

BURNLEY COLLEGE

Report and Financial Statements for
the year ended 31 July 2025



Key Management Personnel, Board of Governors and Professional advisers

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are defined as members of the College Leadership Team and were represented by the following in 2024/25:

Karen Buchanan, Principal and Accounting Officer absent from 3 March 2025

Kate Wallace, Deputy Principal and Interim Principal from May 2025

Stuart Arnfield, Director of Finance and Resources

Sarah Crossley, Assistant Principal

Neil Burrows, Assistant Principal

Nina Parkin, Assistant Principal

Board of Governors

A full list of Governors is given on pages 14 and 15 of these financial statements.

Mrs S Lomas acted as Clerk to the Corporation throughout the year.

Professional advisers

Financial statements auditors and regularity reporting accountant:

RSM UK Audit LLP

Bluebell House

Brian Johnson Way

Preston

PR2 5PE

Internal auditors:

ICCA Education Training and Skills Limited

3rd Floor Charles House

Great Charles Street

Queensway

Birmingham

B3 3HT

Bankers:

Barclays Bank plc

72/78 St James Street

Burnley

Lancashire

BB11 1GF

Lloyds Bank plc

1st Floor

31/32 Park Row

Leeds

LS1 5JD

Solicitors:

Walker Morris LLP

Kings Court

12 King Street

Leeds

LS1 2HL

Principal place of business:

Burnley College

Princess Way

Burnley

Lancashire

BB12 0AN

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Members' Report

NATURE, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The members present their report and the audited financial statements of Burnley College ("the College") for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Legal status

The College was established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 in the name of Burnley College for the purpose of providing education and training. The College is an exempt charity for the purposes of Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011.

Purpose

Burnley College builds futures and changes lives.

Public Benefit

Burnley College is an exempt charity under the Part 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and from 1st September 2013, is regulated by the Secretary of State for Education as Principal Regulator for all Further Education Corporations in England. The members of the Governing Body, who are trustees of the charity are disclosed on pages 14 and 15.

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.

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

- High-quality teaching
- Widening participation and tackling social exclusion
- Excellent employment record for students
- Strong student support systems
- Links with employers, industry and commerce.

The delivery of public benefit is covered in more detail throughout this Members' Report.

Implementation of Strategic Plan

The 2024/25 academic year has been another exciting year with fantastic student achievements, experiences, awards and celebrations, and through all the activity the College has continued to provide outstanding education, support, and experience to all students, achieving its objectives for the year.

The strategic objectives of the College in 2024/25 were:

- 1 To develop mature and confident young people through excellent sixth form education with academic and vocational pathways.
- 2 To significantly expand the local range of opportunities for university education while maintaining high standards.

Members' Report (continued)

- 3 To make a significant contribution to the local and national economy through enhancing the personal growth, enterprise and employability of individuals.
- 4 To maintain teaching and learning and all business support processes at an excellent standard.
- 5 To promote a culture of excellence where all staff have high aspirations, a positive morale and are able to grow and develop through their contributions to the College's success.
- 6 To assure stable financial health, value for money and environmental sustainability.
- 7 To maintain outstanding equality of opportunity.

Performance indicators

The College delivered positive outcomes against all objectives during 2024/25. The College's performance against its specific goals for 2024/25 was as follows:

- 1 *To achieve an excellent achievement rate of 90% or above with high levels of both retention and achievement.*

The College achievement rate for 2024/25 is currently being finalised for R14 but will not achieve target. The national rate for 2024/25 is not yet available. The national rate for 2023/24 was 81%

- 2 *To ensure students achieve beyond their potential evidenced by a value added score of above +0.3.*

The value added analysis measures distance travelled by students against their expected performance based upon an assessment of their entry qualifications. The current measures show progress of +0.24 for A-Levels, -1.34 for Extended Diploma, and +0.13 for T-Levels.

- 3 *To evidence innovative learning and teaching excellence demonstrated through at least 90% of Deep Dives graded at good or better with high levels of learning visit outcomes.*

The College maintains a rigorous process of self assessment and continual improvement. In 2024/25 deep dive outcomes were at 100% good or better.

- 4 *To achieve planned targets in respect of the major funding streams for University Education, Further Education, commercial activities and projects*

Further Education showed growth compared to the previous year. Higher Education was slightly below target and Apprenticeships was broadly in line with target. Commercial activities and projects saw growth due to new projects being secured.

- 5 *To foster strong relationships with the business community by building trust and mutual respect through impactful collaborative partnerships.*

Employer engagement has continued to be strong with fantastic links with local and regional businesses through employer forums, engagement activity, and events.

- 6 *To demonstrate an innovative utilisation of College assets and practices in order to maximise opportunities for the organisation through our people.*

Members' Report (continued)

The College has continued to implement innovative developments in respect of teaching and learning, with a focus upon ensuring all students are 'active and engaged' in purposeful learning to achieve their qualifications.

7 To demonstrate high levels of staff engagement, morale and support whilst maintaining a safe and secure environment as a basis for outstanding performance.

The externally benchmarked staff survey carried out in May 2025 indicated a positive staff morale with 87% of staff responding and Burnley College rating positively out of 42 Colleges across the country for overall agreement.

8 To achieve the College budget while demonstrating value for money and environmental sustainability.

The College made a surplus for the year of £1,692,000 (Operational surplus of £1,499,000 excluding FRS102 charge). The overall income budget was exceeded and pay and non-pay costs were closely controlled throughout the year.

9 To demonstrate equality of opportunity in achieving the above goals

The College maintained a strong commitment to equality of opportunity in its practices, and this was reflected in the equal opportunities analysis of the above goals.

Financial objectives

During 2024/25 the College's performance against its financial objectives were as follows:

1 To achieve an annual operating surplus of 3% or above as a percentage of income

The College made an operating surplus (surplus excluding the pension valuation adjustment of £193,000 for the year) of £1,499,000 which equates to 3.3% of income.

2 To maintain cash balances of not less than £3 million

The cash balances saw a low point of £1.8million at a certain point in the year but were strengthened over the year as a whole, with a year end balance of £5.1m.

3 To maintain a general reserve of not less than £1 million

The general reserve was maintained at not less than £1million, and closed the year at £23 million.

Members' Report (continued)

FINANCIAL POSITION

Financial results

The College made a surplus before other gains and losses in the year of £1,692,000 (2023/24 £2,269,000).

The College made an operating surplus of £1,499,000 (2023/24 £1,891,000) prior to the pension scheme actuarial valuation gain of £193,000 (2023/24 £378,000).

The College has accumulated reserves of £23,060,000 (2023/24 £21,561,000), and cash balances of £5,098,000 (2023/24 £3,585,000). The cash balance in year includes £1,690,301 of restricted cash. This relates to the receipt of a capital allocation grant from the Department for Education which has to be spent within 3 years of receipt. These will be utilised in line with the purpose and strategic objectives of the College. The reserves have increased due to the surplus generated in year. Cash balances have reduced due to capital investment in the College's campus.

Tangible fixed asset additions during the year amounted to £3,936,000. £2,206,000 on the construction and refurbishment of the campus and £1,730,000 on the purchase of equipment. Capital grants to the value of £3,516,000 were received towards the construction of new buildings and the purchase of specialist equipment.

The College has significant reliance on the Department for Education for its income, as its principal funding sources, largely from recurrent grants. In 2024/25 this body provided 80% of the College's total income (2023/24 78%).

Treasury policies and objectives

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

The College has a separate treasury management policy in place.

Cash flows

The College generated £1,513,000 overall cash inflow in the year (2023/24 £4,361,000 overall cash outflow) as noted above. These include significant fixed asset investments (including the the development of several areas of the campus).

Liquidity

During the year the College has continued to reduce its loans with Lloyds and Burnley Borough Council in line with the agreed payment terms. At the year end, the College had borrowings from Lloyds of £3.7 million (2023/24 £4.1 million), and from Burnley Borough Council of £1.7 million (2023/24 £1.8 million), both of which were drawn down to support campus developments.

The size of the College's total borrowing and its approach to interest rates were formulated to ensure a reasonable cushion between the total cost of servicing debt and operating cash flow. During the year this margin was comfortably exceeded.

Members' Report (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 £23,060,000 (2023/24 £21,561,000). It is the Corporation's intention to increase reserves over the life of the strategic plan through the generation of annual operating surpluses.

CURRENT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Student numbers

In 2024/25 the College has delivered activity that has produced £36,445,000 in funding from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (2023/24 £33,012,000). This income is contained within the 'Funding Council Income' of £36,872,000 as shown in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The College had approximately 6,500 students on these funded programmes and a further 3,000 students on Higher Education and commercial programmes.

Student achievements

'A' level pass rates are high despite a national decline due to the introduction of Linear A Levels. Exam results at A* to C, A* to B are also high. GCSE English and Maths results, are above national averages. The current measures show progress of +0.24 for A-Levels, -1.34 for Extended Diploma, and +0.13 for T-Levels for 2024/25.

Curriculum developments

Methods of learning and teaching are under continuous review and development to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of the local population. The College continues to implement its Learning and Teaching model that seeks to ensure that students are active and engaged in purposeful studies at all times.

The College has developed a stakeholder strategy to ensure all curriculum is industry informed in its design and implementation. This resulted in a 'Strong' judgement for skills from Ofsted.

The College wide modernisation agenda continues to lead to demonstrable best practice in exploiting IT in the essential business processes of the College.

Estate Property Strategy

The College has developed and expanded its campus over the last few years in response to growing demand and capacity requirements. As part of our continued strategy for growth, the College is looking at opportunities to further develop its site.

Members' Report (continued)

Payment performance

The Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, which came into force on 1 November 1998, requires colleges, in the absence of agreement to the contrary, to make payments to suppliers within 30 days of either the provision of goods or services or the date on which the invoice was received. During the period under review, the College paid an estimated 96 per cent of its invoices within 30 days. The College has incurred no interest charges in respect of late payment for this period.

Post balance sheet events

There are no post balance sheet events to note.

Future developments

The Learning and Teaching model will continue to be developed and enhanced to remain abreast of best practice in teaching and learning and the effective use of technology in assisting those practices.

Themis has been firmly established and continues to develop the quality and extent of, bespoke business solution services provided to the business community. Alongside this North West Business Training offers "off the shelf" training to support businesses with their legislative training requirements.

With the country continuing to see the impact of overseas wars and cost of living challenges, there will inevitably be ongoing impacts of the situation with businesses struggling and making redundancies affecting potential commercial and apprenticeship income, individuals needing to retrain for new jobs, and government investment in various sectors and schemes. The College will continue to adapt to meet the requirements of its students, local community and businesses. The College has developed financial plans for the future years including the objective to maintain its outstanding financial health rating. The financial plans will see the College return a surplus each year and continue to meet all of its financial KPIs.

Financial plan

The College governors approved a financial plan in June 2025 which sets the following objectives for the period to 31 July 2028. The plan shows the College continuing in a strong financial position, with a surplus and positive cashflow each year.

RESOURCES

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

Premises

The campus at Princess Way, Burnley, was designed with close involvement from staff and students and it provides excellent accommodation. The College continues to invest in its campus and facilities to ensure an outstanding education and experience for all students. The University of Central Lancashire successfully works in one wing of the College providing a University curriculum that complements BCUC curriculum.

The College has in recent years completed the construction of three new buildings: the University Building; the North Campus and Industry Hub; and the Science, Health & Education building. Further improvements to existing buildings also continue including the development of a new beauty training suite and further classroom developments.

Financial

The College has £23 million of net assets (2023/24 £21.6 million of net assets) and long term debt of £5.3 million (2023/24 £5.9 million).

People

The College employs 715 people, of whom 391 are teaching staff.

Members' Report (continued)

Reputation

The College has a positive reputation both locally and nationally. It is characterised by outstanding student personal development, high standards and aspirations; a very inspirational learning environment and a strong commitment to valuing equally all of its staff and students.

PRINCIPAL RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

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

A risk register is maintained at the College level which is reviewed at least on a termly basis by the Audit Committee and reported annually to the Governing Board. 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.

The main risk factors affecting the college are outlined below along with the action taken to minimise them. Not all the factors are within the College's control. Other factors besides those listed below may also adversely affect the College.

Risk 1: Changes in government policy leading to loss of funding, curriculum changes, including the impact of Devolution & Skills England.

Mitigations include membership of professional organisations, liaison with political and sector leaders, and modelling of potential implications.

Risk 2: Failure to develop and maintain strong relationships with partner organisations and stakeholders could lead to loss of business, reputation and income.

Mitigations include involvement in local business and education bodies, attendance at events, dedicated relationship management teams, and regular meetings with key stakeholders.

Risk 3: Income targets not achieved within different areas.

Mitigations include detailed business planning processes, ongoing monitoring and action from SMT and managers, and responsive marketing strategies.

Risk 4: Failure in quality of student education and experience leading to poor reputation, poor inspection result, low achievement rates, or loss of student numbers.

Mitigations include high quality self assessment, quality assurance, and monitoring processes in place in all areas, benchmarking, strong advice and guidance, and best practice visits.

Risk 5: Poor data quality and/or late returns leading to possible audit or inspection and potential funding clawback or approval withdrawn (eg. OfS conditions).

Mitigations include established data returns procedures, regular data team meetings with monitoring through data dashboards, and regular liaison with regulatory bodies.

Members' Report (continued)

Risk 6: Serious breaches of legislation, including data protection, health and safety, safeguarding, environment, equality, diversity and inclusion, and employment.

Mitigations include regular training, monitoring at all levels, and external support.

Risk 7: Impact of negative media, news stories and branding, on reputation and stakeholder relationships.

Mitigations include an established media protocol, marketing and brand guidelines, and media monitoring.

Risk 8: The effective operation of the College depends on a secure and effective IT system. There are a number of explicit risks within any IT system. If these are not properly controlled the College may be subject to an unacceptably high level of risk.

Mitigations include physical and IT security measures, IT policies, backup procedures, cyber security measures and training, insurance, and disaster recovery plans.

Risk 9: Serious damage/ disruption to College estate and operations as a result of disaster incident (e.g. fire/ flood/ terrorism/ health issue/knife crime).

Mitigations include emergency incident plans, regular training and testing, insurance, and external support.

Risk 10: Failure to recruit, retain and develop key and high quality staff, including managing absence, leading to potential operational and quality issues.

Mitigations include innovative recruitment approaches, strong employee reward, wellbeing and other support measures, mentoring support, and regular review and benchmarking.

Government funding

The College has considerable reliance on continued government funding through the further education sector funding bodies and through Office for Students (formerly HEFCE). In 2024/25, 80% of the College's revenue was ultimately public funded and this level of requirement is expected to continue. There is 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.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- Funding is derived through a number of direct and indirect contractual arrangements
- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training
- Considerable focus and investment is placed on maintaining and managing key relationships with the various funding bodies
- Ensuring the College is focused on those priority sectors which will continue to benefit from public funding.
- Understanding local business needs
- Regular dialogue with funding bodies.

Members' Report (continued)

Going Concern

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Members' Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The College currently has £5.3m of loans outstanding with bankers and Burnley Borough Council on terms negotiated in 2008 and 2022, and holds cash balances of £5.1m at 31 July 2025 (£1.6m of the cash balance is restricted cash relating to a capital grant receipt that has not yet been spent).

The College's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to meet debt service costs (interest and capital repayments) as and when they fall due and covenants for the foreseeable future. Although the balance sheet shows a net current liability position, the short term creditors includes £2.8m of deferred capital grant and holiday pay accrual which when excluded would take the underlying measure to a net current asset position. Accordingly the College has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, and for at least the 12 months following these accounts, and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of its Financial Statements.

Tuition fee policy

Ministers have confirmed that the fee assumption remains at 50%. In line with the majority of other colleges, Burnley College will seek to increase tuition fees in accordance with the fee assumptions. The risk for the College is that demand falls off as fees increase. This will impact on the growth strategy of the College.

This risk is mitigated in a number of ways:

- By ensuring the College is rigorous in delivering high quality education and training, thus ensuring value for money for students
- Close monitoring of the demand for courses as prices change

Maintain adequate funding of pension liabilities

The financial statements report the share of the Local Government Pension Scheme surplus on the College's balance sheet in line with the requirements of FRS 102.

STAKEHOLDER RELATIONSHIPS

In line with other colleges and with universities, Burnley College has many stakeholders. These include:

- Students & parents
- Education Sector Funding Bodies
- Staff
- Local employers (with specific links)
- Local Authorities
- Government Offices/Local Enterprise Partnerships/DFE
- The local community
- Other Further Education institutions

Members' Report (continued)

- Professional bodies
- FE Commissioner
- Universities
- Trade unions

The College recognises the importance of these relationships and engages in regular communication with them through various channels.

Members' Report (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.

Numbers of employees who were relevant period	FTE employee number
8	7.5

Percentage of time	Number of employees
0%	0
1-50%	8
51-99%	0
100%	0

Total cost of facility time	£14,487
Total Pay bill	£24,998,895
Percentage of total paid facility time	0.06%

Total paid facility time hours in relevant period	714
Total hours spent on paid Trade Union activities in relevant period	0
Time spent on paid trade union activities as a percentage of total paid facility time	0%

Equal opportunities and employment of disabled persons

Burnley College is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work at the College. We respect and value positively across all protected characteristics. We strive vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage. This policy is resourced, implemented and monitored on a planned basis.

The College's Single Equality Policy including Race Relations and Transgender Policies, is published on the College's website.

The College considers all applications from disabled persons, bearing in mind the aptitudes of the individuals concerned. Where an existing employee becomes disabled, every effort is made to ensure that employment with the College continues. The College's policy is to provide training, career development and opportunities for promotion, which are, as far as possible, identical to those for other employees. An Equality and Diversity report is published each year and monitored by managers and governors.

Members' Report (continued)

Disability statement

The College seeks to achieve the objectives set down in the Equality Act 2010 and in particular makes the following commitments:

- a) the short and medium term accommodation strategy provides for virtually all of the College facilities to be accessible to people with a disability;
- b) there is a list of specialist equipment, which the College can make available for use by students;
- c) Appeals against a decision not to offer a place are dealt with under the complaints policy;
- d) the College has made a significant investment in the appointment of specialist lecturers to support students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. There are a number of student support assistants who can provide a variety of support for learning. There is a continuing programme of staff development;
- e) to ensure the provision of a high level of appropriate support for students who have learning difficulties and/or disabilities;
- f) specialist programmes are described in programme information guides, and achievements and destinations are recorded and published in the standard college format;
- g) counselling and welfare services are also available.

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 3 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



David Brown
Chair

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control

The following statement is provided to enable readers of the annual report and accounts of the College to obtain a better understanding of its governance and legal structure. This statement covers the period from 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and financial statements.

The College endeavours to conduct its business:

- i. in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership);
- ii. in full accordance with the guidance to colleges from the Association of Colleges in The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges ("the Code");
- iii. having due regard to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 insofar as it is applicable to the further education sector

The Governing Body recognises that, as a body entrusted with both public and private funds, it has a particular duty to observe the highest standards of corporate governance at all times. In carrying out its responsibilities, it takes full account of The Code of Good Governance for English Colleges issued by the Association of Colleges. In the opinion of the Governors, the College complies with all the provisions of the Code, and it has complied throughout the year ended 31 July 2025.

We have not adopted and therefore do not apply the UK Corporate Governance Code. However, we have reported on our Corporate Governance arrangements by drawing upon best practice available, including those the principles and guidance 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.

Burnley College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

The Corporation

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

Name	Date of appointment	Term of Office	Date of Resignation	Status of appointment	Committees served	Corporation meeting % attendance
David Brown	May-05	4 years		Business Governor (Public Sector -Planning)	Chair: Corporation Vice Chair: Search & Governance. Member: Remuneration, Finance.	100%
	May-09	4 years				
	May-13	4 years				
	Jun-17	4 years				
	Jun-21	4 years				
Karen Buchanan	May-18	Absent from 3 March 2025		Principal	Member: HR. Audit (by invitation only). Curriculum & Standards, Finance and Search & Governance all ex officio.	100%
Kate Wallace	May-25			Interim Principal	Member: HR. Audit (by invitation only). Curriculum & Standards, Finance and Search & Governance all ex officio.	100%
Richard Thorley	Jun-95	4 years		Business Governor (Private Sector -Manufacturing)	Vice Chair: Finance. Member: Search and Governance.	100%
	Jun-99	4 years				
	Sep-03	4 years				
	Sep-07	4 years				
	Jun-11	4 years				
	Jun-15	4 years				
	Jun-18	4 years				
Philip Turner	Jun-23	4 years		Business Governor (Private Sector -Legal)	Chair: Human Resources. Member: Remuneration.	100%
	Jun-93	4 years				
	Apr-97	4 years				
	Apr-01	4 years				
	May-05	4 years				
	May-09	4 years				
	May-13	4 years				
Jim Sutcliffe	Jun-17	4 years		Business Governor (Private Sector -Business)	Chair: Audit. Vice Chair: Human Resources. Member: Remuneration, Search & Governance.	100%
	Jun-21	4 years				
	Jun-25	1 year extension				
	Nov-97	4 years				
	Apr-01	4 years				
	May-05	4 years				
	Jun-09	4 years				
Gillian Bardin	Jun-13	4 years		Business Governor (Private Sector- Finance)	Vice Chair: Corporation. Chair: Remuneration, Search & Governance. Member: Audit	100%
	Jun-17	4 years				
	Jun-21	4 years				
Paul Henderson	Jun-25	1 year extension		Business Governor (Private Sector -Chartered Surveyor)	Member: Finance, Search & Governance	100%
	Oct-14	4 years				
	Oct-18	4 years				
Guy Thomas	Oct-22	4 years		Business Governor (Private Sector -Manufacturing)	Chair: Finance. Member: Search & Governance	100%
	Dec-14	4 years				
	Dec-18	4 years				

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Fiona Lugiano	Dec-18 Dec-22	4 years 4 years		Public Sector - Education	Chair: Curriculum and Standards, Member: HR, Remuneration	75%
Steve Wilkinson	Sep-22	4 years		Private sector - Training Provider	Vice Chair: Curriculum & Standards. Member: Search & Governance	75%
Annette Weekes	Sep-22	4 years		Private Sector - Manufacturing	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%
David Tomlinson	Oct-22	4 years		Private Sector - Audit for HE	Vice Chair: Audit	100%
Isabelle Balfour	Jan-25	1 year	Jan-25	Student Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%
Hassan Khalil	Jan-25	1 year	Jan-25	Student Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	50%
Sam Sheard	Jan-24	1 year	Jan-25	Student Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%
Abigail Geary	Jan-24	1 year	Jan-25	Student Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%
Vikki Goddard	Jun-24	4 years		Public Sector - Higher Education	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%
Lukman Patel	Oct-24	4 years		Public Sector - Government	Member: Human Resources	100%
Richard Sanderson	Nov-24	2 years	Apr-25	Staff Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	66%
David Easton	Nov-24	2 years	May-25	Staff Governor	Member: Curriculum & Standards	50%
Paul Ragnall	Jan-24	4 years		Public Sector - Health and Safety	Member: Finance	100%
Sharon Roscoe	Oct-24	4 years		Public Sector - Education	Member: Curriculum & Standards	100%

Simone Lomas is Clerk to the Governing Board.

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

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

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

The Corporation conducts its business through a number of committees. Each committee has terms of reference, which have been approved by the Corporation. These committees are Finance, Human Resources, Curriculum and Standards, Remuneration, Search and Governance, and Audit. The Governors have also appointed the Accommodation Group to act on their behalf on the new build. Full minutes of all meetings, except those deemed to be confidential by the Corporation, are available from the Clerk to the Corporation at:

Burnley College
Princess Way
Burnley
BB12 0AN

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 to the Board 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.

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 the roles of the Chairman and Interim Principal are separate.

Appointments to the Corporation

Any new appointments to the Corporation are a matter for the consideration of the Corporation as a whole. The Corporation has a search committee, consisting of eight members of the Corporation, which is responsible for the selection and nomination of any new member for the Corporation's consideration. The Corporation is responsible for ensuring that appropriate training is provided as required.

Members of the Corporation are appointed in accordance with the Colleges Instruments and Articles of Governance.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Corporation performance

The Corporation carried out a self-assessment of its own performance for the year ended 31 July 2025.

The governing body is committed to development and has holds two strategic planning and development events, in January and May each year, with external facilitators and development sessions from College senior managers. The governing body also receive update briefings before each board and committee meeting, and have completed training updates during the year on safeguarding, health and safety, and cyber security. In addition, two members of the governing body have completed designated safeguarding leader training.

The governing body has considered DfE guidance on board reviews and commissioned an external review of governance that was undertaken during the year. The external review was conducted by Carole Drury (on behalf of the AoC) and was completed on 2 May 2024.

The conclusion of the review was as follows; "There is very strong evidence that the Board is highly proficient and consistently impacts positively on college strategy, effectiveness and outcomes."

Remuneration committee

Throughout the year ending 31 July 2025, the College's Remuneration Committee comprised six members of the Corporation. The Committee's responsibilities are to make recommendations to the Board on the remuneration and benefits of the Interim Principal and other senior post-holders. The College has adopted the AoC's Senior Staff Remuneration Code.

Details of senior post holders' remuneration for the year ended 31 July 2025 are set out in note 7 to the financial statements.

Audit committee

The Audit Committee comprises three members of the Corporation (excluding the Interim Principal and Chair). The Committee operates in accordance with written terms of reference approved by the Corporation.

The Audit Committee meets on a termly basis 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 main Further Education funding bodies 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, regularity and financial statements auditors and their remuneration for both audit and non-audit work.

The audit committee met 3 times in the year to 31 July 2025. The members of the committee and their attendance records are shown on the following page:

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Committee member	Meetings attended
Mr J Sutcliffe	3
Mr D Tomlinson	3
Mrs G Bardin	3

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 Interim 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 they are personally responsible, in accordance with the responsibilities assigned to them in the Financial Memorandum and the OFS registration conditions. The Principal 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 Burnley College for the year ended 31 July 2025 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The Corporation has reviewed the key risks to which the College is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls and arrangements for compliance with legal and regulatory matters including those relating to the regularity and propriety of the use of public funding that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The Corporation is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the College's significant risks that has been in place for the period ending 31 July 2025 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

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

- setting targets to measure financial and other performance
- clearly defined capital investment control guidelines
- the adoption of formal project management disciplines, where appropriate.

Burnley 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 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.

Risks faced by the College

The College identifies, evaluates, and manages risk through a well established risk management process involving regular review and update of its strategic risk register and risk management action plan, which is reviewed by the Audit Committee three times per year. The College's key risks are covered under the Principal Risks and Uncertainties section of the Members Report.

Control weaknesses identified

Through the College's internal audit programme a number of reviews were undertaken during the year, which identified some minor recommendations for improvement that the College is implementing. However inaccurate individualised learner records were submitted by the College which inflated the qualification achievement rates, this was reported by Leaders and governors in the College who proactively reported the issue to the Department for Education and the FE Commissioner. This resulted in an extensive audit and investigation taking place to ensure recording of data is accurate.

Responsibilities under funding arrangements and the Office for Students conditions of registration

The College continues to meet its statutory responsibility for 'the effective and efficient use of resources, the solvency of the institution and the corporate body and the safeguarding of their assets' (as required by Section 5(3)(c) of Schedule 4 of the Further and Higher Education Act along with its contractual responsibilities under its funding agreements and contracts with the DfE and OfS conditions of registration. This is overseen and monitored by the governing body through regular review, scrutiny, and challenge of financial, performance and risk information, with assurance over these activities provided from external audits, reviews, and compliance checks.

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

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Statement from the audit committee

The specific areas of work undertaken by the audit committee in 2024/25 and up to the date of the approval of the financial statements are:

- review of internal audit reports
- review of external audit work and findings
- scrutiny and challenge of the risk management framework and documents
- review of the College's counter fraud strategy
- scrutiny and challenge of the College's business continuity processes

Review of effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, the Interim Principal has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. Their 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 and the regularity auditors in their management letters and other reports.

The Interim Principal has been advised on the implications of the result of their review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control by the Audit Committee, which oversees the work of the independent audit reviews and other sources of assurance and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

The Interim Principal and senior management team receive reports setting out key performance and risk indicators and considers possible control issues brought to their attention by early warning mechanisms, which are embedded within the departments and reinforced by risk awareness training. The Principal and senior management team and the Audit Committee also receive regular reports from independent audit reviews 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 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 2024 meeting, the Corporation carried out the annual assessment for the year ended 31 July 2024 by considering documentation from the senior management team and internal audit, and taking account of events since 31 July 2024.

Inaccurate individualised learner records were submitted by the College which inflated the qualification achievement rates, this was reported by Leaders and governors in the College who proactively reported the issue to the Department for Education and the FE Commissioner. This resulted in an extensive audit and investigation taking place to ensure recording of data is accurate for 2024/25.

Statement of Corporate Governance and Internal Control (continued)

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 3 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



David Brown

Chair



Kate Wallace

Interim Principal and Accounting Officer

Governing Body's statement on the College's regularity, propriety and compliance with Funding body terms and conditions of funding

As accounting officer of the corporation of Burnley College I confirm that I have had due regard to the framework of authorities governing regularity, propriety and compliance, and the requirements of the college's accountability agreement with DfE, and the requirements of the College Financial Handbook. I have also considered my responsibility to notify the corporation's board of governors and DfE of material irregularity, impropriety and non-compliance with terms and conditions of all funding.

I confirm that I, and the board of governors, are able to identify any material irregular or improper use of all funds by the corporation, or material non-compliance with the framework of authorities.

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

- Inaccurate individualised learner records were submitted by the College to inflate the qualification achievement rates which had a consequential impact that funding was underclaimed



Kate Wallace

Interim Principal and Accounting Officer

Date: 3 December 2025

Statement of Responsibilities of the Members of the Corporation

The members of the Corporation who act as trustees for the charitable activities of the College are required to present audited financial statements for each financial year.

The law applicable to charities in England and the terms and conditions of the Corporation's grant funding agreement and contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), DFE, and any other relevant funding bodies, the corporation is required to prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the financial performance and position of the College for that period. Corporations must also prepare a strategic report which includes an operating and financial review for the year. The bases for the preparation of the financial statements and strategic report are the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education, ESFA's College Accounts Direction, Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards).

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

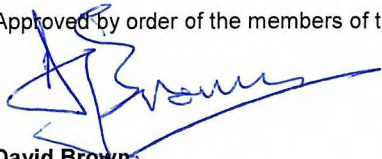
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- assess whether the corporation is a going concern, noting the key supporting assumptions, qualifications or mitigating actions, as appropriate
- prepare financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to assume that the College will continue in operation.

The Corporation is responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy, at any time, the financial position of the Corporation, and enable it to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, the Charities Act 2011 and relevant accounting standards. It is responsible for taking steps that are reasonably open to it in order to safeguard its assets 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 for the purposes intended and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities that govern them. In addition, they are responsible for ensuring that funds from ESFA, and any other public funds, 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 by ESFA, or any other public funder, including that any transactions entered into by the corporation are within the delegated authorities following the reclassification of college corporations on 29 November 2022. Members of the corporation must ensure that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public and other funds and ensure they are used properly. In addition, members of the corporation are responsible for securing economic, efficient and effective management of the corporation's resources and expenditure so that the benefits that should be derived from the application of public funds from ESFA and other public bodies are not put at risk. They are also responsible for ensuring funds from Office for Students or other sources are properly applied for the purposes for which they have been given and in accordance with relevant legislation or terms and conditions attached to them.

Approved by order of the members of the Corporation on 3 December 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



David Brown

Chair

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Burnley College (the "College") for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the college statement of comprehensive income, the college balance sheet, the college statement of changes in reserves, the college statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and the Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the College's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of the College's surplus of income over expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the Accounts Direction issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Office for Students' Accounts Direction

In our opinion, in all material respects:

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

Matter on which we require to report by exception

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

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

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

- the College's grant and fee income, as disclosed in the notes 2, 3 and 4 of the accounts, has been materially misstated.
- the College's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year has been materially misstated.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE

Responsibilities of the Corporation of Burnley College

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Corporation's Responsibilities set out on page 23, 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 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 College or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

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

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

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE

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

- obtained an understanding of the nature of the sector, including the legal and regulatory frameworks that the College operates in and how the college are complying with the legal and regulatory frameworks;

- inquired of management, and those charged with governance, about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities, including any known actual, suspected or alleged instances of fraud;

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

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

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

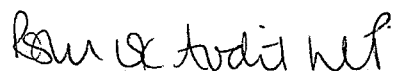
The audit engagement team identified the risk of management override of controls and income recognition in respect of apprenticeship income as the areas where the financial statements were most susceptible to material misstatement due to fraud. Audit procedures performed included but were not limited to testing manual journal entries and other adjustments and evaluating the business rationale in relation to significant, unusual transactions and transactions entered into outside the normal course of business, challenging judgments and estimates. In respect of the apprenticeship income we tested a sample of income to supporting learner records, and inspected funding agreements and allocations, reconciling these to the income recognised in the 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE

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 13 May 2025. 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
Bluebell House
Brian Johnson Way
Preston
PR2 5PE

10/12/25

Burnley College Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Notes	Year ended 31-Jul-25	Year ended 31-Jul-24
		£'000	£'000
INCOME			
Funding body grants	2	36,872	33,456
Tuition fees and education contracts	3	4,657	4,923
Other grants and contracts	4	900	1,141
Other income	5	2,940	2,774
Investment income	6	98	297
Total income		45,467	42,591
EXPENDITURE			
Staff costs	7	27,901	25,025
Other operating expenses	8	11,665	11,579
Depreciation	10	3,929	3,394
Interest and other finance costs	9	291	324
Total expenditure		43,786	40,322
Surplus before		1,681	2,269
Gain on disposal of assets		11	-
Surplus for the year		1,692	2,269
Other Comprehensive income			
Re-measurement of net defined pension liability	18	(193)	(378)
Other comprehensive income		(193)	(378)
Total Comprehensive Income for the year		1,499	1,891

The below table does not form part of the Financial Statements

Surplus before		1,692	2,269
Defined Benefit (Gain)/obligation FRS102 (LGPS)	Note 18	(164)	-346
Interest (gain)/charge FRS102 (LGPS)	Note 18	(29)	-32
Adjusted Operating Surplus		1,499	1,891

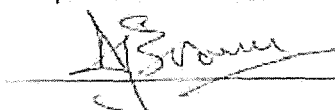
Burnley College Statement of Changes in Reserves

	Income and expenditure account
	£'000
Balance at 1 August 2023	19,670
Surplus from the income and expenditure account	2,269
Actuarial gain in respect of Local Government Pension scheme (note 18)	(378)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,891
Balance at 1 August 2024	21,561
Surplus from the income and expenditure account	1,692
Actuarial gain in respect of Local Government Pension scheme (note 18)	(193)
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,499
Balance at 31 July 2025	23,060

Burnley College Balance sheet as at 31 July 2025

	Notes	Year ended 31-Jul-25 £'000	Year ended 31-Jul-24 £'000
Non current assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	<u>82,978</u>	<u>82,971</u>
		82,978	82,971
Current assets			
Debtors	11	1,187	1,368
Cash and cash equivalents	15	5,098	3,585
		<u>6,285</u>	<u>4,953</u>
Creditors – amounts falling due within one year	12	(6,829)	(7,635)
Net current liabilities		<u>(544)</u>	<u>(2,682)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		82,434	80,289
Creditors – amounts falling due after more than one year	13	(59,374)	(58,728)
Provisions for liabilities			
Pension scheme defined benefit obligations asset ceiling	18	-	-
Total net assets		<u>23,060</u>	<u>21,561</u>
Unrestricted Reserves			
Income and Expenditure Reserve		23,060	21,561
Total unrestricted reserves		<u>23,060</u>	<u>21,561</u>

The financial statements on pages 29 to 55 were approved and authorised for issue by the Corporation on 3 December 2025 and were signed on its behalf on that date by:



David Brown
Chair



Kate Wallace
Accounting Officer

Burnley College Statement of Cash Flows

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Cash flow from operating activities		
Surplus for the year	1,692	2,269
Profit from disposal of non current assets	(11)	-
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation	3,929	3,394
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	181	(34)
Increase/(Decrease) in creditors due within one year	(877)	1,059
Government capital grant released	(2,277)	(1,999)
Pensions costs less contributions payable	(193)	(378)
Adjustment for investing or financing activities		
Investment income	(98)	(297)
Interest payable	291	324
Net cash flow from operating activities	2,637	4,338
Cash flows from investing activities		
Investment income	98	297
Payments made to acquire non current assets	(3,936)	(19,720)
Proceeds on sale non current assets	11	-
Capital grant repaid	(8)	-
Capital grants received	3,516	11,536
Net cash flow from investing activities	(319)	(7,887)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Proceeds of new borrowings	-	-
Interest paid	(291)	(324)
Repayments of amounts borrowed	(514)	(488)
Net cash flow from financing activities	(805)	(812)
(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year	1,513	(4,361)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	3,585	7,946
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	5,098	3,585

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

BASIS OF PREPARATION

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019 (the F&HE SORP 2019), the College Accounts Direction for 2023 to 2024 and Regulatory Advice 9: Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students, 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 financial statements are set out below. These policies have been applied consistently to all the years presented.

The 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.

GOING CONCERN

The activities of the College, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance are set out in the Members' Report. The financial position of the College, its cashflow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The College currently has £5.9m of loans outstanding with bankers and Burnley Borough Council on terms negotiated in 2008 and 2022. Although the balance sheet shows a net current liability position, the short term creditors includes £2.8m of deferred capital grant and holiday pay accrual which when excluded would take the underlying measure to a net current asset position. The College's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to meet debt service costs (interest and capital repayments) as and when they fall due and covenants for the foreseeable future. Accordingly the College has a reasonable expectation that it 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 Financial Statements.

RECOGNITION OF INCOME

Grants - Government and non-Government

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS 102. Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the period of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under or over achievement for the Adult Education Budget 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, and the results of any funding audits. 16-18 learner-responsive funding is not normally subject to reconciliation and is therefore not subject to contract adjustments.

The recurrent grant from the Office for Students (OFS) represents the funding allocations attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

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

Government capital grants are capitalised, held as deferred income and recognised in income over the expected useful life of the related asset, under the accrual method as permitted by FRS 102. Other capital grants are recognised in income when the College is entitled to the funds subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Other Income

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

All income from short-term deposits is credited to the income and expenditure account in the period in which it is earned on a receivable basis.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS

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

The TPS is an unfunded scheme and contributions are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the 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 the Government Actuary on the basis of quadrennial valuations using a prospective benefit method. As stated in Note 18, 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 they are paid each year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

The LGPS is a funded scheme and the assets are held separately from those of the college in separate trustee administered funds. Pension scheme assets are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method and discounted at a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent term and currency to the liabilities. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. Past service costs are recognised immediately in the income and expenditure account if the benefits have vested. If the benefits have not vested immediately, the costs are recognised over the period until vesting occurs. The expected return on assets and the interest cost are shown as a net finance amount of other finance costs or credits adjacent to interest. Actuarial gains and losses and the effect of the asset ceiling are recognised immediately in the statement of comprehensive income.

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

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

SHORT TERM EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

ENHANCED PENSIONS

The actual cost of any enhanced ongoing pension to a former member of staff is paid by 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 in the year that the member of staff retires. In subsequent years a charge is made to provisions in the balance sheet using the enhanced pension spreadsheet provided by the funding bodies.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Land and buildings

Building improvements made since incorporation are included in the balance sheet at cost. Freehold land is not depreciated. Freehold buildings are depreciated over their expected useful economic life to the College of 50 years. The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful economic life of 50 years. Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred capital grant account, and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related asset on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy. Finance costs, which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings, are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

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

SUBSEQUENT EXPENDITURE ON EXISTING FIXED ASSETS

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets it is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period it is incurred, unless it meets one of the following criteria, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis:

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

EQUIPMENT

Equipment costing less than £1,000 per individual item is written off to the income and expenditure account in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated over their useful economic life as follows:

Motor vehicles - 25% per year

IT equipment - In a range of 20% to 25% per year

General equipment - In a range of 10% to 20% per year

Where equipment is acquired with the aid of specific grants, it is capitalised and depreciated in accordance with the above policy, with the related grant being credited to a deferred capital grant account and released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful economic life of the related equipment.

Where carrying value is found to be less than recoverable value, an impairment loss is recognised to write down the asset to its recoverable value. Impairment losses are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they are incurred.

ASSETS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Assets under construction are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

LEASED ASSETS

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The College does not have any assets held under finance leases.

MAINTENANCE OF PREMISES

The cost of routine corrective maintenance is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period it is incurred.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

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

FINANCIAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

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

All loans, investments and short term deposits held by the College are classified as basic financial instruments in accordance with FRS 102. These instruments are initially recorded at the transaction price less any transaction costs (historical cost). FRS 102 requires that basic financial instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost, however the College has calculated that the difference between the historical cost and amortised cost basis is not material and so these financial instruments are stated on the balance sheet at historical cost. Loans and investments that are payable or receivable within one year are not discounted.

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

AGENCY ARRANGEMENTS

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of Bursary support funds from the funding bodies. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Income and Expenditure account and are shown separately in Note 21.

Judgements in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

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

- Determine whether leases entered into by the College either as a lessor or a lessee are operating or finance leases. These decisions depend on an assessment of whether the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred from the lessor to the lessee on a lease by lease basis.
- Determine whether there are indicators of impairment of the College's tangible assets. Factors taken into consideration in reaching such a decision include the economic viability and expected future financial performance of the asset.

Other key sources of estimation uncertainty

- *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 and maintenance programmes are taken into account. Residual value assessments consider issues such as future market conditions, the remaining life of the asset and projected disposal values.

- *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit 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 18, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2019 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2025. 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 asset.

Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pension Scheme to including in the asset ceiling in measuring and recognising a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and is the inherent implied continuance and the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

2 Funding body grants

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Recurrent grants		
Education and Skills Funding Agency - 16-18	24,848	22,514
Education and Skills Funding Agency - adult	2,781	2,294
Education and Skills Funding Agency - apprenticeships	5,398	5,127
Office for Students	427	444
Specific grants		
Department for Education Teachers Pensions grant	1408	978
Department for Education National Insurance grant	192	-
Releases of government capital grants	1,775	1,661
Department for Education 16-19 tuition fund	-	373
Department for Education sector based work academies	-	36
T levels Industry placement	43	29
Total	<u>36,872</u>	<u>33,456</u>

3 Tuition fees and education contracts

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Tuition fees	376	399
Fees for HE courses	4,178	4,456
Education contracts	103	68
Total	<u>4,657</u>	<u>4,923</u>

4 Other grants and contracts

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
European funds – non funding body	37	71
Other grants and contracts	863	1,070
Total	<u>900</u>	<u>1,141</u>

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4a Total grant and fee income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Grant income from the OFS	427	444
Grant income from other bodies	36,445	33,012
Total grants	36,872	33,456
Fee income for taught awards	4,407	4,665
Fee income from non-qualifying courses	240	258
Total tuition fees and education contracts	4,647	4,923
Total grant and fee income	41,519	38,379

5 Other income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Catering and residences	808	696
Commercial courses	308	352
Release of non funding body capital grants	502	338
Facilities management	409	512
Student educational visits	127	149
Student travel income	217	168
Miscellaneous income	569	559
Total	2,940	2,774

6 Investment income

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Bank interest received	69	265
Pension finance income	29	32
Total investment income	98	297

7 Staff costs

The average number of persons (including key management personnel) employed by the College during the year, expressed as average headcount and calculated on a monthly basis, was:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Teaching staff	391	374
Non-teaching staff	324	317
	<u>715</u>	<u>691</u>

Staff costs for the above persons

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Wages and salaries	21,146	19,483
Social security costs	2,269	1,845
Other pension costs	4,475	3,683
Staff costs sub total	27,890	25,011
Restructuring Costs	11	14
Total Staff costs	<u>27,901</u>	<u>25,025</u>

Severance payments

The College paid 2 severance payments in the year, disclosed in the following bands:

	2025 No.	2024 No.
£0 to £25,000	2	2

Included in the staff restructuring costs are special severance payments totalling £11,282. (2023/24: £14,100). Individually the payments were £10,627 and £654.

Key management personnel

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the College and are represented by the Senior Management Team which during the year comprised of the Principal, Deputy Principal and 4 other Senior Managers.

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

	2025 No.	2024 No.
The number of key management personnel including the Accounting Officer was:	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>

7 Staff costs (continued)

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

	Key Management Personnel	Other Staff	Key Management Personnel	Other Staff
	2025 No.	2025 No.	2024 No.	2024 No.
£60,001 to £65,000 p.a	-	7	1	7
£65,001 to £70,000 p.a	-	1	-	1
£70,001 to £75,000 p.a	-	2	-	2
£75,001 to £80,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
£85,001 to £90,000 p.a.	-	-	2	-
£90,001 to £95,000 p.a.	2	-	-	-
£95,001 to £100,000 p.a.	-	-	1	-
£105,001 to £110,000 p.a	-	-	1	-
£110,001 to £115,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
£116,001 to £117,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
£185,001 to £190,000 p.a.	-	-	1	-
£195,001 to £200,000 p.a.	1	-	-	-
	6	10	6	10

Key management personnel emoluments are made up as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries	686	622
Benefits in kind	-	-
	686	622
Employers National Insurance	92	79
Pension contributions	173	144
Total emoluments	951	845

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 the key management personnel) :

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Salaries	197	186
Benefits in kind	-	-
	197	186
Pension contributions	56	47

7 Staff costs (continued)

The pension contributions in respect of the Principal and senior post-holders are in respect of employer's contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme and to the Local Government Pension Scheme and are paid at the same rate as for other employees.

Relationship of Principal pay and remuneration expressed as a multiple

	2025	2024
Principal's basic salary as a multiple of the median of all staff	5.8	5.8
Principal's total remuneration as a multiple of the median of all staff	7.3	7.3

The governing body has adopted AoC's Senior Staff Remuneration Code in July 2019 and will assess pay in line with its principles in future.

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

The Principal reports to the Chair of Governing Board, who undertakes an annual review of her performance against the college's overall objectives using both qualitative and quantitative measures of performance.

The remuneration of the accounting officer for 2024-25 was determined on 20 August 2024 by the College's Remuneration Committee. The accounting officer was not involved in setting their remuneration. The factors taken into account by the Committee in determining the accounting officer's remuneration for the year to 31 July 2025 included: previous increases; pay increases for other staff; performance against personal objectives; performance of the organisation; sector data on pay of accounting officers and benchmarking or other means of comparison to the broader market.. A similar approach was used to determine the remuneration of other key management personnel. The College has adopted the AOC'S College Senior Staff Remuneration Code and has followed the minimum requirements of the code.

Governors' remuneration

The Accounting Officer and staff members only receive remuneration in respect of services they provide undertaking their roles of Principal and staff members under contract 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. There were no expenses paid to Governors during the year.

8 Other operating expenses

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Teaching costs	4,517	4,665
Non-teaching costs	3,839	3,794
Premises costs	3,309	3,120
Total	11,665	11,579

Other operating expenses include:

Auditors' remuneration:

Financial statements audit and regularity work	48	42
Internal Audit	8	7
Hire of assets under operating leases	88	79

Included within expenditure are the following transactions, there are no items exceeding £5,000:

	Total
	£
Write offs and losses	£26,370

9 Interest and other finance costs

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
On bank loans	291	324
Pension finance costs (note 18)	-	-
Total	291	324

10 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings	Equipment	Buildings Work in progress	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cost or valuation				
At 1 August 2024	76,301	22,503	17,038	115,842
Additions	2,206	1,730		3,936
Transfer from WIP	17,038	-	(17,038)	-
Disposals		(2,072)	-	(2,072)
At 31 July 2025	<u>95,545</u>	<u>22,161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,706</u>
Depreciation				
At 1 August 2024	19,579	13,292	-	32,871
Charge for the year	1,874	2,055	-	3,929
Depreciation on disposals	-	(2,072)	-	(2,072)
At 31 July 2025	<u>21,453</u>	<u>13,275</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,728</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2025	<u>74,092</u>	<u>8,886</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>82,978</u>
Net book value at 31 July 2024	56,722	9,211	17,038	82,971
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Burnley College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025

11 Debtors

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade receivables	104	243
Prepayments and accrued income	253	454
Amounts owed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency	830	671
Total	1,187	1368

12 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Bank loans and overdrafts	430	408
Trade payables	654	735
Other taxation and social security	1048	975
Accrual and deferred income	1,662	2,545
Holiday pay accrual	553	554
Amounts owed to the Education and Skills Funding Agency	200	185
Deferred income - government capital grants	2,282	2,233
Total	6,829	7,635

13 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Loans	4,916	5,453
Deferred income - government capital grants	54,458	53,275
Total	59,374	58,728

14 Maturity of debt

Bank loans

Bank loans are repayable as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
In one year or less	430	408
Between one and two years	929	430
Between two and five years	1,432	929
In five years or more	2,555	4,094
Total	5,346	5,861

The above figure contains a £3,508k loan that is secured and interest is charged at a fixed rate of 5.57%. A further loan of £166k is unsecured and interest is charged at 0.46% above the Bank of England Bank Rate. In addition £1,672k relates to a loan from Burnley Borough council with interest charged at 4.45%.

Burnley College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025

15 Cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 August 2024	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 July 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Unrestricted Cash and cash equivalents	3,585	(177)	-	3,408
Restricted cash	-	1,690	-	1,690
Total	3,585	1,513	-	5,098

Restricted cash refers to the receipt of a DfE condition allocation capital grant in June 2025 of £1,690,301.41. The grant has to be spent within a 3 year period.

15a Consolidated analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1 August 2024	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 July 2025
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Cash in hand, and at bank	3,585	1,513	-	5,098
	3,585	1,513	-	5,098
Bank Loans	(5,861)	514	-	(5,347)
Net funds	-2,276	2,027	-	(249)

16 Capital and other commitments

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Capital commitments contracted for at 31 July	111	1,767

Burnley College is of one of 8 equal guarantors (12.5% each) for the Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology which was a company limited by guarantee incorporated 25 August 2022

17 Lease obligations

At 31 July the College had minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Future minimum lease payments due		
Equipment		
Not later than one year	10	0
Later than one year and not later than five years	16	-
	<u>26</u>	<u>0</u>

Lease payments made during the year amounted to £88,000.

18 Defined benefit obligations

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

Total pension cost for the year	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000
Teachers' Pension Scheme: contributions paid	3,459	2,791
Local Government Pension Scheme:		
Contributions paid	1,196	1,245
FRS 102 (28) charge	(193)	(346)
Charge to the Statement of Comprehensive Income	1,003	899
Enhanced pension charge to Statement of Comprehensive Income	-	-
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Total Pension Cost for Year within staff costs	<u>4,462</u>	<u>3,690</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 2020 and of the LGPS 31 March 2019. There were no outstanding or prepaid contributions at either the beginning or the end of the financial year.

Teachers' Pension Scheme

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools, colleges and other educational establishments. Membership is automatic for teachers and lecturers at eligible institutions. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

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 under arrangements governed by the above Act. Retirement and other pension benefits are paid by public funds provided by Parliament.

Under the definitions set out in FRS 102 (28.11), the TPS is a multi-employer pension plan. The College is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the plan.

Accordingly, the College has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 102 and has accounted for its contributions to the scheme as if it were a defined-contribution plan. The College has set out above the information available on the plan and the implications for the College in terms of the anticipated contribution rates.

18 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

The valuation of the TPS is carried out in line with regulations made under the Public Service Pension Act 2013. Valuations credit the teachers' pension account with a real rate of return assuming funds are invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education in October 2023.

As a result of the valuation, new employer contribution rates were set at 23.68% of pensionable pay from April 2024 onwards (compared to 23.68% from September 2019). The DfE has agreed to pay a teacher pension employer contribution grant to cover the additional costs during the 2024/25 academic year.

A full copy of the valuation report and supporting documentation can be found on the Teachers' Pension Scheme website.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,459,000 (2023/24: £2,791,000).

Local Government Pension Scheme

The LGPS is a funded defined-benefit plan, with the assets held in separate funds administered by Lancashire County Council. The total contributions made for the year ended 31 July 2025 were £1,674,000, of which employer's contributions totalled £1,196,000 and employees' contributions totalled £478,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 17.9% for employers and range from 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, depending on salary.

Deficit contributions

The estimated value of employer contributions for the year ended 31 July 2026 is £1,133k.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension equalisation

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 2019) 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.

Principal Actuarial Assumptions

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund at 31 March 2013 updated to 31 July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

	At 31 July 2025	At 31 July 2024
Rate of increase in salaries	4.10%	4.10%
Future pensions increases	2.70%	2.70%
Discount rate for scheme liabilities	6.00%	4.90%
Inflation assumption (CPI)	2.60%	2.60%

18 Defined benefit obligations (continued)

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

	At 31 July 2025 Years	At 31 July 2024 Years
Retiring today		
Males	21.00	21.00
Females	23.50	23.40
Retiring in 20 years		
Males	22.20	22.20
Females	25.30	25.20

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

	Fair Value at 31 July 2025 £'000	Fair Value at 31 July 2024 £'000
Equity instruments	18,108	17,540
Government Bonds	40	37
Other Bonds	80	37
Property	3,332	3,126
Cash	1204	515
Other	17,385	15,519
Total fair value of plan assets	40,149	36,774
Actual return on plan assets	2,794	2,306

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Fair value of plan assets	40,149	36,774
Present value of plan liabilities	(25,060)	(28,684)
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(15,089)	(8,090)
Net pensions surplus/(deficit)	-	-

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

	2025 £'000	2024 £'000
Amounts included in staff costs		
Current service cost	986	857
Past service cost	-	-
Total	986	857

18 Defined benefit obligations (continued).
Amounts included in interest and other finance costs

Net interest payable	-	0
	<u>-</u>	<u>0</u>

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income

Return on pension plan assets	977	567
Changes in assumptions underlying the present value of plan liabilities	5,568	(544)
Experience gain/(loss)	(283)	125
Gain on demographic assumptions	148	86
Asset ceiling adjustment	(6,603)	(612)

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income	(193)	(378)
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Asset and Liability Reconciliation

	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000

Changes in the present value of defined benefit obligations

Defined benefit obligations at start of period	28,684	26,574
Current service cost	986	857
Interest cost	1,392	1,344
Contributions by Scheme participants	478	434
Changes in financial assumptions	(5,716)	458
Experience (gain)/ loss	283	(125)
Estimated benefits paid	(1,047)	(858)
Past Service cost	-	-

Defined benefit obligations at end of period	25,060	28,684
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	2025	2024
	£'000	£'000

Changes in fair value of plan assets

Fair value of plan assets at start of period	36,774	33,689
Return on plan assets	1,817	1,739
Employer contributions	1,196	1,245
Contributions by Scheme participants	478	434
Changes in financial assumptions	977	567
Estimated benefits paid	(1,047)	(858)
Administration costs	(46)	(42)

Fair value of plan assets at end of period	40,149	36,774
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	2025	2,024
	£'000	£'000

Present value of defined benefit obligations	(25,060)	(28,684)
Fair value of plan assets	40,149	36,774
Net asset	15,089	8,090
Restriction to level of asset ceiling	(15,089)	(8,090)
Net asset recognised in the balance sheet	-	-

18 Defined benefit obligations (continued).

Determining the existence of a minimum funding requirement for the Local Government Pensions Scheme to including in the asset ceiling in measuring and recognising a surplus in the scheme. This judgement is based on an assessment of the nature of the scheme as a statutory scheme and is the inherent implied continuance and the operation of the primary and secondary contributions.

The College is aware that the Court of Appeal has recently upheld the decision in the Virgin Media vs NTL Pension Trustees II Limited case. The decision puts into question the validity of any amendments made in respect of the rules of a contracted-out pension scheme between 6 April 1997 and 5 April 2016. The judgment means that some historic amendments affecting s.9(2B) rights could be void if the necessary actuarial confirmation under s.37 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 was not obtained. Until further investigations have been completed by the UK Government's Actuary's Department and/or any legislative action taken by the government, the potential impact if any, on the valuation of scheme liabilities remains unknown.

19 Related party transactions

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

The College is one of fourteen members of The Lancashire Colleges Limited, a company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales. The principal activity of The Lancashire Colleges Limited is to co-ordinate bids for ESF and other external funding. The College's investment is not considered to be material to consolidate.

The College paid £87k to an awarding body (2024 £72k) who are connected through common control. The balances at year end was £1k (2023 £1k).

The College is of one of 8 equal guarantors (12.5% each) for the Lancashire and Cumbria Institute of Technology which was a company limited by guarantee incorporated 25 August 2022.

20 Amounts disbursed as agent

The college distributes 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursaries and free meals in further education (FEFM) funds to students as an agent for DfE.

In the accounting period ended 31 July 2025, the college received a total of £1,378,254 (including £109,469 brought forward from previous year) and disbursed £1,207,003 from DfE 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursaries and FEFM funding after charging £60,350 for administration costs.

As at 31 July 2025, the cumulative unspent 16-19 discretionary and vulnerable bursary funds and FEFM funding is £110,901, of which £nil relates to funds that are in scope to be returned to DfE in March 2026.

Comparatives for the accounting period ended 31 July 2024 are £1,228,000 received from DfE, £1,066,000 disbursed to learners after charging £53,000 for administration costs, and total cumulative unspent funds of £109,000, of which £0 was repaid to DfE.

Burnley College Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2025

21 Access and participation expenditure

	2025 £'000
Access investment	129
Financial support provided to students	368
Total access and participation expenditure	<u>497</u>

The College's access and participation plan is available on the College's website at <https://www.burnley.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Burnley-College-Access-and-Participation-Plan-2024-25.pdf>

INDEPENDENT REPORTING ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT ON REGULARITY TO THE CORPORATION OF BURNLEY COLLEGE AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

Qualified Conclusion

We have carried out an engagement, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated 13 May 2025 and further to the requirements of the Department for Education (the "DfE") as included in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges issued by the DfE, to obtain limited assurance about whether anything has come to our attention that would suggest, in all material respects, the expenditure disbursed and income received by Burnley College during the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 have not been applied to the purposes intended by Parliament or the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

In the course of our work, except for the matters arising listed below nothing has come to our attention which suggests that in all material respects the expenditure disbursed and income received during the period 1 August 2024 to 31 July 2025 has not been applied for the purposes intended by Parliament or that the financial transactions do not conform to the authorities which govern them.

Matters arising

As set out in the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance, during the year it was discovered that inaccurate individualised learner records were submitted by the College to inflate the qualification achievement rates which had a consequential impact that funding was underclaimed.

Basis for qualified conclusion

The framework that has been applied is set out in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges and in any relevant conditions of funding concerning adult education notified by a relevant funder.

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the FRC's Ethical Standard and the ethical pronouncements of the ICAEW. We also apply International Standard on Quality Management (UK) 1 Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements and accordingly maintain comprehensive systems of continuing quality management. We believe the assurance evidence we have obtained is sufficient to provide a basis for our qualified conclusion.

Responsibilities of the accounting officer of Burnley College and Governing Body

The accounting officer is responsible, under the requirements of the corporation's accountability agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and the College Financial Handbook for ensuring that expenditure disbursed and income received are applied for the purposes intended by Parliament and that the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them. The accounting officer is also responsible for preparing the Statement of Regularity, Propriety and Compliance. The Corporation of Burnley College (who are also the trustees for the purposes of charity law) are responsible for the proper conduct and financial operation of Burnley College and appointment of the accounting officer.

Responsibilities of the reporting accountant

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 Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges.

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 2024 to 31 July 2025 have not been applied for the 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 College Financial Handbook, the accountability agreement with the Secretary of State for Education and those of any other public funder and high level financial control areas where we identified a material irregularity is likely to arise. It also included areas assessed as presenting a higher risk of impropriety. We undertook detailed testing, on a sample basis, on the identified areas where a material irregularity is likely to arise or potential impropriety, where such areas are in respect of controls, policies and procedures that apply to classes of transactions. Our work was undertaken with due regard to the 'Tests and evidence to support conclusion on regularity' guidance in the Framework and Guide for External Auditors and Reporting Accountants of Colleges.

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

Use of our report

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

RSM UK Audit LLP

RSM UK AUDIT LLP
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Date: 10/12/2025 -