NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales · Charity number 1018979

Details

Other names	NCUK
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02788226
Registered	1993-03-23
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	667-669 Stockport Road Levenshulme Manchester M12 4QE
Phone	07309926751
Email	info@nccharity.org.uk
Website	www.nccharity.org.uk

Activities

Objects: The advancement of education in particular but not limited to: 1. Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;2. Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations;3. Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantaged (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

Activities: Northern Consortium funds a range of educational activities in addition to research, with a focus on UK students from under-represented backgrounds. NC's subsidiary, NCUK Ltd provide high-quality educational programmes to support international students' progression to university.

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Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£8,769,185	£8,882,325	£3,590,457	1
2024-08-31	£7,575,806	£7,682,234	£3,703,597	1
2023-08-31	£6,601,234	£6,748,263	£3,103,343	1
2022-08-31	£5,881,027	£5,455,494	£3,129,916	1
2021-08-31	£4,971,068	£4,740,027	£3,187,081	1
2020-08-31	£5,104,620	£4,714,764	£3,026,358	1

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Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Professor Helen Claire Hamshire	Chair	2026-02-10
Andrew Martin Ryder		2021-03-23
Andrew Michael Mandebura		2025-09-16
Bee Yee Gan		2025-03-18
Cathryn Merryl Webster		2021-03-23
Dr Aileen Jones		2025-02-18
Dr Malcolm Andrew Butler		2017-06-21
Emma Lindsay Heathcote		2025-12-01
Jane Frances Nugent		2025-02-18
Joseph Charles Teehan Rossiter		2022-08-03
Nicholas Peter Smith		2021-03-23
Professor Ian Christopher Wood		2022-09-06
Stuart McKinnon-Evans		2019-03-12

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NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

Company registration no : 02788226 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration no : 1018979

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM
Supporting education

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Northern Consortium Member Universities

The present members of the Consortium are:

The University of Bradford	Leeds Beckett University	The University of Huddersfield
The University of Salford	Liverpool John Moores University	The University of Sheffield
Sheffield Hallam University	The University of Manchester	The University of Leeds

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for Companies Act purposes, present their report for the year ended 31 August 2025 under the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited accounts for the year, and confirm that the latter comply with the Act, and with the Charities SORP (FRS102) - effective 1 January 2019. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

1 STRATEGIC REPORT

Northern Consortium (NC) was founded by a steering committee comprised of Universities from across the North of England in 1987, their focus was on the development of opportunities for educational delivery internationally. The group went on to register as a Charity in March 1993, and ten years later in 2003, the Charity set up a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK). NCUK enable the delivery of overseas operations within an administrative framework which balances risk management and effective controls, that best suited the Group's needs.

NCUK provides a diverse set of qualifications, including the International Foundation Year, International Year One, International Year Two, Master's Preparation, the new International Art and Design Foundation programme, and other opportunities for qualified students to progress to university, including a new Computer Science stream.

To date, NCUK has successfully guided more than 50,000 students to university, and their programmes are currently delivered through Study Centre partners in over 135 locations across 43 countries. This extensive network supports students on their educational journeys to more than 70 top-ranked university partners, including 10 institutions in the QS World Top 100 and 21 in the QS World Top 200, across some of the world's most popular study destinations. NCUK provides an income stream to NC, which funds the charity's grant-making activities.

NC's core charitable objective is the advancement of education. In 2021 Trustees revised the charity's objectives and updated its Articles to ensure that we were able to operate effectively in the current environment however, its overriding charitable purpose, the advancement of education remains unchanged. In 2025 the Articles were further updated to amend the number of permitted Trustees.

In 2022 Trustees developed and launched a new grants strategy to strengthen the Charity's ability to provide funding to educational projects. This strategy, now entering its fourth year, has already committed funding towards a diverse range of projects which are being delivered in the communities of the Member Universities.

NC's grants strategy has three strategic aims:

1. Facilitating access to international education
2. Promoting the benefits of international education
3. Enabling educational engagement particularly for students from disadvantaged groups

Grants for educational projects and activities being delivered in the UK are generally made on the basis of the third strategic aim.

1.1 Objectives and activities

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects which were amended on 23rd September 2025 are specifically restricted to the advancement of education in particular but not limited to:

- Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;
- Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations ;
- Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantages (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit to inform its decision making and review of how the Charity's activities and plans contribute to achieving its aims and objectives. Northern Consortium is unique in supporting UK higher education on a not-for-profit basis. The Charity funds research and provides grants to support the work of similar educationally focused charities which benefit students from under-represented backgrounds. Whilst its subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited ("NCUK"), provides high quality educational programmes and associated services to facilitate international students' progression to university.

The Consortium delivers public benefit by:

- providing grants to support UK charities to deliver educational projects and activities across the North of England, ensuring that students from under - represented groups can access opportunities to support their educational journey,
- furthering research into - and promoting - the access agenda in higher education, enhancing the international reputation and continued success of UK universities, and other eligible bodies in the UK. Which in turn supports universities to research, teach, provide public access to their activities, teach, provide public access to their activities,
- promoting and enhancing international education opportunities and supporting the engagement of students from widening participation groups; and
- providing - through an international network of delivery partnerships - high quality educational programmes and associated services to international students.

1.2 Achievements and performance

Key Achievements in 2024/25

During 2024/25 Northern Consortium (NC) and its trading subsidiary NCUK delivered the following activities :

Northern Consortium

- Provided funding of £194,241 to 7 charities undertaking educational based activities and programmes in the North of England, of this;
- **£8,000** of co-funding [alongside the Royal Northern College of Music] was provided to **Olympias Music Foundation** to support their engagement of a PhD student to explore the benefits of OMF's programmes to participating global majority students;
- **£30,000** was provided to **UUKi** to support their study **"Gone International: a new generation"** examining the real benefits of transnational education opportunities for Higher Education students;
- **£10,000** was awarded to **Music in Secondary Schools Trust** to fund two secondary schools in the North of England to join its programme, this is a multi year award which will benefit students across the next 3 years;
- **£19,650** was awarded to **Prisoners Education Trust** (for a second consecutive year) benefitting 35 learners in North West Prisons to engage with learning opportunities to enhance their knowledge and skills and improve their prospects upon release;
- **£15,000** was awarded to the **Linacre Institute** for their Reach Higher programme, this funding (now in its third consecutive year) has enable 50 students from West Yorkshire schools to participate in the programme since 2023;
- **£21,000** was provided to **Coach Bright** who provide mentoring to four schools in the North of England, benefitting a total of 120 students from disadvantaged groups;
- **£17,092** was awarded to **Debate Mate Schools** which supported 77 students from disadvantaged groups from four schools in Liverpool, Grimsby and Manchester to participate in the Debate Mate programme;
- **£22,719** was awarded to the **University of Bradford** to support their delivery of "Empowering futures with a career-readiness Global Mindset Development Programme" to 350 of their students from widening participation groups;
- **£25,280** was awarded to **the Youth Association** to fund their Lads at the Back project, the project is focused on attracting NEET students and is aimed at engaging them to work with their peers and chosen schools and colleges to provide their lived experience to improve educational policy and practice;
- **£25,000** was provided to support the **Campaign for At Risk Academics** (CARA): this funding supported five scholars from Afghanistan and Palestine to continue their PhD studies at UK universities;
- **£500** was provided to **IVAR** to aid the funding of their work.

1.2 Achievements and performance (continued)

Additionally, the charity;

- Implemented a new Grants Committee to provide monitoring and oversight to the grant making activity at NC. Having a dedicated smaller group of Trustees enable better scrutiny and a more detailed understanding.
- Conducted a review of its financial strategy across the next five years, resulting in a more informed approach to grant budget planning and understanding of NC's ongoing needs.
- Commenced a review of its primary purpose trading activities – this work was started in late 2025 and is planned to continue into 2026.

The above activity was made possible due to the funding received from **Northern Consortium UK Limited**, who during the year;

- Delivered **23% growth in student enrolments** across its global pathway programmes over three years, a strong achievement contrary to the market challenges impacting the international education sector more broadly.
- Continued to grow revenue by 16% (2024-25 v 2023-24), whilst continuing to make significant investments in technology, product development and its commercial division to build a sustainable foundation for growth in future years.
- Expanded operations to over **40 countries**, including successful entry into **four new markets**.
- Strengthened its university network to over **70 partners**, including **10 QS World Top 100** institutions, and a total of **21 in the Top 200**.
- Achieved **year-on-year improvements in stakeholder satisfaction** across students, study centres and university partners.
- Launched **new services for university partners** and invested in organisational capability to support sustainable growth.
- Completed a **major brand relaunch**, with a deepened focus on government, attaché and international body engagement, to further position NCUK as the UK's leading pathway provider.

1.3 Governance Review

Trustees value the independent leadership of each entity within the Group and feel that this approach ensures that both organisations receive the necessary focus and commitment whilst also reducing any conflicts. Governance is hugely important to the Trustees and has been a core focus in recent years.

The Trustees met three times during the year, in addition to the newly founded Grants Committee meeting four times and the Management and Finance Committee meeting three times. Committees are comprised of Trustees and provide a mechanism to properly delegate monitoring and oversight duties to smaller groups of Trustees. This approach enables appropriate time for topics to be fully explored, resulting in thoughtful proposals being brought to the fuller Board meetings for consideration and approval. The reporting period also saw the rotation of four Consortium Trustees and the recruitment of one independent / lay Trustee.

Effective inductions support Trustees to get familiar with NC as well as helping them to understand their role and responsibilities. Having adequate Board meeting time supports the Trustees to work together well as a team and focus upon the best interests of the charity. The Trustees dedicated time to succession planning during the year, as our Chair approaches the conclusion of his [maximum] nine-year term of office. The change of Chair will take place in June 2026, with other Officer changes expected to occur too.

The year also saw NCUK conclude a review of its key performance indicators (KPI's), which necessitated an expansion of the current strategic plan period to enable tighter monitoring of operational delivery up to 2027/28. This was approved by the Trustees and the NCUK Board of Directors will continue to oversee the operational activity which sits below the plan, with the Chair and the Chief Executive attending the NC Board meetings to report on the Company's activity and discuss matters of joint interest. The NCUK Board also saw some changes during the year, with one Director concluding their tenure. The NCUK Board of Directors currently has six serving Directors, one of whom is also an External Trustee of the Charity.

1.4 Future Plans

In 2025/26 the Charity has the following activity planned:

- To conduct targeted promotion of the charity's research funding opportunities to appropriate parties;
- To refine and enhance our grant giving processes and procedures by sharing more application guidance on the website;
- To continue to expand our approach to multi-year grant funding;
- To deliver a seamless Officer transition in 2026, when the current Chair retires in June,
- To review the primary purpose trading activities of the subsidiary company; and
- To directly promote the charity's grant giving via the production of an annual review.

1.4 Future Plans (continued)

The **Company** plans to

NCUK's future development is focused on enhancing the quality of its academic provision, strengthening its global reputation, and increasing the long-term impact of its work for students, universities, and delivery partners. This is supported by continued investment in organisational infrastructure, governance, people, and the digital systems and quality assurance processes that underpin the global delivery of NCUK qualifications.

The organisation is expanding and refining its academic portfolio, including International Year One in Law, International Year Two in Business Management, pre-sessional English provision, and postgraduate pathways. These programmes are designed to ensure students are well prepared for success in international higher education.

NCUK is strengthening the end-to-end student lifecycle through integrated platforms such as Salesforce Education Cloud and Canvas by Instructure, improving student administration, assessment, progression, and data insight across its global network. At the same time, the organisation is expanding into new international markets and increasing its focus on transnational education to diversify revenue and deepen university partnerships.

Together, these priorities position NCUK for sustainable growth, strong student outcomes, and continued global impact.

As a **Group** we plan to

- Conduct a review of the Groups Auditors;
- Consider the Groups Tax arrangements;
- Hold a Group Board meeting for NC Trustees and NCUK Directors to focus on Group matters; and
- Formalise and document the main Group Operational Practice Agreement to aid effective working.

1.5 Financial review

Investment Performance

Cash surplus is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned by the use of Treasury Deposit accounts. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK Limited, from which all of its income is derived.

Financial Review and Results for the Year

The Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK Limited was established in October 2003. The existence of NCUK Limited as NC's subsidiary enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from its global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity to support its objectives. The consolidated financial performance for 2025 was strong.

The Trustees strategy is to use a small portion of reserves annually to support the Charity's operational costs whilst applying the gift-up funding received from NCUK to fund grant making activities. This approach is intended to avoid an overaccumulation of reserves.

Summary of the results and financial position of the Group	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Income	**8,769,185**	7,575,806
Net (outgoing) incoming resources from unrestricted funds	**(113,140)**	(106,428)
Actuarial adjustments on defined benefit pension scheme	**-**	706,682
Total unrestricted funds	**3,590,457**	3,703,597

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. The Reserves Policy was approved in April 2025 and reviewed in April 2026.

The Trustees of NC and the Directors of NCUK are reviewing the Group's financial strategy to ensure that the Group delivers financial performance such that NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which NC can fulfil its charitable objectives, and for NCUK to pursue its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans. The approach to reserves by the Group is part of the strategy, whose objective is to delivery financial sustainability.

Surplus cash is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers.

2 GOVERNANCE

2.1 Reference and administrative details

Registered company number	02788226 (England and Wales)	
Registered charity number	1018979	
Registered office	667-669 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4QE	
Trustees	Dr M Butler - Chair of the Board of Trustees	
	Mr J Richardson - Deputy Chair	(resigned 21 February 2025)
	Professor H C Hamshire	(resigned 28 November 2025 : appointed 10 February 2026)
	Mr S Mckinnon-Evans - Treasurer	
	Professor Ian Wood	
	Mr R Cotton	
	Mr A Ryder	
	Mr N Smith	
	Mrs M Webster	
	Mr J C T Rossiter	
	Dr A Jones	(appointed 18 February 2025)
	Ms J F Nugent	(appointed 18 February 2025)
	Miss B Y Gan	(appointed 18 March 2025)
	Mr A M Mandebura	(appointed 16 September 2025)
	Ms E L Heathcote	(appointed 1 December 2025)
	Professor A J Sambell	(resigned 15 September 2025)
Executive Director & Company secretary	Mrs D Leicester	
Auditor	Xeinadin Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor 100 Barbirolli Square Manchester M2 3BD	
Solicitors	Shakespeare Martineau Waterfront House Waterfront Plaza Nottingham NG2 3DQ	
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 357 51 Mosley Street Manchester M60 2AU	

2.2 Structure, governance and management

Northern Consortium ("NC"/"the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 4, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Governing document

The Charity was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its constitution and Articles of Association. The Charity's objects were updated in 2021 to provide clarity and flexibility and be reflective of current language and they were more recently updated in September 2025 to increase the permitted number of External Trustees to five (from four).

Governing body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each of the nine member universities of Northern Consortium are entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is provision for the Trustees to appoint up to five external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum but shall not be less than three. There are currently nine Consortium Trustees and five External Trustees.

Recruitment and training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and are selected from the member universities' senior management. External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee, a willingness to learn and having the time required to undertake the role and possess experience or knowledge within a desired area [which fulfils an area identified by a skills audit]. An induction process and formal training is provided to all Trustees on appointment to the Board, and regular training opportunities are offered to all Trustees throughout the year.

Organisational Management

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as a Board of Trustees at least twice annually. Additionally, Trustees have delegated some responsibilities to the Management and Finance Sub-Committee and in September 2024, created a Grants Committee too (both are comprised of Trustees). The Committees meet a minimum of three times a year to monitor the Charity's financial performance, review the risk register, support the development of policies, consider strategic issues, assess applications for grants and research and have oversight of the annual audit and drafting of the statutory accounts. The Committees conduct in depth reviews and make recommendations to the Board for strategic matters within their areas of responsibility. The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis.

The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis.

Group structure and relationships

The activities and performance of the Charity's subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK) are also discussed in this report. To access the independent financial statements of NCUK please see their Companies House register (under Northern Consortium UK Limited, Company no. 04842064).

Since NCUK's creation, at least one Trustee [of NC] has also been appointed as a Director [of NCUK] this supports good governance and the passing of information within the Group. As the time spent on the subsidiary by Directors is renumerated, Charity Commission approval was sought and obtained [on 13th December 2024] for the current dual appointed NC Trustee and NCUK Director, Mrs Merryl Webster to be paid [by NCUK] for the time spent on the NCUK Board of Directors to ensure an equitable approach (see page 19 for details).

Risk management

The Board of Trustees have identified the significant and ongoing risks to Northern Consortium's achievement of its Charitable Objects and a detailed risk register is maintained and regularly reviewed. The risk register is reviewed by the Trustees at each of their meetings, and the Management and Finance Sub-Committee supported by the Executive Director conduct detailed reviews in between Board meets. Reports illustrate emergent or escalating risks and detail the mitigation, monitoring and planned next steps.

Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- a Management and Finance Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight;
- a Grants Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight on grant making;
- established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- regular communication between the Charity and Company;
- clear authorisation and approval levels

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, with red rated items escalated to the Trustees.

2.3 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

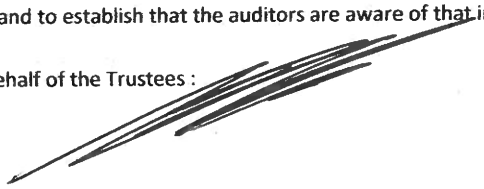
- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

On behalf of the Trustees :



Dr Malcolm Butler
Deputy Chair

23 April 2026

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Consortium (the 'Charitable Company') and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 August 2025 which comprise the Charity Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated and Charitable Company Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group and the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 August 2025 and of the Group's income and 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Charitable Company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report .

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2025

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

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the Charitable Company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we have considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;
- Results of the enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we have identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
    - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the impact of COVID-19. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charitable Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, Health and Safety Laws and Environmental Regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2025

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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

Use of our report

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



Michael Garrett BA FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Xeinadin Audit Limited, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
100 Barbirolli Square
Manchester
M2 3BD

23 April 2026

Charity Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME			
Income and endowments from :			
Donation from subsidiary		**197,242**	173,269
Investment income		**19,923**	19,670
Grants returned		**-**	10,000
Total income		**217,165**	202,939
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable activities		**(284,810)**	(238,537)
Total expenditure		**(284,810)**	(238,537)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**(67,645)**	(35,598)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	**14**	**-**	61,858
Net interest on pension scheme liability		**-**	(511)
Net movement in funds		**(67,645)**	25,749
Total funds brought forward		**2,002,919**	1,977,170
Total funds carried forward	**15**	**1,935,274**	2,002,919

Northern Consortium

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
INCOME			
Income and endowments from :			
Investment income	2	**82,885**	88,820
Income - trading subsidiary		**8,672,710**	7,466,564
Other income		**13,590**	20,422
Total income		**8,769,185**	7,575,806
EXPENDITURE			
Direct expenses - trading subsidiary	6	**(1,025,057)**	(891,827)
Charitable activities	7	**(7,858,509)**	(6,792,644)
Tax charge - trading subsidiary	8	**1,241**	2,237
Total expenditure		**(8,882,325)**	(7,682,234)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**(113,140)**	(106,428)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	14	-	712,571
Net interest on pension scheme liability		-	(5,889)
Net movement in funds		**(113,140)**	600,254
Total funds brought forward		**3,703,597**	3,103,343
Total funds carried forward	15	**3,590,457**	3,703,597

Northern Consortium

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

As at 31 August 2025

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2025	2024	**2025**	2024
		£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	**9**	**829,196**	93,825		
Tangible assets	**10**	**36,943**	33,089	-	-
Investments	**11**	**-**	-	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
		866,139	126,914	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	**869,501**	717,704	**1,866**	**1,883**
Cash at bank and in hand		**3,153,085**	4,024,088	**709,384**	792,823
		4,022,586	4,741,792	**711,250**	794,706
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(1,289,179)**	(1,157,016)	**(31,977)**	(47,788)
Net current assets		**2,733,407**	3,584,776	**679,273**	746,918
Total assets less current liabilities		**3,599,546**	3,711,690	**1,935,274**	2,002,919
Provisions for liabilities	**14**	**(9,089)**	(8,093)	-	-
Pension liability		**-**	-	-	-
Net assets including pension liability		**3,590,457**	3,703,597	**1,935,274**	2,002,919
Represented by:					
Unrestricted income funds	**15**	**3,590,457**	3,703,597	**1,935,274**	2,002,919

The financial statements on pages 11 to 22 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Mr Stuart McKinnon-Evans
Treasurer

23 April 2026

Northern Consortium

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash generated from operations		
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme	**(113,140)**	(106,428)
Depreciation	**26,191**	27,169
Tax charge	**(1,241)**	(2,237)
Investment income	**(82,885)**	(88,820)
	(171,075)	(170,316)
Increase in debtors	**(151,797)**	(190,500)
Increase (decrease) in creditors	**134,400**	(254,552)
Cash generated from operations	**(188,472)**	(615,368)
Tax paid	**-**	-
Net cash movement from operating activities	**(188,472)**	(615,368)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(765,416)**	(111,889)
Interest receivable	**82,885**	88,820
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(682,531)**	(23,069)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(871,003)**	(638,437)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**4,024,088**	4,662,525
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**3,153,085**	4,024,088

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

General information

Northern Consortium is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, registration number 02788226. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings for the financial period. A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by the parent. The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the profit or loss and other comprehensive income from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Control is established when the company has the power to govern the operating and financial policies of an entity as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund.

Other trading activities represents turnover from the trading subsidiary, NCUK in respect of amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees.

Grants related to other income are recognised in profit or loss over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Expenditure (continued)

Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

The subsidiary's tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets represent expenditure on the development of computer software and are initially measured at cost. After initial recognition, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

At the reporting date, computer software continues to be developed and therefore is not being amortised, suitable economic life will be estimated once the software is complete.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is charged to the profit and loss so as to write off their value, over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:

Equipment	33.33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Bank borrowings and overdrafts are included in creditors.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Defined benefit pension obligation

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account. The Scheme Actuary has advised that the Scheme is now in surplus but that no participating institution should recognise any surplus.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies above, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future period.

There have been no provisions or assumptions deemed necessary after review by the directors required in these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

1 Trading subsidiary

The principal wholly-owned trading subsidiary is Northern Consortium UK Limited. The principal activity of this company is, in conjunction with partner universities, the advancement of educational standards by the development of syllabuses and courses and the provision of examination services and assurance programmes to ensure that students wishing to attend the company's partner universities meet the required standards. A summary of the trading results is shown below:

Summary results	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Turnover	**8,672,710**	7,466,564
Cost of sales	**(1,025,057)**	(891,827)
Other income	**13,590**	10,422
Administrative expenses	**(7,573,699)**	(6,554,107)
Interest receivable	**62,962**	69,150
Tax charge	**1,241**	2,237
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension scheme	**-**	650,713
Net interest on pension scheme liability	**-**	(5,378)
Donation to parent charity	**(197,242)**	(173,269)
Retained profit (loss) for the year	**(45,495)**	574,505

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:	**2025**	2024
	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	**829,196**	93,825
Tangible fixed assets	**36,943**	33,089
Debtors	**868,185**	718,391
Cash at bank	**2,443,701**	3,231,265
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(1,257,752)**	(1,111,798)
Deferred tax	**(9,089)**	(8,093)
Pension liability	**-**	-
Net assets	**2,911,184**	2,956,679

2 Investment income

	2025	2024
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	**82,885**	88,820

3 Net movement in funds

	2025	2024
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**26,191**	27,169
Fees paid to the Charity's auditor		
- Audit of charity financial statements	**4,475**	4,150
- Audit of subsidiary financial statements	**11,675**	10,875
- Other services	**6,950**	6,470

4 Staff costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**3,602,297**	3,202,443
Social security costs	**431,102**	291,415
Pension costs	**192,688**	221,588
	4,226,087	3,715,446

	No.	No.
The average monthly number of employees were:	**82**	78

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

4 Staff costs (continued)

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £51,180 (2024 - £50,012).

The total expenses re-imbursed to Trustees during the year were £520 (2024 - £310).

5 Trustees remuneration

No Trustee, nor any person connected to them, received any remuneration from the Charity during the year. One trustee received remuneration of £2,798 (2024 - £Nil) paid by the subsidiary.

6 Direct expenses - trading subsidiary

	2025	2024
	£	£
Rebates to partners	**1,025,057**	891,827

7 Charitable activities

	2025	2024
	£	£
Administrative costs		
Employment costs	**4,226,087**	3,660,775
Establishment costs	**155,988**	163,088
General administrative expenses	**3,158,911**	2,693,178
Finance charges	**6,522**	9,897
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal	**26,191**	27,169
	7,573,699	6,554,107
Charitable activities		
Bank charges	**41**	96
Office expenses	**5,282**	2,723
Grant expenditure & scholarships	**194,241**	133,873
	199,564	136,692
Governance costs		
Staff costs (including support)	**63,127**	61,271
Training costs	**4,207**	-
Auditors' remuneration	**6,526**	8,990
Legal fees	**4,191**	22,011
Other	**7,195**	9,573
	85,246	101,845
	7,858,509	6,792,644

8 Taxation

Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred tax	**(1,241)**	(2,237)

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

9 Intangible fixed assets - Group	Computer software £	Product development £	Computer software £
Cost			
At 1 September 2024	93,825	-	93,825
Additions	634,901	100,470	735,371
At 31 August 2025	**728,726**	**100,470**	**829,196**
Depreciation			
At 1 September 2024	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	-	-
At 31 August 2025	-	-	-
Net book value			
At 31 August 2025	**728,726**	**100,470**	**829,196**
At 1 September 2024	93,825	-	93,825

10 Tangible fixed assets - Group	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2024	289,759
Additions	30,045
At 31 August 2025	**319,804**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2024	256,670
Charge for the year	26,191
At 31 August 2025	**282,861**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2025	**36,943**
At 1 September 2024	33,089

11 Fixed asset investments - Charity	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £
Cost	
At 31 August 2025	**1,256,001**
At 1 September 2024	1,256,001

Shares in subsidiary undertakings

The trading company, Northern Consortium UK Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, incorporated in England and Wales (company number : 04842064). Details of the principal activity are provided in note 1.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

12 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade debtors	**639,656**	516,269	**-**	-
Other debtors and prepayments	**229,845**	201,435	**1,866**	1,883
	869,501	717,704	**1,866**	1,883

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**25,385**	124,579	**4,266**	2,395
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**550**	2,570
Taxation and social security	**97,211**	99,462	**1,135**	1,108
Other creditors	**335,514**	191,615	**735**	765
Accruals & deferred income	**831,069**	741,360	**25,291**	40,950
	1,289,179	1,157,016	**31,977**	47,788

14 Pension scheme liability

	Group		Charity	
	2025	2024	**2025**	2024
Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)	**£**	£	**£**	£
At 1 September 2024	**-**	706,682	**-**	61,347
Actuarial (gains) losses during the year	**-**	(712,571)	**-**	(61,858)
Pension finance cost	**-**	5,889	**-**	511
At 31 August 2025	**-**	-	**-**	-

The latest available complete actuarial valuation, which was carried out using the projected unit method confirmed that the pension scheme was in surplus, therefore there is no longer a requirement to disclose the pension scheme in the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2025

15 Movement in funds - Group

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2023	3,810,025	(706,682)	3,103,343
Net outgoings for the year	(106,428)	-	(106,428)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	712,571	712,571
Pension finance cost	-	(5,889)	(5,889)
At 1 September 2024	3,703,597	-	3,703,597
Net outgoings for the year	(113,140)	-	(113,140)
At 31 August 2025	3,590,457	-	3,590,457

Movement in funds - Charity

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2023	2,038,517	(61,347)	1,977,170
Net income for the year	(35,598)	-	(35,598)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	61,858	61,858
Pension finance cost	-	(511)	(511)
At 1 September 2024	2,002,919	-	2,002,919
Net outgoings for the year	(67,645)	-	(67,645)
At 31 August 2025	1,935,274	-	1,935,274

16 Operating lease commitments

	Group		Charity	
	2025 £	2024 £	**2025** £	2024 £
Within one year	**286,842**	197,915	-	-
Between one and five years	**514,881**	18,562	-	-
	801,723	216,477	-	-

Northern Consortium

Charity income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME		
Donation from subsidiary	**197,242**	173,269
Interest receivable	**19,923**	19,670
Grants returned	-	10,000
	217,165	202,939
EXPENDITURE		
Office expenses	**5,282**	2,723
Unrecoverable VAT	-	4,975
Other governance costs	**7,195**	4,598
Wages and salaries	**56,527**	54,671
Training costs	**4,207**	-
Finance support costs - NCUK	**6,600**	6,600
Auditors' remuneration	**6,526**	8,990
Grant expenditure and scholarships	**194,241**	133,873
Bank charges	**41**	96
Legal fees	**4,191**	22,011
	284,810	238,537
	(67,645)	(35,598)

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

2024

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts 2024

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Supporting education

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2024

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Welcome

We are delighted to present our latest annual report on the Charity's performance for the year ending August 2024.

Whilst our grant making was stable in terms of awards and money distributed, we took the time to review our processes, survey applicants and sense check that what we do and how we do it is both necessary and not overly cumbersome on applicants. Building on our aspiration to be an open and trusting funder, Trustees formed a Grants Committee towards the end of the year to ensure that this important area the charity's work receives the appropriate scrutiny, and support the development of our grant giving activities.

2024 was a very active year in terms of recruitment, we had three Trustee retirements and three appointments in addition to successfully appointing a Chair; Professor Carl Stychin in our subsidiary company, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK). We said goodbye to three well respected colleagues during year, with our Deputy Chair, James Richardson concluding an impressive (and maximum) term of nine years' service at Northern Consortium (NC).

Recruitments are a time intensive process which take many months to complete, and all too often the focus is simply on reaching the point of appointment. We were both appreciative and humbled by the interest shown by the applicants and grateful for the positives which the appointments bring. Having diversity of thought, experience, knowledge and culture around the table is the ultimate success, as this enriches the Board and brings new perspectives, conversations and thinking whilst enabling us to share a sense of common purpose.



Another key task which was completed in the year was the updating of NCUK's Articles. The existing governing document was very outdated having been created over twenty years ago, and as a Group we are in agreement that as the go-to document this should seek to provide more answers than questions. Lastly, we refreshed our logo to help people more readily understand what the Charity does, to support raising our profile and extending our reach across the charity sector to make sure those eligible for our funding hear about us.

We hope you enjoy reading about the organisations we have funded and the work they are undertaking in the education sector. If you think you know of a charity who may benefit from our grants, please do spread the word and let them know about Northern Consortium.

Thank you for your interest in the Charity, from all at NC.

Dr Malcolm Butler
NC Chair

About Us

Northern Consortium exists to support the advancement of education. We do this by funding educational projects and programmes being delivered by other charities and organisations, which align with our aims and objectives. We also fund research into areas which support our strategic aims of facilitating access to international education, promoting the benefits of international education and enabling educational engagement particularly for students from disadvantaged groups.

NC was established in 1987 when a steering committee made up of universities from across the North of England, came together to explore the opportunities for international education. In 1993, after some testing of the overseas education market the group went on to gain charitable registration as Northern Consortium. In 2003, the charity established a subsidiary company, NCUK to enable the safe delivery of operations overseas. You can find more information on NCUK on pages 16 & 17.



Our Objects

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to the advancement of education in particular but not limited to:

- Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;
- Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations;
- Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantaged (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

In 2024 the Trustees committed funding to a range of exciting projects being delivered in communities across the North of England, and you can read more about these on pages 8 to 11.

Summary of Charity Achievements

£133,873 Awarded

9 Charities funded

33% Increase in charities funded

75% Application success rate

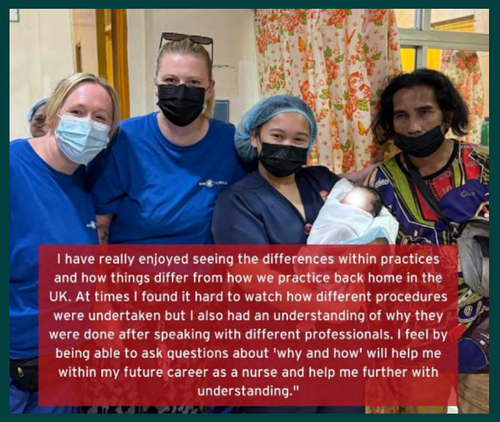
We updated NCUK's governing document (to make it fit for purpose and reflect current law and practice)

We recruited a new Chair for NCUK and new NC Trustees

We reviewed our grant making and amended our policy and process

IVAR we listen, and learn together

We participated in the IVAR peer review



Outcomes

Feedback from students participating in NC funded programmes.



"It's fully changed my mindset on Oxbridge applications. I wasn't going to apply to either Oxford or Cambridge going into this but now I definitely am and that's thanks to the confidence this programme has instilled in me."

"I think confidence is a big [skill that I've developed] and also teamwork. I'm always working alone, I don't like working in groups. But this made it really enjoyable to be in a group."





"With university applications on the horizon, the insight offered into the admissions process, how to prepare and how to interpret the questions proved immensely useful. Each session was as informative as the last; I particularly enjoyed the lessons on criminal law as well. All round: fantastic!"

Who We Funded

Debate Mate was founded in 2007 to improve social mobility amongst disadvantaged young people, helping them to realise their potential and acquire the key 21st Century skills needed for higher education and the modern workplace. With knowledge of the wide range of skills that debating develops, Debate Mate established a formal debating programme that employs a unique peer-to-peer teaching model to engage with disadvantaged young people. Students from UK universities are recruited by Debate Mate to teach debating skills, perform a mentoring role, and provide an insight into higher education and career opportunities. There are over 550 student volunteers currently participating in the programme supporting 3940 students in 197 schools across the UK.

Our funding will support Debate Mate to run their core programme in 4 schools in Northern regions targeting 80 students, activities commenced in October 2024 and are due to conclude in June 2025 therefore, results will be reported in the 2025 annual report.

Northern Consortium provided funding for two years to support an innovative new pilot being trialled by Greater Manchester Law Centre (GMLC) for widening participation students from The University of Manchester (UoM). The Legal Advocacy and Research Support Project (LARSP) aims to develop and test a comprehensive and replicable model of vocational training and development of students which is aligned to the new Solicitors Qualifying Experience (SQE) for students seeking a career in law. In year one 12 students were recruited from the University of Manchester (UoM) and provided with training at Greater Manchester Law Centre (GMLC) involving them in the provision of community-centred advice. As the pilot has not yet concluded the results will be reported in our 2025 annual report.

Wellspring are a Harrogate based charity supporting vulnerable people in North Yorkshire with counselling, offering hope to adults, children and young people in emotional distress. They work with schools to support students in need, support many individuals to access therapy as well as collaborate with three local Universities to support training placements for students aspiring to enter the profession.

We provided a grant to Wellspring Therapy & Training- in 2023 to enable them to develop an accredited Children & Young People's Therapeutic Counselling Course and funding for six bursaries to individuals from widening participation groups to reduce the cost of the course. Many areas across the UK have a high demand for specialist counsellors to meet the needs of Children and Young People, resulting in schools and local authorities having long waiting lists. Research undertaken showed that counsellors reported limited access to accredited training due to both costs and location being prohibitive factors.

Delivery of the accredited course commenced in 2024, and the face-to-face teaching will conclude in March 2025. The delegates are then required to have completed two assignments in addition to their 50-hour placement with feedback before obtaining the Diploma. as the pilot has not yet concluded the results will be reported in our 2025 annual report.

In 2023 we awarded two years of funding to support a total of 40 students from widening participation groups to participate in the University of Bradford's Going Global programme, which provides short term overseas placements. The grants covered twenty student places each year, for the programmes running in the academic years 2023/24 and 2024/25. The 2023/24 programme was concluded with 18 students from Nursing, Social Work & Midwifery courses participating in two week* overseas placements and the University aims to recruit 22 students in the current year to reach the target 40. As the overseas placements have not yet concluded the results will be reported in our 2025 annual report.

Who We Funded

The Linacre Institute is a small social mobility charity based in Leeds, Yorkshire set up to help more state school students from the North of England reach our top universities, where they are currently drastically underrepresented. Celebrating their 10th year, the Reach Higher Programme has now helped over 500 bright, but isolated, sixth form students at state schools in some of the most disadvantaged postcodes in Yorkshire fulfil their academic potential by winning places at the most selective universities in the country. This is achieved through a fully integrated summer school and tutoring programme which creates a supportive, personalised environment to stretch students intellectually, build their social confidence and inspire them to succeed and fulfil their academic potential.

Northern Consortium's funding enabled fifteen students from widening participation backgrounds to take part in the Linacre Institutes Reach Higher programme and supported the expansion of the programmes network to thirteen schools. You can read some of the participating students comments on page 7.

Founded in 1989 by a Prison Officer and a Barrister the Prisoners' Education Trust is a registered charity offering educational opportunities alongside Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) to people in prison, helping them to transform their lives through education. To date PET have funded over 49,000 distance learning courses for people in prison. Last year, we supported PET by providing £19,650 funding to fund 30 additional learners in prisons situated in the North of England to access PET's courses and associated advice, support and guidance. At the end of the funding period (1st Jan 2025) PET reported that our funding had resulted in 36 individuals accessing a distance learning course. At the time of drafting this report, 12 learners had completed their courses and all other learners were still progressing on their respective courses.

The Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA) is a rescue mission for academics around the world who need urgent help to escape from discrimination, persecution, violence or conflict. Cara also supports academics who choose to work on in their home countries despite serious dangers, and higher education institutions whose work is threatened or compromised.

We provide multi-year funding of £25,000 a year, for three years to Cara, to ensure that the individuals funded can complete their studies without interruption. NC grants specifically benefit Cara fellows hosted by our Member Institutions. The most recent three-year grant cycle commenced in November 2023 and will run to 2026, with four academics benefitted in 2024.

The Foundation Years Trust (FYT) is a Wirral-based charity, working with parents, carers and their children between 0–5 years. FYT aim to improve the life chances and social mobility opportunities of children living in some of the most deprived wards of Wirral, through interventions aimed at early years children to improve educational outcomes. FYT have a number of programmes and interventions to reach families living in the target areas. A core programme is the 'schools programme' which has been a successful element of FYT's work since 2016. Through the schools programme, FYT train school staff in the Peep Learning Together programme, and support them to deliver weekly groups for parents and children within the early years groups.

We granted £16,500 to FYT to co-design and co-produce a manual for their Schools programme and test it in ten schools. The manual will support delivery of the programme in both new and existing schools, providing some future proofing for the scheme and alleviating some of the barriers to continuity which have been identified. The project is being delivered in the academic year culminating in work to evaluate its effectiveness in August 2025, therefore the results will be reported in our 2025 annual report.

we listen, and learn together

In 2023 we joined over 100 other funders and pledged to become an open and trusting grant maker via the Institute of Voluntary Action Research. During 2024 we also participated in IVAR's peer review to support their objectives and deliver on our commitments within the programme. Key areas of focus during the year were multi-year funding and improving our grants process. Trustees expanded their approach to multi-year funding by implementing more longer-term awards, recognising that multi-year funding enables organisations to have stability, certainty, time to plan and execute activities within a realistic timeframe as well as enhancing organisational capacity and supporting better learning to improve practice. It delivers efficiencies to both the funder and the recipient organisation. All ongoing grant commitments are recognised in the contingency figure of NC's Reserves policy. You can read more about IVAR here: https://www.ivar.org.uk

Our Values



Collaboration

We are committed to working collaboratively. We fund, support and connect to add value as we believe that supporting other charities enables us to achieve more together.



Impact

We want to understand the positive difference made by the funding provided. We are committed to supporting grantees to identify workable ways to measure their impact.



Integrity

We build trust through honest and authentic relationships. We have open communication with both stakeholders and one another, and we aspire to be consistent and forward thinking in our grant giving.

Future Plans

What	Why
Create a template to provide to grantees	To capture consistent outcomes and impact reports
Establish the Grants Committee	To give the desired level of scrutiny & support
Effect a smooth transition of sub-committee responsibilities	To prevent any disruption to charitable giving and enable the Committees to deliver their aims
Develop criteria for Research funding	To guide applicants and increase success rates
Complete the review of the Groups' Pension and Tax provisions	To ensure the Group benefits from the optimum arrangements
Appraise our primary purpose trading activity	To ensure compliance and appraise all activities
Open a second bank account	To support our cash policy, and manage risk
Review the Charity's reserves and mid-term funding strategy	To keep a focus on the future and understand our parameters
Continue the development of our phased approach to multi-year funding	To be a responsible and innovative funder

Charity Performance

In line with charity accounting practice the financial statements from page 18 onwards show the consolidated position for both the Charity and its subsidiary. The information on these two pages illustrates the Charity's statement of financial activities and income and expenditure account for the readers convenience.

Trustees are pleased to report that Gift Aid income from NCUK increased to £173,296 from £152,360 in the previous year. In 2023/24 total charitable expenditure increased to £238,537 from £229,855 in 2023/24 – this sum includes the dissemination of grants as set out in the chart below. Our operational expenditure benefitted from a year end adjustment for the USS pension revaluation.

Charity Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
INCOME		**£**	£
Income and endowments from :			
Donation from subsidiary		**173,269**	152,360
Investment income		**19,670**	3,142
Grants returned		**10,000**	-
Total income		**202,939**	155,502
EXPENDITURE			
Charitable activities		**(238,537)**	(229,855)
Total expenditure		**(238,537)**	(229,855)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**(35,598)**	(74,353)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	**14**	**61,858**	(19,765)
Net interest on pension scheme liability		**(511)**	(815)
Net movement in funds		**25,749**	(94,933)
Total funds brought forward		**1,977,170**	2,072,103
Total funds carried forward	**15**	**2,002,919**	1,977,170

Charity income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOME		
Donation from subsidiary	**173,269**	152,360
Interest receivable	**19,670**	3,142
Grants returned	**10,000**	-
	202,939	155,502
EXPENDITURE		
Office expenses	**2,723**	4,785
Unrecoverable VAT	**4,975**	3,662
Other governance costs	**4,598**	3,532
Wages and salaries	**54,671**	51,782
Finance support costs - NCUK	**6,600**	6,600
Auditors' remuneration	**8,990**	6,550
Grant expenditure and scholarships	**133,873**	137,887
Bank charges	**96**	87
Legal fees	**22,011**	14,970
	238,537	229,855
	(35,598)	(74,353)

Grants awarded –

Linacre	£15,000
GMLC & UoM	£15,000
CARA	£25,000
Prisoners' Education Trust	£19,650
Foundation Years Trust	£16,509
Debate Mate	£17,092
University of Bradford	£25,000
Total	£133,873

Our Company

About NCUK

NCUK is a leading global provider of university pathway programmes, established by universities to bridge the gap between international students and higher education institutions. With a deep understanding of both student and university needs, NCUK partners with schools, colleges, universities, governments, and investors worldwide to deliver high-quality academic pathways that enable students to progress to universities both locally and internationally.

What does NCUK offer?

NCUK provides a comprehensive range of pre-university, undergraduate, and postgraduate preparation programmes designed specifically for international students. These programmes equip students with the academic knowledge, skills, and confidence required to succeed at leading universities across the globe.

NCUK's pathway programmes are recognised by a prestigious network of universities, including nine ranked in the QS World Top 100 and 20 in the QS World Top 200 (QS World University Rankings 2025). Each programme is developed in close collaboration with academic experts and rigorously validated by university partners to ensure that it meets the high academic standards expected in higher education.

How does NCUK deliver its programmes?

NCUK's global network of accredited Study Centres provides students with access to internationally recognised qualifications while studying in their home country or abroad. Operating in over 35 countries, these Study Centres ensure that students benefit from high-quality teaching, academic support, and a structured pathway to university.

With students from over 120 nationalities enrolling each year, NCUK's programmes have a strong track record of success. 89% of students who progress to university achieve a 2:1 or higher in their degree. To date, NCUK has supported over 50,000 students in reaching their university and career ambitions.

Future Plans

Advancing digital transformation

NCUK is progressing rapidly in its digital transformation journey, streamlining internal processes, enhancing communications, and introducing innovative services as part of its technology-driven continuous improvement agenda. These initiatives are designed to ensure that NCUK's expanding network of Study Centres and students continue to benefit from high-quality, technology-enabled solutions that align with its commitment to service excellence.

Expanding programme offerings

As part of its commitment to providing greater choice and diversity, NCUK is expanding its academic portfolio to meet the evolving needs of students and Study Centres. The introduction of an International Year One programme in Computer Science and a new International Art and Design Foundation course will offer additional progression routes for students while generating new streams of qualified applicants for university partners. Alongside these developments, NCUK is reviewing its existing programmes to ensure they continue to meet rigorous academic standards and remain aligned with industry and university expectations.

Diversifying revenue streams

To enhance financial resilience, NCUK is diversifying its revenue streams through new and expanded services. Over the next 12 months, NCUK will launch targeted marketing services designed to connect universities with qualified international students. Additionally, the organisation will continue to develop its online merchandise store, enabling Study Centres and students to showcase their affiliation with NCUK. The rollout of NCUK's global staffing service will further support universities by providing seamless recruitment solutions for internationally based staff.

Strategic global growth

Building on the success of its rebrand and the expansion of its in-market commercial team, NCUK is strategically growing its presence in both established and emerging markets. This includes targeted expansion across Africa, Europe, and Asia, in line with NCUK's long-term growth strategy to strengthen its global network and enhance international student mobility.

NCUK Key Achievements

- Record-breaking student numbers on our pathway programmes worldwide, with 55% growth over the past three years.
- Expansion of our Study Centre network, including new market launches in Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore, bringing the total number of countries to 35+.
- Growth in University Partners to 60+ now including nine World Top 100 and 20 World Top 200 universities (QS World University Rankings 2025).
- Re-launch of our brand, resulting in a 200% year-on-year increase in brand mentions.
- Launch of two sector insights reports: The Power of Pathways and Student Insights.
- Implementation of a new organisational structure, investing in core roles across our regional hub-and-spoke model, and establishing a new staff hub in South Africa.
- Achievement of key performance metrics for stakeholder satisfaction across students, study centres, and university partners

2024

Our Year in Figures

Financial Review & Results of the Year

The Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK was established in October 2003. The formation of NCUK enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity to support its objectives. The consolidated financial performance for 2023/24 was strong reflecting a good trading year for NCUK.

NCUK turnover was up 14% year on year driven mainly through increased student numbers registering with the NCUK network of international partners. Continued investment in staff has seen a 4% increase in staffing costs compared to prior year. NCUK Overheads have increased year on year reflecting increased investment in academic services and a corporate rebranding initiative. All the above have combined to deliver an NCUK profit of £97k for the financial year.

Results of the Year

Summary of the results and financial position of the Group	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Income	**7,575,806**	6,601,234
Net incoming resources from unrestricted funds	**600,254**	(26,573)
Total unrestricted funds	**3,703,597**	3,103,343

Key Policies

Risk Management

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for risk at Northern Consortium, though they delegate day-to-day management of it to the Executive Director. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review as part of the initial activity assessment and implementation. Major risks are identified and ranked in terms of their potential impact and likelihood using the Charity Commission's guidelines.

Major risks, for this purpose, are those that may have a significant effect on:

- achievement of our aims and objectives; and/or
- operational performance, including risks to our personnel; and/or
- the ability to deliver our plans.

The Executive Director reviews the risks on a regular basis and presents updates to the Trustees at the Management and Finance Sub-committee (MFC) meetings. The risk register is also a standing item on every board meeting agenda to ensure that the predominant risks are monitored, managed and mitigated. Where appropriate, risks are covered by insurance policies, but this is only one aspect of mitigation and management and not a standalone approach. The Charity is reliant on Gift Aid from its subsidiary to fund our work. Trustees recognise that this as one of the principal risks for the Charity and have taken a long-term view as to how effectively manage and mitigate this risk, which would include an increase use of our reserves. Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting
- Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight
- established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- regular communication between the Charity and Company;
- clear authorisation and approval levels
- Active management of reserves

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, with red rated items shared with the Trustees.

Investment Performance & Policy

Cash surplus is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK Limited, from which all of its income was derived.

The main objective for the use of Gift Aid is to apply it to the Charity's grant making activity. The ongoing operational costs of the charity are met using the Charity's reserves.

Reserves

The Charity holds reserves to ensure that it can meet the needs of committed activity as well as to fund operational expenditure. The Trustees' reserves policy aims to preserve some free reserves, which is monies not tied up in operating activities and fixed assets, in addition to designating a portion of funds to provide for committed grant awards and contingency funds, equivalent to twelve months' expenditure. This approach means that Northern Consortium can benefit from the use of short-term investments to help attain interest to bolster its income. As at 31 August 2024 the Charity had total reserves of £2002,919 (2023 - £1,977,170). Details are on page 31 in the Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets. The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. Our Reserves policy is updated annually and was revised and updated in April 2025. The Trustees of NC and the Directors of NCUK are reviewing the Group's financial strategy to ensure that the Group delivers financial performance such that NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which NC can fulfil its charitable objectives, and for NCUK to pursue its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans. The approach to reserves by the Group is part of the strategy, whose objective is to delivery financial sustainability.

Pensions

Northern Consortium is a member of the University Superannuation Scheme and the Charity's pension liability was revaluated in 2024 and was estimated to be £40,767. Trustees have identified the S75 pension liability as a risk and mitigated for it. Accordingly, the S75 liability will not be triggered whilst there is an active member in the scheme.

Structure, Management & Governance

Governing Document

Northern Consortium ("NC"/"the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the Objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 41, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Trustees

Our Trustees are responsible for setting the Charity's strategy and are responsible in law for the governance of Northern Consortium. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the Charity are set out in note 37 to the accounts. The names of the Trustees who served during the year and beyond are set out on page 41.

Governing Body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each of the member universities of Northern Consortium are entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is provision for the Trustees to appoint up to four external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum of but shall not be less than three. There are currently nine Consortium Trustees and four External Trustees.

Recruitment and training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee as well as experience or knowledge within a desired area [whichfulfils an area identified by a skills audit].

On appointment new Trustees are given a formal induction to the work of the Charity, introduced to the Officers and staff, and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles. This includes information about the role of the Trustees within Northern Consortium, the Charity's policies, and their role within the context of charity law generally. Trustees are provided with a copy of the Charity Trustee's Handbook, given information relating to the legal framework within which the Charity operates and provided with governance training focused on their responsibilities within the company law context.

Regular training opportunities are offered to Trustees and group training sessions on relevant topics to support the Trustees' role are provided within board meetings during the year. At the end of a Trustee's three-year term, they will be asked by the Company Secretary to confirm whether they wish to be considered for reappointment, provided they have not reached the maximum of three terms.

Structure, Management & Governance

Organisational Management

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as a Board of Trustees at least twice annually, with an additional strategy day.

Trustees work together to set the strategic direction and monitor the operational activity of the Charity. Trustees are also involved with developing and or monitoring the Charity's activities in specific areas, by engaging in sub-committee and working group activities. Trustees have delegated some responsibilities to the Management and Finance Sub-Committee (which is comprised of four Trustees) who meet at least three times a year to monitor the Charity's financial performance, review the risk register, review renumeration, support the development of policies, approve funding applications and have oversight of the annual audit and drafting of the statutory accounts.

In late 2024 Trustees approved the formation of a Grants Committee to take on the oversight of the grant giving and support the development of its overall funding strategies.

The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis and provides regular reports to the Trustees on performance and operations.

Group structure and relationships

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK), whose activities and performance are also discussed in this report. On 1st June 2024 Mrs Merryl Webster, Trustee was also appointed as a Director on the NCUK Board of Directors which supports the Trustees to meet their legal obligations under Charity Law and also supports the passing of information within the Group.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

Under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 Xeinadin Audit Limited, will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditors 28 days after these financial statements were sent to members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

On behalf of the Trustees :



Dr M A Butler

Chair

10 April 2025

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Consortium (the 'Charitable Company') and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 August 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated and Charitable Company Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group and the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 August 2024 and of the Group's income and 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Charitable Company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

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

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or the Charitable Company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company 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

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

- Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities
- In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we have considered the following:
- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;
- Results of the enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we have identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
    - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the impact of COVID-19. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charitable Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, Health and Safety Laws and Environmental Regulations.

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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

Use of our report

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



Michael Garrett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
100 Barbirolli Square
Manchester
M2 3BD

10 April 2025

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
INCOME		**£**	£
Income and endowments from :			
Investment income	**2**	**88,820**	23,285
Income - trading subsidiary		**7,466,564**	6,542,942
Other income		**20,422**	35,007
Total income		**7,575,806**	6,601,234
EXPENDITURE			
Direct expenses - trading subsidiary	**6**	**(891,827)**	(767,295)
Charitable activities	**7**	**(6,792,644)**	(5,980,968)
Tax charge - trading subsidiary	**8**	**2,237**	(733)
Total expenditure		**(7,682,234)**	(6,748,996)
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**(106,428)**	(147,762)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	**14**	**712,571**	137,746
Net interest on pension scheme liability		**(5,889)**	(16,557)
Net movement in funds		**600,254**	(26,573)
Total funds brought forward		**3,103,343**	3,129,916
Total funds carried forward	**15**	**3,703,597**	3,103,343

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

As at 31 August 2024

	Notes	Group 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2024	Charity 2023
		£	£	**£**	£
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	**9**	**93,825**	-		
Tangible assets	**10**	**33,089**	42,194	**-**	-
Investments	**11**	**-**	-	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
		126,914	42,194	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
Current assets					
Debtors	**12**	**717,704**	527,204	**1,883**	**1,789**
Cash at bank and in hand		**4,024,088**	4,662,525	**792,823**	831,496
		4,741,792	5,189,729	**794,706**	833,285
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**13**	**(1,157,016)**	(1,411,568)	**(47,788)**	(50,769)
Net current assets		**3,584,776**	3,778,161	**746,918**	782,516
Total assets less current liabilities		**3,711,690**	3,820,355	**2,002,919**	2,038,517
Provisions for liabilities		**(8,093)**	(10,330)	**-**	-
Pension liability	**14**	**-**	(706,682)	**-**	(61,347)
Net assets including pension liability		**3,703,597**	3,103,343	**2,002,919**	1,977,170
Represented by:					
Unrestricted income funds	**15**	**3,703,597**	3,103,343	**2,002,919**	1,977,170

The financial statements on pages 11 to 22 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Stuart McKinnon-Evans
Treasurer
10 April 2025

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash generated from operations		
Net income (expenditure) and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme	**(106,428)**	(147,762)
Depreciation	**27,169**	25,864
Tax charge	**(2,237)**	733
Investment income	**(88,820)**	(23,285)
	(170,316)	(144,450)
Increase in debtors	**(190,500)**	(27,118)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	**(254,552)**	(18,381)
Cash generated from operations	**(615,368)**	(189,949)
Tax paid	**-**	(69,129)
Net cash movement from operating activities	**(615,368)**	(259,078)
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(111,889)**	(28,604)
Interest receivable	**88,820**	23,285
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(23,069)**	(5,319)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(638,437)**	(264,397)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**4,662,525**	4,926,922
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**4,024,088**	4,662,525

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2024

General information

Northern Consortium is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, registration number 02788226. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings for the financial period. A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by the parent. The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the profit or loss and other comprehensive income from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Control is established when the company has the power to govern the operating and financial policies of an entity as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund.

Other trading activities represents turnover from the trading subsidiary, NCUK in respect of amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees.

Grants related to other income are recognised in profit or loss over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs.

Expenditure (continued)

Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

The subsidiary's tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Intangible assets

Intangible assets represent expenditure on the development of computer software and are initially measured at cost. After initial recognition, intangible assets are measured at cost less any accumulated amortisation and any accumulated impairment losses.

At the reporting date, computer software continues to be developed and therefore is not being amortised, suitable economic life will be estimated once the software is complete.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is charged to the profit and loss so as to write off their value, over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:

Equipment	33.33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Bank borrowings and overdrafts are included in creditors.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Defined benefit pension obligation

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and have therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies above, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future period.

There have been no provisions or assumptions deemed necessary after review by the directors required in these financial statements.

1 Trading subsidiary

The principal wholly-owned trading subsidiary is Northern Consortium UK Limited. The principal activity of this company is, in conjunction with partner universities, the advancement of educational standards by the development of syllabuses and courses and the provision of examination services and assurance programmes to ensure that students wishing to attend the company's partner universities meet the required standards. A summary of the trading results is shown below:

Summary results	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Turnover	**7,466,564**	6,542,942
Cost of sales	**(891,827)**	(767,295)
Other income	**10,422**	35,007
Administrative expenses	**(6,554,107)**	(5,751,113)
Interest receivable	**69,150**	20,143
Tax charge	**2,237**	(733)
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension scheme	**650,713**	157,511
Net interest on pension scheme liability	**(5,378)**	(15,742)
Donation to parent charity	**(173,269)**	(152,360)
Retained profit (loss) for the year	**574,505**	68,360

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Intangible fixed assets	**93,825**	-
Tangible fixed assets	**33,089**	42,194
Debtors	**718,391**	527,615
Cash at bank	**3,231,265**	3,831,029
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(1,111,798)**	(1,362,999)
Deferred tax	**(8,093)**	(10,330)
Pension liability	**-**	(645,335)
Net assets	**2,956,679**	2,382,174

2 Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	**88,820**	23,285

3 Net movement in funds

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**27,169**	25,864
Fees paid to the Charity's auditor		
- Audit of charity financial statements	**8,990**	6,500
- Audit of subsidiary financial statements	**13,538**	13,000
- Other services	**3,675**	3,675

4 Staff costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**3,202,443**	3,082,280
Social security costs	**291,415**	267,417
Pension costs	**221,588**	232,713
	3,715,446	3,582,410
	No.	No.
The average monthly number of employees were:	**78**	76

4 Staff costs (continued)

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £50,012 (2023 - £47,560)

5 Trustees remuneration

No Trustee, nor any person connected to them, received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

6 **Direct expenses - trading subsidiary**	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Rebates to partners	**891,827**	767,295

7 **Charitable activities**	**2024**	2023
	£	£
Administrative costs		
Employment costs	**3,660,775**	3,530,628
Establishment costs	**163,088**	278,832
General administrative expenses	**2,693,178**	1,910,274
Finance charges	**9,897**	5,515
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal	**27,169**	25,864
	6,554,107	5,751,113
Charitable activities		
Bank charges	**96**	87
Office expenses	**2,723**	4,785
Grant expenditure & scholarships	**133,873**	137,887
	136,692	142,759
Governance costs		
Staff costs (including support)	**61,271**	58,382
Auditors' remuneration	**8,990**	6,550
Legal fees	**22,011**	14,970
Other	**9,573**	7,194
	101,845	87,096
	6,792,644	5,980,968

8 Taxation

Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current tax		
- UK corporation tax	**-**	-
Deferred tax	**(2,237)**	733
	(2,237)	733

9 Intangible fixed assets - Group

	Computer software £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	-
Additions	93,825
At 31 August 2024	**93,825**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	-
Charge for the year	-
At 31 August 2024	**-**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	**93,825**
At 1 September 2023	-

10 Tangible fixed assets - Group

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2023	271,695
Additions	18,064
At 31 August 2024	**289,759**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2023	229,501
Charge for the year	27,169
At 31 August 2024	**256,670**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2024	**33,089**
At 1 September 2023	42,194

11 Fixed asset investments - Charity

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £
Cost	
At 31 August 2024	**1,256,001**
At 1 September 2023	1,256,001

Shares in subsidiary undertakings

The trading company, Northern Consortium UK Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, incorporated in England and Wales (company number : 04842064). Details of the principal activity are provided in note 1.

12 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade debtors	**516,269**	472,396	**-**	-
Other debtors and prepayments	**201,435**	54,808	**1,883**	1,789
	717,704	527,204	**1,883**	1,789

13 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**124,579**	52,305	**2,395**	3,075
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**2,570**	2,200
Taxation and social security	**99,462**	72,161	**1,108**	1,207
Other creditors	**191,615**	321,774	**765**	1,180
Accruals & deferred income	**741,360**	965,328	**40,950**	43,107
	1,157,016	1,411,568	**47,788**	50,769

14 Pension scheme liability

	Group		Charity	
	2024	2023	**2024**	2023
Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)	**£**	£	**£**	£
At 1 September 2023	**706,682**	827,871	**61,347**	40,767
Actuarial (gains) losses during the year	**(712,571)**	(137,746)	**(61,858)**	19,765
Pension finance cost	**5,889**	16,557	**511**	815
At 31 August 2024	**-**	706,682	**-**	61,347

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2023 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method. The actuarial valuation found that the pension scheme was now in a surplus, therefore there is no longer a requirement to disclose the pension scheme in the financial statements.

15 Movement in funds - Group

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2022	3,957,787	(827,871)	3,129,916
Net outgoings for the year	(147,762)	-	(147,762)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	137,746	137,746
Pension finance cost	-	(16,557)	(16,557)
At 1 September 2023	3,810,025	(706,682)	3,103,343
Net outgoings for the year	(106,428)	-	(106,428)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	712,571	712,571
Pension finance cost	-	(5,889)	(5,889)
At 31 August 2024	3,703,597	-	3,703,597

Movement in funds - Charity

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2022	2,112,870	(40,767)	2,072,103
Net income for the year	(74,353)	-	(74,353)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	(19,765)	(19,765)
Pension finance cost	-	(815)	(815)
At 1 September 2023	2,038,517	(61,347)	1,977,170
Net outgoings for the year	(35,598)	-	(35,598)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	61,858	61,858
Pension finance cost	-	(511)	(511)
At 31 August 2024	2,002,919	-	2,002,919

16 Operating lease commitments

	Group		Charity	
	2024 £	2023 £	**2024 £**	2023 £
Within one year	**197,915**	49,742	-	-
Between one and five years	**18,562**	216,477	-	-
	216,477	266,219	**-**	**-**

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered company number	02788226 (England and Wales)
Registered charity number	1018979
Registered office	667-669 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4QE

Trustees
The Trustees, who are also Directors under company law, who served during the year and since year end were as follows:

Dr M Butler - Chair	Mr N Smith
Professor C Hamshire – Deputy Chair	Mrs M Webster
Mr S McKinnon-Evans - Treasurer	Miss Bee Yee Gan (appointed 18 March 2025)
Mr R Cotton	Ms J Nugent (appointed 18 February 2025)
Mr J Rossiter	Dr A Jones (appointed 18 February 2025)
Mr A Ryder	Mr J Richardson (retired 21 February 2025)
Professor A J Sambell	Miss S Darch (retired 10 May 2024)
Professor I Wood	Professor L C Bishop (retired 15 July 2024)

Executive Director & Company Secretary — Mrs D Leicester

Northern Consortium Member Universities:
The University of Bradford
Leeds Beckett University
The University of Salford
Liverpool John Moores University
Sheffield Hallam University
The University of Manchester
The University of Leeds
The University of Sheffield
The University of Huddersfield

Auditors
Xeinadin Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
100 Barbirolli Square
Manchester
M2 3BD

Solicitors
Shakespeare Martineau
No 1 Colmore Square
Birmingham
B4 6AA

Osbourne Clarke China Law Office
Suite 708 Shanghai Centre
1376 Nanjing Road West
Shanghai
China

Bankers
Barclays Bank Plc
PO Box 357
51 Mosley Street
Manchester
M60 2AU

2024

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Supporting education

Get In Touch

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NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

Trustees' Report and Accounts 2023



NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

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Welcome

March 2023 marked our 30th year of registration with the Charity Commission. The year was also pivotal in terms of implementing our new grants strategy and embedding new ways of reaching students by supporting other educationally focused charities.

The pandemic had resulted in our grant making coming to a standstill, as global travel ceased and students around the world switched to remote learning wherever they could. Trustees used this time to consider a fresh approach to grant giving, one which would increase our reach to target beneficiaries, widen the range of students benefitting and expand the activities funded. The subsequent grant strategy has assisted the charity to have a far more flexible approach for the future, and we are delighted by the results seen in the first year.

No opportunity would be complete without challenge, and for us it was the demand shown by those seeking our assistance. A challenge that we may face for some time and on which we are focusing our attention, to better understand how we can create an appropriate funding strategy which enables us to meet our aspirations, collaborate with others and have even more impact.

In the spirit of good governance and to ensure that we meet our obligations, Trustees regularly spend time considering issues which impact jointly on both the Charity and our subsidiary Company, NCUK Ltd. We will work closely with the NCUK Board of Directors to explore the Groups Pensions and Tax arrangements in the coming year, to support a strong financial position for all, which underpins our charitable activity.

Thank you for your interest in the charity and we hope you enjoy this report.



Dr Malcolm Butler

Chair

Who we are

Northern Consortium was founded by an alliance of UK Universities from across the North of England who share a common belief in the long-term benefits of international education, and a commitment to widening participation.

Northern Consortium's core mission is the advancement of education. We fund a wide range of educational projects and research delivered by other charities aligned with our purpose and values. Activities usually support students from disadvantaged backgrounds, promote international education or facilitate access to educational opportunities.

In 1987 we began life as a steering committee of universities from across the North of England focused on exploring opportunities for international education. The group tested the overseas education market before registering as a charity in 1993. Ten years later, the Charity established it's subsidiary company to provide a vehicle to deliver operations overseas, which you can read more about on page 4.

In recent years Trustees have revised the charity's objectives and updated its articles to help it to operate effectively. Last year saw the implementation of our new grants strategy which was expanded to allow funding for a wider pool of educational charities. During 2023 we have committed funding to some exciting projects being delivered in communities across the North of England, and you can read more on pages 7 and 8.

What we do

Our charitable objects and strategic aims are detailed below; all that we do or fund others to do aligns with these objectives.

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to the advancement of education in particular but not limited to:

- Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;
- Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations;
- Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantaged (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

Trustees agreed the following strategic aims, and we use these to inform our grant making

- Facilitating access to international education
- Promoting the benefits of international education
- Enabling educational engagement particularly for students from disadvantaged groups

In 2003 the Charity set up a subsidiary company, NCUK Ltd to help achieve its objectives, and facilitate safe and effective operation within the global market. The Charity is funded by annual income from NCUK Ltd.

About our Company

NCUK is a provider of high-quality qualifications that offer a pathway to leading universities worldwide. Its mission is to expand access to world leading education for aspirational students and support them to succeed at university and beyond.

Study Centres
NCUK licenses its pathway qualifications and services to educational institutions, known as Study Centres, which provide teaching and university progression services. NCUK's reach spans across 40+ countries and territories, with its qualifications being offered at 120+ Study Centres worldwide.

University Partners
Renowned for their excellence, including members of the Russell Group, Group of 8, and those consistently ranked among the QS World Top 100 universities, NCUK has 50+ University Partners in the UK, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the USA and more.

Impact
Since its inception, NCUK has helped more than 50,000 students progress to leading universities worldwide, outlining its commitment to shaping successful futures for students at university and beyond.

Summary of Charity Achievements in 2023

£146,095 grant funding awarded.

£110,000
increase in funding provided in 2022.

9 Charities funded.

22% increase in the number of grants awarded on the previous year.



2,550
number of students benefitted

Summary of Company Achievements in 2023

2,800 students progressed from preparatory programmes to degree programmes in the UK or overseas (increase on 2,476 in 2022).

£45m
estimated income to NCUK University Partners

£130m
total estimated tuition fee income over the duration of the student's degree course

External Recognition

EducationInvestor Awards 2023

Finalist in the 'Pathway of the Year'

The PIEoneer Awards 2023

Shortlisted for the "Championing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award"

Charities supported in 2023

The Linacre Institute

The Linacre Institute is a small social mobility charity based in Leeds, Yorkshire set up to help more state school students from the North of England reach our top universities, where they are currently drastically underrepresented. The Reach Higher Programme has now helped nearly 400 bright, but isolated, sixth form students at state schools in some of the most disadvantaged postcodes in Yorkshire fulfil their academic potential by winning places at the most selective universities in the country. This is achieved through a fully integrated summer school and tutoring programme which creates a supportive, personalised environment to stretch students intellectually, build their social confidence and inspire them to succeed and fulfil their academic potential.

Northern Consortium's funding enabled twenty students from widening participation backgrounds to take part in the Linacre Institutes Reach Higher programme, and an additional three schools to join the existing twelve within the programmes network.

Prevent 2 Protect
Charity Number: 1188874

Northern Consortium provided funding to the safeguarding charity Prevent 2 Protect to support their Gang for Life? Project being delivered to school children aged 10-16 in Greater Manchester. The project is a combination of Sports Activities to promote good physical and mental wellbeing and Anti-Gang Educational sessions covering topics such as Grooming & Peer Pressure, County Lines Gangs, missed opportunities and much more. During September to November the project was delivered to five schools and reached 267 primary school children, a further seven schools were due to receive a visit before the end of December 2023. As the project reporting date runs to July 2024, more in-depth reporting will follow.

Greater Manchester Law Centre

Northern Consortium provided funding for two years to support an innovative new pilot being trialled by Greater Manchester Law Centre(GMLC) and The University of Manchester (UoM). The Legal Advocacy and Research Support Project (LARSP) aims to develop and test a comprehensive and replicable model of vocational training and development of students which is aligned to the new Solicitors Qualifying Experience (SQE) for students seeking a career in law. In year one 12 students were recruited from the University of Manchester (UoM) and provided with training at Greater Manchester Law Centre (GMLC) involving them in the provision of community-centred advice.

Teesside University

Teesside University submitted a grant application to part-fund 16 Teesside University students from a widening participation background to take part in mobility programmes in the USA.

Six students learnt about environmental globalisation, economic globalisation, and public speaking during a four-week programme at a Washington state college. A further ten students participated in a one-week programme focussed on Education and Psychology, at the University of North Florida. This trip was provided an opportunity for students to attend classes on Education and Psychology, and also visit local schools and practitioners too.

Apps for Good

Apps for Good are an education technology charity who provide free tech innovation courses to schools, giving teachers ready-made education content, so young people from all backgrounds can develop computing and essential skills to create a brighter future through technology. In 2022/23 Apps for Good benefitted nearly 29,000 students in 665 schools.

Northern Consortium awarded a grant to support the launch and scale of a new App for Social Action. This solution-focussed technology course teaches young people from all backgrounds to solve urgent social issues using digital technology, whilst also providing them with essential skills including communication, teamwork, problem solving and leadership.

Northern Consortium funding will enable Apps for Good to specifically target fifty schools across the North, with the aim of reaching students from widening participation groups.

cara

The Council for At-Risk Academics

Cara provides urgently needed help to academics in immediate danger, those forced into exile, and many who choose to work on in their home countries despite serious risks. Cara also supports higher education institutions whose work is at risk or compromised.

Northern Consortium provide funding to support cara fellows placed within our Member Institutions. A three-year grant cycle began in 2017 and in 2023 was renewed for the third time. During 2023 three academics and their families benefitted from the grant.

wellspring therapy & training

Wellspring are a charity based in Harrogate who support vulnerable people in North Yorkshire with counselling, offering hope to adults, children and young people in emotional distress. They work with schools to support students in need, support many individuals to access therapy as well as collaborate with three local Universities to support training placements for students aspiring to enter the profession.

We provided a grant to Wellspring Therapy & training to enable them to develop an accredited Children & Young People's Therapeutic Counselling Course and funding for six bursaries to individuals from widening participation groups to reduce the cost of the course.

Many areas across the UK have a high demand for specialist counsellors to meet the needs of Children and Young People, resulting in schools and local authorities having long waiting lists. Research undertaken showed that counsellors reported limited access to accredited training due to both costs and location being prohibitive factors.

UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Northern Consortium awarded funding to support the University of Bradfords Going Global programme, which provides short term overseas placements. The grant funds twenty places for students from widening participation backgrounds to participate in programmes occurring in 2024 and a further twenty in 2025. The first programme is due to commence in 2024 [and will be reported on in the next report].

Celebrating Success

The UK President's Scholarship Award was a unique collaborative programme involving Northern Consortium, its Member Institutions* NCUK and the Brookhouse International School in Nairobi (the main partner in Kenya).

Each year one fully funded scholarship was made to a Kenyan national student who would otherwise not be able to study in the UK. Northern Consortium provided grants for living expenses, the Universities provided free tuition to the students for the duration of the course and the NCUK team provided support and administration to the scheme. The programme also benefitted from free air travel from British Airways during its first five years of operation.

The scheme ran for eleven years with the initial student being admitted to a UK university in 2007, and the final one in the academic year 2018/19 Trustees took the difficult decision to close the scheme as they wanted to focus on finding new ways of applying our charities funds that would enable higher numbers of people to be supported.

2023 saw the final graduation take place and you can read more from the final two students on the opposite page. **Member Institutions are detailed on pages 20 & 41.*

£380K
funding contributed by NC

11
People supported

6
Universities participated

£550K
tuition fees gifted

Testimonials

I am immensely grateful for the incredible support provided on my journey to pursue an undergraduate degree at a UK university as an international student from a disadvantaged financial background. The unwavering commitment allowed me to successfully complete my degree despite the various obstacles I encountered on my journey.

The sponsorship not only made my educational dreams a reality but also served as a crucial lifeline during uncertain periods e.g. through hardship grants when the Covid-19 pandemic hit and I was unable to travel back home in the summer. Thank you for being a beacon of support and making a significant impact on my academic and personal growth. I will forever be indebted to the generosity and kindness that so profoundly altered the trajectory of my life.

Growing up in Kenya, it was always my dream to study at a global university. Without the full scholarship from Northern Consortium I could never have achieved this. The scholarship meant I did not have to worry about funding and could simply focus on my studies, which made it easier to enhance my performance and I was so proud to graduate with a first-class degree in Economics and Finance. Thank you for the support provided to assist my transition to living in the UK, when I came to the UK everything felt unfamiliar and scary. Transport was arranged to collect me from the airport, take me to my student accommodation and then welcome me at the office the next morning. The regular check in's made me feel secure and confident that I had support despite being thousands of miles away from home and I am forever grateful for their support. Since I completed my studies I now work as a finance analyst.

Student Feedback



'I would like to thank Northern Consortium for allowing me to attend the trip to the USA and for providing funding. This was a great experience for me where I learnt so many new skills and it allowed me to develop my confidence with travelling and being around new people. I made so many great memories, for example celebrating my birthday in a completely new environment, making new friends, and seeing part of the world that I had never seen before. I was able to learn a lot about the American curriculum on psychology and social work as well as getting first-hand experience of the differences in American university life. Without the funding, it would not have been possible for me to visit America, so I am very thankful for this opportunity.'

'I had a serious case of imposter syndrome because I was so convinced it wasn't going to happen for me, but lo and behold I got to go and it was life-changing in more ways than one. As someone with autism this trip challenged my ability to connect with people but it also got me to think outside of the box by asking questions of subjects I'm not privy to. Visiting UNF's preschool was by far the most memorable part of my trip because it solidified once and for all what I want to do for my career. I would like to thank Northern Consortium for providing such opportunities. As someone with a learning disability, low socio-economic status, a first-generation student, and from the BAME community, this means a lot. Please continue to do what you do".



Our Values

We believe in the transformative value of education. We are committed to supporting widening participation and enabling access to education for disadvantaged groups and share a common belief in the long-term benefits of international education.

Below are the Charity's values, the Company has its own values which it uses internally to shape its culture and underpin its strategic plan.

Collaboration

As a consortium we understand the value of unity and are committed to working collaboratively. We embrace the diversity of collective knowledge and resources to create meaningful impact. We join forces to co-fund, we connect our network to add value and we believe that supporting other charities enables us to achieve more together.

Impact

Impact is important to us and like any funder we want to see the maximum impact possible for every pound granted. To us impact means outcomes, we want to know what positive difference was made by the funding provided. We are committed to supporting grantees to identify workable ways to measure their impact.

Integrity

We build trust through responsible actions and honest relationships. We have open and authentic communication with both stakeholders and one another, and we aspire to be consistent and forward thinking in how we operate.

IVAR
we listen, and learn together

To demonstrate our values we have joined with over 100 other funders and pledged to become an open and trusting grant maker via the Instituteof Voluntary Action Research. You can read more about whats involved here: https://www.ivar.org.uk/flexible-funders/

What's Next for the Charity

Northern Consortium's plans in the next twelve months:



Assessing our activities

To ensure the continued success of our grants programme we will review our grants process to identify where improvements can be made, in addition to continuing to develop our multi-year funding strategy.

We are exploring potential options for new joint initiatives with NCUK, which further the Charity's objectives and enable us to utilise the Companies expertise and extensive network.

2024 will see the conclusion and assessment of a virtual internship pilot aimed at UK students from widening participation groups.

Focusing on Group Governance

To ensure that we are in the best financial position as a Group, we will continue working with the NCUK Board of Directors on the Group Financial strategy, specifically considering, tax and pension arrangements.

In consultation with the NCUK Board of Directors, we will review and update the Company's Articles, to align them with the current regulatory frameworks and provide a more efficient and well-defined operating environment within the Group.





Building beneficial networks

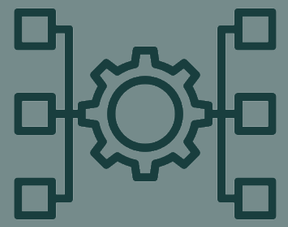
We plan to increase awareness of our Research funding across UK networks to ensure that our funds can be used to meeting our objectives.

We will improve communications with our Member Institutions to build stronger links and understanding of the charity's aims and objectives. We are seeking their support to help us reach the educational charities operating in their communities to raise awareness of our grant giving.

We continue with the progressive approach of marketing our grants to other UK charities who are aligned with our aims and objectives.

What's Next for the Company

NCUK's plans in the next twelve months:



Investing in Our Infrastructure

We are actively strengthening our foundations for future success which includes the creation of new regional roles within our overseas hubs, fostering closer collaboration with our international network. We are also bolstering our UK head office with additional core operational staff to ensure the continued high-quality service we deliver for our stakeholders.

Embracing Digital Transformation

We are actively implementing advanced digital systems to undergo a comprehensive digital transformation. This will streamline our internal processes, enhance communication across the board, and empower our network to operate at its full potential. With these advancements, we can seamlessly support a growing network of Study Centres and students while maintaining our unwavering commitment to quality service.





Expanding Our Network

NCUK is dedicated to providing students with the widest range of opportunities. We will be expanding our global footprint by welcoming new Study Centres and entering new emerging markets for international education. This will offer a more diverse student pool to our university partners, enriching their academic communities, while also creating access for a wider range of globally mobile students. In parallel, we are forging partnerships with additional leading and diverse international universities, creating an even more comprehensive selection of university choices for our students.

Unveiling Our New Brand Identity

NCUK is embarking on a brand refresh project that places students at the very core of our mission. We will empower students by showcasing the transformative power of our pathway programs, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to excel in their chosen fields. This initiative will also position NCUK as a thought leader within our key destination markets, unlocking new commercial opportunities in the business-to-business environment.



Our Year in Figures

Financial Report

The Charity's Year in Figures

Public Benefit

Charities have a duty under section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. As Trustees, we aim and work to fulfil our Objects in line with the requirements for demonstrating public benefit. The beneficiaries we aim to assist are clearly identifiable and related to these Objects.

We support the advancement of education in a variety of ways such as through the provision of grant funding to charities delivering educational projects, to benefit disadvantaged or under-represented groups. Via our subsidiary, NCUK Ltd we also provide high-quality educational programmes and associated support, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations.

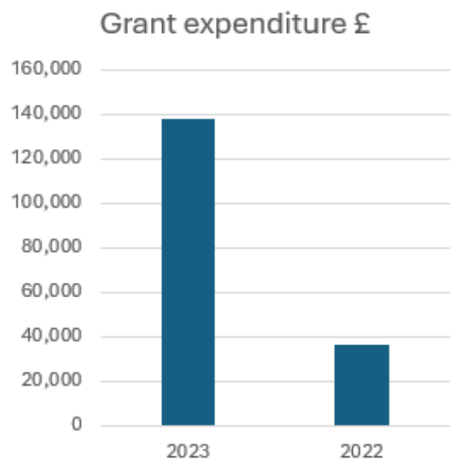
The Charity also supports research into – and the promotion of – the access agenda in higher education. We have a clear grants policy that is used to form decisions on grant eligibility.

Charity Performance

The Charity's financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023 are set out on page 40. We are pleased to report that Gift Aid income from NCUK Ltd increased to £152,360 from £125,821 in the previous year. Like many charities across the world, we have had to find new ways to deliver our support to ensure that we reach the people who should benefit from our help. In 2022/23 total charitable expenditure increased from £122,067 in 2021/22 to £229,855 – an increase of 88% - this was due to the implementation of the new grants strategy which saw us grant awards of £146,095* - while operational expenditure was virtually unchanged.

**the figure is lower than that shown in the accounts (£137,887) owing to refunds and reversals*

Charitable expenditure across our activities was as follows:



Key Policies

Risk Management

The Trustees are ultimately responsible for risk at Northern Consortium, though they delegate day-to-day management to the Executive Director. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review as part of the initial activity assessment and implementation. Major risks are identified and ranked in terms of their potential impact and likelihood using the Charity Commission's guidelines. Major risks, for this purpose, are those that may have a significant effect on:

- achievement of our aims and objectives;and/or
- operational performance, including risks to our personnel; and/or
- the ability to deliver our plans.

The Executive Director reviews the risks on a regular basis and presents updates to the Trustees at the Management and Finance Sub-committee (MFC) meetings. The risk register is also a standing item on every board meeting agenda to ensure that the predominant risks are monitored, managed and mitigated. Where appropriate, risks are covered by insurance policies, but this is only one aspect of mitigation and management and not a standalone approach.

Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- Formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- Strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting
- A Management and Finance Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight
- Established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- Regular communication between the Charity and Company;
- Clear authorisation and approval levels

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK Ltd which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, with red rated items shared with the Trustees.

Investment performance & policy

Cash surplus is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK Limited, from which all of its income was derived.

Trustees have a policy of applying Gift Aid to fund the Charity's grant making activity. The ongoing operational costs of the charity are met using the Charity's reserves.

Reserves

The Charity holds reserves to ensure that it can meet the needs of committed activity as well as to fund operational expenditure. The Trustees' reserves policy aims to preserve some free reserves, which is monies not tied up in operating activities and fixed assets, in addition to designating a portion of funds to provide for committed grant awards and contingency funds, equivalent to twelve months' expenditure. This approach means that Northern Consortium can benefit from the use of short-term investments to help attain interest to bolster its capital. As at 31 August 2023 the Charity had total reserves of £1,977,170 (2022 - £2,072,103). Details are on page 28 within the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. Our Reserves policy is revised and updated annually and last reviewed in April 2024.

The Trustees of NC and the Directors of NCUK are reviewing the Group's financial strategy to ensure that the Group delivers financial performance such that NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which NC can fulfil its charitable objectives, and for NCUK to pursue its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans. The overall objective is to delivery financial sustainability.

Pensions

Northern Consortium is a member of the University Superannuation Scheme and the Charity's pension liability was revaluated in 2023 and was estimated to be £61,347. Trustees have identified the S75 pension liability as a risk and mitigated for it. Accordingly, the S75 liability will not be triggered whilst there is an active member in the scheme.

Financial Review & Results for the Year

Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK Limited was established in October 2003. The formation of NCUK enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity to support its objectives. The consolidated financial performance for 2022/23 was strong reflecting a good trading year for NCUK Ltd.

NCUK turnover was up 12% year on year driven mainly through increased student numbers registering with the NCUK network of international partners. Continued investment in staff has seen an increase in staffing costs compared to prior year as NCUK establishes a solid platform to deliver its strategic plan. NCUK Overheads have also increased in the main reflecting a rebound in activity post Covid. All of which have combined to deliver an NCUK profit for the financial year of £63k.

Summary of the results and financial position of the Group	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Income	**6,601,234**	5,881,027
Net movements in funds	**(26,573)**	(57,166)
Total funds	**3,103,343**	3,129,916

The charity paid £1,723 (2022 - £1,694) in respect of professional indemnity for the trustees.

Structure, Management & Governance

Governing Document

Northern Consortium ("NC"/"the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the Objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 41, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Trustees

Our Trustees are responsible for setting the Charity's strategy and are responsible in law for the governance of Northern Consortium. All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the Charity. The names of the Trustees who served during the year and beyond are set out on page 41.

Governing Body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each of the member universities of Northern Consortium are entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is provision for the Trustees to appoint up to four external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum of but shall not be less than three. There are currently nine Consortium Trustees and four External Trustees - see page 41 for details.

Recruitment and training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and are selected from the member universities' senior management. External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee as well as experience or knowledge within a desired area [which fulfils an area identified by a skills audit]. On appointment new Trustees are given a formal induction to the work of the Charity, introduced to the Officers and staff, and provided with the information they need to fulfil their roles. This includes information about the role of the Trustees within Northern Consortium, the Charity's policies, and their role within the context of charity law generally. Trustees are provided with a copy of the Charity Trustee's Handbook, given information relating to the legal framework within which the Charity operates and provided with governance training underlining their responsibilities within the company law context. Regular training opportunities are offered to Trustees and group training sessions on relevant topics to support the Trustees' role are provided within board meetings during the year.

At the end of a Trustee's three-year term, they will be asked by the Company Secretary to confirm whether they wish to be considered for reappointment, provided they have not reached the maximum of three terms.

Organisational Management

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as a Board of Trustees at least twice annually, with an additional strategy day. Trustees set the strategic direction and monitor the operational activity of the Charity. an its subsidiary. Trustees are also involved with developing and or monitoring the Charity's activities in specific areas, by engaging in sub-committee and working group activities.

Group structure and relationships

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK Ltd), whose activities and performance are also discussed in this report. Trustees send a proxy to attend the Board of Directors meeeting to represent the Charity and support the passing of information within the Group.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

Under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 Xeinadin Audit Limited, will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditors 28 days after these financial statements were sent to members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

On behalf of the Trustees :



Dr Malcolm Butler
Chair

25 April 2024

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Consortium (the 'Charitable Company') and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 August 2023 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated and Charitable Company Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group and the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 August 2023 and of the Group's income and 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for Opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Charitable Company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

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

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the Charitable Company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Charitable Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we have considered the following: The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;
- Results of the enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we have identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
    - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the impact of COVID-19. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override. We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charitable Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, Health and Safety Laws and Environmental Regulations. In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit. No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK). A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our Report

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



Michael Garrett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
Statutory Auditor
100 Barbirolli Square, Manchester, M2 3BD

25 April 2024

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
INCOME			
Income and endowments from :			
Investment income	2	**23,285**	1,800
Income - trading subsidiary		**6,542,942**	5,828,373
Other income		**35,007**	50,854
Total income		**6,601,234**	5,881,027
EXPENDITURE			
Direct expenses - trading subsidiary	6	**(767,295)**	(749,714)
Charitable activities	7	**(5,980,968)**	(4,697,554)
Tax charge - trading subsidiary	8	**(733)**	(73,681)
Total expenditure		**(6,748,996)**	(5,520,949)
Net income and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**(147,762)**	360,078
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	13	**137,746**	(409,018)
Net interest on pension scheme liability		**(16,557)**	(8,226)
Net movement in funds		**(26,573)**	(57,166)
Total funds brought forward		**3,129,916**	3,187,082
Total funds carried forward	14	**3,103,343**	3,129,916

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	Notes	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £	Charity 2023 £	Charity 2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	**42,194**	39,454	**-**	-
Investments	10	**-**	-	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
		42,194	39,454	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
Current assets					
Debtors	11	**527,204**	500,086	**1,789**	**-**
Cash at bank and in hand		**4,662,525**	4,926,922	**831,496**	883,563
		5,189,729	5,427,008	**833,285**	883,563
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(1,411,568)**	(1,499,078)	**(50,769)**	(26,694)
Net current assets		**3,778,161**	3,927,930	**782,516**	856,869
Total assets less current liabilities		**3,820,355**	3,967,384	**2,038,517**	2,112,870
Provisions for liabilities		**(10,330)**	(9,597)	**-**	-
Pension liability	13	**(706,682)**	(827,871)	**(61,347)**	(40,767)
Net assets including pension liability		**3,103,343**	3,129,916	**1,977,170**	2,072,103
Represented by:					
Total funds	14	**3,103,343**	3,129,916	**1,977,170**	2,072,103

The financial statements on pages 27 to 39 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Stuart McKinnon-Evans
Treasurer

25 April 2024

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash generated from operations		
Net income and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme	**(147,762)**	360,078
Depreciation	**25,864**	17,567
Tax charge	**733**	73,681
Investment income	**(23,285)**	(1,800)
	(144,450)	449,526
Increase in debtors	**(27,118)**	(394,393)
(Decrease) increase in creditors	**(18,381)**	160,130
Cash generated from operations	**(189,949)**	215,263
Tax paid	**(69,129)**	(44,520)
Net cash from operating activities	**(259,078)**	170,743
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(28,604)**	(29,167)
Interest receivable	**23,285**	1,800
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(5,319)**	(27,367)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(264,397)**	143,376
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**4,926,922**	4,783,546
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**4,662,525**	4,926,922

Notes to the Financial Statements

General Information

Northern Consortium is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, registration number 02788226. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE.

Accounting Policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value. The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings made up to 31st August 2023. A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by the parent. The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the profit or loss and other comprehensive income from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Control is established when the company has the power to govern the operating and financial policies of an entity as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Income

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund. Other trading activities represents turnover from the trading subsidiary, NCUK in respect of amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.
Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees. Furlough scheme payments are recognised on the accrual model and are measured at fair value of the asset receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to other income or to assets. Grants related to other income are recognised in profit or loss over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs. Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage. Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities. The subsidiary's tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted. Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign Currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.
Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is charged to the profit and loss so as to write off their value, over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:
Equipment 33.33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Bank borrowings and overdrafts are included in creditors.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred.The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Defined benefit pension obligation

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee- administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set.The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer.A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi- employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and have therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred.The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies above, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future period. There have been no provisions or assumptions deemed necessary after review by the directors required in these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

1 Trading subsidiary

The principal wholly-owned trading subsidiary is Northern Consortium UK Limited. The principal activity of this company is, in conjunction with partner universities, the advancement of educational standards by the development of syllabuses and courses and the provision of examination services and assurance programmes to ensure that students wishing to attend the company's partner universities meet the required standards. A summary of the trading results is shown below:

Summary results	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Turnover	**6,542,942**	5,828,373
Cost of sales	**(767,295)**	(749,714)
Other income	**35,007**	50,854
Administrative expenses	**(5,751,113)**	(4,593,521)
Net interest	**4,401**	(6,368)
Tax charge	**(733)**	(73,681)
Actuarial gain (loss) on pension scheme	**157,511**	(385,633)
Donation to parent charity	**(152,360)**	(125,821)
Retained profit (loss) for the year	**68,360**	(55,511)

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets	**42,194**	39,454
Debtors	**527,615**	508,633
Cash at bank	**3,831,029**	4,043,359
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(1,362,999)**	(1,480,931)
Deferred tax	**(10,330)**	(9,597)
Pension liability	**(645,335)**	(787,104)
Net assets	**2,382,174**	2,313,814

2 Investment income

	2023	2022
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	**23,285**	1,800

3 Net movement in funds

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**25,864**	17,567
Fees paid to the Charity's auditor		
- Audit of charity financial statements	**6,500**	3,800
- Audit of subsidiary financial statements	**13,000**	8,925
- Other services	**3,675**	5,700

4 Staff costs

	2023	2022
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**3,082,280**	2,322,188
Social security costs	**267,417**	202,992
Pension costs	**232,713**	224,611
	3,582,410	2,749,792
	No.	No.
The average monthly number of employees were:	**76**	65

4 Staff costs (continued)

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £47,560 (2022 - £44,130)

5 Trustees remuneration

No Trustee, nor any person connected to them, received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.

6 Direct expenses - trading subsidiary	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Rebates to partners	**767,295**	749,714

7 Charitable activities	**2023**	2022
	£	£
Administrative costs		
Employment costs	**3,530,628**	2,701,745
Establishment costs	**278,832**	153,954
General administrative expenses	**1,894,532**	1,688,852
Finance charges	**21,257**	13,369
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal	**25,864**	17,567
	5,751,113	4,575,487
Charitable activities		
Bank charges	**87**	84
Office expenses	**4,785**	1,631
Scholarships and project development	**137,887**	36,376
	142,759	38,091
Governance costs		
Staff costs (including support)	**58,382**	53,881
Auditors' remuneration	**6,550**	6,308
Legal fees	**14,970**	17,940
Other governance costs	**7,194**	5,847
	87,096	83,976
	5,980,968	4,697,554

8 Taxation

Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Current tax		
- UK corporation tax	**-**	69,129
Deferred tax	**733**	4,552
	733	73,681

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

9 Tangible fixed assets - Group

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2022	243,091
Additions	28,604
At 31 August 2023	**271,695**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2022	203,637
Charge for the year	25,864
At 31 August 2023	**229,501**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2023	**42,194**
At 1 September 2022	39,454

10 Fixed asset investments - Charity

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £
Cost	
At 31 August 2023	**1,256,001**
At 1 September 2022	1,256,001

Shares in subsidiary undertakings

The trading company, Northern Consortium UK Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, incorporated in England and Wales (company number : 04842064). Details of the principal activity are provided in note 1.

11 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	**2023 £**	2022 £
Trade debtors	**472,396**	398,289	**-**	-
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**-**	-	**-**	-
Other debtors and prepayments	**54,808**	101,797	**1,789**	-
	527,204	500,086	**1,789**	-

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2023 £	2022 £	**2023 £**	2022 £
Trade creditors	**52,305**	203,252	**3,075**	55
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**2,200**	8,547
Current tax	**-**	69,129	**-**	-
Taxation and social security	**72,161**	73,509	**1,207**	1,134
Other creditors	**321,774**	330,846	**1,180**	1,083
Accruals & deferred income	**965,328**	822,342	**43,107**	15,875
	1,411,568	1,499,078	**50,769**	26,694

13 Pension scheme liability

	Group		Charity	
Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)	**2023 £**	2022 £	**2023 £**	2022 £
At 1 September 2022	**827,871**	410,627	**40,767**	17,041
Actuarial (gains) losses during the year	**(137,746)**	409,018	**19,765**	23,385
Pension finance cost	**16,557**	8,226	**815**	341
At 31 August 2023	**706,682**	827,871	**61,347**	40,767

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method; a more recent valuation is not yet available.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have a sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below.

Discount rate (forward rate)	Years 1-10: CPI +0.14% reducing liability to CPI -0.73% Years 11-20: CPI +2.52% reducing linearly to CPI +1.55% by year 21 Years 21+ CPI +1.55%
Pension increases (CPI)	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed interest and index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows :

Mortality base table	Pre-retirement: 71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AMC00 (duration 0) for females. Post retirement: 97.6% of SAPS S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females.
Pension increases (CPI)	CMI 2017 with smoothing parameter of 8.5, and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% p.a. for males and 1.6% p.a. for females.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:	**2018 Valuation**	**2017 Valuation**
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24	25
Females currently aged 65 (years)	26	26
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26	27
Females currently aged 45 (years)	28	28

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period. 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2020 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2023	2022
Discount rate	2.00%	2.64%
Pension salary growth	n/a	n/a

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

14 Movement in funds - Group

	Unrestricted	Pension reserve	TOTAL
	£	£	**£**
At 1 September 2021	3,597,709	(410,627)	3,187,082
Net income for the year	360,078	-	360,078
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	(409,018)	(409,018)
Pension finance cost	-	(8,226)	(8,226)
At 1 September 2022	3,957,787	(827,871)	3,129,916
Net outgoings for the year	(147,762)	-	(147,762)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	-	137,746	137,746
Pension finance cost	-	(16,557)	(16,557)
At 31 August 2023	3,810,025	(706,682)	3,103,343

Movement in funds - Charity

	Unrestricted	Pension reserve	TOTAL
	£	£	**£**
At 1 September 2021	2,108,833	(17,041)	2,091,792
Net income for the year	4,037	-	4,037
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme		(23,385)	(23,385)
Pension finance cost		(341)	(341)
At 1 September 2022	2,112,870	(40,767)	2,072,103
Net outgoings for the year	(74,353)	-	(74,353)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme		(19,765)	(19,765)
Pension finance cost		(815)	(815)
At 31 August 2023	2,038,517	(61,347)	1,977,170

15 Operating lease commitments

	Group		Charity	
	2023	2022	**2023**	2022
	£	£	**£**	£
Within one year	**45,144**	84,627	-	-
Between one and five years	**217,975**	25,796	-	-
	263,119	110,423	**-**	**-**

Charity income and expenditure account

	2023	2022
	£	£
INCOME		
Donation from subsidiary	**152,360**	125,821
Interest receivable	**3,142**	283
	155,502	126,104
EXPENDITURE		
Office expenses	**4,785**	1,631
Unrecoverable VAT	**3,662**	-
Other governance costs	**3,532**	5,847
Wages and salaries	**51,782**	47,281
Finance support costs - NCUK	**6,600**	6,600
Auditors' remuneration	**6,550**	6,308
Scholarships and project development	**137,887**	36,376
Bank charges	**87**	84
Accountancy and legal fees	**14,970**	17,940
	229,855	122,067
	(74,353)	4,037



Reference and Administrative Details

Registered company number	02788226 (England and Wales)
Registered charity number	1018979
Registered office	667-669 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4QE

Trustees

The Trustees, who are also Directors under company law, who served during the year and since year end were as follows:

Dr M A Butler - Chair of the Board of Trustees
Mr J Richardson - Deputy Chair
Mr S Mckinnon-Evans - Treasurer
Professor L C Bishop
Mr R Cotton
Miss S Darch
Mrs M Webster
Mr J Rossiter
Mr A Ryder
Professor A J Sambell
Mr N Smith
Professor I C Wood
Professor C Hamshire (Joined 14 March 2024)
Professor J Watling (Retired 12 October 2023)
Professor J Allan (Retired 14 March 2024)

Executive Director & Company secretary

Mrs D Leicester

Northern Consortium Member Universities

The present members of the Consortium are:

The University of Bradford
Leeds Beckett University
The University of Salford
Liverpool John Moores University
Sheffield Hallam University
The University of Manchester
The University of Leeds
The University of Sheffield
The University of Huddersfield

Auditors

Xeinadin Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
100 Barbirolli Square
Manchester
M2 3BD

Solicitors

Shakespeare Martineau
Waterfront House
Waterfront Plaza
Nottingham
NG2 3DQ

Eversheds Sutherland
One Wood Street
London
EC2V 7WS

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
PO Box 357
51 Mosley Street
Manchester
M60 2AU

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Get In Touch

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NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

Company registration no : 02788226 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration no : 1018979

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

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Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Northern Consortium Member Universities

The present members of the Consortium are:

The University of Bradford	Leeds Beckett University
The University of Salford	Liverpool John Moores University
Sheffield Hallam University	The University of Manchester
The University of Leeds	Manchester Metropolitan University
The University of Sheffield	The University of Huddersfield

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for Companies Act purposes, present their report for the year ended 31 August 2022 under the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited accounts for the year, and confirm that the latter comply with the Act, and with the Charities SORP (FRS102) - effective 1 January 2019. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

1 STRATEGIC REPORT

Northern Consortium was founded by a steering committee comprised of Universities from across the North of England in 1987, their focus was on the development of opportunities for educational delivery internationally. Following some initial work, the group went on to register as a Charity in March 1993. Ten years later in 2003, the Charity set up a wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK Ltd to enable overseas operations to be delivered in a way which provided an administrative framework which best suited the group's needs.

NCUK Ltd provide a diverse set of qualifications and other opportunities for qualified students to progress to university. Since 2003, NCUK Ltd have supported over 40,000 students to advance to university.

NCUK Ltd, as a wholly owned subsidiary provides an income stream to NC, resulting in the charity not having to fundraise to be able to fund its grant making activities.

NC's core charitable objective is the advancement of education. In 2021 Trustees revised the charity's objectives and updated its Articles to ensure that we were able to operate effectively in the current environment however, its overriding charitable purpose, the advancement of education remains unchanged.

During the past year Trustees have developed and launched a new grants strategy to strengthen the Charity's ability to provide funding to educational projects. This new strategy, whilst only six months old at the time of drafting this report, has already committed funding towards a range of exciting projects which are being delivered in the communities of the Member [Founding] Universities.

The grants strategy has three strategic aims:

1. Facilitating access to international education
2. Promoting the benefits of international education
3. Enabling educational engagement particularly for students from disadvantaged groups

1.1 Objectives and activities

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects which were amended on 9th September 2021 are specifically restricted to the advancement of education in particular but not limited to:

- Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;
- Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations ;
- Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantages (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit to inform its decision making and review of how the Charity's activities and plans contribute to achieving its aims and objectives. Northern Consortium is unique in supporting UK higher education on a not-for-profit basis. The Charity funds research and provides grants to support the work of similar educationally focused charities which benefit students from under-represented backgrounds. Whilst its subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited ("NCUK"), provides high quality educational programmes and associated services to facilitate international students' progression to university. The Consortium delivers public benefit by:

- providing grants to support international students from groups under - represented in higher education who would otherwise be unable to access UK higher education opportunities via the Presidents UK scholarship scheme (further information below);

- promoting and enhancing international education opportunities and supporting the engagement of students from widening participation groups;
- providing - through an international network of delivery partnerships - educational programmes and associated services of the highest quality to international students;
- supporting research into - and the promotion of - the access agenda in higher education, particularly in relation to international higher education, and supporting the international reputation and continued success of UK universities, and other eligible bodies in the UK. Which in turn supports universities to research, teach, provide public access to their activities, and contribute to the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of their locality;
- providing grants to support UK charities to deliver education focused projects across the North of England, ensuring that students from under - represented groups are able to access opportunities to support their journey to higher education.

1.2 Achievements and performance

Key Achievements in 2021/22

During 2020/21 Northern Consortium and its trading subsidiary NCUK delivered the following activities :

- Continued to support the Presidents UK Scholarship scheme, a programme run in collaboration with the Brook House School, Kenya which has provided opportunities for a number of high achieving students to benefit from a university education in the UK. The Charity provided grants to cover living and accommodation costs during the academic year and the universities waived the tuition fees. The final student is due to graduate in 2023.
- Supported the Campaign for At Risk Academics (CARA): funding of £20k was used to support scholars from Syria and Iraq to continue their PhD studies at UK universities. You can find out more about CARA here: www.cara.ngo/who-we-are/
- Supported the launch of the NC funded research from University of West London and World Access to Higher Education Network (WAHEN) ; The Equity Crisis – Higher Education access and success to 2030 This high-level, international research considered the impact of the pandemic on access to Higher Education and provided some suggestions for how to overcome barriers, the report can be accessed on our website https://nccharity.org.uk/
- Supported the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) to pilot a Virtual Commonwealth Exchange Programme this project brought 41 students together from 10 Universities in 7 Countries. This project had a strong focus on intercultural awareness and brought together diverse teams from different academic disciplines to work together to focus on solutions to one of the United Nations sustainable development goals. NC provided some funding for the pilot in addition to attending/contributing to the final day conference which brought all the attendees together.
- Funded a small-scale pilot for a virtual internship programme to take place over the summer of 2023. This pilot has a strong focus on intercultural fluency and enhancing employability skills and provides an opportunity for students from widening participation backgrounds to have a tailored international experience, which fits with individual circumstances and doesn't require overseas travel. The results of the pilot will be published on the website, and outlined in next years report.
- During the year Trustees developed a new grants strategy, which was approved in April 2022 and the subsequent application process and decision framework were completed by July. Aligned with this work we also developed our inaugural website to aid the promotion of the charity and allow ease of access to our application form, policies and guidance documents which was published in September 2022. This significant work was vital to ensure a strong footing for the future of NC's grant giving, resulting in the Charity's processes and resources being available to potential applicants as and when required, and not limited by our part time staffing model. The consequence of this timetable however, was that NC granted less funding than planned during the financial year.

The above activity was made possible due to the funding received from our subsidiary NCUK Ltd, who also;

- Supported – through the provision of high quality educational programmes and associated support - over 2,500* students to progress from preparatory programmes to degree programmes in the UK or overseas (this is an increase from 2,200 last year).
- Undertook activity that will provide publicly-funded UK partner universities with an estimated £31 million of tuition fee income this year to NCUK partner universities, and a further estimated £87 million of tuition fee income being generated over the duration of the students degree courses. *nb this revenue is a calculation based on the average tuition fee of £17,585.*

*subject to final enrolment figures

1.3 Governance Review

Trustees value the independent leadership of each entity within the Group and feel that this approach ensures that both organisations receive the necessary focus and commitment whilst also reducing any conflicts. Governance is hugely important to the Trustees and has been a core focus in recent years. Following the introduction of the Charity's new grants programme and whilst NCUK finalise their strategic review, the Trustees and Directors on the Boards plan to review the Groups priorities to enhance our governance and performance.

2022 saw the succession of four Consortium Trustees across the year, after a number of Trustees had completed the full term of nine years. This resulted in considerable induction time to help Trustees get to know the charity and understand their role and responsibilities. Additionally, we held our first physical Board meeting since 2019 in September 2022, which was a great way to start the new financial year. In the previous year four External Trustees joined the Board and so September was also their first opportunity to meet their colleagues in person too. Having the opportunity to meet face to face and get to know each other and the Charity was extremely valuable after so many virtual meetings.

Towards the end of 2021 Trustees were made aware of a regulatory administration error which occurred when the subsidiary Company set up an office in China in 2006. The error had gone unnoticed [despite in country annual audits] until July 2021 when NCUK were preparing for the succession of its Chief Executive Officer. As the matter was within an overseas country and related to both NC and NCUK we took time to ensure that all aspects of the matter were fully explored and considered before pursuing the most appropriate resolution.

This year marked the first year in office of the NCUK Chair and CEO within the subsidiary Company. Internally, a restructure, office move [within Manchester] took place, to provide a fixed term office solution for the growing team. A strategic review also was completed, with a revised strategic plan being delivered to the April 2023 Trustee meeting for approval. The NCUK Board of Directors also saw some refreshment during the year, with two appointments being made in 2022. The NCUK Board of Directors now has eight serving Directors.

1.4 Future Plans

The charity finalised and launched its new grants strategy at the end of the year, the strategy will continue to fund initiatives to support the 'access' agenda in higher education to a wider audience than before. The Charity has the following activity planned in 2022/23:

- To promote the charity's website and funding opportunities to a wide range of organisations within a targeted geographical area;
- To mark the 30th Anniversary of Northern Consortium [in 2023];
- To refine and enhance our grant giving processes and procedures;
- To pilot activities which expand opportunities for widening participation groups to participate in a range of intercultural experiences;
- To continue to support (via an annual grant of £20,000) the work of the Council for At Risk Academics (CARA);
- To continue to support the final UK Presidents Scholar to the successful conclusion of their studies;
- To promote the findings of the research it has funded within the sector; and;
- To formalise and document Group policies and processes to aid effective working practices.

The focus of NCUK's future planning is on three core themes: enhancing the quality, reputation, and impact of its work. This will take the form of developing the infrastructure, both in terms of the structure and people within the organisation, but also the systems and processes involved in delivering the qualifications that make up a core component of NCUK's business and global outreach.

NCUK is in the process of reviewing its qualifications and their delivery to ensure ongoing relevancy to both students, delivery partners, and universities, with a view to ensuring that students who complete NCUK's qualifications well-prepared and succeed when studying abroad. Much of the re-investment into the organisation will be centred on the administration of students on NCUK's qualifications, including the digitisation (where appropriate) and delivery of NCUK's assessments.

Further to this, NCUK will also be focusing on the support it provides to its delivery partners, with the digitization of learning materials and improving accessibility for a global audience.

The organisation has also invested in its processes supporting and placing students into international universities, with greater emphasis on providing a tailored and individual experience for students on its qualifications and for other students who are looking for guided support into an international University.

NCUK has tried to protect the revenue it earns in recent years by diversifying its presence in terms of delivery, with the number of countries now offering NCUK qualifications having risen to 41. NCUK now has over 100 delivery partners around the world, and the expectation is that this will continue to grow. To support this protection of revenue, the company continues to explore and maintain partnerships with a number of UK universities, as well as those in key international education markets. This approach mitigates the potential impact of changing visa policies that may affect study destinations or individual institutions.

1.5 Financial review

Investment Performance

Cash surplus is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK Limited, from which all of its income was derived.

Financial Review and Results for the Year

The Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK Limited was established in October 2003. The formation of NCUK enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from its global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity to support its objectives. The consolidated financial performance for 2022 was strong.

The Trustees strategy is to utilise a small portion of reserves annually to support the Charity's operational costs whilst applying the gift up funding received from NCUK Limited, to fund grant making activities. This approach is intended to avoid an overaccumulation of reserves.

Summary of the results and financial position of the Group	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Income	**5,881,027**	4,970,968
Net incoming resources from unrestricted funds	**(57,166)**	160,725
Total unrestricted funds	**3,129,916**	3,187,082

The charity paid £1,694 (2021 - £1,526) in respect of professional indemnity for the trustees.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. A new Reserves policy was approved in April 2022 which was revised and updated in April 2023.

The Trustees of NC and the Directors of NCUK are reviewing the Group's financial strategy to ensure that the Group delivers financial performance such that NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which NC can fulfil its charitable objectives, and for NCUK to pursue its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans. The approach to reserves by the Group is part of the strategy, whose objective is to delivery financial sustainability.

Surplus cash is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers.

Pension Policy

Northern Consortium is a member of the University Superannuation Scheme and the Charity's pension liability was revalued in 2022 and was estimated to be £40,767. Trustees have identified the S75 pension liability as a risk and mitigated for it. Accordingly, the S75 liability will not be triggered whilst there is an active member in the scheme.

2 GOVERNANCE

2.1 Reference and administrative details

Registered company number	02788226 (England and Wales)	
Registered charity number	1018979	
Registered office	667-669 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4QE	
Trustees	Dr M Butler - Chair of the Board of Trustees Mr J Richardson - Deputy Chair Mr S Mckinnon-Evans - Treasurer Professor J Watling Professor A J Sambell Mr R Cotton Miss S Darch Mr A Ryder Mr N Smith Mrs M Webster Professor Laura C Bishop Mr Joe Rossiter Dr Janice Allan Professor Ian Wood Professor P Byers Professor J Keay Professor N M Clement Ms J Purves	 (appointed 23 June 2022) (appointed 3 August 2022) (appointed 31 August 2022) (appointed 6 September 2022) (resigned 31 January 2022) (resigned 22 March 2022) (resigned 31 July 2022) (resigned 31 August 2022)
Executive Director & Company secretary	Mrs D Leicester	
Auditors	Xeinadin Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1 City Road East Manchester M15 4PN	
Solicitors	Shakespeare Martineau Waterfront House Waterfront Plaza Nottingham NG2 3DQ Eversheds Sutherland One Wood Street London EC2V 7WS Browne Jacobson 14th Floor No.1 Spinningfields 1 Hardman Square Manchester M3 3EB	
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 357 51 Mosley Street Manchester M60 2AU	

2.2 Structure, governance and management

Northern Consortium ("NC"/"the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 4, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Governing document

The Charity was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its constitution and Articles of Association. The Charity's objects were updated in 2021 to provide clarity and flexibility and be reflective of current language.

Governing body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each of the ten member universities of Northern Consortium are entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is provision for the Trustees to appoint up to four external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum but shall not be less than three. There are currently ten Consortium Trustees and four External Trustees.

Recruitment and training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and are selected from the member universities' senior management. External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee as well as experience or knowledge within a desired area [which fulfils an area identified by a skills audit]. An induction process and formal training is provided to all Trustees on appointment to the Board, and regular training opportunities offered to all Trustees throughout the year.

Organisational Management

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as a Board of Trustees at least twice annually. Additionally, Trustees have delegated some responsibilities to the Management and Finance Sub-Committee (which is comprised of Trustees) who meet at least three times a year to monitor the Charity's financial performance, review the risk register, support the development of policies, assess applications for grants and research and have oversight of the annual audit and drafting of the statutory accounts.

The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis.

Group structure and relationships

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK Ltd), whose activities and performance are also discussed in this report. To access the independent financial statements of NCUK Ltd please see their Companies House register (under Northern Consortium UK Limited, Company no. 04842064).

One Northern Consortium Trustee also holds a Directorship on the NCUK Ltd Board of Directors to support the passing of information within the Group. In April 2022, following his appointment as Chair of the Trustee Board, Dr Butler stood down from his Directorship at NCUK Ltd to avoid any conflicts of interest. Since then, other Trustees have acted as a proxy during the NCUK Ltd Board of Directors meetings to represent the Charity's interests and support the passing of information within the Group.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees have identified the significant and ongoing risks to Northern Consortium's achievement of its Charitable Objects and a detailed risk register is maintained and regularly reviewed.

The risk register is reviewed by the Trustees at each of their meetings, and the Management and Finance Sub-Committee supported by the Executive Director conduct detailed reviews in between Board meets. Reports illustrate emergent or escalating risks and detail the mitigation, monitoring and planned next steps.

Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- a Management and Finance Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight;
- established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- regular communication between the Charity and Company;
- clear authorisation and approval levels

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK Ltd which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, with red rated items escalated to the Trustees.

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2022

2.3 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

Under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 Xeinadin Audit Limited, will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditors 28 days after these financial statements were sent to members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

On behalf of the Trustees :



Mr James Richardson
Deputy Chair

20 April 2023

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Opinion

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

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group and the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 August 2022 and of the Group's income and 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Charitable Company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report .

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2022

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

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the Charitable Company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we have considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;
- Results of the enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we have identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
    - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the impact of COVID-19. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charitable Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, Health and Safety Laws and Environmental Regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2022

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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

Use of our report

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



Michael Garrett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PN

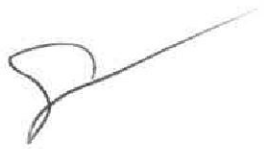
20 April 2023

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Group 2022 £	Group 2021 £	Charity 2022 £	Charity 2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	**39,454**	27,854	**-**	-
Investments	10	**-**	-	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
		39,454	27,854	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
Current assets					
Debtors	11	**500,086**	105,693	**-**	**5,420**
Cash at bank and in hand		**4,926,922**	4,783,546	**883,563**	907,946
		5,427,008	4,889,239	**883,563**	913,366
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(1,499,078)**	(1,314,339)	**(26,694)**	(60,534)
Net current assets		**3,927,930**	3,574,900	**856,869**	852,832
Total assets less current liabilities		**3,967,384**	3,602,754	**2,112,870**	2,108,833
Provisions for liabilities		**(9,597)**	(5,045)	**-**	-
Pension liability	13	**(827,871)**	(410,627)	**(40,767)**	(17,041)
Net assets including pension liability		**3,129,916**	3,187,082	**2,072,103**	2,091,792
Represented by:					
Unrestricted income funds	14	**3,129,916**	3,187,082	**2,072,103**	2,091,792

The financial statements on pages 11 to 21 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Stuart McKinnon-Evans
Treasurer

20 April 2023

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash generated from operations		
Net income and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme	**351,852**	175,720
Depreciation	**17,567**	22,422
Pension finance cost	**8,226**	10,175
Tax charge	**73,681**	45,146
Investment income	**(1,800)**	(3,712)
	449,526	249,751
(Increase) decrease in debtors	**(394,393)**	226,383
Increase (decrease) in creditors	**160,130**	(372,131)
Cash generated from operations	**215,263**	104,003
Tax paid	**(44,520)**	(91,243)
Net cash from operating activities	**170,743**	12,760
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(29,167)**	(25,730)
Interest receivable	**1,800**	3,712
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(27,367)**	(22,018)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**143,376**	(9,258)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**4,783,546**	4,792,804
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**4,926,922**	4,783,546

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

General information

Northern Consortium is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, registration number 02788226. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings made up to 31st August 2021. A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by the parent. The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the profit or loss and other comprehensive income from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Control is established when the company has the power to govern the operating and financial policies of an entity as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern.

Income

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund.

Other trading activities represents turnover from the trading subsidiary, NCUK in respect of amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees.

Furlough scheme payments are recognised on the accrual model and are measured at fair value of the asset receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to other income or to assets. Grants related to other income are recognised in profit or loss over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Expenditure (continued)

Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

The subsidiary's tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is charged to the profit and loss so as to write off their value, over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:

Equipment	33.33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Bank borrowings and overdrafts are included in creditors.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Defined benefit pension obligation

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and have therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies above, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future period.

There have been no provisions or assumptions deemed necessary after review by the directors required in these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

1 Trading subsidiary

The principal wholly-owned trading subsidiary is Northern Consortium UK Limited. The principal activity of this company is, in conjunction with partner universities, the advancement of educational standards by the development of syllabuses and courses and the provision of examination services and assurance programmes to ensure that students wishing to attend the company's partner universities meet the required standards. A summary of the trading results is shown below:

Summary results	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Turnover	**5,828,373**	4,938,148
Cost of sales	**(749,714)**	(744,129)
Other income	**50,854**	29,108
Administrative expenses	**(4,593,521)**	(3,846,735)
Net interest	**(6,368)**	(8,934)
Tax charge	**(73,681)**	(45,146)
Actuarial loss on pension scheme	**(385,633)**	(37,598)
Donation to parent charity	**(125,821)**	(143,750)
Retained profit for the year	**(55,511)**	140,964

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:	**2022**	2021
	£	£
Fixed assets	**39,454**	27,854
Debtors	**508,633**	123,727
Cash at bank	**4,043,359**	3,875,600
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(1,480,931)**	(1,259,225)
Deferred tax	**(9,597)**	(5,045)
Pension liability	**(787,104)**	(393,586)
Net assets	**2,313,814**	2,369,325

2 Investment income

	2022	2021
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	**1,800**	3,712

3 Net movement in funds

	2022	2021
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**17,567**	22,422
Fees paid to the Charity's auditor		
- Audit of charity financial statements	**3,800**	3,750
- Audit of subsidiary financial statements	**8,925**	8,500
- Other services	**5,700**	5,500

4 Staff costs

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**2,285,853**	2,091,277
Social security costs	**199,075**	175,450
Pension costs	**216,817**	231,711
	2,701,745	2,498,438

	No.	No.
The average monthly number of employees were:	**65**	61

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

4 Staff costs (continued)

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £44,130 (2021 - £49,769)

5 Trustees remuneration

No Trustee, nor any person connected to them, received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.
No out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee in either the current year or the previous period.

6 Direct expenses - trading subsidiary

	2022	2021
	£	£
Rebates to partners	**749,714**	744,129

7 Charitable activities

	2022	2021
	£	£
Administrative costs		
Employment costs	**2,701,745**	2,444,215
Establishment costs	**155,244**	22,175
General administrative expenses	**1,687,562**	1,345,483
Finance charges	**13,369**	15,504
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal	**17,567**	22,422
	4,575,487	3,849,799
Charitable activities		
Bank charges	**84**	123
Office expenses	**1,631**	1,310
Scholarships and project development	**36,376**	71,337
	38,091	72,770
Governance costs		
Staff costs (including support)	**53,881**	61,570
Auditors' remuneration	**6,308**	4,236
Legal fees	**17,940**	6,049
Other governance costs	**5,847**	1,373
	83,976	73,228
	4,697,554	3,995,797

8 Taxation

Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Current tax		
- UK corporation tax	**69,129**	44,463
Deferred tax	**4,552**	683
	73,681	45,146

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

9 Tangible fixed assets - Group

	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2021	213,924
Additions	29,167
At 31 August 2022	**243,091**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2021	186,070
Charge for the year	17,567
At 31 August 2022	**203,637**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2022	**39,454**
At 1 September 2021	27,854

10 Fixed asset investments - Charity

	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £
Cost	
At 31 August 2022	**1,256,001**
At 1 September 2021	1,256,001

Shares in subsidiary undertakings

The trading company, Northern Consortium UK Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, incorporated in England and Wales (company number : 04842064). Details of the principal activity are provided in note 1.

11 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	**2022** £	2021 £
Trade debtors	**398,289**	7,339	**-**	-
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**-**	-	**-**	5,420
Other debtors and prepayments	**101,797**	98,354	**-**	-
	500,086	105,693	**-**	5,420

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	**2022** £	2021 £
Trade creditors	**203,252**	163,142	**55**	24,999
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**8,547**	-
Current tax	**69,129**	44,520	**-**	-
Taxation and social security	**73,509**	54,339	**1,134**	1,184
Other creditors	**330,846**	224,291	**1,083**	1,113
Accruals & deferred income	**822,342**	828,047	**15,875**	33,238
	1,499,078	1,314,339	**26,694**	60,534

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

13 Pension scheme liability

	Group		Charity	
	2022	2021	**2022**	2021
Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)	**£**	£	**£**	£
At 1 September 2021	**410,627**	385,456	**17,041**	38,624
Actuarial gains (losses) during the year	**409,018**	14,995	**23,385**	(22,603)
Pension finance cost	**8,226**	10,176	**341**	1,020
At 31 August 2022	**827,871**	410,627	**40,767**	17,041

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method; a more recent valuation is not yet available.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have a sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below.

Discount rate (forward rate)	Years 1-10: CPI +0.14% reducing liability to CPI -0.73% Years 11-20: CPI +2.52% reducing linearly to CPI +1.55% by year 21 Years 21+ CPI +1.55%
Pension increases (CPI)	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed interest and index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows :

Mortality base table	Pre-retirement: 71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AMC00 (duration 0) for females. Post retirement: 97.6% of SAPS S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females.
Pension increases (CPI)	CMI 2017 with smoothing parameter of 8.5, and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% p.a. for males and 1.6% p.a. for females.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:	**2018 Valuation**	**2017 Valuation**
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24	25
Females currently aged 65 (years)	26	26
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26	27
Females currently aged 45 (years)	28	28

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2020 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2022	2021
Discount rate	2.00%	2.64%
Pension salary growth	n/a	n/a

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2022

14 Movement in funds - Group

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2020	3,411,813	(385,456)	3,026,357
Net income for the year	160,725	-	160,725
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	14,995	(14,995)	-
Pension finance cost	10,176	(10,176)	-
At 1 September 2021	3,597,709	(410,627)	3,187,082
Net income for the year	(57,166)	-	(57,166)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	409,018	(409,018)	-
Pension finance cost	8,226	(8,226)	-
At 31 August 2022	3,957,787	(827,871)	3,129,916

Movement in funds - Charity

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2020	2,107,591	(38,624)	2,068,967
Net outgoings for the year	22,825	-	22,825
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	(22,603)	22,603	-
Pension finance cost	1,020	(1,020)	-
At 1 September 2021	2,108,833	(17,041)	2,091,792
Net income for the year	(19,689)	-	(19,689)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	23,385	(23,385)	-
Pension finance cost	341	(341)	-
At 31 August 2022	2,112,870	(40,767)	2,072,103

15 Operating lease commitments

	Group		Charity	
	2022 £	2021 £	**2022** £	2021 £
Within one year	**84,627**	196,629	-	-
Between one and five years	**25,796**	41,914	-	-
	110,423	238,543	-	-

Charity income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
INCOME		
Donation from subsidiary	**125,821**	143,650
Interest receivable	**283**	3,590
	126,104	147,240
EXPENDITURE		
Office expenses	**1,631**	1,310
Other governance costs	**5,847**	1,373
Wages and salaries	**47,281**	54,970
Finance support costs - NCUK	**6,600**	6,600
Pension scheme - actuarial adjustments	**23,726**	(21,583)
Auditors' remuneration	**6,308**	4,236
Scholarships and project development	**36,376**	71,337
Bank charges	**84**	123
Accountancy and legal fees	**17,940**	6,049
	145,793	124,415
	(19,689)	22,825

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

Company registration no : 02788226 (England and Wales)
Charity Registration no : 1018979

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Consolidated Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

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Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Northern Consortium Member Universities

The present members of the Consortium are:

The University of Bradford	Leeds Beckett University
The University of Salford	Liverpool John Moores University
Sheffield Hallam University	The University of Manchester
The University of Leeds	Manchester Metropolitan University
The University of Sheffield	The University of Huddersfield

The Board of Trustees, who are also directors of the Charity for Companies Act purposes, present their report for the year ended 31 August 2021 under the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited accounts for the year, and confirm that the latter comply with the Act, and with the Charities SORP (FRS102) - effective 1 January 2019. The annual report serves the purpose of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report under company law.

1 STRATEGIC REPORT

1.1 Objectives and activities

Charitable objects

The Charity's objects which were amended on 9th September 2021 are specifically restricted to the advancement of education in particular but not limited to:

- Administering or procuring, directly or indirectly, education projects and training programmes;
- Running, funding or supporting collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations attended by students from the UK or overseas, making further or higher;
- education more accessible for students from different backgrounds and geographical locations; and
- Providing bursaries, scholarships, counselling, placements, training opportunities or other support to UK or overseas students who are either disadvantages (financially or otherwise) or from under-represented groups.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit to inform its decision making and review of how the Charity's activities and plans contribute to achieving its aims and objectives. Originally founded in 1987 by publicly funded UK universities, Northern Consortium went on to register as a Charitable Company in 1993. The Charity is unique in supporting UK higher education on a not-for-profit basis. The Consortium, with the support of its subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited ("NCUK"), provides high quality educational programmes and associated services to support international students' progression to university. With a focus on students from under-represented backgrounds, the Charity also funds research, provides grants, and supports the work of similar educationally focused charities. The Consortium delivers public benefit by:

- providing grants to support international students from groups under - represented in higher education who would otherwise be unable to access UK higher education opportunities via the Presidents UK scholarship scheme (further information below);
- promoting and enhancing international education opportunities and supporting the engagement of students from widening participation groups;
- making UK degrees available and affordable to less affluent students, internationally, through a successful and expanding international education offer, delivered overseas;
- providing - through an international network of delivery partnerships - educational programmes and associated services of the highest quality to international students;
- supporting research into - and the promotion of - the access agenda in higher education, particularly in relation to international higher education, and supporting the international reputation and continued success of UK universities, and other eligible bodies in the UK. Which in turn supports universities to research, teach, provide public access to their activities, and contribute to the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of their locality.

1.2 Achievements and performance

Key Achievements in 2020/21

During 2020/21 Northern Consortium and its trading subsidiary successfully managed within the new COVID-19 operating environment to:

- Support – through provision of high-quality educational programmes and associated support – more than 2200* students to progress from preparatory programmes to degree programmes in the UK or overseas (a decrease from 2019/20 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic).
- Undertake activity that will provide its publicly-funded UK partner universities with an estimated £22 million* of tuition fee income in the 2021/22 financial year with a further estimated £60 million* of tuition fee income being generated over the duration of their degree course.
- Increase the geographical diversity of students able to benefit from the Consortium's offer, by opening 10 new study centres and entering 3 new markets increasing student registrations in Africa and South East Asia.
- Won a national 'PIE Award' for its approach to digitising student assessment as a result of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

*subject to final enrolment figures

1.3 Governance Review

A central focus of Trustees' activities in recent years has been upon governance, as this is integral to a well-functioning Charity which meets the needs of its users by the most appropriate use of its resources, in an open and transparent way.

In 2019 the delineation of NC and NCUK Ltd was cemented by the leadership of the Group being separated. NC appointed an Executive Director to the Charity and NCUK Ltd a Chief Executive. This was done to further enhance the independent governance and leadership of each organisation and ensure that its activities met or exceeded the standards of its regulators.

In the past year Trustees have placed a sharp focus upon the Charity's future and strategy and considered the additional areas of activity it may wish to develop to further extend the public benefit delivered. This led to a revision of the Charity's objects and Articles, completed in September 2021 to underpin work on a new grant giving strategy for implementation in 2022.

Trustees are also delighted to report that following a skills audit, a successful recruitment saw four new External Trustees join the Board in March 2021. The Trustees bring a wealth of knowledge and skills from a variety of backgrounds which enhance and expand the existing Board.

2021 also saw the transitions of Chairs within both NC and NCUK following the completion of terms. In April 2021 Ms J Purves was succeeded as Chair of Northern Consortium by Professor Peter Byers, who had previously served as Deputy Chair within the Charity. Professor Byers served until 31 January 2022 when he stepped down due to his retirement. Malcolm Butler acted as interim Chair from 1 February 2022 and was appointed as Chair on 28 April 2022.

In January 2021 Trustees recruited a very experienced and dynamic Chair to NCUK Ltd, Jan Ward CBE in preparation for the end of tenure of the previous Chair, Neil McLean CBE in July 2021 who had a successful six-year term at the Company. In August 2021 NCUK appointed a new Chief Executive to lead the Company, Stuart Smith has a strong track record in the global Higher Education sector.

1.4 Impact of COVID-19

The Charity has been pleased to be able to continue to fund all committed activity. As well it used funds to support beneficiaries directly impacted by the pandemic, such as those unable to travel to home countries who faced additional living costs across the summer months.

COVID-19 has impacted significantly on global movement and prevented international mobility programmes from taking place. This has resulted in many institution's offering virtual initiatives to students, which afford a higher level of inclusion for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Trustees noted this step change in international mobility and considered it in terms of the Charity's future plans. During the past year, Trustees have considered and revised the Charity's governing document and future activities and following the Charity Commission's approval of new objects in September 2021, Trustees plan to launch a new grants strategy in 2022.

1.5 Future Plans

As mentioned above, the charity intends to finalise and implement its new grants strategy, which will continue to fund initiatives to support the 'access' agenda in higher education. The Charity has the following activity planned in 2021/22:

- To continue to support (via an annual grant of £20,000) the work of the Council for At Risk Academics (CARA);
- To promote the findings of the research it has funded within the sector;
- To pilot activities which expand its offering and test its new grant giving strategy;
- To develop its digital and online presence to promote the charity and its work; and
- To formalise and document processes within the Group structure to aid effective working practices.

The Charity's trading subsidiary – NCUK – through its digital transformation programme continues to digitise infrastructure, support sustainability, extend its reach into international markets and improve the quality of educational provision and preparation that it provides to students. Aligned to this objective, the company will also review its approach to teaching, learning and assessment in 2022.

1.6 Financial review

Investment Performance

Cash surplus was held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK Limited, from which all of its income was derived.

Financial Review and Results for the Year

The Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK Limited was established in October 2003. The formation of NCUK enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from its global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity to support its objectives. The consolidated financial performance for 2021 was strong. Reflecting a good trading year for NCUK despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary of the results and financial position of the Group	**2021**	2020
	£	£
Income	**4,971,068**	5,104,620
Net incoming resources from unrestricted funds	**160,724**	247,474
Total unrestricted funds	**3,187,081**	3,026,357

The charity paid £1,479 (2019/20: £2,144) in respect of professional indemnity for the trustees.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations. A new Reserves policy was approved in Spring 2021 which was revised and updated in April 2022.

The Trustees of NC and the Directors of NCUK are reviewing the Group's financial strategy to ensure that the Group delivers financial performance such that NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which NC can fulfil its charitable objectives, and for NCUK to pursue its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans. The approach to reserves by the Group is part of the strategy, whose objective is to delivery financial sustainability.

Investment policy

The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary NCUK, from which all of its income is derived. Surplus cash is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers.

Pension Policy

Northern Consortium's pension liability has been estimated at around £410k. Trustees have identified this as a risk but have mitigated for it. Accordingly, the S75 liability will not be triggered whilst there is an active member in the scheme.

2 GOVERNANCE

2.1 Reference and administrative details

Registered company number	02788226 (England and Wales)	
Registered charity number	1018979	
Registered office	667-669 Stockport Road Manchester M12 4QE	
Trustees	Dr M Butler - Chair of the Board of Trustees Mr S Mckinnon-Evans - Treasurer Mr R Cotton Professor N M Clement Ms J Purves Mr J Richardson Professor J Watling Miss S Darch Mr A Ryder Mr N Smith Mrs M Webster Prof A J Sambell Professor J Keay Professor P Byers Ms C Swabey Mr D Taylor	 (appointed 23 March 2021) (appointed 23 March 2021) (appointed 23 March 2021) (appointed 23 March 2021) (appointed 30 November 2020) (resigned 22 March 2022) (resigned 31 January 2022) (resigned 6 September 2020) (resigned 30 September 2020)
Company secretary	Ms D Leicester	
Auditors	Xeinadin Audit Limited Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors 1 City Road East Manchester M15 4PN	
Solicitors	Browne Jacobson 14th Floor No.1 Spinningfields 1 Hardman Square Manchester M3 3EB	
Bankers	Barclays Bank Plc PO Box 357 51 Mosley Street Manchester M60 2AU	

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 August 2021

2.2 Structure, governance and management

Northern Consortium ("NC"/"the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 4, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Governing document

The Charity was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its constitution and Articles of Association. The Charity's objects were updated in 2021 to provide clarity and flexibility and be reflective of current language (further detailed on page 2).

Governing body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each member university of Northern Consortium is entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is also provision for the Trustees to appoint up to four external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum but shall not be less than three. There are currently ten serving Trustees and four External Trustees were appointed in March 2021.

Recruitment and training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and are selected from the member universities' senior management. External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee as well as experience or knowledge within a desired area [which fulfils an area identified by a skills audit]. An induction process and formal training is provided to all Trustees on appointment to the Board, and regular training opportunities offered to all Trustees throughout the year.

Organisational Management

The Trustees of the Charity are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as a Board of Trustees at least twice annually.

The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis.

Group structure and relationships

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK Ltd), whose activities and performance are discussed below.

Risk management

The Board of Trustees have identified the significant and ongoing risks to Northern Consortium's achievement of its Charitable Objects and a detailed risk register is maintained and regularly reviewed.

The risk register is reviewed by the Trustees at each of their meetings, and the Management and Finance Sub-Committee supported by the Executive Director conduct detailed reviews in between Board meets. Reports illustrate emergent or escalating risks and detail the mitigation, monitoring and planned next steps.

Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- a Management and Finance Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight;
- established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- regular communication between the Charity and Company;
- clear authorisation and approval levels

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK Ltd which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, with red rated items escalated to the Trustees.

2.3 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland"

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

Auditors

Under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006 Xeinadin Audit Limited, will be deemed to have been reappointed as auditors 28 days after these financial statements were sent to members or 28 days after the latest date prescribed for filing the accounts with the registrar, whichever is earlier.

On behalf of the Trustees :



Dr Malcolm Butler
Chair

28 April 2022

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Consortium (the 'Charitable Company') and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 August 2021 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated and Charitable Company Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group and the Charitable Company's affairs as at 31 August 2021 and of the Group's income and 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 requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Group's and Charitable Company'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 trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The Trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Trustees' report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2021

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

- the information given in the Trustee's Annual Report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- the Charitable Company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.
- the Trustees' were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the Directors of the Charitable Company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations we have considered the following:

- The nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance including the Charitable Company's remuneration policies, key drivers for remuneration and performance targets;
- Results of the enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- Any matters we have identified having obtained and reviewed the company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
    - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
    - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
    - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
    - the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: revenue recognition and the impact of COVID-19. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charitable Company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included UK Companies Act, Charities Act, Health and Safety Laws and Environmental Regulations.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

For the year ended 31 August 2021

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty.

Audit response to risks identified

Our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with provisions of relevant laws and regulations described as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with HMRC; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members including internal specialists, and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

No instances of material non-compliance were identified. However, the likelihood of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is limited by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the entity's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed. Irregularities that result from fraud might be inherently more difficult to detect than irregularities that result from error. As explained above, there is an unavoidable risk that material misstatements may not be detected, even though the audit has been planned and performed in accordance with ISAs (UK).

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

Use of our report

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

M L Garrett

Michael Garrett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of
Xeinadin Audit Limited
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND STATUTORY AUDITORS
1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PN

28 April 2022

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
INCOME			
Income and endowments from :			
Investment income	2	**3,812**	21,538
Income - trading subsidiary		**4,938,148**	4,998,530
Other income		**29,108**	84,552
Total income		**4,971,068**	5,104,620
EXPENDITURE			
Direct expenses - trading subsidiary	6	**(744,129)**	(656,376)
Charitable activities	7	**(3,995,898)**	(4,058,387)
Tax charge - trading subsidiary	8	**(45,146)**	(76,055)
Total expenditure		**(4,785,173)**	(4,790,818)
Net income and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme		**185,895**	313,802
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	13	**(25,171)**	(66,328)
Net movement in funds		**160,724**	247,474
Total funds brought forward		**3,026,357**	2,778,883
Total funds carried forward	14	**3,187,081**	3,026,357

Consolidated and Charity Balance Sheets

As at 31 August 2021

	Notes	Group 2021 £	Group 2020 £	Charity 2021 £	Charity 2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	9	**27,854**	24,546	**-**	-
Investments	10	**-**	-	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
		27,854	24,546	**1,256,001**	1,256,001
Current assets					
Debtors	11	**105,693**	332,076	**5,420**	-
Cash at bank and in hand		**4,783,546**	4,792,804	**907,946**	908,347
		4,889,239	5,124,880	**913,366**	908,347
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	**(1,314,340)**	(1,733,251)	**(60,534)**	(56,757)
Net current assets		**3,574,899**	3,391,629	**852,832**	851,590
Total assets less current liabilities		**3,602,753**	3,416,175	**2,108,833**	2,107,591
Provisions for liabilities		**(5,045)**	(4,362)	**-**	-
Pension liability	13	**(410,627)**	(385,456)	**(17,041)**	(38,624)
Net assets including pension liability		**3,187,081**	3,026,357	**2,091,792**	2,068,967
Represented by:					
Unrestricted income funds	14	**3,187,081**	3,026,357	**2,091,792**	2,068,967

The financial statements on pages 11 to 21 were approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Dr Malcolm Butler
Chair

28 April 2022

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash generated from operations		
Net income and net movement in funds before actuarial gains and losses on pension scheme	**185,895**	313,802
Depreciation	**22,422**	38,985
Loss on disposal of fixed assets	**-**	11,832
Tax charge	**45,146**	76,055
Investment income	**(3,812)**	(21,538)
	249,651	419,136
Decrease in debtors	**226,383**	177,872
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	**(372,131)**	398,889
Cash generated from operations	**103,903**	995,897
Tax paid	**(91,243)**	(64,485)
Net cash from operating activities	**12,660**	931,412
Cash flow from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	**(25,730)**	(7,887)
Interest receivable	**3,812**	21,538
Net cash flow from investing activities	**(21,918)**	13,651
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year	**(9,258)**	945,063
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	**4,792,804**	3,847,741
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	**4,783,546**	4,792,804

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

General information

Northern Consortium is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, registration number 02788226. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation. The address of the registered office and principal place of business is 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE.

Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

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

Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the financial statements of the company and its subsidiary undertakings made up to 31st August 2021. A subsidiary is an entity that is controlled by the parent. The results of subsidiary undertakings are included in the profit or loss and other comprehensive income from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases. Control is established when the company has the power to govern the operating and financial policies of an entity as to obtain benefits from its activities. In assessing control, the group takes into consideration potential voting rights that are currently exercisable.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. COVID-19 is not expected to have a significant impact on Northern Consortium. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. It expected that COVID-19 might have some impact, though not significant, for example, in relation to expected future performance, or the effects on some future asset valuations.

Income

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified

In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund.

Other trading activities represents turnover from the trading subsidiary, NCUK in respect of amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees.

Furlough scheme payments are recognised on the accrual model and are measured at fair value of the asset receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to other income or to assets. Grants related to other income are recognised in profit or loss over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs.

Expenditure (continued)

Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

The subsidiary's tax expense for the year comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in the profit and loss account, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date.

Timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in financial statements. Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the year end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised only to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Foreign currencies

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction. Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

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

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is charged to the profit and loss so as to write off their value, over their estimated useful lives, using the following methods:

Equipment	33.33% on cost

At each balance sheet date, the Company reviews the carrying amounts of its fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that any items have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss, if any. Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of the asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

If the recoverable amount of an asset is estimated to be less than its carrying amount, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced to its recoverable amount. Impairment loss is recognised as an expense immediately.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to profit or loss on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases, the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand. Bank borrowings and overdrafts are included in creditors.

Defined contribution pension obligation

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Defined benefit pension obligation

The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and have therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

The obligations for contributions to defined contribution scheme are recognised as an expense as incurred. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company in an independent administered fund.

Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the Company's accounting policies above, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying value of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future period.

There have been no provisions or assumptions deemed necessary after review by the directors required in these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

1 Trading subsidiary

The principal wholly-owned trading subsidiary is Northern Consortium UK Limited. The principal activity of this company is, in conjunction with partner universities, the advancement of educational standards by the development of syllabuses and courses and the provision of examination services and assurance programmes to ensure that students wishing to attend the company's partner universities meet the required standards. A summary of the trading results is shown below:

Summary profit and loss account	**2021**	2020
	£	£
Turnover	**4,938,148**	4,998,530
Cost of sales	**(744,129)**	(656,376)
Other income	**29,108**	84,552
Administrative expenses	**(3,884,434)**	(3,931,295)
Net interest	**(8,934)**	4,492
Donation to parent charity	**(143,650)**	-
Tax charge	**(45,146)**	(76,055)
Retained profit for the year	**140,963**	423,848

The assets and liabilities of the subsidiary were:	**2021**	2020
	£	£
Fixed assets	**27,854**	24,546
Debtors	**123,727**	350,263
Cash at bank	**3,875,600**	3,884,457
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	**(1,259,226)**	(1,679,711)
Deferred tax	**(5,045)**	(4,362)
Pension liability	**(393,586)**	(346,832)
Net assets	**2,369,324**	2,228,361

2 Investment income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Interest receivable on bank deposits	**3,812**	21,538

3 Net movement in funds

	2021	2020
	£	£
Net movement in funds is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	**22,422**	38,985
Fees paid to the Charities auditor		
- Audit of charity financial statements	**3,750**	3,670
- Audit of subsidiary financial statements	**8,500**	8,299
- Other services	**5,500**	-

4 Staff costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	**2,091,277**	1,964,543
Social security costs	**175,450**	166,120
Pension costs	**269,309**	254,076
	2,536,036	2,384,739

	No.	No.
The average monthly number of employees were:	**61**	49

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

4 Staff costs (continued)

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Charity were £49,769 (2020 - £31,051)

5 Trustees remuneration

No Trustee, nor any person connected to them, received any remuneration from the Charity during the year.
No out of pocket expenses were reimbursed to any Trustee in either the current year or the previous period.

6 Direct expenses - trading subsidiary

	2021	2020
	£	£
Rebates to partners	**744,129**	656,376

7 Charitable activities

	2021	2020
	£	£
Administrative costs		
Employment costs	**2,481,813**	2,351,052
Establishment costs	**51,307**	87,091
General administrative expenses	**1,278,854**	1,389,107
Finance charges	**15,504**	13,908
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal	**22,422**	50,817
	3,849,900	3,891,975
Charitable activities		
Bank charges	**123**	20
Office expenses	**1,310**	2,321
Scholarships and project development	**71,337**	107,230
	72,770	109,571
Governance costs		
Staff costs (including support)	**61,570**	42,602
Auditors' remuneration	**4,236**	7,265
Legal fees	**6,049**	3,488
Other governance costs	**1,373**	3,486
	73,228	56,841
	3,995,898	4,058,387

8 Taxation

Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Current tax		
- UK corporation tax	**44,463**	91,224
Deferred tax	**683**	(15,169)
	45,146	76,055

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

9 Tangible fixed assets - Group	Equipment £
Cost	
At 1 September 2020	188,194
Additions	25,730
At 31 August 2021	**213,924**
Depreciation	
At 1 September 2020	163,648
Charge for the year	22,422
At 31 August 2021	**186,070**
Net book value	
At 31 August 2021	**27,854**
At 1 September 2020	24,546

10 Fixed asset investments - Charity	Shares in subsidiary undertakings £
Cost	
At 31 August 2021	**1,256,001**
At 1 September 2020	1,256,001

Shares in subsidiary undertakings

The trading company, Northern Consortium UK Limited, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Charity, incorporated in England and Wales (company number : 04842064). Details of the principal activity are provided in note 1.

11 Debtors	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	**2021**	2020
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade debtors	**7,339**	310,206	**-**	-
Amounts owed by group undertakings	**-**	-	**5,420**	-
Other debtors and prepayments	**98,354**	21,870	**-**	-
	105,693	332,076	**5,420**	-

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	**2021**	2020
	£	£	**£**	£
Trade creditors	**163,143**	85,511	**24,999**	-
Amounts owed to group undertakings	**-**	-	**-**	3,217
Current tax	**44,520**	91,300	**-**	-
Taxation and social security	**54,339**	352,550	**1,184**	723
Other creditors	**224,291**	351,330	**1,113**	787
Accruals & deferred income	**828,047**	852,560	**33,238**	52,030
	1,314,340	1,733,251	**60,534**	56,757

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

13 Pension scheme liability

	Group		Charity	
	2021	2020	**2021**	2020
Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)	**£**	£	**£**	£
At 1 September 2020	**385,456**	319,128	**38,624**	21,679
Actuarial gains (losses) during the year	**25,171**	66,328	**(21,583)**	16,945
At 31 August 2021	**410,627**	385,456	**17,041**	38,624

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method; a more recent valuation is not yet available.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have a sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below.

Discount rate (forward rate)	Years 1-10: CPI +0.14% reducing liability to CPI -0.73% Years 11-20: CPI +2.52% reducing linearly to CPI +1.55% by year 21 Years 21+ CPI +1.55%
Pension increases (CPI)	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed interest and index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows

Mortality base table	Pre-retirement: 71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AMC00 (duration 0) for females. Post retirement: 97.6% of SAPS S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females.
Pension increases (CPI)	CMI 2017 with smoothing parameter of 8.5, and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% p.a. for males and 1.6% p.a. for females.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:	**2018 Valuation**	**2017 Valuation**
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24	25
Females currently aged 65 (years)	26	26
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26	27
Females currently aged 45 (years)	28	28

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2020 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2021	2020
Discount rate	2.00%	2.64%
Pension salary growth	n/a	n/a

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 August 2021

14 Movement in funds - Group

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2019	3,098,011	(319,128)	2,778,883
Net income for the year	247,474	-	247,474
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	66,328	(66,328)	-
At 1 September 2020	3,411,813	(385,456)	3,026,357
Net income for the year	160,724	-	160,724
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	25,171	(25,171)	-
At 31 August 2021	3,597,708	(410,627)	3,187,081

Movement in funds - Charity

	Unrestricted £	Pension reserve £	TOTAL £
At 1 September 2019	2,264,218	(21,679)	2,242,539
Net outgoings for the year	(173,572)	-	(173,572)
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	16,945	(16,945)	-
At 1 September 2020	2,107,591	(38,624)	2,068,967
Net income for the year	22,825	-	22,825
Actuarial gain (loss) on defined benefit pension scheme	(21,583)	21,583	-
At 31 August 2021	2,108,833	(17,041)	2,091,792

15 Operating lease commitments

	Group		Charity	
	2021 £	2020 £	**2021** £	2020 £
Land and buildings				
Within one year	-	8,318	-	-
Other				
Within one year	**196,629**	62,144	-	-
Between one and five years	**41,914**	7,200	-	-
	238,543	69,344	-	-

Charity income and expenditure account

For the year ended 31 August 2021

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
Donation from subsidiary	**143,650**	-
Interest receivable	**3,590**	9,785
	147,240	9,785
EXPENDITURE		
Office expenses	**1,310**	2,321
Other governance costs	**1,373**	3,486
Wages and salaries	**54,970**	36,002
Finance support costs - NCUK	**6,600**	6,600
Pension scheme - actuarial adjustments	**(21,583)**	16,945
Auditors' remuneration	**4,236**	7,265
Scholarships and project development	**71,337**	107,230
Bank charges	**123**	20
Accountancy and legal fees	**6,049**	3,488
	124,415	183,357
	22,825	(173,572)

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

England & Wales - Charity number 1018979

Accounts

Company registration number: 02788226
Charity registration number: 1018979

Northern Consortium

(formerly The Northern Consortium)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

NORTHERN CONSORTIUM

Kay Johnson Gee Limited
1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PN

Northern Consortium

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Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report

Company number 02788226

Charity registration number 1018979

Registered office address 667-669 Stockport Road, Manchester, M12 4QE

Trustees

The members of the Board of Trustees who served during the year were:

Ms J Purves

Professor P Byers

Mr S McKinnon-Evans

Dr M Butler - also sits on the Board of Directors of Northern Consortium UK Limited

Mr R Cotton

Professor J Keay

Professor N M Clement

Mr J Richardson

Professor J Watling

Professor A J Sambell (appointed 30 November 2020)

Professor D Taylor (resigned 30 September 2020)

Mrs C Swabey (resigned 6 September 2020)

Officers

Ms J Purves, Chairman of the Board of Trustees (first appointed 7 September 2017)

Prof P Byers, Deputy Chair of the Board of Trustees (first appointed 7 September 2017)

Mr S McKinnon-Evans, Treasurer (appointed 20 August 2020)

Ms D Leicester-Hallam, Executive Director & Company Secretary

Advisors

Bankers:

Barclays Bank Plc
PO Box 357
51 Mosley Street
Manchester
M60 2AU

Auditors:

Kay Johnson Gee Limited
1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PN

Solicitors:

Browne Jacobson
14th Floor
No.1 Spinningfields
1 Hardman Square
Spinningfields
Manchester
M3 3EB

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report

Members of Northern Consortium

The present members of the Consortium are:

The University of Bradford	Leeds Beckett University
The University of Salford	Liverpool John Moores University
Sheffield Hallam University	The University of Manchester
The University of Leeds	Manchester Metropolitan University
The University of Sheffield	The University of Huddersfield.

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for Companies Act purposes, present their report for the year ended 31 August 2020 under the Charities Act 2011, together with the audited accounts for the year, and confirm that the latter comply with the Act, and with the Charities SORP (FRS102)-effective 1 January 2019. The annual report serves the purpose of both a Trustees' report, and a Directors' report under company law.

Reference and Administration

Northern Consortium ("NC / "the Charity") was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee (company registration number 02788226) on 9 February 1993. The Company was registered with the Charity Commission (registration number 1018979) on 23 March 1993. The members of the Board of Trustees, executive officers and principal address of the Charity are as listed on page 2, alongside the particulars of the Charity's professional advisers.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

The Charity was established under a Memorandum of Association that established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its constitution and Articles of Association. The Articles were updated in October 2020 to ensure that they are fit for purpose and reflective of current language and practice. The updated Articles of Association and name change to Northern Consortium were approved by special resolution on 19th October 2020.

Governing body

The Charity is governed by the members of the Board of Trustees who are appointed in accordance with the Articles of Association. Each member university of Northern Consortium is entitled to nominate one member to the Board of Trustees, and there is also provision for the Trustees to appoint up to four external Trustees. The number of members of the Board of Trustees is not subject to a maximum but shall not be less than three. There are currently ten serving Trustees.

Recruitment and Training of Board of Trustees' Members

Consortium Trustees are nominated by member universities and are selected from the member universities' senior management. External Trustees are recruited through open recruitment procedures. Key selection criterion is an understanding of the role and responsibilities of a Charity Trustee as well as experience or knowledge within a desired area [which fulfils an area identified by a skills audit]. An induction process, mentoring where appropriate and formal training is offered to all new Trustees on appointment to the Board. In 2019/20 the Board of Trustees had one serving external Trustee, who also sat on the Management and Finance Committee until their resignation on 6 September 2020.

Organisational Management

The members of the Board of Trustees, as the Trustees of the Charity, are legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Charity and meet as the Board of Trustees at least twice annually.

The day to day running of the Charity is delegated to the Executive Director who works on a part time basis.

Group structure and relationships

The Charity has a wholly owned subsidiary, Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK), whose activities and performance are discussed below.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have identified the significant and ongoing risks to Northern Consortium's achievement of its Charitable Objects and a detailed risk register is maintained.

The risk register is regularly reviewed by the Board of Trustees, and the Management and Finance Sub-Committee supported by the Executive Director. Reports illustrate emergent or escalating risks and issues.

Other key controls used by the Charity in the management of risk include:

- formal agendas and minutes for all Board of Trustees meetings and activity;
- strategic planning, budgeting and management accounting;
- a Management and Finance Sub-Committee to provide additional scrutiny and oversight;
- established organisational structure and lines of reporting;
- clear authorisation and approval levels

A similar formal risk assessment strategy is also in place for the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary company NCUK which is regularly reviewed by the NCUK Executive and Board of Directors, any red rated items are escalated to the Trustees.

Objects, Aims, Objectives and Activities

Charitable objects

The objects for which the Charity was established are:

"The advancement of education by administering or running, or procuring the administering or running of, educational projects and training programmes and acting as an education consultant including without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, running collaborative teaching projects with both UK and overseas educational institutions or other organisations providing syllabuses for courses attended by international students leading to degrees, diplomas, professional or other qualifications whether such courses are run in the UK or overseas, quality assurance of such courses providing bursaries, counselling, placements or other support to students on such courses, administering and promoting such courses and examinations and recruiting suitably qualified academic staff to teach such courses".

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit to inform its decision making and review of how the Charity's activities and plans contribute to achieving its aims and objectives. Founded in 1987 by publicly funded UK universities, Northern Consortium is unique in supporting UK higher education on a not-for-profit basis. The Consortium, through its subsidiary, NCUK, provides high quality educational programmes and associated services to support international students' progression to university. The Charity funds research, provides grants and also supports the work of similar educationally focused charities. The Consortium delivers public benefit by:

- supporting the continued success, international reputation and financial health of UK universities, and other eligible bodies in the UK. Which in turn supports universities to research, teach, provide public access to their activities, and contribute to the cultural, social and economic wellbeing of their locality;
- providing - through an international network of delivery partnerships - educational programmes and associated services of the highest quality to international students;
- making UK degrees available and affordable to less affluent students, internationally, through a successful and expanding transnational education' offer, delivered overseas;
- providing grants to support international students from groups under-represented in higher education who would otherwise be unable to access UK higher education opportunities via the Presidents UK scholarship scheme (further information below);
- seeks to promote and enhance transnational education opportunities and support the engagement of students from widening participation groups; and
- supporting research into - and the promotion of - the access agenda in higher education, particularly in relation to international higher education.

Key Achievements in 2019/20

During 2019/20 Northern Consortium and its trading subsidiary successfully managed within the new COVID-19 operating environment to:

- significantly increase the number of students progressing from preparatory programmes to degree programmes in the UK or overseas by: 2563 students* who successfully progressed to degree level (15.5% increase from 2018/19);
- undertake activity that will provide its publicly-funded UK partner universities with £27 million of tuition fee income in the 2019/20 financial year and £75* million of tuition fee income generated over the duration of their degree course;
- increase the geographical diversity of students able to benefit from the Consortium's offer, by opening 22 new study centres and entering 5 new markets increasing student registrations in Africa, Europe South East Asia and South America;
- successfully move to an online delivery service model, this reduced impact on students and partners and ensured that students and partners across the globe could continue to learn and educate;
- support the Campaign for At Risk Academics (CARA): funding of £20k was used to support scholars from Syria and Iraq to continue their PhD studies at UK universities;

- co-fund with the British council and Universities UK International (UUKi), a piece of high-level, national research into the impact that short term international exchange has on students from widening-participation cohorts: this will help to provide a foundation for the assessment of NC's impact in this area and to direct future grant-giving. This is due to be published in 2021;
- support the Presidents UK Scholarship scheme, a scheme run in collaboration with the Brook House School, Kenya which enables a small number of nominated, high achieving students to access a UK university course. The Charity provide grants to cover living and accommodation costs during the academic year and the universities waive the tuition fees. The last student was admitted in 2018 and the scheme is now closing, with the final scholar due to graduate in 2023;
- support the current three [Presidents UK] scholars with hardship funds, when they were grounded in the UK due to COVID-19 during the summer months. The Charity's hardship funds supported accommodation and living costs; and
- commence a full review of the Charity's policies, practices and procedures to ensure that NC adheres to best practice, this resulted in a revision of the Charity's Articles of Association to provide a modern framework for the Charity to operate.

*subject to final enrolment confirmation

Governance Review

A central focus of Trustees' activities across the past eighteen months has been a review of governance across the Charity with a particular focus on achieving a delineation of the Charity from its trading subsidiary, NCUK. The aim of the separation was to improve the independent governance of both organisations, reflecting more clearly the distinction of the operating and regulatory environments of the two entities.

The now embedded independent leadership arrangements have enabled the Trustees to focus upon Northern Consortium's charitable purpose and support a renewed approach to the 'equity of access to international higher education'. The changes also support more robust scrutiny of its trading subsidiary.

Until Autumn 2019, a joint Chief Executive managed both NC and NCUK. Trustees ended this arrangement and separated the roles appointing a new Executive Director to the Charity and a new Chief Executive to NCUK.

Work undertaken in the year has been the internal review of systems, policies and processes within the Charity. The Board have spent time considering succession plans and determining improved governance arrangements for the Charity, and this culminated with the adoption of new Articles in October 2020.

Impact of COVID-19

The Charity has been pleased to be able to continue to fund all committed activity, as well as use its funds to support beneficiaries directly impacted by the pandemic (see key achievements section) in addition to using the time to consider and revise its governing document and future plans, and Trustees are working on the development of a new grant giving strategy.

Future Plans

During 2020/21 the Charity has the following activity planned:

- provide a further three-year grant (of £20,000 pa) to the Council for At Risk Academics (CARA) to assist them to support academics and their families;
- promote the findings of its co-funded national research initiative into the impact that short term international exchange has on students from widening-participation cohorts: the findings of which will also be used to provide a foundation for the assessment of NC's impact in this area and to direct future grant-giving;
- complete the planned succession of Officers and recruit and induct new External Trustees to the Charity;
- assist the Company to recruit a new Chair, working with the current Chair and Directors to support a robust transition;
- review our grant giving strategy and expansion of our offer, with the aim of developing new funding initiatives which support the 'access' agenda in international higher education;
- following the formulation of its new grant giving strategy the Charity plans to develop its digital and online presence to increase accessibility and awareness of the Charity; and
- the Charity's trading subsidiary - NCUK - continues to enhance its digital infrastructure. The developments around teaching, learning and academic quality support enabled the organisation to develop a robust awarding model that was fair to all students, transparent and quality assured at a time where many other exam bodies were less successful. Work has now extended to wider systems development to support the service delivery aspects of NCUK's activity.

Investment Performance

Cash surplus was held on deposit with the Charity's bankers. The Board of Trustees ensured, so far as possible, that a competitive rate of interest was earned. The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary, NCUK.

Financial Review and Results For The Year

Northern Consortium's wholly owned subsidiary, NCUK was established in October 2003. The formation of NCUK enables the Charity to effectively mitigate and manage the risks stemming from its global operations whilst also creating an income stream for the Charity. The consolidated financial performance for 2020 was strong, reflecting a good trading year for NCUK, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Business review

	2020 £	2019 £
Income	5,104,620	4,424,348
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources from unrestricted funds	313,801	(79,785)
Total unrestricted funds	3,411,814	3,098,013
Total designated unrestricted funds	(385,456)	(319,129)
Total increase in consolidated cash and cash equivalents	945,062	539,039

The Charity paid £2,330 (2019: £2,144) in respect of professional indemnity for the Trustees.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees is satisfied that the Charity's reserves are available and adequate to fulfil its obligations, and a new Reserves policy is currently being developed, for implementation in Spring 2021.

The approach to reserves is in line with the Group Financial strategy as detailed below.

The objective of the Group Financial Strategy will be to deliver a 'steady state' in which NCUK generates sufficient surpluses to provide an income for NC, with which it can fulfil its charitable objectives and provide appropriate funds for its trading and development activities in accordance with its approved business plans.

The Group Financial Strategy states that:

- The Group will consider NCUK's financial outturn on an annual basis and determine the most appropriate use of any available surplus to support the objectives and business requirements of both NC and NCUK.
- NC supports the development and growth of its trading subsidiary to maximise NCUK's long-term potential to generate revenue for NC with which it can fulfil its charitable objectives.
- The Group will maintain reserves in NC and NCUK that;

a) NC will carry forward Free Reserves at a level of at least 50% of planned total expenditure in the following financial year;

b) NCUK will have built reserves to a level comparable to NCUK's shareholder capital plus cover for any *force majeure* impacting 10% of NCUK's annual revenue.

Investment policy

The Charity owns 100% of the shares in its subsidiary NCUK, from which all of its income is derived. Surplus cash is held on deposit with the Charity's bankers.

Pension Policy

Northern Consortium's pension liability has been estimated at around £1m. Trustees have identified this as a risk but have mitigated for it. Accordingly, the S75 liability will not be triggered whilst there is an active member in the scheme.

Auditors

Kay Johnson Gee Limited were appointed as the Charity's auditors during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102)-effective 1 January 2019 and in accordance with the special provisions of the small company accounting regime section 419(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Northern Consortium

Trustees' Report

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 22 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



Ms J Purves

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Northern Consortium

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Northern Consortium for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- 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; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

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

So far as the Board of Trustees is aware, there is no relevant audit information (information needed by the Charity's auditors in connection with the preparation of their report) of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and each member of the Board of Trustees has taken all the steps that s/he ought to have taken, as a member of the Board of Trustees, in order to make her/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees of the Charity on 22 April 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

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Ms J Purves
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Northern Consortium (the 'charitable parent company') and its subsidiaries (the 'Group') for the year ended 31 August 2020, which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, Statement of Financial Activities, Consolidated Balance Sheet, Balance Sheet, Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising Charities SORP - FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Group's and parent Charity's affairs as at 31 August 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

Other information

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

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

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (set out on page 9), the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

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

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's or the parent charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group or the parent charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Northern Consortium

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Northern Consortium

Use of our report

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

M G Garrett

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Michael Garrett (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Kay Johnson Gee Limited, Statutory Auditor

1 City Road East
Manchester
M15 4PN

Date: 22nd April 2021

Northern Consortium

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020
(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The information below represents the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated Pension Unrestricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Investment income	4	21,538	-	21,538
Other income	5	5,083,082	-	5,083,082
Total Income		5,104,620	-	5,104,620
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(4,714,764)	-	(4,714,764)
Total Expenditure		(4,714,764)	-	(4,714,764)
Tax payable on trading activities	9	(76,055)	-	(76,055)
Net income		313,801	-	313,801
Other recognised gains and losses				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	(66,327)	(66,327)
Net movement in funds		313,801	(66,327)	247,474
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		3,098,013	(319,129)	2,778,884
Total funds carried forward	16	3,411,814	(385,456)	3,026,358

The notes on pages 22 to 42 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Consortium

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020
(Including Consolidated Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The information below represents the year ended 31 August 2019

	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated Pension Unrestricted £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Investment income	4	21,957	-	21,957
Other income	5	4,402,391	-	4,402,391
Total Income		4,424,348	-	4,424,348
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(4,439,633)	-	(4,439,633)
Total Expenditure		(4,439,633)	-	(4,439,633)
Tax payable on trading activities	9	(64,500)	-	(64,500)
Net expenditure		(79,785)	-	(79,785)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	284,219	284,219
Net movement in funds		(79,785)	284,219	204,434
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		3,177,798	(603,348)	2,574,450
Total funds carried forward	16	3,098,013	(319,129)	2,778,884

All of the Group's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Northern Consortium

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The information below represents the year ended 31 August 2020

	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated Pension Unrestricted £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Investment income	4	9,785	-	9,785
Total Income		9,785	-	9,785
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(166,412)	-	(166,412)
Total Expenditure		(166,412)	-	(166,412)
Net expenditure		(156,627)	-	(156,627)
Other recognised gains and losses				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	(16,945)	(16,945)
Net movement in funds		(156,627)	(16,945)	(173,572)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		2,264,218	(21,679)	2,242,539
Total funds carried forward	16	2,107,591	(38,624)	2,068,967

The notes on pages 22 to 42 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Northern Consortium

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The information below represents the year ended 31 August 2019

	Note	Unrestricted £	Designated Pension Unrestricted £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Investment income	4	330,582	-	330,582
Total Income		330,582	-	330,582
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(311,308)	-	(311,308)
Total Expenditure		(311,308)	-	(311,308)
Net income		19,274	-	19,274
Other recognised gains and losses				
Actuarial gains on defined benefit pension schemes		-	58,461	58,461
Net movement in funds		19,274	58,461	77,735
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		2,244,944	(80,140)	2,164,804
Total funds carried forward	16	2,264,218	(21,679)	2,242,539

All of the Group's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Northern Consortium

(Registration number: 02788226)
Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	24,546	67,476
Current assets			
Debtors	12	332,076	509,948
Cash at bank and in hand		4,792,804	3,847,742
		5,124,880	4,357,690
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(1,733,250)	(1,307,622)
Net current assets		3,391,630	3,050,068
Total assets less current liabilities		3,416,176	3,117,544
Provisions		(4,362)	(19,531)
Net assets excluding pension liability		3,411,814	3,098,013
Pension scheme liability	15	(385,456)	(319,129)
Net assets including pension liability		3,026,358	2,778,884
Funds of the Group:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		3,026,358	2,778,884
Total funds	16	3,026,358	2,778,884

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 42 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 22 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

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Ms J Purves
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Northern Consortium

(Registration number: 02788226)
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Fixed assets			
Investments		1,256,001	1,256,001
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		908,347	1,303,503
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(56,757)	(295,286)
Net current assets		851,590	1,008,217
Net assets excluding pension liability		2,107,591	2,264,218
Pension scheme liability	15	(38,624)	(21,679)
Net assets including pension liability		2,068,967	2,242,539
Funds of the Charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		2,068,967	2,242,539
Total funds	16	2,068,967	2,242,539

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 14 to 42 were approved by the Trustees, and authorised for issue on 22 April 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

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Ms J Purves
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Northern Consortium

Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds		247,474	204,434
Tax refund/(paid) by subsidiary		(64,485)	-
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Depreciation		38,985	52,326
Investment income	4	(21,538)	(21,957)
Corporation tax charge		91,224	64,500
		291,660	299,303
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in debtors	12	177,872	202,420
Increase in creditors	13	398,889	308,937
Decrease (increase) in retirement benefit obligation net of actuarial changes	15	66,327	(284,219)
Decrease in provisions		(15,169)	-
Net cash flows from operating activities		919,579	526,441
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	21,538	21,957
Purchase of tangible fixed assets	10	(7,887)	(8,489)
Sale of tangible fixed assets		11,832	-
Net cash flows from investing activities		25,483	13,468
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		945,062	539,909
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		3,847,742	3,307,833
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		4,792,804	3,847,742

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Northern Consortium

Statement of Cash Flows for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash (expenditure)/income		(173,572)	77,735
Adjustments to cash flows from non-cash items			
Investment income	4	(9,785)	(330,582)
		(183,357)	(252,847)
Working capital adjustments			
Decrease in debtors	12	-	756,000
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	13	(238,529)	152,243
Decrease (increase) in retirement benefit obligation net of actuarial changes	15	16,945	(58,461)
Net cash flows from operating activities		(404,941)	596,935
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest receivable and similar income	4	9,785	8,055
Acquisition of investments in subsidiary undertakings		-	(756,000)
Gift aid from subsidiary		-	322,527
Net cash flows from investing activities		9,785	(425,418)
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(395,156)	171,517
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 September		1,303,503	1,131,986
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 August		908,347	1,303,503

All of the cash flows are derived from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2020

1 Charity status

The Charity is limited by guarantee, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the Trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the Charity in the event of liquidation.

Northern Consortium was incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is:

667-669 Stockport Road
Manchester
M12 4QE

2 Change in Charity name

The charitable company amended its name in October 2020. It was previously incorrectly registered as The Northern Consortium with Companies House. The Charity has always been registered as Northern Consortium with the Charity Commission.

3 Accounting policies

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

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Northern Consortium meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Basis of consolidation
The consolidated financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the Charity and its subsidiary undertakings drawn up to 31 August 2020.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Charity. Control is achieved where the Charity has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

The results of subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the year are included in the statement of financial activities from the effective date of acquisition or up to the effective date of disposal, as appropriate. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring their accounting policies into line with those used by the Group.

The purchase method of accounting is used to account for business combinations that result in the acquisition of subsidiaries by the Group. The cost of a business combination is measured as the fair value of the assets given, equity instruments issued and liabilities incurred or assumed at the date of exchange, plus costs directly attributable to the business combination. Identifiable assets acquired and liabilities and contingent liabilities assumed in a business combination are measured initially at their fair values at the acquisition date. Any excess of the cost of the business combination over the acquirer's interest in the net fair value of the identifiable assets, liabilities and contingent liabilities recognised is recorded as goodwill.

Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between the Charity and its subsidiaries, which are related parties, are eliminated in full.

Intra-group losses are also eliminated but may indicate an impairment that requires recognition in the consolidated financial statements.

Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the Group. Non-controlling interests in the net assets of consolidated subsidiaries are identified separately from the Group's equity therein. Non-controlling interests consist of the amount of those interests at the date of the original business combination and the non-controlling shareholder's share of changes in equity since the date of the combination. Total comprehensive income is attributed to non-controlling interests even if this results in the non-controlling interests having a deficit balance.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. COVID-19 is not expected to have a significant impact on Northern Consortium. The Trustees have determined that there is no material uncertainty that casts doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. It expects that COVID-19 might have some impact, though not significant, for example, in relation to expected future performance, or the effects on some future asset valuations.

Income and endowments

Income from Charitable Activities represent amounts derived from the provision of educational and consultancy services and are included in the statement of financial activities when the Charity is entitled to such income and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

In accordance with the SORP, where income received is subject to externally imposed restrictions as to its use (either for capital or revenue expenditure), this has been credited in full to income and has been accounted for as a restricted fund.

Other trading activities

This represents turnover from Northern Consortium UK Limited (NCUK) and represents amounts due for educational courses and training programmes provided by this subsidiary, stated after trade discounts, other sales taxes and net of VAT.

Investment income

Investment income which comprises bank interest and interest on loans to related parties is recognised as received.

Charitable trading income

Charitable trading income, where applicable, represents amounts receivable by the Charity for the provision of higher education and includes tuition fees.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Trading activities

Trading activities expenditure comprises all expenditure within NCUK and represents amounts paid on employment and establishment costs.

Charitable expenditure

Charitable activities expenditure comprises all expenditure relating to the objects of the Charity and includes the direct costs of supporting charitable activities including governance costs comprising the costs of running the Charity, including strategic planning for its future development, external audit, any legal advice for the Board of Trustees, and all the costs of complying with constitutional and statutory requirements, such as the costs of Board and Committee meetings and of preparing statutory accounts and satisfying public accountability.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Grants

Grants payable are charged as committed. The Charity awards grants to support particular activities which fulfil the Charity's objectives for the advancement of education.

Government grants
Included in other income in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities is government grants received or receivable in respect of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS). These grants are recognised as income when there is evidence of entitlement to the grant, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.

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

The subsidiary's tax expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax. Tax is recognised in profit or loss, except that a change attributable to an item of income or expense recognised as other comprehensive income is also recognised directly in other comprehensive income.

The current income tax charge is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date in the countries where the company operates and generates taxable income.

Deferred income tax is recognised on temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements and on unused tax losses or tax credits in the company. Deferred income tax is determined using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date.

The carrying amount of deferred tax assets are reviewed at each reporting date and a valuation allowance is set up against deferred tax assets so that the net carrying amount equals the highest amount that is more likely than not to be recovered based on current or future taxable profit.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Furniture, Fixtures & Fittings	25% Reducing balance
Computer equipment	33 1/3% Cost

Business combinations
Business combinations are accounted for under the purchase method. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by the Group. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation. In accordance with Section 35 of FRS 102, Section 19 of FRS 102 has not been applied in these financial statements in respect of business combinations effected prior to the date of transition.

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the Charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Cash and cash equivalents
Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the Charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Provisions
Provisions are recognised when the Charity has an obligation at the reporting date as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Charity will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Foreign exchange
Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate of exchange at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are reported at the rates of exchange prevailing at that date.

Fund structure
In accordance with the Articles of Association, all funds can be expended at the Trustees' discretion in the furtherance of the Charity's objects.

Unrestricted funds are incoming resources received as generated for expenditure on the general objectives of the Charity.

The designated fund is an unrestricted fund set aside for the unrealised liability of the defined benefit pension scheme. Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the Trustees.

Hire purchase and finance leases
Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The institution participates in Universities Superannuation Scheme. The assets of the scheme are held in a separate Trustee-administered fund. Because of the mutual nature of the scheme, the assets are not attributed to individual institutions and a scheme-wide contribution rate is set. The institution is therefore exposed to actuarial risks associated with other institutions' employees and is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent and reasonable basis. As required by Section 28 of FRS 102 "Employee benefits", the institution therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme. Since the institution has entered into an agreement (the Recovery Plan) that determines how each employer within the scheme will fund the overall deficit, the institution recognises a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) with related expenses being recognised through the profit and loss account.

FRS 102 makes the distinction between a Group plan and a multi-employer scheme. A Group plan consists of a collection of entities under common control typically with a sponsoring employer. A multi-employer scheme is a scheme for entities not under common control and represents (typically) an industry-wide scheme such as Universities Superannuation Scheme. The accounting for a multi-employer scheme where the employer has entered into an agreement with the scheme that determines how the employer will fund a deficit results in the recognition of a liability for the contributions payable that arise from the agreement (to the extent that they relate to the deficit) and the resulting expense in profit or loss in accordance with section 28 of FRS 102. The Directors are satisfied that Universities Superannuation Scheme meets the definition of a multi-employer scheme and has therefore recognised the discounted fair value of the contractual contributions under the recovery plan in existence at the date of approving these financial statements.

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the company has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

Financial instruments

Classification

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

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the Group after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the Group intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the Group transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the Group, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted	Group		Charity	
	General £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Interest receivable and similar income;					
Interest receivable on bank deposits	21,538	21,538	21,957	9,785	8,055
Gift aid payments from group undertakings	-	-	-	-	322,527
	21,538	21,538	21,957	9,785	330,582

In view of the Charity's balance sheet strength, no Gift Aid payment was made by NCUK for 2020.

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Income from trading subsidiary	5,051,542	5,051,542	4,402,391
Government grants receivable	31,540	31,540	-
	5,083,082	5,083,082	4,402,391

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted General £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Cost of trading activites (NCUK)				
Cost of sales		656,376	656,376	609,135
Employment costs		2,308,931	2,308,931	1,993,315
Establishment costs		127,851	127,851	151,131
General admin expenses		1,395,821	1,395,821	1,315,539
Finance charges		8,556	8,556	6,879
Depreciation and profit / loss on disposal		50,817	50,817	52,326
		4,548,352	4,548,352	4,128,325
Charitable activites				
Central salaries		-	-	3,904
Bank charges		20	20	18
Rent		-	-	2,138
Office expenses		2,321	2,321	1,083
Scholarships and project development		107,230	107,230	210,265
		109,571	109,571	217,408
Governance costs				
Staff costs		42,602	42,602	57,557
Auditors' remuneration		7,265	7,265	6,626
Legal fees		3,488	3,488	21,342
Other governance costs		3,486	3,486	8,375
		56,841	56,841	93,900
		4,714,764	4,714,764	4,439,633

£4,714,764 (2019 - £4,439,633) of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £Nil (2019 - £Nil) to restricted funds.

Included in the expenses above are the following fees receivable by the Charity's auditor:

Group	2020 £	2019 £
Audit fees	11,969	11,260
Statutory accounts production	-	4,680
Tax compliance and advice	-	1,690

Charity	2020 £	2019 £
Audit fees	3,670	3,495
Statutory accounts production	-	3,130

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No Trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the Group during the year.

The amount of expenses claimed for travel and meetings by Trustees during the year totalled £nil (2019: £275).

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Staff costs during the year were:				
Wages and salaries	1,978,867	1,782,833	42,602	61,461
Social security costs	166,121	128,000	-	-
Pension costs	206,545	143,943	-	-
	2,351,533	2,054,776	42,602	61,461

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the Group during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Average number of employees	49	46	1	-

During the year, the Company made redundancy and/or termination payments which totalled £Nil (2019 - £34,104).

The number of NCUK employees within the Group whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	Group		Charity	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
£60,001 - £70,000	1	1	-	-
£70,001 - £80,000	2	2	-	-
£100,001 - £110,000	-	1	-	-
£130,001 - £140,000	1	-	-	-
	4	4	-	-

The Charity considers its key management personnel comprise the Trustees and the Executive Director.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the Group were £31,051 (2019 - £100,980). During the previous year the key management personnel comprised a number of the Company senior executives who provided time to manage the Charity.

9 Taxation

The Northern Consortium has charitable status and is thus potentially exempt from taxation of its income and gains provided that they are applied for charitable purposes only. However, the following tax charges have arisen in the trading subsidiary:

	Group	
	2020	2019
Current Tax	£	£
Corporation tax charge	91,300	64,500
Deferred Tax		
Origination and reversal of timing differences	(15,169)	-
	76,131	64,500

10 Tangible fixed assets

Group

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 September 2019	260,311	260,311
Additions	7,887	7,887
Disposals	(80,004)	(80,004)
At 31 August 2020	188,194	188,194
Depreciation		
At 1 September 2019	192,835	192,835
Charge for the year	38,985	38,985
Eliminated on disposals	(68,172)	(68,172)
At 31 August 2020	163,648	163,648
Net book value		
At 31 August 2020	24,546	24,546
At 31 August 2019	67,476	67,476

11 Fixed asset investments

Charity

	2020	2019
	£	£
Shares in group undertakings and participating interests	1,256,001	1,256,001

Shares in Group undertakings and participating interests

	Subsidiary undertakings	Total
	£	£
Cost		
At 1 September 2019	1,256,001	1,256,001
At 31 August 2020	1,256,001	1,256,001
Net book value		
At 31 August 2020	1,256,001	1,256,001
At 31 August 2019	1,256,001	1,256,001

Details of undertakings

Details of the investments in which the Charity holds 20% or more of the nominal value of any class of share capital are as follows:

Undertaking	Country of incorporation	Holding	Proportion of voting rights and shares held		Principal activity
			2020	2019	
Subsidiary undertakings					
Northern Consortium UK Limited	England and Wales	Ordinary	100%	100%	Educational services

Northern Consortium UK Limited's company number is 04842064.

Northern Consortium UK Limited's registered office and principal place of business is:

76 King Street
Manchester
M2 4NH

Subsidiaries

Northern Consortium UK Limited and NCUK Australia Pty Ltd (a wholly owned subsidiary of Northern Consortium UK limited), are included in the consolidated accounts.

Aggregate financial information of subsidiaries

	2020 £	2019 £
Aggregate assets and liabilities	2,228,361	1,804,514
Total income	5,083,082	4,402,391
Total expenditure	(4,583,179)	(3,884,875)
Profit / (Loss) for the year	499,903	517,516

12 Debtors

	Group		Charity	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	310,206	449,728	-	-
Other debtors	21,870	60,220	-	-
	332,076	509,948	-	-

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Group		Charity	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Trade creditors	85,510	135,824	-	-
Due to group undertakings	-	-	3,217	264,611
Pension scheme creditor	30,316	22,317	787	-
Other taxation and social security	352,551	40,476	723	-
Accruals	849,620	615,746	52,030	30,675
Other creditors	415,253	493,259	-	-
	1,733,250	1,307,622	56,757	295,286

The Group operates a defined benefit pension scheme. Contributions totalling £30,316 (2019: £22,317) were payable to the scheme at the end of the year and are included in creditors.

14 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

Operating lease commitments

Total future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Group		Charity	
	2020 £	2019 £	2020 £	2019 £
Land and buildings				
Within one year	8,318	45,740	-	-
Other				
Within one year	62,144	3,673	-	-
Between one and five years	7,200	22,380	-	-
	69,344	26,053	-	-

15 Pension and other schemes

Defined benefit pension schemes

Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS)

The total Charity (gain)/loss charged to the profit and loss account is £16,945 (2019: (£58,461))

The total Charity pension liabilty at the balance sheet date is £38,624 (2019: £21,679)

The total Group (gain)/loss charged to the profit and loss account is £66,327 (2019: (£284,219)).

The total Group pension liablity at the balance sheet date is £385,456 (2019: £319,129).

The latest available complete actuarial valuation of the Retirement Income Builder is at 31 March 2018 (the valuation date), which was carried out using the projected unit method. A valuation as at 31 March 2020 is underway but not yet complete.

Since the institution cannot identify its share of USS Retirement Income Builder (defined benefit) assets and liabilities, the following disclosures reflect those relevant for those assets and liabilities as a whole.

The 2018 valuation was the fifth valuation for the scheme under the scheme-specific funding regime introduced by the Pensions Act 2004, which requires schemes to adopt a statutory funding objective, which is to have sufficient and appropriate assets to cover their technical provisions. At the valuation date, the value of the assets of the scheme was £63.7 billion and the value of the scheme's technical provisions was £67.3 billion indicating a shortfall of £3.6 billion and a funding ratio of 95%.

The key financial assumptions used in the 2018 valuation are described below. More detail is set out in the Statement of Funding Principles.

Discount rate (forward rate)	Years 1-10: CPI +0.14% reducing linearly to CPI -0.73% Years 11-20: CPI +2.52% reducing linearly to CPI +1.55% by year 21 Years 21+: CPI +1.55%
Pension increases (CPI)	Term dependent rates in line with the difference between the fixed Interest and Index Linked yield curves, less 1.3% p.a.

The main demographic assumption used relates to the mortality assumptions. These assumptions are based on analysis of the scheme's experience carried out as part of the 2018 actuarial valuation. The mortality assumptions used in these figures are as follows:

	2018 Valuation
Mortality base table	Pre-retirement: 71% of AMC00 (duration 0) for males and 112% of AFC00 (duration 0) for females. Post-retirement: 97.6% of SAPS S1NMA "light" for males and 102.7% of RFV00 for females.
Future improvements to mortality	CMI_2017 with smoothing parameter of 8.5, and a long term improvement rate of 1.8% pa for males and 1.6% pa for females.

The current life expectancies on retirement at age 65 are:

	2018 Valuation	**2017 Valuation**
Males currently aged 65 (years)	24.4	24.6
Females currently aged 65 (years)	25.9	26.1
Males currently aged 45 (years)	26.3	26.6
Females currently aged 45 (years)	27.7	27.9

A new deficit recovery plan was put in place as part of the 2018 valuation, which requires payment of 2% of salaries over the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2021 at which point the rate will increase to 6%. The 2020 deficit recovery liability reflects this plan. The liability figures have been produced using the following assumptions:

	2020	**2019**
Discount rate	2.64%	2.44%
Pensionable salary growth	n/a	n/a

Defined contribution pension scheme

The Group operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the Group to the scheme and amounted to £15,429 (2019 - £10,348).

16 Funds

Group

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted					
General	3,098,013	5,104,620	(4,790,819)	-	3,411,814
Designated	(319,129)	-	-	(66,327)	(385,456)
Total funds	2,778,884	5,104,620	(4,790,819)	(66,327)	3,026,358

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	3,177,798	4,424,348	(4,504,133)	-	3,098,013
Designated	(603,348)	-	-	284,219	(319,129)
Total funds	2,574,450	4,424,348	(4,504,133)	284,219	2,778,884

Charity

	Balance at 1 September 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General	2,264,218	9,785	(166,412)	-	2,107,591
Designated	(21,679)	-	-	(16,945)	(38,624)
Total funds	2,242,539	9,785	(166,412)	(16,945)	2,068,967

	Balance at 1 September 2018 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 August 2019 £
Unrestricted					
General	2,244,944	330,582	(311,308)	-	2,264,218
Designated	(80,140)	-	-	58,461	(21,679)
Total funds	2,164,804	330,582	(311,308)	58,461	2,242,539

17 Analysis of net assets between funds

Group

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 August 2020
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	24,546	-	24,546
Current assets	5,124,880	-	5,124,880
Current liabilities	(1,733,250)	-	(1,733,250)
Provisions	(4,362)	-	(4,362)
Pension scheme liability	-	(385,456)	(385,456)
Total net assets	3,411,814	(385,456)	3,026,358

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 August 2019
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	67,476	-	67,476
Current assets	4,357,690	-	4,357,690
Current liabilities	(1,307,622)	-	(1,307,622)
Provisions	(19,531)	-	(19,531)
Pension scheme liability	-	(319,129)	(319,129)
Total net assets	3,098,013	(319,129)	2,778,884

Charity

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 August 2020
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	1,256,001	-	1,256,001
Current assets	908,347	-	908,347
Current liabilities	(56,757)	-	(56,757)
Pension scheme liability	-	(38,624)	(38,624)
Total net assets	2,107,591	(38,624)	2,068,967

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 August 2019
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	1,256,001	-	1,256,001
Current assets	1,303,503	-	1,303,503
Current liabilities	(295,286)	-	(295,286)
Pension scheme liability	-	(21,679)	(21,679)
Total net assets	2,264,218	(21,679)	2,242,539