

BOSTON COLLEGE CORPORATION
REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2018

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL, BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the Senior Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2017/18:

Joanne Maher Principal and CEO; Accounting Officer (appointed 1 September 2017)

Amanda Mosek Principal and CEO; Accounting Officer (retired 31 August 2017)

Janet Hemmant Vice Principal: Corporate Services (retired 31 August 2018)

Fiona Grady Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality (retired 30 April 2018)

Paul Collins Director of Business Development

Dawn Telford Head of Learner Services

Vicky Locke Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality (appointed 1 May 2018)

Richard Chambers Head of Curriculum

Craig Gosling Head of Quality (appointed 1 June 2018)

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on page 14 of these financial statements.

Janet Hemmant acted as Clerk to the Corporation throughout the period.

Professional advisers

Financial statements auditors and reporting accountants:

RSM UK Audit LLP
Two Humber Quays
Wellington Street West
Hull
HU1 2BN

Internal auditors

ICCA Education Training and Skills
11th Floor
McLaren House
46 Priory Queensway
Birmingham
B4 7LR

Bankers

National Westminster Bank Plc
10 Market Place
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6EJ

Solicitors

Chattertons
28 Wide Bargate
Boston
Lincolnshire
PE21 6RT

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FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Mission, Strategy and Objectives

The members present their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2018.

Legal status

The Corporation was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 for the purpose of conducting Boston College (the College). The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

Mission

The College's mission as approved by its members is, "to transform people's lives through delivering excellence in everything that we do, inspiring our learners, the community and region we serve to achieve together" and the vision "to be a brilliant college".

This mission is supported by the College's key values:

- Build character
- One team
- Strive for excellence
- Thrive on learning
- Ownership and integrity
- Never stop improving

Implementation of strategic plan

The College operates to a strategic plan which includes the College's strategic objectives, key performance indicators and financial forecasts. The Corporation monitors the performance of the College against these objectives which are reviewed and updated each year. Each area of the college produces a business plan based on the overall strategic priorities and this also feeds through to individual staff appraisal.

Financial objectives

The College's primary financial objectives were:

- to use its resources to support delivery of its vision in an efficient and effective way, maintaining adequate liquidity and financial stability
- to secure a broad base of income, setting income diversification targets annually; also generating additional income by providing focused, customised and innovative services to businesses.

Key Performance indicators

Key performance indicator	Measure/Target	Actual for 2017/18
Ofsted rating	Good	Good
Education specific EBITDA	6%	6.31%
% Operating Surplus / Deficit (adjusted)	2%	2.2%
Cash Days	75	104
Current ratio	1:1	2.46 : 1
Net Cash reserves	£2.1m	£2.3m
Staff Costs as % of income (excluding FRS 102 pension costs)	65%	65%
Covenant	>1.1 : 1	6.76 : 1
Financial Health Score	Outstanding	Outstanding

The College is required to complete the annual Finance Record for the Education and Skills Funding Agency ("ESFA"). The College is assessed by the ESFA as having an 'outstanding' financial health grading.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Mission, Strategy and Objectives (continued)

Resources

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

Tangible resources include buildings at main College sites and £4,969,000 (2016/17: £4,888,000) held in current assets.

Financial

The College has £11.437 million (2016/17: £8.596 million) of net assets including £-1.945 million pension liability (2016/17: £-4.454million) and one long-term debt of £2.05m. Tangible resources include the main college site, the Peter Paine Performance centre, the Sam Newsom Music Centre and the Red Lion Quarter at Spalding campus. Assets in the course of construction include costs associated with the building of the new engineering, manufacturing and technology (EMAT) centre that is due to open on 1 September 2019.

People

The College employs 347 people (expressed as full time equivalents), (2016/17: 337) of whom 163 (2016/17: 151) are teaching.

On 31 August 2017 Amanda Mosek retired from the post of Principal and CEO, with Jo Maher commencing on 1 September 2017 in this role.

Reputation

The College has an excellent reputation locally and nationally. Maintaining a high quality brand is essential for the College's success at attracting students and external relationships and is evident in the Ofsted 'Good' rating, apprenticeship performance in the top 10% in the country and 100% 'A' level pass rates. Furthermore, the college has contributed to national policy groups, debates in the house of commons and national FE press articles.

Stakeholder relationships

Boston College is proud to work with a number of key stakeholders. These include:

- Students and student union
- Employers
- Staff
- The voluntary sector
- Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- Education Sector Funding Body
- Association of Colleges
- Universities
- FE Commissioner
- Local Authorities
- The local community
- Other FE institutions
- Trade unions
- Professional bodies

The College values these important relationships and engages in regular communication with them through service provision, meeting attendance, conferences, the college website, direct interaction and active contribution to joint planning.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Financial position

Financial results

The College generated a deficit before other gains and losses in the year of £362,000 (2016/17 £224,000 surplus), this was due to a Local Government Pension Scheme charge to the Income and Expenditure account of £694,000. Before this adjustment, the College generated a surplus of £332,000.

The total comprehensive income in 2017/18 of £2,841,000 (2016/17 £2,950,000 surplus) is stated after accounting for the actuarial gain on the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund for the year of £3,203,000.

Developments

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £436,000. This was split between premises of £191,000 and equipment purchased of £245,000. The premises related to the work started on the EMAT building and the equipment related to computer equipment, a mini bus and other equipment purchased for teaching.

Reserves

The College has accumulated reserves of £11,437,000 and cash of £4,257,000.

Sources of income

The College has significant reliance on the Education Sector Funding bodies for its principal funding sources, largely from recurrent grants. In 2017/18 these organisations provided 80% of the College's total income.

Group Companies

The College had one subsidiary company trading during 2017/18, Eastern Enterprises Limited, whose principal activity related to commercial lettings in the property known as the Red Lion Quarter in Spalding. Surpluses generated by the company are transferred to the College under gift aid. In the current year, the surplus generated was £27,000. The College closed 3 dormant companies in the year (South Lincolnshire Academy, Wilcomex Limited and East Lindsey Skills Alliance Limited), another dormant company (South Lincolnshire College Limited) was renamed as Boston College Group in the year.

Current and future development and performance

The strategic priorities for 2017-18 were:

- to ensure that teaching, learning and assessment are of the highest quality and lead to excellent learner outcomes
- to raise aspirations, provide effective support and secure high levels of progression into employment and further or higher education
- to drive the skills agenda within Lincolnshire, engaging with employers and the community to develop an outstanding reputation for meeting local and regional skills needs
- to develop our business whilst maintaining financial stability
- to set high expectations for all our staff and foster a culture of continuous improvement and innovation in a supportive environment
- to advance equality, diversity and inclusion so that it is central to our college culture

Boston College Corporation

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for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Current and future development and performance (continued)

During the academic year 2017-18 Boston College successfully achieved a grade '2' Good Ofsted inspection report which confirmed our high standards of provision, describing elements of curriculum as "life changing". Financially securing the £2.8m of capital investment for the Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology Centre from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP, which the college will match to deliver a £4.2 million project, was key to demonstrating our innovative approach to delivering a responsive curriculum and creating confidence amongst our key stakeholders. Furthermore, successful bids were secured for the Work Placement Capacity and Delivery Fund (£162k), Career Learning Pilot (£116k) and Lincolnshire County Council Apprenticeship levy delivery (£102k).

The College continues to provide a high quality and responsive curriculum offer aligned to local needs as well as regional and national priorities. Effective engagement with our key regional and national stakeholders means that our curriculum is dynamically gearing to address future skills gaps, the productivity challenge and changing educational policies in a strategic way. Supporting the GLLEP's development of a Local Industrial Strategy, engaging in T-level consultations and national working groups, informing the skills ask for the Midlands Engine and supporting the Association of Colleges national policy groups are examples of how Boston College is well prepared for changes to policy and skills requirements.

The Work Placement Capacity and Delivery Fund (£162k) is designed to support colleges preparation for the 3 month industry placements that will be required as part of the T-level reforms. Boston College will need to send 67 students out in the 18-19 academic year with many of these placements already secured and this fund is likely to be extended into the 2019-2020 academic year.

Headline achievement rates for 2017/18 have met or exceeded national averages across the core metrics, with overall college achievement increasing from 16-17 by 2% to 86%. English and maths remains a condition of funding with all 16-18 year olds learners enrolling on Functional Skills or GCSEs if they still require this level of qualification. The 2017-18 academic year saw the full transition to the new style grade 1-9 GCSEs and performance has remained at or above national average for overall pass rate and high grades, current performance for GCSE is 5% above national average and functional Skills 7% above. 'A' level pass rates of 100% were achieved for the third consecutive year with the strongest AS level performance since 2010, taking the data above the national average a key area Ofsted wanted to see development in.

Learners benefit from high levels of very effective support to enable them to successfully complete their studies in addition to highly effective and valuable information, advice and guidance. The proportion of learners with learning difficulties and disabilities, particularly emotional and behaviour disorders has continued to rise, with over 35% of 16-19 year old learners having a declared learning difficulty and/or disability. This places significant pressure on the additional learning support budget, which is planned to increase further in 2018-19.

Future Developments

Boston College has new strategic drivers for 2018-19:

Curriculum:

Deliver a dynamic curriculum offer that meets the needs of employers, the community, and prepares work ready graduates for Industry 4.0.

Quality:

High Performance standards in all aspects of provision compared to national benchmarks.

Finance:

Develop a lean culture and efficient curriculum offer, which delivers an operating surplus without compromising quality.

People:

Create a culture of support and challenge, which focuses on high performance and wellbeing providing our team with the tools for success.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Current and future development and performance (continued)

Future Developments (continued)

Our existing high quality means that we need to innovate in line with industry to stay ahead. Investing in engineering, manufacturing and technology with a real focus on automation, robotics and artificial intelligence are key elements required in order to support regional and national priorities. Attracting highly skilled teaching staff and ensuring our pedagogical practices our evidence-based and driving towards Ofsted's new 'Education Inspection Framework' due for launch in September 2019 are critical success factors.

The condition of the College's property is subject to regular review and the Corporation ensures that through investment it maintains the fabric and quality of the College's existing accommodation. The College's investment in its physical resources underpins delivery of its strategic objectives and longer-term sustainability. Scanning the market for capital investment opportunities is important in order to invest in challenging financial time with no central capital funds available to colleges.

Enrolments are projected to increase in 2019 due to demographic recovery, our strong market share, investment in new resources and track record of quality. Apprenticeship growth must be viewed with caution as funding rates on the new standards are constantly changing and challenging. Higher education is a priority growth area. Devolution of the adult education budget will require consideration of subcontracting approaches in 2019.

Pension increases are forecast which will impact the public sector to a large extent in coming years, there may be financial support until 2020 however continuing pressure on pay and further living wage increases means that the college needs to pay close attention to staff to income ratios and continue its sound financial management practices.

The College is leaner, more efficient and in a sound position moving forward. The College believes it will be able to continue in operation and meet its liabilities taking account of the current position and principal risks for the foreseeable future and therefore can be regarded as a "going concern".

Teaching and Learning

The College recruited a total of 1,611 funded learners in 2017/18 onto its directly funded contracts for 16-19 ESFA. The College did not quite meet its target for 16-18-year-olds (1,629) with a shortfall of 18 learners. This demonstrates the current falling demographic which is due to be at its lowest in 2018/19, however recruitment is on track to achieve full contract value.

Curriculum development and review of adult offer in year enabled the College to successfully meet the Adult Education Budget (AEB) funding target. There was an increase in adult enrolments in English, maths, ESOL and Sport, in College delivery, achieving 96% of funding. Effective allocation and monitoring of AEB offered to Subcontractors resulted in 98% of the allocation being used. Overall 97% of AEB was achieved, generating an additional £236,497 of AEB income when compared to 2016/17.

Funding from Advanced Learning Loans by adults aged 19+ was £359,307 which is 25% lower than in 2016/17 and identified as a funding stream to better maximise in 2018/19.

HE numbers dropped by 7% with 176 students enrolled on HE courses in 2017/18, equating to £35K less income for this area of provision. However, growth has been secured for 2018/19 with the successful validation of two level 6 top-up courses, which will additionally attract more students to start their studies with us at level 4.

The College recruited 37 International Students, 35 of whom were EU funded, with the remaining 2 paying fees. International recruitment has been depressed by the border controls which have restricted student choice and eligibility and the Brexit vote is likely to have a significant impact on numbers of EU learners. International marketing activity has been increased and new markets explored as the traditional international market has declined.

Boston College Corporation

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for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Current and future development and performance (continued)

Teaching and Learning (continued)

Overall apprenticeship numbers have decreased since 2016/17 due to changes in funding rules for the sub-contracting of apprenticeship provision. In 2017/18 there were 391 active apprentices, with 320 being College based and 71 sub-contracted. This compares to 517 active apprentices in 2016/17 with 214 being with sub-contracted provision. May 2017 saw the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy and £223,186 of income was generated from Levy paying apprentices.

The College started delivering traineeships three years ago and 32 trainees enrolled in 2017/18, the vast majority of whom successfully progressed onto apprenticeships or into employment.

The recruitment of 14-16-year-olds has continued to reduce due to changes in funding, higher transportation costs and the reduction in the number of vocational qualifications that will count in the national league tables for schools. There were 41 enrolments for students aged under 16 years.

Financial health

The Corporation is satisfied that its resources are adequate to fund its plans, and the College's cash reserves are healthy. The College has concluded that its financial health status is "outstanding" in 2017/18 and 2019/20 of the financial plan, and "good" in 2018/19. The College can fund the developments in its strategic plan and there are no elements requiring substantial funding not already reflected in the financial plan. The College is satisfied that, whilst the financial framework within which it operates is challenging and often unpredictable, adverse variances can be accommodated by strong risk management and contingency planning.

Treasury policies and objectives

The College has treasury management arrangements in place to manage cash flows, banking arrangements and the effective control of the risks associated with those activities, and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. Low rates of investment return have continued to affect College income during 2017/18.

The College has a treasury management policy in place.

Cash flows and liquidity

The College had a cash inflow of £29,000 during 2017/18 and will receive GLLEP grant funding in 2018/19 relating to EMAT capital expenditure incurred in 2017/18.

The College has a single bank loan in place which amounted to £2,052,000 on 31 July 2018. The borrowing had been authorised by the Accounting Officer and complies with the requirements of the College's Financial Memorandum with the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Short term borrowing for temporary revenue purposes is authorised by the Accounting Officer. All other borrowing requires the authorisation of the Corporation and complies with the requirements of the Financial Memorandum.

The size of the College's borrowing and its approach to interest rates were calculated to ensure a reasonable cushion between the total cost of servicing debt and operating cashflow.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Current and future development and performance (continued)

Reserves policy

The College has no formal Reserves Policy but recognises the importance of reserves in the financial stability of any organisation and ensures that there are adequate reserves to support the College's core activities. As at the balance sheet date the Income and Expenditure reserve stands at £8.3m (2017: £5.3m). The Corporation adopts a prudent policy on reserves, matching its need to maintain reserves with the need to invest in the future of the college. For this reason, the Corporation generally operates on the basis of unallocated cash reserves remaining in excess of £1 million which equates to 2-3 months of payroll costs. The actual cash balance at the end of 2017-18 was £4.3m. The College has no restricted reserves.

Going Concern

After making appropriate enquiries, the Corporation considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Cash flow projections over the next year show cash balances staying above £2m. Cost pressures from rises in teachers' pension employer contributions and reductions in the Adult Education budget from devolution are being factored into future budget projections early to ensure a good financial health is maintained. For this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Principal risks and uncertainties

Risk Management

The College has worked to continually develop and embed the systems of internal control, including financial, operational and risk management which are designed to protect the College's assets and reputation.

Based on the strategic plan, the Executive management group undertakes a comprehensive review of the risks to which the College is exposed. They identify systems and procedures, including specific actions to mitigate any potential impact on the College. These internal controls are implemented, and the subsequent year's appraisal reviews their effectiveness and progress against ongoing risk mitigation actions. In addition to the annual review, the Executive management group also considers any risks which may arise because of a new area of work being undertaken by the College.

A risk register is maintained at College level which is reviewed at least annually by the Corporation and more frequently where necessary. The risk register identifies the key risks, the likelihood of those risks occurring, their potential impact on the College and the actions being taken to reduce and mitigate the risks. Risks are prioritised using a consistent scoring system.

Outlined below is a description of the principal risk factors that may affect the College. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

1. Significant Funding Allocation Variance

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the further education sector funding body (80% in 2017-18) and this is expected to continue. There can be no assurance that government policy or practice will remain the same or that public funding will continue at the same levels or on the same terms, particularly in the context of public sector spending constraints.

Introduction of the apprenticeship levy has significantly affected that marketplace however the college successfully procured a non-levy contract and is increasing levy enrolments. The main challenge is growth in FTE's which is required to meet previous income levels.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Risk Management (continued)

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Creating contingency plans for increased / decreased levels of activity based on priorities.
- Understanding and focusing on government priorities for funding in order to guarantee that activity generates income.
- Continuing to explore alternative income sources and access any suitable ones.
- Ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining dialogue and managing key relationships with funders and key stakeholders
- Ensuring the College is focused on those priority sectors which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Active pursuit of cost efficiencies and income generation opportunities.

2. European Union withdrawal

The United Kingdom exit from the European Union is likely to impact on the number of EU learners enrolling at the College.

In recent years, the College has managed significant amounts of EU project funding. This funding opportunity will disappear once the UK's membership of the European Union comes to an end and the current ESOL provision will be phased out and is a low margin course.

This risk will be mitigated in a number of ways:

- Ensuring the college continues to promote itself as a welcoming and diverse organisation.
- Making adjustments to curriculum offer.
- Regular review of enrolment numbers.
- Seeking out alternative funding streams.

3. Major Enrolments shortfall

Changes to funding arrangements, policy and competition all have the potential to significantly affect the number of learners recruited by the college both locally and internationally. These risks are monitored and mitigated in a number of ways:

- Ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training.
- Working closely with employers and the local community to ensure the College's offer is relevant and meeting skills needs
- Ensuring that its management focus and investments enhance the quality of learner experience and promote the College's position as the provider of choice within its market

4. Staff recruitment

The College has faced increasing challenges in the recruitment of teaching staff in some key areas and has adopted a number of strategies to address these challenges. However, hard to fill vacancies are proving costly acquisitions with agency costs being required in many cases.

5. Pension liability

Changes in the factors which impact on the valuation of the local government pension scheme such as market conditions, interest rates and longevity of pensioners affect the College's liability and costs in respect of support staff pensions. With its obligation to participate in the scheme, the College has almost no control over these costs. The risk is mitigated by an agreed deficit recovery plan with the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund and an annual review of pension assumptions with actuary and audit advice.

Teacher's pension scheme contributions are set to rise from September 2019, which will increase the College's pay costs. The increase will be included within 2019/20 budgets.

Boston College Corporation

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Principal risks and uncertainties (continued)

Risk Management (continued)

6. Capital Investment

The transfer of responsibility for skills capital funding from the Skills Funding Agency to the Local Enterprise Partnership has led to uncertainty about the process for obtaining funding for major works, leading to the risk of failing to maintain and develop the College's estate. Funding is subject to the outcomes of a bidding process. The College has ensured that the LEP is fully aware of its capital requirements through submitted bids and has also bid to alternative funding streams as opportunities arose, and has been successful in securing LEP funding for the building of the EMAT centre.

7. Failure to maintain the financial viability of the College

The College's current financial health grade is classified as "outstanding" as described above. Notwithstanding that, the continuing challenge to the College's financial position remains the constraint on further education funding arising from the ongoing cuts in public sector spending whilst maintaining the student experience. This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By rigorous budget setting procedures and sensitivity analysis
- Regular in year budget monitoring
- Robust financial controls
- Exploring ongoing procurement efficiencies

Staff and student involvement

The College considers good communication with its staff to be very important and to this end publishes regular newsletters and bulletins which are sent to all staff. The College uses staff meetings and briefings as additional mechanisms for staff communication. Minutes of internal meetings and plans are on the College intranet. The College encourages staff and student involvement through membership of the Corporation and other cross-college groups such as the Equality & Diversity Group. A 'lightbox' initiative to capture staff suggestions is being launched. The college are focusing on 'Time to Talk' sessions and an innovative pilot project funded by the Charlie Waller Memorial Trust, and are also working in partnership with the NHS Education stream to deliver wellbeing courses which are promoted to learners and staff.

The College's Learner Involvement Strategy has been in place for several years. A Learner Involvement Co-ordinator is employed to involve learners more effectively in the review and improvement of all services within the College which impact directly on users. The co-ordinator has worked to develop materials and activities which promote 'learner voice' within the College, ensuring learners were fully aware of the benefits that the 'learner voice' brought them as individuals and the impact it has had in the development of College services.

Public Benefit

Boston College is an exempt charity under Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the Charity, are disclosed on page 13.

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (continued)

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

- High-quality teaching and excellent outcomes for learners
- Working with employers to meet skills needs thereby improving their profitability and increasing productivity.
- Supporting disadvantaged and unemployed learners to access education
- Excellent student progression into work and/or Higher Education
- Strong student support systems
- Links with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

The delivery of public benefit is covered throughout the report of the governing body.

Equality

Advancing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion so that it is central to our College culture is one of our key strategic aims. It will help fulfil our vision to be a brilliant college that transforms people's lives and makes an outstanding contribution to the economy of Greater Lincolnshire by working in partnership with employers and other key stakeholders.

We recognise our duties under the Equality Act. Certain groups with 'Protected Characteristics' are covered under the Act from discrimination, harassment and victimisation. The Protected Characteristics are: -

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership (but only in respect of eliminating unlawful discrimination)
- pregnancy and maternity
- race – this includes ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
- religion or belief – this includes lack of belief
- sex/gender
- sexual orientation

The Equality Act also includes the Public Sector Equality Duty, which requires public authorities such as ourselves to help:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
- advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
- foster good relations between people from different groups

Underpinning this statement are our employer, student and visitor policies and procedures. Each give consideration to equality, diversity and inclusion and routinely analysed and monitored to ensure they achieve the desired impacts and outcomes.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Trade union facility time

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

Relevant Union Officials

Numbers of employees who were relevant union officials during the relevant period	FTE employee number
1	1

Percentage of time spent on facility time

Percentage of time	Number of employees
1-50%	1

Percentage of pay bill spent on facility time

Total cost of facility time	£1,510
Total pay bill	£10,454,000
Percentage of total bill spent on facility time	0.01%

Paid trade union activities

Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	6.0%
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Accessibility

The College continually monitors, adapts and extends its curriculum offer to ensure that it effectively serves its community. Learners with complex needs are well catered for at the Ingelow Centre which has the capacity for increased numbers but growth is dependent on the numbers approved for high needs funding by the Local Authority.

Due to the predominantly rural location of the College, efforts are made to offer outreach services both through direct provision in main centres of population outside Boston and collaboration with partner organisations within the wider community. Reductions in government funding for adult provision has limited the range and scope of outreach provision so, whilst curriculum planning processes continue to take account of the need to provide education and training across a wide geographical spread, methods to do this more cost-effectively are being developed.

Higher Education opportunities in Boston have increased since September 2013 when the College started its full-time HE offer of local, affordable Higher National diplomas and Foundation degrees. The provision has grown steadily and the appointment of a dedicated HE Manager in 2017 is leading to additional growth.

Events after the end of the reporting period

There were no post balance sheet events.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

REPORT OF THE GOVERNING BODY (CONTINUED)

Disclosure of information to auditors

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

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 5 December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

P L Cropley
Chair

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and financial statements of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

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

The College is committed to exhibiting best practice in all aspects of corporate governance.

In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the adopted Code of Good Governance, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2018. The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes account of The Code of Good Governance issued by the Association of Colleges which the College formally adopted on 14 October 2015.

We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the UK Corporate Governance Code 2016. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those aspects of the UK Corporate Governance Code we consider to be relevant to the further education sector and best practice.

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

Boston College is committed to providing learning opportunities that truly meet the needs of the local community and that will bring new opportunities and improve lives, whatever personal circumstances. The College embraces the commitment to community learning outlined in New Challenges, New Chances, specifically to

- Maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people’s circumstances
- Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement
- Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities.
- In addition the College is wholly committed to meeting the Education and Skills Funding Agency’s requirement that colleges should operate in strong local partnerships to ensure that plans and strategies are underpinned by engagement with communities, Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other key local stakeholders. We recognise the need to be cost effective and to secure additional revenue over and above the public subsidy.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

The Corporation

The members who served the Corporation during the year and up to the date of signature of this report were as follows:

Name	Date of Appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Committees Served	Corporation meeting Attendance 2017-18 %
Mr A Atkins	25 Feb 2015	4 years		A	80
Mr Stephen Brown	14 Oct 2015	4 years		St/A	60
Mr P Cropley	13 May 2015	4 years		F&R/R/S&G	100
Mr S Crozier	5 July 2017	To 10 May 2020			100
Mr D Earnshaw	6 Dec 2017	4 years		F&R/R	75
Mr M Gallagher	11 May 2016	4 years	15 Aug 2018	F&R/S&G	40
Mr D Hanson	14 Oct 2015	4 years		A	100
Ms J Maher	1 Sept 2017			F&R/A/St/S&G	100
Ms H Mather	14 Dec 2016	4 years		St	60
Mr S McCracken	19 Nov 2017	To 31 Dec 2018	24 Oct 2018	F&R/R/S&G	60
Prof J Mitchell	9 July 2014	4 years	20 Dec 2017	St	0
Mr C Pett	25 Feb 2015	4 years		St	80
Ms A Savage	9 May 2018	4 years		A/S&G	100
Mr H Smith	2 Mar 2018	To 31 Jul 2019		St	0
Mr G Tawton	25 Feb 2015	4 years		F&R	80
Mr B Webb	11 May 2016	4 years		St	80
Mr N Worth	16 Dec 2015	4 years		F&R	60
Mrs H Wright	14 July 2016	4 years		A	60

Mrs J Hemmant is Clerk to the Corporation.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

The Corporation (continued)

"F&R" Finance and Resources committee, "R" Remuneration, "A" audit, "S&G" Search and Governance, "St" standards

The following persons also acted as directors of one or more of the College's two wholly owned subsidiaries, Boston College Group and Eastern Enterprises Limited.

Ms J Maher (Principal) (appointed 1 September 2017)

Mr P Collins (Director of Business Development)

Mrs F Grady (Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality) (left 30 April 2018)

Mrs J Hemmant (Vice Principal: Corporate Services) (retired 31 August 2018)

Mrs V Locke (Vice-Principal: Curriculum & Quality) (appointed 1 May 2018)

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

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

The Corporation conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. The standing committees are Finance and Resources, Remuneration, Search and Governance, Audit and Standards.

Full minutes of all meetings except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation are available on the College website (www.boston.ac.uk) or from the Clerk to the Corporation at:

Boston College
Skirbeck Road
Boston
Lincs
PE21 6JF

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

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

Formal agendas, papers and reports are supplied to governors in a timely manner prior to Board meetings. Briefings are also provided on an ad hoc basis. Members also receive information relevant to their role from a number of national bodies including the Association of Colleges.

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

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a Search and Governance committee which is responsible for the selection and nomination of new members for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required and held a formal CPD event for all governors during 2017/18. The CPD included presentations by external speakers.

Members of the Corporation (other than the Principal) are appointed for a term of office not exceeding four years. The maximum number of terms of office for members is determined by the Corporation based on need.

Corporation performance

The Corporation and its committee's routinely monitor their performance and carry out formal self-assessment annually. Governance at Boston College is good. Governors are outward looking and have used good practice seen in other colleges to improve their own performance. They have high aspirations for learners at the College and provide a high level of challenge to senior managers to ensure that outcomes for learners and the quality of teaching and learning are continually improving and that the College is financially stable.

Remuneration Committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2018, the College's remuneration committee comprised five members of the Corporation. The committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Accounting Officer and the Clerk. The committee met twice during 2017-18.

Details of remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2018 are set out in Note 8 to the financial statements.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee comprises five members of the Corporation (excluding the Accounting Officer). The committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit Committee meets at least twice per year and provides a forum for reporting by the College's internal, regularity and financial statements auditors, who have access to the committee for independent discussion without the presence of College management. The committee also receives and considers reports from the FE funding body as they affect the College's business.

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

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

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

Finance and Resources Committee

The Finance and Resources Committee comprises seven members of the Corporation and has responsibility for the review of the College's financial performance. The committee also takes a lead role in oversight of human resources and property matters.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

Standards Committee

The Standards Committee comprises eight members of the Corporation, including the staff members, plus 2 student members at the discretion of the Corporation, and has responsibility for the review of the College's non-financial performance. The committee sets targets and reviews the College's performance against a set of key indicators. The committee plays a key role in the review of academic performance and feedback from stakeholders.

Internal Control

Scope of responsibility

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

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

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives; it can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of College policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in Boston College for the year ended 31 July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed, together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2018 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the Corporation.

The risk and control framework

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

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

The risk and control framework (continued)

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

Review of effectiveness

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

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

The Accounting Officer has been advised on the implications of any weaknesses identified as a result of her review on the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the internal auditor and other sources of assurance. Should there be any weaknesses, a plan to address these and to ensure continuous improvement of the system will be put in place.

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

The Audit Committee's role in this area is confined to a high-level review of the arrangements for internal control. The Corporation's agenda includes a regular item for consideration of risk and control and it receives reports thereon from the senior management team and the Audit Committee. The emphasis is on obtaining the relevant degree of assurance and not merely reporting by exception. At its December 2018 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2018 by considering documentation from the senior leadership team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31 July 2018.

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND INTERNAL CONTROL (CONTD)

Going concern

The College is in sound financial health with good cash reserves. The financial plan prepared in summer 2018 confirmed an ESFA measurement of financial health as 'outstanding' for years 2017/18 and 2019/20 with good predicted for 2018/19. The College's robust and proven financial planning and control processes are established to maintain its viability.

After making appropriate enquiries, the Corporation considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason and recognising the factors outlined in the Future Developments section on page 4 and 5, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 5 December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

P L Cropley

.....
Signed
Chair

J Maher

.....
Signed
Accounting Officer

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

GOVERNING BODY'S STATEMENT ON THE COLLEGE'S REGULARITY, PROPRIETY AND COMPLIANCE WITH FUNDING BODY TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF FUNDING

The Corporation has considered its responsibility to notify the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of funding, under the College's grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA. As part of our consideration we have had due regard to the requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with ESFA.

We confirm on behalf of the Corporation, that after due enquiry, and to the best of our knowledge, we are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of funds by the College, or material non-compliance with the terms and conditions of funding under the College's grant funding agreements with contracts with the ESFA.

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

P L Cropley

.....
Signed
Chair

5 December 2018

J Maher

.....
Signed
Accounting Officer

5 December 2018

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CORPORATION

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

Within the terms and conditions of the College's Financial Memorandum with the ESFA, the Corporation, through its Accounting Officer, is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year in accordance with the 2015 *Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education* and with the *College Accounts Direction 2017 to 2018* issued by the ESFA, and which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the College and the result for that year.

In preparing the financial statements the Corporation is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable Accounting Standards were followed, subject to any material departure disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the College will continue in operation.

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

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

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

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

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 5 December 2018 and signed on its behalf by:

P L Cropley
Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BOSTON COLLEGE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Boston College (the "College") and its subsidiary (the "Group") for the year ended 31 July 2018 which comprise the consolidated and college statements of comprehensive income, the consolidated and college balance sheets, the consolidated and college statements of changes in reserves, the consolidated statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2018 and of the Group's and the College's deficit of income over expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the governors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the governors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the group's or the college's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice 2017 to 2018 issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BOSTON COLLEGE (CONTINUED)

Responsibilities of the Corporation of Boston College

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporation's Responsibilities set out on page 21, the Corporation is responsible for the preparation of financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Corporation determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Corporation, as a body, in accordance with the Funding Agreement published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and our engagement letter dated 24 July 2017. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Corporation, as a body, those matters we are engaged to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Corporation, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RSM UK AUDIT LLP
Chartered Accountants
Two Humber Quays
Wellington Street West
HULL
HU1 2BN

Date

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

CONSOLIDATED AND COLLEGE STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

		2018		2017	
	Notes	Group £'000	College £'000	Group £'000	College £'000
INCOME					
Funding body grants	3	12,406	12,406	12,334	12,334
Tuition fees and education contracts	4	1,928	1,928	1,873	1,873
Other income	5	943	912	944	908
Investment income	6	3	30	3	36
Total income		<u>15,280</u>	<u>15,276</u>	<u>15,154</u>	<u>15,151</u>
EXPENDITURE					
Staff costs	7	10,454	10,454	9,970	9,970
Other operating expenses	9	4,352	4,348	4,089	4,086
Depreciation	12	682	682	678	678
Interest and other finance costs	10	154	154	193	193
Total expenditure		<u>15,642</u>	<u>15,638</u>	<u>14,930</u>	<u>14,927</u>
(Deficit) / surplus before other gains and losses		(362)	(362)	224	224
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets		-	-	-	-
(Deficit) / surplus before tax		(362)	(362)	224	224
Taxation	11	-	-	-	-
(Deficit) / surplus for the year		(362)	(362)	224	224
Re-measurement of net defined benefit pension liability	23	3,203	3,203	2,726	2,726
Other Comprehensive income for the year		<u>3,203</u>	<u>3,203</u>	<u>2,726</u>	<u>2,726</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		<u>2,841</u>	<u>2,841</u>	<u>2,950</u>	<u>2,950</u>
(Deficit) / surplus for the year attributable to the Corporation of the College		<u>(362)</u>	<u>(362)</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>224</u>
Total Comprehensive Income for the year attributable to the Corporation of the College		<u>2,841</u>	<u>2,841</u>	<u>2,950</u>	<u>2,950</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

BALANCE SHEETS

	Notes	Group 2018 £000	College 2018 £000	Group 2017 £000	College 2017 £000
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12	15,411	15,411	15,657	15,657
Intangible assets	13	24	24	-	-
Investments	14	-	-	-	-
Total fixed assets		<u>15,435</u>	<u>15,435</u>	<u>15,657</u>	<u>15,657</u>
Current assets					
Stock	15	18	18	22	22
Debtors	16	610	679	548	614
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>4,341</u>	<u>4,257</u>	<u>4,318</u>	<u>4,236</u>
Total current assets		<u>4,969</u>	<u>4,954</u>	<u>4,888</u>	<u>4,872</u>
Current liabilities					
Creditors - amounts falling due within one year	17	<u>(2,017)</u>	<u>(2,002)</u>	<u>(2,253)</u>	<u>(2,237)</u>
Net current assets		<u>2,952</u>	<u>2,952</u>	<u>2,635</u>	<u>2,635</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		18,387	18,387	18,292	18,292
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	18	(4,519)	(4,519)	(4,707)	(4,707)
Provisions for liabilities					
Defined benefit pension scheme	23	(1,945)	(1,945)	(4,454)	(4,454)
Other provisions	19	<u>(486)</u>	<u>(486)</u>	<u>(535)</u>	<u>(535)</u>
Total net assets		<u>11,437</u>	<u>11,437</u>	<u>8,596</u>	<u>8,596</u>
Unrestricted reserves					
Income and expenditure reserve		8,341	8,341	5,378	5,378
Revaluation reserve		<u>3,096</u>	<u>3,096</u>	<u>3,218</u>	<u>3,218</u>
Attributable to the College Corporation and total unrestricted reserves		<u>11,437</u>	<u>11,437</u>	<u>8,596</u>	<u>8,596</u>

The financial statements on pages 24 - 49 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 5 December 2018 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:

P L Cropley
Chair

J Maher
Accounting Officer

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

CONSOLIDATED AND COLLEGE STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN RESERVES

	Income and expenditure reserve £'000	Revaluation reserve £'000	Total £'000
Group			
Balance at 1 August 2016	2,306	3,340	5,646
Surplus for the year	224	-	224
Other comprehensive income	2,726	-	2,726
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	122	(122)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>3,072</u>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>2,950</u>
Balance at 31 July 2017	<u>5,378</u>	<u>3,218</u>	<u>8,596</u>
(Deficit) / surplus for the year	(362)	-	(362)
Other comprehensive income	3,203	-	3,203
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	122	(122)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>2,963</u>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>2,841</u>
Balance at 31 July 2018	<u><u>8,341</u></u>	<u><u>3,096</u></u>	<u><u>11,437</u></u>
College			
Balance at 1 August 2016	2,306	3,340	5,646
Surplus for the year	224	-	224
Other comprehensive income	2,726	-	2,726
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	122	(122)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>3,072</u>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>2,950</u>
Balance at 31 July 2017	<u>5,378</u>	<u>3,218</u>	<u>8,596</u>
(Deficit) for the year	(362)	-	(362)
Other comprehensive income	3,203	-	3,203
Transfers between revaluation and income and expenditure reserves	122	(122)	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>2,963</u>	<u>(122)</u>	<u>2,841</u>
Balance at 31 July 2018	<u><u>8,341</u></u>	<u><u>3,096</u></u>	<u><u>11,437</u></u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	Notes	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	22	634	1,160
Taxation paid		-	-
Net cash from operating activities		<u>634</u>	<u>1,160</u>
Investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets		-	15
Investment income		3	2
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(436)	(960)
Purchase of intangible fixed assets		(24)	-
		<u>(457)</u>	<u>(943)</u>
Financing activities			
Interest paid		(26)	(28)
Repayments of borrowings		(122)	(116)
		<u>(148)</u>	<u>(144)</u>
Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		<u>29</u>	<u>73</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year		4,310	4,237
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year		<u>4,339</u>	<u>4,310</u>
Cash and cash equivalents comprise			
Cash at bank and in hand		4,341	4,318
Bank overdraft		(2)	(8)
		<u>4,339</u>	<u>4,310</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General Information

Boston College is a corporation established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 as an English general college of further education. The address of the College's principal place of business is given on page 15. The nature of the College's operations are set out in the Report of the Governing Body.

Basis of accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2015 (the 2015 FE HE SORP), the College Accounts Direction for 2017-18 and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland" (FRS 102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS 102.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated and separate financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

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

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

In accordance with the 2015 FE HE SORP and FRS 102, the College in its separate financial statements, which are presented alongside the consolidated financial statements, has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions available to it in respect of presentation of a cash flow statement and financial instruments.

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the College and its subsidiaries. Of these, only Eastern Enterprises Limited traded during 2017-18. The results of any subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the period are included in the consolidated income and expenditure account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. Intra-Group sales and profits are eliminated fully on consolidation. In accordance with FRS 102, the activities of the student union have not been consolidated because the College does not control those activities. All financial statements are made up to 31 July 2018.

Going Concern

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

The College currently has £2.1m of loans outstanding with bankers on terms negotiated in 2011. The College's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to operate within this existing facility and covenants for the foreseeable future. The College will receive significant investment in 2018-19 from the LEP used for the construction of the EMAT building. The latest 2-year financial plan prepared by the College covers the period 2018 - 2020. This shows that the College expects to maintain a sound financial position over the period of the plan.

Accordingly the Governors have a reasonable expectation that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its annual Financial Statements.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Recognition of income

Grants – government and non-government

Government revenue grants are accounted for under the accrual model and are recognised where a reliable estimate of the fair value of the asset received or receivable can be made on a systematic basis over the periods in which the related costs for which the grant compensates are recognised.

Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the year of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under achievement for the Adult Education Budget, outside of the permitted tolerance level, is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the income and expenditure account. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end.

16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments and is recognised when receivable.

The recurrent grant from HEFCE / OFS represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is recognised when received or receivable.

Grants from non-government sources, including grants relating to assets, are recognised in income when the College has met the performance-related conditions and the grant will be received. Income received in advance of performance related conditions being met is recognised as a liability.

Government capital grants for assets, other than land, are accounted for under the accrual model. The income received or receivable will be recognised over the expected useful life of the asset, with any amount of the asset-related grant that is deferred being recognised as deferred income. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Other income

Income from the supply of services is recognised at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents the value of services to the extent there is a right to consideration.

Income from tuition fees is recognised over the period for which it is received and includes all fees payable by students or their sponsors.

All income from short-term deposits is accrued in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

Accounting for post-employment benefits

Post-employment benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund (LCCPF). These are defined benefit schemes, which are externally funded.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries on the basis of valuations using a prospective benefit method. The TPS is a multi employer scheme and the College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. The TPS is therefore treated as a defined contribution scheme and the contributions recognised as an expense in the income statement in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

The LCCPF is a funded scheme and the assets are measured using closing fair values. The liabilities are measured using the projected unit credit method and discounted at the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs as incurred. Net interest on the net defined benefit liability asset is also recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises the interest cost of 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 Comprehensive income in the statement of comprehensive income.

Short term employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences (holiday pay) are recognised as an expense in the year in which the employees render service to the College. The cost of any unused holiday entitlement the College expects to pay in future periods is recognised in the period the employees' services are rendered.

Enhanced pensions

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fixed asset investments

College

Interests in subsidiaries are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses in the separate financial statements of the College.

Interests in subsidiaries are assessed for impairment at each reporting date. Any impairment losses or reversals of impairment losses are recognised immediately in comprehensive income.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at deemed cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Land and buildings

Land and buildings are stated at deemed cost at the date of transition to FRS102 less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Equipment

Equipment (excluding IT equipment) costing less than £1,000 per individual item or set of items acquired together is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment and IT equipment is capitalised and recognised at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and residual values

Freehold land is not depreciated and it is considered to have an infinite useful life. Depreciation on other assets is calculated, using the straight line basis, to write off the cost of each assets to its estimated residual value over its expected useful lives, as follows:

- Freehold buildings – over periods up to 50 years
- Long leasehold buildings – over the shorter of 50 years and the remaining lease term
- Equipment – between 3 and 6 years

Residual value is calculated on prices prevailing at the reporting date, after estimated costs of disposal, for the asset as if it were at the age and in the condition expected at the end of its useful life.

Subsequent costs, including replacement parts, are only capitalised when it is probable that such costs will generate future economic benefits. Any replaced parts are then derecognised. All other costs of repairs and maintenance are expenses as incurred.

Intangible fixed assets

Intangible assets are stated at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their useful life. If a reliable estimate of useful life is not possible, the life shall not exceed 5 years.

An intangible asset will be recognised only if future economic benefits flow to the College and the cost of the asset can be measured reliably. Examples of intangible assets include software costs and website development costs.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Impairment of fixed assets

An assessment is made at each reporting date of whether there are indications that a fixed asset may be impaired or that an impairment loss previously recognised has fully or partially reversed. If such indications exist, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the asset.

Shortfalls between carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, being the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, are recognised as impairment losses. Impairment of revalued assets, are treated as a revaluation loss. All other impairment losses are recognised in comprehensive income.

Recognised impairment losses are reversed if, and only if, the reasons for the impairment loss have ceased to apply. Reversals of impairment losses are recognised in comprehensive income or, for revalued assets, as a revaluation gain. On reversal of an impairment loss, the depreciation or amortisation is adjusted to allocate the asset's revised carrying amount (less any residual value) over its remaining useful life.

Borrowing costs

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

Operating leases

All leases are operating leases and annual rents are charged to comprehensive income on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Where necessary, provision is made for obsolete, slow-moving and defective items.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash includes cash in hand, deposits and repayable on demand and overdrafts.

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

Financial Instruments

The Group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

Financial assets and liabilities

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Group becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Financial Instruments (continued)

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets measured at fair value through the profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. A financial asset or financial liability that is payable or receivable in one year is measured at the undiscounted amount expected to be received or paid net of impairment, unless it is a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset only when there is a current legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the intention to either settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

A financial asset is derecognised only when the contractual rights to cash flows expire or are settled, or substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are transferred to another party, or if some significant risks and rewards of ownership are retained but control of the asset has transferred to another party that is able to sell the asset in its entirety to an unrelated third party. A financial liability (or part thereof) is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

The College receives no similar exemption in respect of Value Added Tax. For this reason the College is generally unable to recover input VAT it suffers on goods and services purchased. Capital costs and non-pay expenditure are therefore shown inclusive of VAT with any partial recovery netted off against these figures.

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

Provisions and contingent liabilities

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

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

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

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Agency arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of certain Discretionary Support Funds. Related payments received from the funding body and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Income and Expenditure account and are shown separately in note 24, except for the 5 per cent of the grant received which is available to the College to cover administration of Learner Support Fund applications and payments.

2 CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS AND ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

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

Critical areas of judgement

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

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

- Tangible fixed assets

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

- Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund

The present value of the Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund 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 23, 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 2016 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2018. 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.

- Impairment of fixed assets

The College considers whether tangible fixed assets are impaired. Where an indication of impairment is identified the estimation of the recoverable amount of the asset or the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit is required. These will require an estimation of the future cash flow and selection of an appropriate discount rates in order to calculate the net present value of those cash flows.

- Provisions

The College holds a provision on its balance sheet for an onerous lease contract for a property that it holds until 2021. The College has made its best estimate of the costs for this lease up to the end of the lease and has recognised this amount as a provision.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

3 Funding Body Grants

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
Recurrent grants				
Education and Skills Funding Agency – adult	3,098	3,098	3,007	3,007
Education and Skills Funding Agency – 16-18	7,676	7,676	7,510	7,510
Education and Skills Funding Agency – apprenticeships	1,417	1,417	1,588	1,588
Higher Education Funding Council / Office For Students	136	136	152	152
Specific grants				
Releases of government capital grants	79	79	77	77
Total	<u>12,406</u>	<u>12,406</u>	<u>12,334</u>	<u>12,334</u>

4 Tuition fees and education contracts

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
Tuition fees	1,348	1,348	1,408	1,408
Education contracts	580	580	465	465
Total	<u>1,928</u>	<u>1,928</u>	<u>1,873</u>	<u>1,873</u>

5 Other income

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
Catering and residences	453	453	433	433
Other income generating activities	245	214	237	201
Miscellaneous income	245	245	274	274
Total	<u>943</u>	<u>912</u>	<u>944</u>	<u>908</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

6 Investment income

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
Income from bank deposits	3	3	3	3
Gift aid	-	27	-	33
Total	3	30	3	36

7 Staff costs and key management personnel remuneration – Group and College

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, expressed as full-time equivalents, was:

	2018 Number	2017 Number
Teaching staff	163	151
Non-teaching staff	184	186
	<u>347</u>	<u>337</u>
	2018 £000	2017 £000
Staff costs for the above persons		
Wages and salaries	7,751	7,677
Social security costs	643	624
Other pension costs	1,956	1,533
Payroll sub total	10,350	9,834
Contracted out staffing services	77	87
	<u>10,427</u>	<u>9,921</u>
Restructuring costs – contractual	18	49
Restructuring costs – non contractual	9	-
	<u>10,454</u>	<u>9,970</u>

All restructuring costs were approved by the Senior Leadership Team.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

8 Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and in 2017/18 were represented by the Senior Leadership Team which comprised the Principal, Vice Principal: Curriculum and Quality, Vice Principal: Corporate Resources, Director of Business Development, Head of Quality, Head of Curriculum and Head of Learner Services. Staff costs include compensation paid to key management personnel for loss of office.

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

	2018	2017
	No.	No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

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

	Key management personnel		Other staff	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	No.	No.	No.	No.
£40,001 to £50,000 p.a.	3	3	-	-
£50,001 to £60,000 p.a.	1	1	-	-
£60,001 to £70,000 p.a.	2	2	-	-
£100,001 to £110,000 p.a.	-	-	-	-
£110,001 to £120,000 p.a.	1	1	-	-
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Amanda Mosek, retired during the year on 31 August 2017 with the new Principal and Chief Executive, Jo Maher, commencing on 1 September 2017. The Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality, Fiona Grady, retired during the year on 30 April 2018 with the new Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality, Vicki Locke, commencing on 1 May 2018. The Head of Quality commenced her new role of Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality on 1 May 2018, therefore the new Head of Quality, Craig Gosling, commenced on 1 June 2018. Where there were 2 Accounting Officers in the year, the below emoluments include the salary for both.

Key management personnel (including the Accounting Officer) total compensation is made up as follows:

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Salaries	421	447
Benefits in kind	-	-
National Insurance	50	53
	<u>471</u>	<u>500</u>
Pension contributions	75	79
	<u>75</u>	<u>79</u>
Total emoluments	<u>546</u>	<u>579</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

8 Key management personnel

There were no amounts due to key management personnel that were waived in the year, nor any salary sacrifice arrangements in place.

The above emoluments include amounts payable to the Accounting Officer (who is also the highest paid of key management personnel) of:

	Current Accounting Officer (11 months)	Previous Accounting Officer (1 month)	
	2018	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Salaries	96	10	120
Benefits in kind	-	-	-
National Insurance	12	1	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	108	11	135
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Pension contributions	16	2	20
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The emoluments for the Accounting Officer include the costs for both post holders in the year, the new Principal and Chief Executive Officer started on 1 September 2017.

Governors' remuneration

The Accounting Officer and the staff member only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking their roles of Principal and staff members under contracts of employment and not in respect of their roles as governors. The other members of the Corporation did not receive any payments from the college in respect of their roles as governors.

The total expenses paid to or on behalf of the Governors during the year was £nil (2017 £351; 3 Governors). This represents travel and subsistence expenses and other out of pocket expenses incurred in attending Governor meetings and charity events in their official capacity.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9 Other operating expenses

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
Teaching costs	1,804	1,804	1,649	1,649
Non teaching costs	1,662	1,658	1,617	1,617
Premises costs	886	886	823	820
Total	4,352	4,348	4,089	4,086

	2018 Group £000	2018 College £000	2017 Group £000	2017 College £000
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(Deficit) / Surplus before taxation is stated after charging/(crediting):

Auditors' remuneration:

Financial statements audit	17	17	17	17
Internal audit	13	13	13	13
Other services provided by financial statements auditors				
- Audit related assurance services and regularity	3	3	3	3
- Other assurance services	4	4	1	1
(Profit) on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	-	(15)	(15)
Operating lease rentals – plant and machinery	38	38	30	30
Operating lease rentals – other assets	-	-	19	19

10 Interest and other finance costs – Group and College

	2018 £000	2017 £000
Bank loans and overdrafts	26	28
Net interest on defined pension liability (note 23)	128	165
	154	193

11 Taxation

The members do not believe the College is liable for any corporation tax arising out of its activities during either year.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

12 Tangible fixed assets - Group and College

	Land and buildings		Equipment £000	Assets in the Course of Construction £000	Total £000
	Freehold £000	Leasehold £000			
Cost or valuation					
At 1 August 2017	19,171	1,190	4,396	-	24,757
Additions	6	7	245	178	436
Disposals	-	-	(7)	-	(7)
At 31 July 2018	<u>19,177</u>	<u>1,197</u>	<u>4,634</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>25,186</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2017	5,194	94	3,812	-	9,100
Charge for year	350	23	309	-	682
Elimination in respect of disposals	-	-	(7)	-	(7)
At 31 July 2018	<u>5,544</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>4,114</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>9,775</u>
Carrying amount at 31 July 2018	<u>13,633</u>	<u>1,080</u>	<u>520</u>	<u>178</u>	<u>15,411</u>
Carrying amount at 31 July 2017	<u>13,977</u>	<u>1,096</u>	<u>584</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,657</u>

Land and buildings were revalued as at 31 July 1997 for the purposes of these financial statements at depreciated replacement cost by James Eley and Son, a firm of independent chartered surveyors. These assets are held at book value.

Land and buildings includes land valued at Group and College £835,000 (2017 £835,000) which is not depreciated as it is considered to have an infinite useful life.

Leasehold costs relate to the Peter Paine Sports Centre in Boston. The College has agreed to lease the building on a 99 year lease commencing 2011.

If inherited land and buildings had not been revalued they would have been included in the balance sheet at the following amounts:

	Group and College £000
Cost	NIL
Aggregate depreciation based on cost	NIL
Carrying amount based on cost	<u><u>NIL</u></u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

13. Intangible Assets – Group and College

	Website £000	Total £000
Cost or valuation		
At 1 August 2017	-	-
Additions	24	24
At 31 July 2018	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 August 2017	-	-
Charge for year	-	-
At 31 July 2018	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Carrying amount at 31 July 2018	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>
Carrying amount at 31 July 2017	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The College purchased a new website in 2017/18 which went live in September 2018.

14 Non-current Investments

	2018 £	2017 £
Investments in subsidiary companies	4	10

Interest in group undertakings

	Country of incorporation or registration	Description of shares held	Proportion of nominal value of issued shares held by:	
			Group	College
Boston College Group Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary £1 shares	100%	100%
Eastern Enterprises Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary £1 shares	100%	100%

Eastern Enterprises Limited operated wholly within the United Kingdom. The principal activity during the year was to charge commercial lettings in the property known as the Red Lion Quarter in Spalding.

South Lincolnshire College Limited was renamed in the year to Boston College Group Ltd; South Lincolnshire Academy Limited, Wilcomex Limited and East Lindsey Skills Alliance Limited were dissolved on 7 August 2018; all these companies were dormant throughout the year.

15 Stock

	Group and College	
	2018 £000	2017 £000
Raw materials and consumables	<u>18</u>	<u>22</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

16 Debtors

	Group 2018 £000	College 2018 £000	Group 2017 £000	College 2017 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:				
Trade debtors	274	273	253	249
Amounts owed by subsidiary undertakings	-	70	-	70
Prepayments and accrued income	168	168	186	186
Amounts owed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency	168	168	109	109
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	610	679	548	614

Trade debtors includes £20,000 (2017 £14,000) for bad debt provision.

17 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year:

	Group 2018 £000	College 2018 £000	Group 2017 £000	College 2017 £000
Bank loans and overdraft	117	117	123	123
Trade creditors	419	419	242	242
Other taxation and social security	295	295	286	286
Other creditors	53	53	40	40
Accruals	707	692	747	731
Government capital grants	80	80	77	77
Government grants – revenue	162	162	260	260
Amounts owed to:				
Education and Skills Funding Agency	184	184	478	478
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	2,017	2,002	2,253	2,237

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

18 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	Group 2018 £000	College 2018 £000	Group 2017 £000	College 2017 £000
Bank Loan	1,936	1,936	2,052	2,052
Government capital grants	2,583	2,583	2,655	2,655
Total	<u>4,519</u>	<u>4,519</u>	<u>4,707</u>	<u>4,707</u>

Bank loans and overdrafts

	Group 2018 £000	College 2018 £000	Group 2017 £000	College 2017 £000
Bank loans and overdrafts are repayable as follows:				
In one year or less	117	117	123	123
Between one and two years	116	116	116	116
Between two and five years	348	348	348	348
In five years or more	1,472	1,472	1,588	1,588
Total	<u>2,053</u>	<u>2,053</u>	<u>2,175</u>	<u>2,175</u>

Interest is charged at a flat rate of 1.25% where the College can match the outstanding balance of the loan with funds in a non-interest bearing current account. The unmatched balance is subject to a margin of 2.5% above the Bank's base rate. The loan is repayable by quarterly instalments from August 2014 to September 2034 and is secured on the Rochford Campus.

19 Provisions for liabilities

Group and College	Enhanced Pension £000	Other £'000	Total £'000
At 1 August 2017	154	381	535
Amounts utilised	(13)	(71)	(84)
Changes in period charged to Statement of Comprehensive Income	<u>4</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>35</u>
At 31 July 2018	<u>145</u>	<u>341</u>	<u>486</u>

The other provision is the future costs associated with premises commitments over the period to 2021.

The enhanced pension provision relates to the cost of staff who have already left the College's employment and commitments for reorganisation costs from which the College cannot reasonably withdraw at the balance sheet date. The provision has been recalculated in accordance with guidance issued by the funding bodies.

The principal assumptions for this calculation are:

	2018	2017
Price inflation	1.3%	1.3%
Discount rate	2.3%	2.3%

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

20 Financial commitments

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

	Group and College	
	2018 £000	2017 £000
Payments due		
Not later than one year	35	44
Later than one year and not later than five years	88	122
Total lease payments due	122	166

Capital commitments

	Group and College	
	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Commitments contracted for at 31 July	292	-

21 Financial Instruments

The Group has the following financial instruments:

	2018 £'000	2017 £'000
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss	-	-
Debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	274	253
Accrued income	79	38
Total	353	291
	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at fair value through profit or loss	-	-
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors	419	242
Bank loans and overdrafts	2,053	2,176
Accruals	760	787
Total	3,232	3,205

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

22 Notes to the cash flow statement

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
(Deficit) / Surplus after tax for the year	(362)	224
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation	682	678
Deferred capital grants released to income	(79)	(77)
Investing activities – receipt of capital grant	10	-
Investment income	(3)	(2)
Interest payable	154	193
Profit on sale of fixed assets	-	(15)
(Decrease) in provisions	(49)	(169)
Pensions costs less contributions payable	566	306
Operating cash flow before movements in working capital	<u>919</u>	<u>1,138</u>
Decrease in stocks	4	14
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(62)	96
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(227)	(88)
Cash generated from operations	<u><u>634</u></u>	<u><u>1,160</u></u>

23 Retirement Benefits

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

Total pension cost for the year	2018	2017
	£000	£000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	617	585
Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund		
Contributions paid	696	672
FRS 102 (28) charge	<u>640</u>	<u>306</u>
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,336	978
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	<u>3</u>	<u>(30)</u>
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs	<u><u>1,956</u></u>	<u><u>1,533</u></u>

The pension costs are assessed in accordance with the advice of independent qualified actuaries. The latest formal actuarial valuation of the TPS was 31 March 2012 and of the LCCPF 31 March 2016.

Contributions amounting to £148,465 (2017 £147,214) were payable to the scheme at 31 July and are included within creditors.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

23 Retirement Benefits (continued)

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

Not less than every four years the Government Actuary ("GA"), using normal actuarial principles, conducts a formal actuarial review of the TPS. The aim of the review is to specify the level of future contributions. Actuarial scheme valuations are dependent on assumptions about the value of future costs, design of benefits and many other factors.

The latest actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2012 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published in June 2014. The key results of the valuation and subsequent consultation are:

- Total scheme liabilities for service (pensions currently payable and the estimated cost of future benefits) of £191.5 billion
- Value of notional assets (estimated future contributions together with the proceeds from the notional investments held the valuation date) of £176.6 billion
- Notional past service deficit of £14.9 billion
- Assumed real rate of return is 3.0% in excess of prices and 2% in excess of earnings
- Rate of real earnings growth is assumed to be 2.75%
- Assumed nominal rate of return is 5.06%

The employer contribution rate was 14.1% until 1 September 2015, when it increased to 16.48% (including a 0.08% administration fees), with an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay. The employer contribution rate will be payable until the next valuation as at March 2016 (the next valuation of the TPS is currently underway), whereupon the employer contribution rate is expected to be reassessed and be payable from 1 April 2019.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £617,000 (2017: £585,000)

The TPS is a multi-employer pension plan and there is insufficient information to account for the scheme on as a defined benefit plan so it is accounted for as a defined contribution plan.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website at the following location:

<https://www.teacherspensions.co.uk/news/employers/2014/06/publication-of-the-valuation-report.aspx>

Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund

The Lincolnshire County Council Pension Fund is a funded defined-benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Lincolnshire County Council. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2018 were £963,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £770,000 and employees' contributions totalled £193,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 21.5% for employers and range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, depending on salary. Following the triennial valuation, the College made deficit repayments of £74,000 for the year ending 31 March 2018, increasing by £2,000 per annum until 31 March 2020.

The current valuation does not reflect the expected increase in benefits and therefore liability as a result of Guaranteed Minimum Pension ('GMP') equalisation between men and women which is required as a result of the removal of the Additional State Pension. Methodologies for a long-term solution are still being investigated by the Government as set out in the published (January 2018) outcome of the Government Consultation 'Indexation and Equalisation of GMP in Public Sector Pensions Schemes' and therefore the expected impact cannot be reliably estimated and consequently no provision/liability has been recognised.

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

23 RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2016 updated to 31 July 2018 by a qualified independent actuary

	At 31 July 2018	At 31 July 2017
Rate of increase in salaries	* 2.4%	2.4%
Future pensions increases	2.2%	2.5%
Discount rate	2.8%	2.7%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.4%	2.5%
Commutation of pensions to lump sums	50%	50%

* 1% until 31 July 2019, 2% until 31 July 2020, 2.5% until July 2021 then RPI less 0.6% pa thereafter

The average life expectancy for a pensioner retiring at 65 on the reporting date is:

	At 31 July 2018 years	At 31 July 2017 years
<i>Retiring today</i>		
Males	22.1	22.1
Females	24.4	24.4
<i>Retiring in 20 years</i>		
Males	24.1	24.1
Females	26.6	26.6

	Fair value at 31 July 2018 £'000	Fair value at 31 July 2017 £'000
Equity instruments	15,130	14,320
Debt instruments	3,109	2,203
Property	2,280	1,652
Cash	207	184
	<u>20,726</u>	<u>18,359</u>
Actual return on plan assets	<u>1,813</u>	<u>1,873</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

RETIREMENT BENEFITS (continued)

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

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets	20,726	18,359
Present value of plan liabilities	(22,671)	(22,813)
	<u>(1,945)</u>	<u>(4,454)</u>

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

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	(1,336)	(978)
Net interest on the net defined benefit pension liability	(128)	(165)
Total	<u>(1,464)</u>	<u>(1,143)</u>
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income:		
Remeasurement of net defined benefit pension liability	3,203	2,726
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	<u>3,203</u>	<u>2,726</u>

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations		
Defined benefit obligations at start of period	22,813	22,749
Current service cost	1,336	978
Interest cost	631	555
Contributions by scheme participants	193	176
Actuarial (gains)	(1,893)	(1,248)
Benefits paid	(409)	(397)
Defined benefit obligations at end of period	<u>22,671</u>	<u>22,813</u>

Changes in fair value of plan assets

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Fair value of plan assets at start of period	18,359	16,040
Interest income	503	390
Return on plan assets (excluding net interest on the net defined benefit liability)	1,310	1,478
Employer contributions	770	672
Contributions by scheme participants	193	176
Benefits paid	(409)	(397)
Fair value of plan assets at end of period	<u>20,726</u>	<u>18,359</u>

Boston College Corporation

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 31 July 2018

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

24 Amounts disbursed as agent learner support funds

	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000
Funding body grants	623	637
Disbursed to students	(401)	(301)
Administration costs	(17)	(14)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance unspent as at 31 July, included in creditors	205	322
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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

25 Related party transactions

Key management compensation disclosure is given in note 8.

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

Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 24 July 2017 and further to the requirements of the grant funding agreements and contracts with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (the "ESFA"), to obtain limited assurance about whether the expenditure disbursed and income received by Boston College during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 have been applied to the purposes identified by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In the course of our work, nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 has not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Basis for conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Post-16 Audit Code of Practice (the "ACoP") issued by the ESFA. In line with this framework, our work has specifically not considered income received from the main funding grants generated through the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) returns, for which the ESFA has other assurance arrangements in place.

We are independent of Boston College in accordance with the ethical requirements that are applicable to this engagement and we have fulfilled our ethical requirements in accordance with these requirements. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our conclusion.

Responsibilities of Corporation of Boston College for regularity

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

Reporting accountant's responsibilities for reporting on regularity

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

The objective of a limited assurance engagement is to perform such procedures as to obtain information and explanations in order to provide us with sufficient appropriate evidence to express a negative conclusion on regularity. A limited assurance engagement is more limited in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement and the procedures performed vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement; consequently a limited assurance engagement does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a positive opinion.

We report to you whether anything has come to our attention in carrying out our work which suggests that in all material respects, expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 have not been applied to purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

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

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

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CORPORATION OF BOSTON COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION ACTING THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION – (CONTINUED)

Use of our report

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

RSM UK AUDIT LLP
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Date