory/non-contractual staff severance payments

Included in staff restructuring costs are non-statutory/non-contractual severance payments totalling £Nil (2022: £5,181).

	2023/22
	£
Staff restructuring costs comprise:	
Severance payments	5,181

Severance payments

The academy trust paid - severance payments in the year disclosed in the following bands:

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
0 - £25,000	-	1

9 Shared Services

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

5.75% of TCT GAG (General Annual Grant)

The actual amounts charged during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Alsager School	437,510	406,004
Weston Village Primary School	63,957	59,838
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	58,979	59,917
Audlem St James CofE Primary	38,592	28,020
Brine Leas School	293,753	219,094
	892,791	772,873

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

10 Related Party Transactions -Trustees' Remuneration and Expenses

None of the trustees have been paid remuneration or have received other benefits from employment with the Academy Trust. The Chief Executive Officer does not act in the capacity of an ex-officio trustee and only receives remuneration in respect of services they provide for undertaking the roles of The Chief Executive Officer under thier contract of employment.

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 2023 is included in the total insurance cost.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (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 £
Cost							
At 1 September 2023	49,841,948	3,085,838	45,504	3,871,814	1,371,023	63,793	58,279,920
Additions	154,691	-	436,658	818,058	58,501	-	1,467,908
Transfer	-	-	(41,008)	41,008	-	-	-
At 31 August 2024	<u>49,996,639</u>	<u>3,085,838</u>	<u>441,154</u>	<u>4,730,880</u>	<u>1,429,524</u>	<u>63,793</u>	<u>59,747,828</u>
Depreciation							
At 1 September 2023	5,410,649	296,197	-	2,354,486	1,145,769	46,949	9,254,050
Charge for the year	1,286,341	61,714	-	387,460	126,289	5,968	1,867,772
At 31 August 2024	<u>6,696,990</u>	<u>357,911</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,741,946</u>	<u>1,272,058</u>	<u>52,917</u>	<u>11,121,822</u>
Net book value							
At 31 August 2024	<u>43,299,649</u>	<u>2,727,927</u>	<u>441,154</u>	<u>1,988,934</u>	<u>157,466</u>	<u>10,876</u>	<u>48,626,006</u>
At 31 August 2023	<u>44,431,299</u>	<u>2,789,641</u>	<u>45,504</u>	<u>1,517,328</u>	<u>225,254</u>	<u>16,844</u>	<u>49,025,870</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)

13 Stock

	2024	2023
	£	£
Stock	<u>-</u>	<u>4,039</u>

14 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	149,782	74,743
Prepayments	194,696	151,428
Accrued grant and other income	826,003	201,964
VAT recoverable	83,040	63,910
Other debtors	<u>46,588</u>	<u>4,269</u>
	<u>1,300,109</u>	<u>496,314</u>

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	290,541	269,652
Other taxation and social security	337,695	305,120
Other creditors	195,074	363,240
Salix Loan	55,219	49,222
Pension scheme creditor	401,680	343,206
Accruals	504,198	369,215
Deferred income	<u>312,701</u>	<u>99,763</u>
	<u>2,097,108</u>	<u>1,799,418</u>
	2024	2023
	£	£

Deferred income

Deferred income at 1 September 2023	37,229	59,837
Resources deferred in the period	312,701	99,763
Amounts released from previous periods	<u>(37,229)</u>	<u>(59,837)</u>
Deferred income at 31 August 2024	<u>312,701</u>	<u>99,763</u>

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)**

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year (continued)

At the balance sheet date the academy trust was holding funds received in advance for Maths Hub received from the DfE, UIFSM in respect of the year ended 31st March 2024, SEN funding in respect of September 2024 received from the Local Authority, and monies received in respect of trips to take place in the 2024/25 academic year.

16 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Loans	45,949	45,949
Other creditors	<u>173,864</u>	<u>235,079</u>
	<u>219,813</u>	<u>281,028</u>

At the balance sheet date, the academy had received a total of £275,031 in CIF/Salix Funding relating to capital projects (2023: £330,939). £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, of which the remaining balance is £68,182.

The remaining loan balances of £43,077, £68,604 and £95,167 attract CIF loan interest at rates of 2.29%, 2.07% and 1.95% respectively and are repayable over ten years. Repayments falling due within one year are included in note 14 above.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Restricted funds					
<i>Restricted general funds</i>					
General Annual Grant (GAG)	1,004,244	17,114,033	(17,699,071)	(244,480)	174,726
16-19 Core Educational Funding	-	2,972,093	(2,972,093)	-	-
UIFSM	-	100,227	(100,227)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	23,973	352,820	(352,819)	-	23,974
Mainstream additional grant	-	595,179	(595,179)	-	-
Pupil Premium	-	612,554	(612,554)	-	-
Teachers Pay grant	-	268,382	(268,382)	-	-
Teachers Pension grant	-	293,102	(293,102)	-	-
Maths Hub	33,524	845,684	(868,344)	-	10,864
Other Grants	-	1,182,684	(1,159,659)	-	23,025
Other restricted income	7,837	537,466	(545,303)	-	-
<i>Restricted fixed asset funds</i>					
DfE/ESFA capital grants	6,289,150	854,414	(385,781)	-	6,757,783
Assets transferred on conversion	39,791,196	-	(1,227,864)	-	38,563,332
Private donations	335,121	-	(2,915)	-	332,206
Capital expenditure from GAG	1,504,489	-	(52,454)	32,776	1,484,811
Private grant	27,149	-	(1,723)	-	25,426
Other government grants	2,374,927	700,000	(193,499)	-	2,881,428
DfE/ESFA donated assets	55,720	-	(3,535)	-	52,185
<i>Pension reserve funds</i>					
Restricted pension funds	<u>(517,000)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>84,000</u>	<u>433,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>50,930,330</u>	<u>26,428,638</u>	<u>(27,250,504)</u>	<u>221,296</u>	<u>50,329,760</u>
<i>Unrestricted general funds</i>					
Unrestricted General Fund	<u>80,837</u>	<u>882,891</u>	<u>(69,048)</u>	<u>211,704</u>	<u>1,106,384</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>80,837</u>	<u>882,891</u>	<u>(69,048)</u>	<u>211,704</u>	<u>1,106,384</u>
Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)

17 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
Total funds	<u>51,011,167</u>	<u>27,311,529</u>	<u>(27,319,552)</u>	<u>433,000</u>	<u>51,436,144</u>

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

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
--	-------------------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------

Restricted funds

Restricted general funds

General Annual Grant (GAG)	161,583	19,272,037	(19,325,996)	896,620	1,004,244
UIFSM	-	86,754	(86,754)	-	-
Other DfE/ESFA grants	-	1,008,594	(984,621)	-	23,973
Pupil Premium	-	668,140	(668,140)	-	-
Teachers Pay grant	-	118,224	(118,224)	-	-
Maths Hub	-	637,986	(604,462)	-	33,524
Other restricted income	-	1,837,965	(1,830,128)	-	7,837

Restricted fixed asset funds

DfE/ESFA capital grants	5,453,385	1,071,293	(235,528)	-	6,289,150
Assets transferred on conversion	20,076,443	21,572,756	(1,858,003)	-	39,791,196
Private donations	47,669	300,000	(12,548)	-	335,121
Capital expenditure from GAG	857,648	-	(30,954)	677,795	1,504,489
Private grant	28,166	-	(1,017)	-	27,149
Other government grants	2,463,850	-	(88,923)	-	2,374,927
DfE/ESFA donated assets	57,806	-	(2,086)	-	55,720

Pension reserve funds

Restricted pension funds	<u>(1,049,000)</u>	<u>(516,000)</u>	<u>(390,000)</u>	<u>1,438,000</u>	<u>(517,000)</u>
Total restricted funds	<u>28,097,550</u>	<u>46,057,749</u>	<u>(26,237,384)</u>	<u>3,012,415</u>	<u>50,930,330</u>

Unrestricted general funds

Unrestricted General Fund	<u>999,203</u>	<u>723,070</u>	<u>(67,021)</u>	<u>(1,574,415)</u>	<u>80,837</u>
Total unrestricted funds	<u>999,203</u>	<u>723,070</u>	<u>(67,021)</u>	<u>(1,574,415)</u>	<u>80,837</u>

Total endowment funds	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
-----------------------	----------	----------	----------	----------	----------

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

17 Funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Gains, losses and transfers £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
Total funds	<u>29,096,753</u>	<u>46,780,819</u>	<u>(26,304,405)</u>	<u>1,438,000</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>

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 2023 was £517,000 and had reduced to £Nil at the 31 August 2024

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.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

17 Funds (continued)

Total cost analysis by academy

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

	Teaching and Educational Support Staff Costs £	Other Support Staff Costs £	Educational Supplies £	Other Costs (excluding Depreciation) £	Total 2024 £
Alsager School	8,278,548	553,027	1,097,352	1,082,415	11,011,342
Weston Village Primary School	940,299	139,142	55,523	282,412	1,417,376
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	868,257	128,612	77,477	204,574	1,278,920
Audlem St James CofE Primary School	756,289	96,239	58,764	170,808	1,082,100
Brine Leas School	6,871,611	1,168,887	228,900	1,566,867	9,836,265
Central services	218,672	516,512	1,336	173,260	909,780
Academy Trust	<u>17,933,676</u>	<u>2,602,419</u>	<u>1,519,352</u>	<u>3,480,336</u>	<u>25,535,783</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

17 Funds (continued)

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

	Teaching and educational support staff costs £	Other support staff costs £	Educational supplies £	Other costs (excluding depreciation) £	Total 2023 £
Alsager School	7,361,893	537,308	906,448	1,452,831	10,258,480
Weston Village Primary School	943,624	152,906	54,133	348,068	1,498,731
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	968,645	127,384	31,512	311,097	1,438,638
Audlem St James CofE Primary School	695,067	106,036	32,156	232,310	1,065,569
Brine Leas School	6,347,428	1,225,930	221,719	1,607,898	9,402,975
Central services	<u>295,644</u>	<u>310,561</u>	<u>542</u>	<u>187,125</u>	<u>793,872</u>
Academy Trust	<u>16,612,301</u>	<u>2,460,125</u>	<u>1,246,510</u>	<u>4,139,329</u>	<u>24,458,265</u>
Total funds analysis by academy					

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 were allocated as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Alsager School	872,343	850,874
Weston Village Primary School	155,974	70,791
Alsager Highfields Community Primary School	192,273	114,239
Audlem St James CofE Primary School	13,669	26,759
Brine Leas School	11,308	83,252
Central services	<u>93,406</u>	<u>4,500</u>
Total before fixed assets and pension reserve	1,338,973	1,150,415
Restricted fixed asset fund	50,097,171	50,377,752
Pension reserve	-	(517,000)
Total	<u>51,436,144</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)**

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

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	-	-	49,025,870	49,025,870
Current assets	80,837	3,150,027	1,351,882	4,582,746
Current liabilities	-	(1,799,421)	-	(1,799,421)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(281,028)	-	(281,028)
Pension scheme liability	-	(517,000)	-	(517,000)
Total net assets	<u>80,837</u>	<u>552,578</u>	<u>50,377,752</u>	<u>51,011,167</u>

Fund balances at 31 August 2024 are represented by:

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted General Funds £	Restricted Fixed Asset Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	48,626,006	48,626,006
Current assets	1,106,384	2,632,194	1,471,166	5,209,744
Current liabilities	-	(2,179,793)	-	(2,179,793)
Creditors over 1 year	-	(219,813)	-	(219,813)
Total net assets	<u>1,106,384</u>	<u>232,588</u>	<u>50,097,172</u>	<u>51,436,144</u>

19 Capital commitments

	2024 £	2023 £
Contracted for, but not provided in the financial statements	<u>292,702</u>	<u>695,504</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

20 Long-term commitments, including operating leases

Operating leases

At 31 August 2024 the total of the academy trust's future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases was:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts due within one year	36,748	11,013
Amounts due between one and five years	57,807	12,389
Amounts due after five years	282,500	292,500
	<u>377,055</u>	<u>315,902</u>

21 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash in hand and at bank	<u>3,826,950</u>	<u>4,082,390</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>3,826,950</u>	<u>4,082,390</u>

22 Cash flows from financing activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Repayments of borrowing	<u>(55,219)</u>	<u>(51,562)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(55,219)</u>	<u>(51,562)</u>

23 Cash flows from investing activities

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	66,332	6,913
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	(1,467,908)	(1,375,604)
Capital funding received from sponsors and others	<u>1,554,414</u>	<u>1,371,292</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities	<u>152,838</u>	<u>2,601</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

24 Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 September 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 August 2024 £
Cash	4,082,390	(255,440)	3,826,950
Loans falling due within one year	(49,222)	(5,997)	(55,219)
Loans falling due after more than one year	(281,028)	61,197	(219,831)
	<u>(330,250)</u>	<u>55,200</u>	<u>(275,050)</u>
Total	<u>3,752,140</u>	<u>(200,240)</u>	<u>3,551,900</u>

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (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 Member 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 2020 and of the LGPS to the period ended 31 March 2022.

Contributions amounting to £(401,680) (2023 - £(343,206)) 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' Pension Scheme 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 2024 (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 ensure scheme costs are recognised and managed appropriately and the review specifies the level of future contributions.

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

- Employer contribution rates set at 28.68% of pensionable pay (including a 0.08% administration levy). This is an increase of 5% in employer contributions and the cost control result is such that no change in member benefits is needed.
- Total scheme liabilities (pensions currently in payment and the estimated cost of future benefits) for service to the effective date of £262,000 million and notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the notional investments held at the valuation date) of £222,200 million, giving a notional past service deficit of £39,800 million

The result of this valuation will be implemented from 1 April 2024. The next valuation result is due to be implemented from 1 April 2028.

The employer's pension costs paid to TPS in the period amounted to £2,214,795 (2023: £1,842,252).

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

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102, the TPS is an unfunded multi-employer pension scheme. The academy trust is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan. Accordingly, the academy trust has 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 2024 was £1,219,000 (2023 - £1,039,000), of which employer's contributions totalled £950,000 (2023 - £812,000) and employees' contributions totalled £269,000 (2023 - £227,000). The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.9% for employers and banded from 5.5% 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 and on 21 July 2022, the Department for Education reaffirmed its commitment to the guarantee, with a parliamentary minute published on GOV.UK.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Principal actuarial assumptions

	2024 %	2023 %
Rate of increase in salaries	3.35	3.80
Rate of increase for pensions in payment/inflation	2.65	3.00
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	<u>5.00</u>	<u>5.20</u>

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

	2024	2023
Retiring today		
Males retiring today	19.20	19.30
Females retiring today	24.80	24.80
Retiring in 20 years		
Males retiring in 20 years	21.00	21.10
Females retiring in 20 years	<u>25.60</u>	<u>25.70</u>

Sensitivity analysis

	2024 £	2023 £
Discount rate +0.1%	-	82,000
Discount rate -0.1%	306,000	-
Mortality assumption – 1 year increase	552,000	492,000
CPI rate +0.1%	300,000	262,000
Salary increase rate +0.1%	<u>13,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>

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

	2024 £	2023 £
Equities	7,790,200	6,132,000
Government bonds	4,532,480	3,891,000
Property	1,841,320	1,651,000
Cash and other liquid assets	-	118,000
Total market value of assets	<u>14,164,000</u>	<u>11,792,000</u>

The actual return on scheme assets was £1,363,000 (2023 - (£248,000)).

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

27 Pension and similar obligations (continued)

Amounts recognised in the statement of financial activities

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
Current service cost	(108,000)	(1,130,000)
Interest income	663,000	476,000
Interest cost	<u>(639,000)</u>	<u>(548,000)</u>
Total amount recognized in the SOFA	<u>(84,000)</u>	<u>(1,202,000)</u>

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

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
At start of period	12,309,000	6,976,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	5,345,000
Current service cost	842,000	1,130,000
Interest cost	663,000	548,000
Employee contributions	269,000	227,000
Actuarial (gain)/loss	(79,000)	(1,756,000)
Benefits paid	(210,000)	(161,000)
FRS 102 accounting adjustment	<u>370,000</u>	<u>-</u>
At 31 August	<u>14,164,000</u>	<u>12,309,000</u>

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

	2024/23	2023/22
	£	£
At start of period	11,792,000	5,927,000
Transferred in on existing academies joining the trust	-	4,866,000
Interest income	639,000	476,000
Actuarial gain/(loss)	724,000	(355,000)
Employer contributions	950,000	812,000
Employee contributions	269,000	227,000
Benefits paid	<u>(210,000)</u>	<u>(161,000)</u>
At 31 August	<u>14,164,000</u>	<u>11,792,000</u>

At 31st August 2024, the defined benefit pension scheme has an excess of assets over liabilities of £370,000. The academy has not received any formal notification of recovery of surplus, either by reduced contributions or refunds. Therefore, this does not constitute an asset under FRS 102 and a nil balance is included in the balance sheet at 31st August 2024.

The Cornovii Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (continued)

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.

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 non-executive director of the company.)

During the year the trust paid £20,845.40 (2023: £28,656) for hire of leisure facilities.

In entering into the transaction, the academy trust has complied with the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook 2023.

At the balance sheet date the amount due to Everybody Health & Leisure was £Nil (2023 - £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 non-executive director of the company.)

During the year, Everybody Health & Leisure paid the trust £Nil for the hire of the outdoor pitches (2023: £Nil).

All transactions involving such organisations are conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Academies Financial 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.

29 Events after the end of the reporting period

On 1st September 2024, Pear Tree Primary School transferred into The Cornvoii Trust.

The Cornovii Trust

**Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024
(continued)**

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

	2023/24	2022/23
	£	£
Net (expenditure)/income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(8,022)	20,476,415
Depreciation	1,867,772	2,229,012
Capital grants from DfE/ESFA and other capital income	(1,554,414)	(1,371,292)
Interest receivable	(66,332)	(6,913)
Defined benefit pension scheme cost less contributions payable	(108,000)	318,000
Defined benefit pension scheme inherited	-	516,000
Defined benefit pension scheme finance cost	24,000	72,000
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	4,039	(4,039)
Increase in debtors	(803,795)	(67,021)
Increase in creditors	291,692	870,326
Assets transferred on conversion	-	(21,572,756)
Net cash (used in)/provided by Operating Activities	<u>(353,060)</u>	<u>1,459,732</u>