



LIVERPOOL HOPE
UNIVERSITY

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Liverpool Hope University

Financial Statements

for year ending 31st July 2024

Registered Company Number: 3285547

A company limited by guarantee,
without share capital, registered in England

Registered Charity number: 1060579



Financial Statements

for the year ending 31 July 2024

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Chair of Council's Welcome

It is my pleasure to introduce Liverpool Hope University's Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2023-24.

This has been an important year for the University, not least with the publication of Vice-Chancellor Professor Claire Ozanne's Strategic Plan. This sets out Liverpool Hope's aspirations and objectives to 2028 and outlines how it will build on its history of being the only ecumenical higher education institution in Europe, championing social justice to realise a more equitable society and following the mission "to educate the whole person in mind, body and spirit".

The Strategic Plan supports the University's ambition to be an anchor organisation in the Liverpool City Region, contributing to solutions for both local and global challenges and developing skilled, confident and future-ready graduates.

Knowledge transfer and research remains a core part of University activity and there has been a new series of research collaborative events with the public and third sectors to explore how best the University can help bring solutions to key societal issues and concerns.

Another significant development over the last year has been the restructure of the University into four faculties. This not only creates economies of scale and promotes

consistency of processes but also creates better opportunities for collaboration, communication and sharing good practice.

In line with the University's strategic objectives, a number of important reviews have taken place over the last 12 months. These include a governance review and a digital review, the result of which will inform the development of a five-year digital plan. This will set out the objectives for our digital infrastructure to enhance learning and research opportunities and ensure that the University is aligned with the region's drive to be a world leader in digital development and connectivity. As part of the University's commitment to regional development, Hope is a partner in a Liverpool City Region Connecting Capabilities Funding Bid valued at £10 million. The newly opened i3 Building at our Hope Park campus takes full advantage of digital technology and is a wonderful space for students to collaborate and learn.

Other achievements include the signing of the People and Planet Fossil Free Declaration, reinforcing the University's commitment to environmental sustainability and the launch of a new social impact report developed in partnership with Purpose Coalition. Chaired by former Education Secretary Rt Hon Justine Greening, the Purpose Coalition is a collective of organisations striving to break down barriers to opportunity. The report highlighted Liverpool Hope's continued efforts to increase social mobility, recognising the

financial and wellbeing support it provides for underrepresented groups and its strong tradition of community engagement.

Staff, along with students, continue to be the University's greatest asset and so the introduction of a new People Strategy was another milestone moment. The strategy outlines the University's ambitions to develop its culture, people and processes to ensure Liverpool Hope and its students continue to succeed.

Liverpool Hope University has always been proud of the way that it knows and supports students as individuals. From small class sizes, to excellent academic and pastoral support, the University strives to give students the best possible experience. It is rewarding to see this reflected in another year of great results in the 2024 National Student Survey (NSS), with Hope being top in the North West and top ten in the UK in six of the themes. Liverpool Hope University was ranked fifth in the UK for student satisfaction following analysis by Times Higher Education (THE).

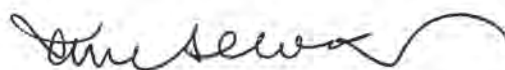
It is important that we use this report to celebrate some of the institutional and individual successes of the last year. Among many accolades was the naming of Professor Frank Cottrell-Boyce as the Children's Laureate. Dr Taras Khomych was awarded the Josephine Butler Trust Volunteer of the Year award, recognising his work with the Ukrainian community and musical theatre course leader, Sharon Byatt, starred in an award-winning film. Colleagues continue to publish and edit significant work with Professor David Bolt being appointed as Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Research Encyclopaedia in Disability Studies.

Hope students continue to inspire all of those who work with them and it has been wonderful to see how they have succeeded in other arenas over the last academic year. From being selected to work at the Paralympics to being commissioned to create Liverpool Cathedral's nativity scene, our students are sought after by

prestigious organisations. There have been national awards and prizes for students in the fields of social history and robotics and the University's reputation for Gaelic football continues by winning the British University Championships.

In terms of finances, it is well documented that the higher education sector is facing enormous challenges. Here at Hope, we are committed to ensuring that this does not affect the academic or pastoral experience that our students get. As a community we are confident that we can meet the economic challenges and the last year has seen a review of the portfolio and changes to the student recruitment process. Academic and professional staff made positive contributions by working together to look at new opportunities for future sustainability and growth. We know that the year ahead will be difficult for the sector but the University is in good shape to continue to rise to these challenges.

I am honoured to have been appointed as Chair of University Council and to present you with this Annual Report.



Mrs Jane Beever
Chair of University Council
20th November 2024

Strategic Report

Liverpool Hope is a superb University rooted in a vibrant and exciting city. The University is proud of its past, confident in its present and ambitious for its future.

With a history extending more than 175 years, Liverpool Hope has developed a distinctive ethos that brings together scholarship, research and teaching, with an educational philosophy based on the triune quest for Truth, Beauty and Goodness. The institution is deeply committed to a culture of research and knowledge exchange and to preparing graduates to serve the common good.

The challenges within the sector will require the University to adapt and evolve. However, the longstanding missions and values of the University will continue to underpin plans for the future. Liverpool Hope is a University where the individual and individuality matter; where ambitious people are able to grow and staff contributions and achievements are valued and recognised. Liverpool Hope is committed to supporting and promoting equality and diversity to create an inclusive learning and working environment that recognises and respects difference.

As Vice-Chancellor I am privileged to lead the institution into the next phase of its evolution. The Strategic Plan, launched in May 2024 builds on the strong foundations and ethos embedded at the core of Hope

and is based around five pillars, supported by a number of enabling strategies.

The **five pillars** are:

- **Ethos and Community**
- **Education**
- **Research, Scholarship and KE (Knowledge Enhancement)**
- **Partnership and Voice**
- **Sustainable and Future Ready**

The plan sets out ambitions to take the University to the next level, increasing its national and international reputation, while students and community remain at the heart of what Liverpool Hope stands for.

Ethos & Community

This year, the University celebrated the 10th year of supporting the Aurora Programme, that aims to enable a wider range of women in academic and professional roles to think of themselves of future leaders by developing the skills they require. Over the last 10 years 71 female staff have enrolled and successfully completed the programme.

The University is proud to be part of the Disability Confident Scheme, and is committed to supporting diversity and equality. The Disability Confident Scheme focuses on challenging attitudes towards disability, increasing understanding of disability, and removing barriers to disabled people.

The Disability Confident Scheme is a Department of Work and Pensions scheme based in the UK. It helps organisations to think differently about disability in relation to employment, retention, training and career development. The University is striving to achieve the highest level by 2027.

The University is delighted to engage with the Supported Internship Scheme coordinated by Liverpool City Council. Supported internships are a structured, work-based study programme for 16- to 24-year-olds with SEND. This involves a substantial work placement facilitated by the support of a trained job coach. The University has worked with Liverpool City Council, Childwall Abbey and Sandfield Park Schools. Over the last two years, seven placements have been facilitated at the University within Catering, Chaplaincy,

Estates, Library Services, People Services and Hope Park Sports. Three interns have commenced placement this year. The University has been recognised by the City Council as an Above and Beyond Partner, this followed the previous year's award of Best Working Partnership Partner.

Hope has recently achieved Aspiring Level of the Fair Employment Charter. The Fair Employment Charter was established by Mayor Steve Rotherham for the Liverpool City Region, celebrating fair employment practices. By joining the Charter, the university is committed to the principle of fair employment and playing a part in building a healthy, fair, inclusive, and just Liverpool City Region.

The Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) includes a pledge to promote being armed forces-friendly, that demonstrates and advocates support to the armed forces community, ensuring that those who serve or who have served in the armed forces, and their families, are treated fairly. The University has signed up to the first level of the scheme and is working towards bronze membership.

Historically the university has paid the Voluntary Living Wage and continued to do so in 2023.



Education

Liverpool Hope University is committed to providing an excellent education that transforms lives.

Learning and Teaching Assessment

The University provides a learning experience which is both personalised and community-orientated achieved through a clear awareness of the Liverpool Hope student profile, and a commitment to understanding students' different characteristics and needs. This experience equips students to be active participants in their learning and prepares them, through the development of skills and knowledge, to make a difference for good in the world as future leaders in a wide range of contexts. This commitment is set out in the University's Learning Teaching and Assessment Strategy. This strategy is based on two fundamental concepts, firstly the attributes which every Hope graduate should have and secondly the underpinning principles of Learning, Teaching and Assessment at Hope.

The University applied for a TEF award and gained silver recognition in both Student Experience and Student Outcomes categories. The University's Communities of Practice (COP) scheme for staff development continued, with new COPs being introduced in Supervising Dissertations, Student Reading and Literary Early Career Teacher and Teaching Socially Relevant Topics. The structure of the University Virtual Learning Environment was substantially updated in response to student feedback. A new peer enhancement policy was developed and implemented; this structures the opportunity for colleagues to observe good practice in the classroom.

Introduction of faculties

During 2023/4, the University undertook a major project to focus academic leadership in four new faculties rather than the existing ten schools. This development is intended to improve administrative efficiency, facilitate academic collaboration and to allow a more coordinated approach to future developments. The change has provided opportunities for career progression for a number of colleagues, including the introduction of Associate Dean posts for specific focus on student experience, research and knowledge exchange and external engagement in each faculty.

As part of the introduction of a faculty structure, the University revised its course offering to ensure a strong portfolio of degrees. The University developed and recruited students for a new course in Sport and Exercise Nutrition, introduced a number of new postgraduate taught programmes and has also refined its offer of combined honours degrees to make the university portfolio more navigable. In order to support the QA of the ongoing development of the portfolio, the University has appointed a new Senior Quality Officer.

Degree Apprenticeships

The University received confirmation post year end from the Office for Students via Wave 3 funding competition to become a new Department for Education approved Apprenticeship Training Provider. The funding will allow the University to offer Level 6 degree apprenticeships for the first time, with the aim of increasing the equality of opportunity across the Liverpool City Region. Partners across the Community have provided letters of support with many declaring an 'in

kind' contribution to the apprenticeship programme. Four sectors will be supported by the University's degree apprenticeships providing courses in, teaching, physiotherapy, youth work and social work.

National Student Survey 2024

Liverpool Hope University has been ranked fifth in the UK for student satisfaction following analysis by Times Higher Education (THE) of the 2024 National Student Survey (NSS) results. The annual National Student Survey (NSS) is a census of all final year undergraduate students in the UK, offering a chance to provide feedback on their student experience at Hope. In 2024, just under 346,000 (72.3% overall response rate) final year undergraduate students from 130 higher education institutions participated in the survey, which asks them to share their thoughts on a range of topics relating to their university experience. Liverpool Hope has achieved a strong set of results across the board, rising up the rankings in every category. In addition to finishing first in the North West in six categories, the University also ranked second in the region for teaching, organisation and management and for its Students' Union.

The University continues to develop and augment its support for students.

- An enhanced provision using Studiosity was introduced for English Language support for international students.
- The online system using QR codes was introduced to facilitate more effective recording of student attendance. This has enabled teams to manage support for students with low attendance, regular and accurate data means that students can be contacted early and offered support.
- The availability of the student support fund was widened to provide opportunities for a greater proportion of the full cohort to apply has been specifically beneficial for PGCE students.

- Pastoral support was teams have been aligned to give a consistent and wrap around service for students. Student Life is established as the first point of contact, a service that offers support to all students.
- Student Engagement Officers offer a signposting and referral service. They proactively contact students and manage events a part of the wider wellbeing team.

Organised by the Students' Union the annual ceremony is an opportunity for the student body to recognise those who go the extra mile to make Hope a better place. This year's event generated more interest than ever before, with 620 nominations received representing a 46% increase on previous year.

Insight to Business Awards

Outside the curriculum students continued to embrace a wide range of opportunities made available to them. In 2023/24 the eighth annual Insight to Business Awards saw Hope's Business School joining forces with some of the region's most influential organisations to offer short-term placements to both undergraduates and recent graduates. Everton in the Community, Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, Lloyds Bank and The Brain Charity were among the 13 companies to offer opportunities as part of this year's event which saw 51 students shortlisted for an award, 18 of whom were recognised as winners.

Wild Hope Records

The Liverpool Hope Music Team launched a record label, Wild Hope Records, offering opportunities for undergraduate and postgraduate students to release their own compositions. In 2024, the first student to release an album on the University's record label is a 10-track record inspired by Sudanese music linking melodies with classical pop and modern jazz.

Plas Caerdeon

The University offers students the opportunity to spend time at its campus in North Wales. The new 2023/24 student engagement programme at Plas Caerdeon had a more inclusive approach than previous years. Bespoke courses to academic tutors from the University's schools had a significant impact in engagement, with a 57% increase in student attendees. As part of the experience, students were able to obtain certificates in Paddle Sport (42 British Canoeing Start and Discover Awards issued), Navigation (32 Mountain Training Hill Skills certificates issued) and First Aid (49 certificates issued), supporting team working and other transferable skills.

Partners in the City

There is also encouragement to work with partners in the city. Staff at Liverpool Hope's Creative Campus are working in close partnership with Citizens UK Liverpool to win change in local communities like Everton. The University fosters positive working relationships between communities, elected power-holders and businesses to collaborate on finding solutions to shared challenges and influence change to achieve shared goals.



Research & Knowledge Exchange

Liverpool Hope University is a vibrant academic community with high scholarly standards.

In order to underpin the new Strategic Plan, the research, scholarship, and knowledge exchange (KE) strategy is being refined to support engagement in excellent research and knowledge exchange activities which have impact on societal challenges and underpin our learning and teaching.

The University submitted over 96% of its active research staff (colleagues with Significant Responsibility for Research) in thirteen Units of Assessment for REF 2021. All 13 subject units were assessed as having aspects of their work in Internationally Excellent (3*) or world-leading (4*) categories. The subjects submitted were English Language and Literature; Theology and Religious Studies; Psychology; History; Computer Science and Informatics; Nutrition; Sport and Exercise Sciences; Geography and Environmental Studies; Politics and International Studies; Education; Music, Drama, Dance, Performing Arts; Social Work and Social Policy; Art and Design.

The University is continually developing its research profile and has an ambitious agenda for the future to build on the REF 2021 results. Objectives include fostering interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge creation and exchange, scaling-up external funding for research and supporting innovation to increase capacity to seek solutions to the challenges facing society. Liverpool Hope's REF 2021 submission is an indicator of the inclusive and broad-based research culture in the university, which provides a strong foundation for the enhancement of Hope's academic standing and the impact of its work.

Liverpool Hope University engages in a wide range of impactful research across disciplines such as Humanities, Social Sciences, Business, Education, Performing Arts and Design, Psychology, Geography and Environmental Science, Health Sciences, Law, and Computing Science and Engineering. These research initiatives exemplify the University's commitment to producing work that delivers real-world benefits. For instance, research on terrorism and political violence

has provided crucial insights into the psychological processes behind politically motivated violence, influencing global policymakers, security services, NGOs, and the public to enhance counter-terrorism strategies. A study on age-related changes in colour vision reformed clinical diagnosis and treatment, particularly benefiting older adults, while research into exercise and nutrition for muscle strength in older populations demonstrated the value of resistance exercises and a protein-rich diet for improving mobility and quality of life, shaping health promotion practices worldwide. The University's contributions extend further to areas such as educational practices, environmental conservation, agricultural innovations, mental health interventions, renewable energy advancements, cultural studies, biomedical research, social policy, welfare systems, and innovations in engineering and design.

Colleagues working on drone technology and algorithms have made significant strides in the High-Altitude Platform Stations (HAPS) Alliance and the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organisation, further establishing the Liverpool Hope University Space Society (LHUSS) to cultivate future leaders in

sustainable space solutions. Professor Frank Cottrell-Boyce, a leading figure at the University, has been named the new Children's Laureate.

Other notable work includes: the launch of a book on Media Language on Islam and Muslims: Terminologies and Their Effects at a panel discussion in Portcullis House and the appointment of a senior lecturer in psychology as Scholar in Residence at Christ University, India, to foster collaborations and provide consultancy on teaching practices. A recent conference commemorating the 75th anniversary of Ireland becoming a republic, sponsored by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, attracting a distinguished gathering of academics, diplomats, and politicians. These wide-ranging research efforts reflect Liverpool Hope University's ongoing commitment to advancing academic knowledge and making a tangible impact on society, health, education, technology, and the environment.



National and International Partnerships

During 2023/24 the University has continued to build its reputation both nationally and internationally and to strengthen its relationships with external partners.

Strategic Partnerships

The University entered into a three year contract in June 2023 with Ambition Institute to validate its PGCE for its ITT programme. Liverpool Hope will also supply joint creation of learning support plan; E-Library access, Email; access to Turnitin and marking and feedback. Ambition Institute is a national education charity and the largest provider of teacher education in England.

In joining the Growth Platform, established by the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, the University has engaged with key networks and stakeholders in the City Region, and continues to explore mutually beneficial collaborative opportunities that will deepen its contribution to the sustainable growth and wellbeing of the region and its communities.

During the year, Hope signed partnership agreements with Belmont College in London to deliver Business Management with a foundation year using a new and flexible delivery model that will include multiple delivery points a year.

We have also re-energised a series of academic partnerships with universities in the USA, China, the Philippines, India and South Korea to support student mobility and knowledge exchange. This work will bring benefits and opportunities to our students and staff which we seek to continue developing over the coming year.

Conferences

During 2023/24 the University was delighted to host a number of national and international conferences. This included the following:

EYPUK – European Youth Parliament (July and September 2024)

The University welcomed 150+ residential guests at Hope Park and Creative Campus for a 4-day residential event. The European Youth Parliament United Kingdom (EYPUK) is a leading non-partisan and youth-led educational charity. It aims to provide non-formal education for young people on a wide range of political issues facing the UK and Europe.

PSS Conference (March 2024)

The University welcomed 120 guests for a full-day conference with talks, workshops and sessions catered to people who work with babies and their families in Liverpool.

Republic 75 (April 2024)

A 1-day event held at Hope Park with interdisciplinary involvement from Hope Academics in various fields, such as Professor Bryce Evans, Dr Liam O’Callaghan and Dr Catherine Morris. Included keynote speakers from various institutions, such as Professor Victor Merriman from Edge Hill University, and Dr Caoimhe Nic Dhaibheid.

The event also included the launch of Professor Stephen Kellys’ book “Gerald Boland: A Life” presented by Harry Boland (Grandson of Gerald Boland).

Liverpool City Region Careers Hub Experience of Work Placement Event (June 2024)

This initiative aimed to offer 250 Year 10 students from across LCR the opportunity to gain valuable insights into the healthcare industry. The week-long event brought together NHS staff from across the region to provide students with an insight into their roles.

2nd Annual International Beatles Symposium: Celebrating A Hard Day’s Night at 60 (July 2024)

The Music Team at Liverpool Hope University held an interdisciplinary, international Beatles symposium. This academic symposium honored the 60th anniversary of the release of the Beatles’ album and film, A Hard Day’s Night.

International Association of Children’s Spirituality Conference (July 2024)

The University welcomed approximately 40 residential guests to the Hope Park Campus.

The symposium promoted conversations about children’s spirituality and explored how the research and practices of participants contribute to new understandings and ways of nurturing the spirit of the child. The symposium consisted of a series of scholarly and practical conversations discussing educational policies, health and well and faith in education.

Outreach and Widening Access and Participation

The University aspires to strengthen delivery on its Life-Long Learning mission, including widening access and participation and ensuring good outcomes for graduates.

We have an approved Access and Participation Plan (APP) in place. Through commitment to the APP we have an ambitious set of strategic aims that support attainment raising in schools and which seek to improve outcomes for students who may otherwise be less likely to access higher education and succeed once there. The University seeks to ensure equality for everyone that applies or registers with us regardless of ethnicity, background or financial hardship.

Furthermore, the University is committed to the Outreach and Widening Access and Participation agenda more generally through its outreach work. This includes through its partnership with Holy Cross Bury (the Network of Hope) where higher education courses are delivered locally for those who might otherwise have limited access to provision.

The University fulfils its ambitions in relation to Access and Participation by offering support for students through a series of scholarships, and through on course funds for those who are struggling financially. The Learning Support Fund is available to students from the groups

identified in the Plan; with the aim of ensuring that discontinuation of studies is avoided. Details of the expenditure on Access and Participation is included in the financial statements (see note 10) and has formed part of the work covered by the external auditors.

The University continued to invest in a range of facilities and services to support disabled students, ensuring they are able to fully participate in the life of the University. In 2023/24, 28.03% of Liverpool Hope students had a declared disability. This is significantly higher than the sector average, and reflects the mission and values of the institution.

The expenditure on Access and Participation is included in the financial statements (see note 10) and has formed part of the work covered by the external auditors.

The total expenditure in the four categories was £1,410,431. This represents a similar figure compared to 2022/23 £1,492,981.

Capital Developments

Underpinned by the desire to deliver an excellent education and student experience and a commitment to reducing environmental impact, the University continues to develop its estate.

A major refurbishment of the grade 2 listed, 3 Islington Square building at the Creative Campus was completed in April 2024. The building provides flexible teaching and office accommodation, bringing back into use a dilapidated building and demonstrating the University's commitment to the continued regeneration of a deprived area of Liverpool.

In May 2024, the University completed construction work on the i3 (formally IQ) Building project at the Hope Park Campus. This is a flagship Learning and Teaching building which has a budget of £13.5 million. The new facilities improve the student experience by providing access to a range of different learning and teaching

environments, including the use of new technologies, such as the use of immersive virtual reality within the Simulation Suite.

Other capital work currently being undertaken include the refurbishment of one of the University's student residential halls, Angela Hall, which is partly funded by a PSDS Salix grant. A further PSDS Salix grant was obtained to part finance the refurbishment of Gerard Manly Hopkins Hall with works being planned for summer 2025.

All capital developments have been fully paid for from cash reserves and have been designed in a way to minimise the University's dependence on fossil fuels, as part of a move towards net zero.





Financial Performance

The University takes financial performance seriously and has robust financial processes and procedures in place to ensure the financial sustainability of the University is always protected.

While Liverpool Hope has always had a strong financial foundation, this year, we have experienced the challenges felt throughout the sector. In July 2023, University Council formally approved a deficit budget of £2,031,702 (3.6%). The intention was that this deficit would be for one year only to enable the University to reposition, recognise the need for investment in new initiatives and to diversify income.

The University reacted quickly in September 2023 to the decline in the financial position. Project 2028 was launched to identify new income streams and cost savings to be delivered through a number of focused areas, a target of £1.625 million was set for 2023/24, this KPI was achieved and the project delivered £2.297 million, £0.67 million in excess of the target. Project 2028 is a key part of the operational planning that will underpin the Strategic Plan and ensure delivery of the strategic objectives.

Through careful management of the resources, additional income generating activities, the two in year reforecast exercises and strong financial controls, the final result was a deficit of £624,074 (1.1%). A deficit indicator should not, on its own, be used to judge longer-term sustainability. Accounting treatments can often distort movements in surplus and deficit levels between years, meaning that there are risks in using surplus levels alone to assess underlying financial performance. It should be noted, the reduction in the forecast deficit was only achieved due to the major reduction in the FRS 102 Pension adjustment.

Financial Performance Indicators are summarised below.

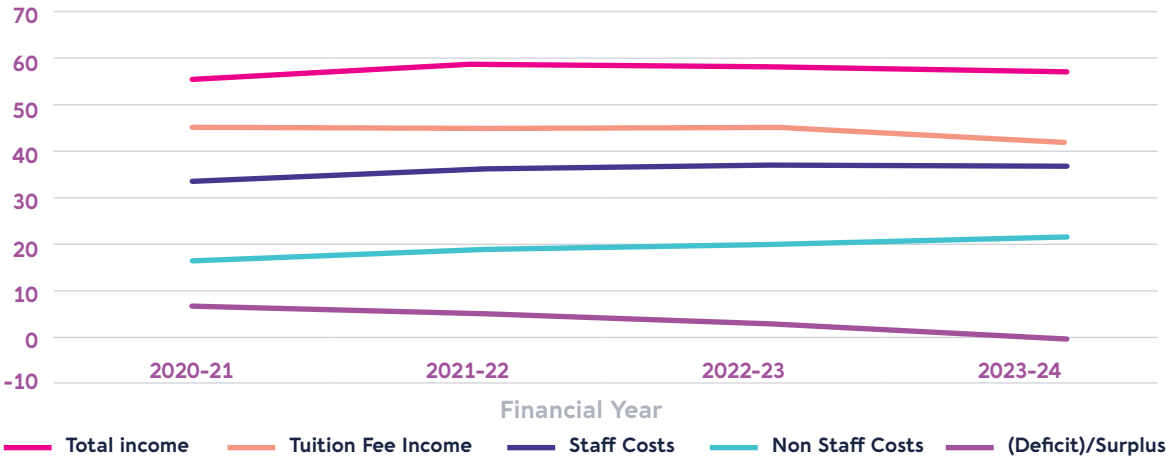
	2023/24	2022/23
	£000	£000
Operating (deficit)/surplus	(624)	2,309
Staff as a percentage of income	64%	63%
Net cash (outflow)/inflow	(26)	4,565
Net cash (ouflow)/inflow as a percentage of income	(0.05%)	7.84%
Liquidity days	148	207

Report by the OfS: Financial Sustainability of higher education providers in England: 2024 predicts that the financial outlook in the sector is weakening in 2023-24 with 40% of HE providers forecasting a deficit and over 60% with weaker results compared to the previous year. The trend predicts providers expect operating cash flow to fall. The University results follow these OfS predictions.

Cash reserves at year end £21.6m (2022/23 £29.1m). Net cash inflow during the year was £26,342 compared with 2022/23 cash inflow of £4,565,327.

The Statement of Comprehensive Income for the year is set out on page 58. Using this data the chart below demonstrates the impact of fixed home fees on the University over the last four years. Annual surpluses are declining due to static income and rapidly rising staff and non-staff costs.

Financial Results over a 4 year period



As the majority of our students are Home UG students, the reduction in student numbers and the decision to freeze the tuition fee at £9,250 (since 2017 and in real-terms is less), has meant that fee income is decreasing while the cost base increases. Project

2028 will address this gap. Links have been established to the five-year strategic plan with KPI targets to ensure future financial sustainability and delivery of the Strategic Plan KPIs.

Student Numbers

As at 31st July 2024 the University had 5,047 students (31st July 2023: 5,459 students).

	Full Time Students	Part-Time Students
Undergraduate	3,858	79
Postgraduate (taught)	343	258
Postgraduate (research)	41	77
PGCE	259	13
Other	119	-
Total	4,620	427

Treasury Management Policy

The University had gradually increased the level of cash reserves so that it could undertake its extensive capital programme without needing to resort to external finance.

In July 2024 Cash and Cash equivalents and Investments, had reduced by £7445,872 to £21,654,694 compared to July 2023. This was not unexpected due to payments of £4.9 million during the year for the i3 building and £1.2 for Islington Square.

All investments are made in line with the University Treasury Management Policy, ensuring that investments are ethical and risk averse.

The outstanding value of the one remaining University bank loan had reduced to £2,845,387 at the year-end (2023 - £3,198,050), and no new loans were taken out in 2023/24. All borrowing is undertaken in the name of the University and conforms to OfS requirements. The Treasury Management policy is updated annually and was revised in October 2024.

Risk Management

The University takes the management of risk seriously. Where a risk is seen as a threat, mitigations are identified and put in place. However, risks can also be seen as opportunities and the University takes proportionate and planned risk where appropriate to help achieve its strategic objectives.

The University has carried out a restructure of its academic departments and the risk management responsibility has altered to align to the new structure. Each School, Faculty and Department has their own Risk Register. The Faculty registers are prepared following consideration of the School registers. A new Risk Management Oversight Group (RMOG) has been established to review risk across the university and then make recommendations for the University Executive Board to consider; the group members include senior staff, reflecting all areas of the University.

The University's overarching risk register has developed to include more information and a new guidance document has been issued to aid the understanding of risk and the risk register. The University risk register is overseen by the Audit Committee on behalf of University Council. The University has a comprehensive internal control system to manage risk. This includes a program of work by the internal auditors which directly addresses risks identified in the risk register. In June 2024 Risk

Management training was delivered by an external company to Council members, the University Executive Board and Senior Management Team.

The Risk Register is a dynamic document, updated as required to reflect changing circumstances with formal review scheduled three times per year plus a fourth general review at the start of the academic year, that will formally consider emerging risks that have arisen over the summer period. The University continues to scan the policy environment and is fully engaged with sector bodies and local, regional and national partners to inform the identification and mitigation of risk.

The risk register captures the key risks to the institution, the top three risks currently are (1) cyber security breach (2) financial sustainability (3) decline in student recruitment, which are risks common to the sector. While not complacent, all of the financial modelling undertaken to date provides reassurance of the University's long-term financial sustainability.

The University enters the next phase of its development with a clear strategic vision as outlined in the new Strategic Plan and is confident that it can adapt to, manage and minimize the risks faced.

This vision is endorsed by the University Governance structure and ownership is embedded across all senior management.

We enter 2024/25 confident that we will be able to flourish and thrive.

Claire M.P. Ozanne.

Professor Claire Ozanne

Vice Chancellor & Rector

20th November 2024



Directors Report

Legal status

Liverpool Hope University was re-constituted in 2005 by order of the Privy Council under Section 129B of the Education Reform Act 1988, as a single, joint Anglican-Roman Catholic ecumenical University. It is registered in England and Wales as a Company Limited by Guarantee (3285547) and registered as a Charity (1060579).

In 2002 taught degree awarding powers were secured and the title Liverpool Hope University College officially bestowed. In July 2005 the granting of full University status led to the adoption of the title Liverpool Hope University and in August 2009, the Privy Council granted the University the power to award research degrees.

In the academic and financial year 2023/2024 there were 5,047 students and 642 members of staff, with a range of degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Members of the University Council

(A list of directors can be found on page 34)

All the members of the University Council are directors of the Company. No director had any interest in any contract made by the University during the financial year, other than a contract of employment as a member of staff and that described in note 20 to the accounts.

Mission Statement

The Mission Statement reflects both the University's traditions and its intention to develop and maintain a distinctive and forward-looking programme relevant to local, regional, national and international needs.

Liverpool Hope University is an ecumenical, Christian foundation which strives:

- to provide opportunities for the well-rounded personal development of all students;
- to educate the whole person in mind, body and spirit, irrespective of age, social or ethnic origins or physical capacity, including in particular those with promise who might otherwise not have had an opportunity to enter higher education;
- to be a provider of high quality educational programmes responsive to the needs of students in the UK and abroad;
- to sustain an academic community, enriched by Christian values and culture, which supports teaching and learning, scholarship and research, encourages the understanding of other faiths and beliefs, and promotes religious and social harmony;
- to be globally credible while contributing to the educational, religious, cultural, social and economic life of Liverpool, Merseyside, North-West England and beyond.

Equality and Diversity

The University is cognisant of its obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and has due regard to equality and diversity in its policy making processes. Its Equality and Diversity Policy and other related information can be found at:

www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/staff/peopleservices/equalitydiversityandinclusion

The University has an Equality & Diversity Steering Committee which reports to Senior Management Team, Senate and the Staffing Committee of University Council. The Steering Committee takes an overview of the University's equality objectives and analyses data reports to ensure that any issues relating to groups with protected characteristics are identified and then tackled. The University has participated in the Aurora programme to support women into management and leadership positions and is planning to apply for Athena Swann membership.

Employee Involvement

The University places considerable value on the involvement of its employees and on good communication with them. Staff are encouraged to participate in formal and informal consultation at University, School and department level, sometimes through membership of formal Committees. The Vice-Chancellor addresses all staff at the start of the academic year. The Vice-Chancellor, meets all Academic Leaders and Operational Leaders with the senior team at least twice a term but more regularly if required.

There is a system of cascading information from those meetings to all staff and departments and service areas are expected to hold regular staff meetings to enhance two-way communication.

The University established the Hope Forum to ensure that colleagues' voices are heard and that staff at all levels are able to contribute to decision-making with the aim to support a positive, collaborative and fair culture that supports success.

The University's People 2024 Strategy has a strategic strand to enhance engagement with and of staff. The Joint Consultative and Negotiating Committee (JCNC) is a forum for management and Trades Unions' representatives which meets regularly. The Hope Bulletin is a weekly electronic newsletter sent to the inbox of all members of staff every Wednesday to keep them up to date with University news, events and achievements.

Section 13 of the Trade Union Act 2016 introduced a new requirement to publish data on trade union facility time reporting. For Financial Year ending 31st July 2024 there were 21 trade union representatives equating to 20.54 FTEs at a cost of £23,555. In terms of percentage of working hours spent on facility time, there were 13 employees working less than 0% and 8 employees working between 1% to 50% of their working hours.

Supplier Involvement

When engaging suppliers, the University utilises a number of routes to market including third party collaborative framework agreements, such as from the North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC), together with other consortia as well as awarding our own contracts through competitive tender and quotation activity.

Areas of Public Benefit provided by Liverpool Hope University

In shaping its objectives and planning its activities the University has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit. The University through oversight of its activities at University Council meetings is confident that it fully satisfies the Public Benefit requirements of the Charity Commission as there is a direct benefit to students from its activities and an indirect benefit to the public at large. The Public Benefit requirement requires two principles to be met.

1. There must be an identifiable benefit or benefits.

The objects of the University are:

- the higher education of men and women including the education and training of persons intending to enter, or engaged in, the teaching profession;
- the furtherance of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of England, of Christian education, of ecumenical ideals, and of understanding between Christian Churches in the promotion of the Gospel;
- the advancement of knowledge by research and scholarship and teaching and learning;

This is a clearly identifiable benefit.

2. The benefit must be to the public or a section of the public. This area is expanded below.

As well as the students themselves, the University provides benefits for the general public. This includes a range of events such as concerts, lectures and the Angel Field Festival that are either free or accessible for a minimal charge.

Health and well-being initiatives are also run at the University which the public is able to attend. The University's Service and Leadership award encourages students to undertake a range of voluntary activities across the local community and overseas and is recognised by a formal award at the end of their degree. The University is a partner of Contact the Elderly and participates in Childwall in Bloom.

Environment and Sustainability

Liverpool Hope University has a moral and ethical approach to stewardship of the Earth and a responsibility to create a better quality of life for present

and future generations and strives to manage its operations in ways that are environmentally sustainable, economically feasible and socially responsible. The University recognises the negative and positive impacts that it has on the environment, economy and society both locally, nationally and globally. The University, however, is well placed to make an exceptional contribution – well positioned through its teaching and research; influence on students, staff and communities; and through its business and campus operations.

Sustainability is central to the University's mission and values and forms one of the five pillars of the University's Strategic Plan and our decisions and actions reflect the concern that our community has for our environment. Hope's Sustainability Policy commits the University to increasing its positive contribution and reducing its negative impact on the environment in six key impact areas: awareness and engagement, utility consumption, travel and transport, waste, estates development and procurement; all of which contribute to the University's carbon emissions.

The University has committed to achieving net zero Scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2040 and net zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050 at the latest.

The University's Scope 1 and 2 carbon emissions during 2023-2024 (August to July) were 2,464 tonnes CO₂e (equivalent to 0.03 tonnes CO₂e per m² GIA) and have been calculated using the Government conversion factors for company reporting of greenhouse gas emissions (see below). The University's total Scope 1 and 2 emissions have decreased by 52.8% since 2005-2006, but increased by 0.6% compared to last year (2022-2023).

This is despite growth in the size of the University's estate during the same period.

Work is continuing to collate and analyse the University's relevant Scope 3 emissions:

Emissions Source	Scope	Consumption (2023-2024)	Tonnes CO2e	% difference between 2005-2006 and 2023-2024 (consumption)	% difference between 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 (consumption)	Consumption per Student (headcount - July)
Gas	1	6,889,164 kWh	1,260	-38.7	-6.3	1,367
Fugitive Emissions	1	31.5kg	60.6	+22.6	+	0.006
Fuel used in owned vehicles	1	4,073L	10.0	-35.1	+4.2	0.8
Electricity	2	5,471,724 kWh	1,133	-15.9	+3.5	1,086
Total	1 & 2	-d	2,464	-52.8	+0.6	0.45
Scope 1&2 emissions	3	as above	584	as above	as above	as above
Water (supply & treatment)	3	49,814 m3	16.9	-21.0	+3.4	9.9

Carbon reduction projects have continued to contribute to the decrease in carbon emissions with the continued installation of LED lighting and controls; fine-tuning the Building Management System; catering equipment upgrades, including an electric pizza oven; and decarbonisation of one of the University's halls of residence (as below). The University has generated over 117k kWh from its on-site solar panels; and is aiming to increase its generation over the coming years.

The University's Estates team has been successful with four separate grant funding bids to the Government Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme since 2020 enabling the University to access

over £1.4m grant funding: St Julies halls of residence works completed in 2021-2022 (Salix Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 2) included replacing the gas fired heating system with electric panel heaters (removing over 80% of the gas consumption), replacing the original steel framed single glazed windows with double glazing, installing internal wall insulation and solar PV; the Trinity project completed in 2022-23 (Salix PSDS Phase 3a) replaced the gas heating system with an Air Source Heat Pump (removing 100% of the gas consumption), installing double glazing, solar PV and a Building Management System; and Angela Halls of Residence completed in 2023-2024 (Salix PSDS Phase 3b) replaced the gas fired heating system

with electric panels heaters, replaced the gas fired domestic hot water with an ASHP (removing 100% of the gas consumption) and installed internal wall insulation on the outer facing walls. The University has also successfully applied for Salix PSDS Phase 3c funding for the Gerard Manly Hopkins Hall. The funding will be used to replace the gas fired heating and hot water generation with electric panel heaters and an ASHP removing nearly 100% of the gas consumption (outstanding consumption is to supply the laundrette facility); this project will reduce the University's gas consumption by a further 8%. This decarbonisation of buildings as part of the PSDS scheme, plus an additional two fully electric buildings, has increased the electrical consumption of the University, but dramatically decreased gas consumption.

Going concern

The financial position of the University, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The University currently has one remaining loan of £2.8 million of loans outstanding with bankers, secured by a fixed and floating charge on University assets. The University's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to meet the financial commitments in relation to this loan for the foreseeable future, after consideration of reasonably expected changes in performance.

The University's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position, are set out in the Strategic Report which forms part of the Council's Report. The Council's Report also describes the financial position of the Institution, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Council considers to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The University has prepared a financial model and cash flow forecasts for a period

up to July 2026 which takes account of severe but plausible scenarios. After reviewing the assumptions underpinning these forecasts, the Council is of the opinion that the University will have sufficient funds to meet their liabilities as they fall due, over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

The financial planning model has used a series of pessimistic but not unrealistic assumptions to demonstrate going concern, reduction in recruitment, inflationary increases in relation to staffing and general inflation, Utility costs. Even on this basis, liquidity levels are forecast to remain strong despite funding the committed capital programme from cash reserves.

Consequently, the Council is confident that the University will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Disclosure of information to auditor

The directors who held office at the date of approval of this directors' report confirm that, so far as they are each aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware; and each director has taken all the steps that s/he ought to have taken as a director to make herself/himself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Company's auditor is aware of that information.

Section 172 Statement

The members of the University Council are Trustees of the University and directors of the Company. In line with their duties under s172 of the Companies Act 2006, directors act in a way they consider, in good faith, would be most likely to promote the success of the

Company for the benefit of its members as a whole. As part of the decision-making process, matters that are of strategic importance to the Company, the Board and its Committees consider the potential impact of decisions on relevant stakeholders. Whilst also having regard to a number of broader factors, including the impact of the Company's operations on the community and environment, responsible business practices and the likely consequences of decisions in the long term.

Students

Liverpool Hope takes pride in providing its students with a distinctive learning experience in this stage of their learning journey. Liverpool Hope offers the best possible student transformational experience enabling staff to get to know students one by one. This is delivered through high quality teaching and pastoral support, learning resources that underpin teaching and learning and a variety of learning spaces. This learning environment challenges and develops the students to enable them to progress on their journey into the workplace or further study.

The University considers it extremely important that effective ways are found to hear the whole students' voice in order to respond to their concerns and build a supportive learning community. A well-functioning Students' Union is a vital part of to this endeavour and the University ensures that the Student Union attends all of its major decision-making bodies so that the student voice is heard.

<https://www.hope.ac.uk/gateway/students/studentvoice/>

Employees

Each year the University frameworks in place to support staff and ensure compliance with our ethical, legal and employment obligations are reviewed to confirm their alignment with the external legal and compliance environment and our internal values and mission. These include formal staff policies and

procedures which cover all aspects of the employment relationship: performance, reward, well-being, health and safety, personal development and training, and underpinning recruitment, selection and promotion procedures. During this year the People Strategy was fully reviewed to align with the new University strategy. As part of this work there was also an extensive review of performance management and performance review processes, with a similar review of promotions processes planned for the forthcoming academic year.

In the last year, there has been significant emphasis on work to support staff well-being and engagement. This included a Health and Safety Executive Survey and a specific well-being survey focused on staff well-being. A number of key findings from these surveys were shared through different media like the Hope Bulletin and communication from the Vice Chancellor through the Senior Leadership team through to Faculty, School, Department and Team to maximise engagement with staff and stakeholders.

A range of media are in place to enable feedback from staff back to managers so any areas of concern can be dealt with early and effectively. Transparent and regular management communication channels are used to support our strategic and operational objectives. The University was able to demonstrate some key improvements in staff well-being from these survey results.

The University continues to develop its offering to staff via attractive terms and conditions, leave, well-being and flexible working, health-supporting initiatives and considers equality and diversity at every stage of its work. For example, for the year 2023-2024 a number of Well-Being Foundation hour discussions were built into the university timetable to allow all staff to have the opportunity to have time away from their work to consider well-being issues such as Meet the Well Being Champions, Neurodiversity Awareness in the Workplace, the Money Charity - Financial Wellbeing, Wellbeing

and Good Practice in Communication. The University is also now a Disability Confident Committed Employer (level one status). The University also signed the Defence Recognition programme.

This progress was against a backdrop of extensive Faculty re-structure work which welcomed consultation from a wide-range of colleagues and stakeholders on the best way to align our structures to support delivery of our new Strategies around Ethos and Community, Education, Research, Scholarship and Knowledge Exchange, Partnership and Voice and Sustainability and the Future. This has been completed and the new structures are currently being embedded.

The People Strategy has been developed around these key drivers of university strategy both to support the strategic objectives of the University and to continue to attract a diverse range of suitably skilled and highly qualified staff across all areas of its operation. For example, the Supported Internship Award is beginning soon for a third year building on the success of the two previous cohorts, Well-Being Champions are now in place throughout the University and we led in the regional university sector by providing three paid days of Carer's Leave out of the five statutory required days of unpaid leave available. This will be reviewed after twelve-months; in 2024 we have reviewed other sector-wide initiatives which were implemented in 2023, such as the Professional Boundaries Guidelines for Staff and Students and the reporting of Staff and Student Sexual Harassment Policies. These measures ensure we are implementing sector-wide requirements for staff and student safety and well-being in an open, transparent and stakeholder-informed way. To reflect the new approach the Personnel Team has now been renamed as People Services which more accurately highlights its position and purpose within the University.

We continue to ensure our colleagues are protected by appropriate risk assessments and access to health supporting initiatives like free flu jabs and occupational health

as well as free confidential counselling for all colleagues who request it. We continue to offer a wide range of compulsory and optional training programmes to colleagues with programmes as varied as Mental Health First Aider, Neurodiversity training and Dealing with Sexual Misconduct.

Suppliers

Procurement within the University is carried out in accordance with legal requirements, the University Financial Regulations and Procurement Policy. A carefully managed University that works efficiently and effectively delivering value-for-money is central to the University's Strategic Plan and our procurement activity supports that goal. Liverpool Hope University recognises that in order to achieve its ambitious strategic objectives, we need our suppliers to be on board.

When engaging suppliers, we utilise a number of routes to market including third party collaborative framework agreements, such as from the North Western Universities Purchasing Consortium (NWUPC), together with other consortia as well as awarding our own contracts through competitive tender and quotation activity.

Liverpool Hope University has a moral, ethical and social responsibility to consider the impacts of its activities on students, employees, wider stakeholder groups, as well as on the environment. In order for this to happen, all of our suppliers are given the opportunity to complete an on-line assessment tool to improve their environmental performance and ensure they are making a positive impact on society.

The University has enjoyed a number of successes including; working with our travel management company to promote sustainable and value for money travel options and our waste management company to increase staff and student engagement. We also work closely with our Estates suppliers to look at energy saving projects and initiatives.



Community Engagement

During 2023 - 24 the Community Engagement team has built on the previous years' work through the growth of projects and the expansion of the offer across the year. The primary goal for the CET seeks to make connections between people, creating opportunities to connect, share skills, find friendships and offer support. The CET is driven by a University-wide committee made up of colleagues from across faculties and professional services.

1. Thematic working groups

The development of thematic working groups has been implemented through the CET Committee to drive forward specific university agendas, particularly in relation to issues of inclusion and social justice.

One of the key focus areas for the working groups is social justice issues across the University. Recognising the contribution made by Professional and Campus Services teams to student and community engagement supports the People and Planet League Table status for Liverpool Hope University.

In 2024, colleagues published an academic paper based on research that originated within the CET exploring the cost of living crisis for students. This is a positive development and aligns with the goals for the CET over the next year, to engage further with participatory and community-based research.

2. Community events and activities

During 2023 – 24 the CET was engaged in the regular events that form part of the annual calendar, including;

Supporting Childwall Community Choir at various University events, supporting the open garden event with Childwall in Bloom; Working with Childwall Abbey School and Liverpool City Council's SPLICE project to run creative summer camps for young people; hosting a number of community conversations and consultation events; working with community members to 'Dance in Your Pants', fundraising for ovarian cancer; welcoming 80 people to the October Harvest Festival and Ceilidh; Christmas markets on campus; and community Christmas panto and choir concerts.

3. Partnerships

Strengthening links with partners not only supports our community driven goals, but has been an opportunity to showcase University facilities that can serve organisations in the region. Key partnerships include ChildwALL Together, Liverpool City Council through a Neighbourhood Manager, as well as links with local councillors, strategic leads, targeted youth support service, Voluntary, Community and Statutory Partnerships across Merseyside – Schools, Colleges, Museums, Arts and Cultural Organisations.

Members of the University Council

The following persons served as governors during the year ended 31st July 2024 or were members as at 20th November 2024 when these financial statements were approved. In the case of those who became or ceased to be governors during the year, the appropriate dates are shown.

The governors are generally appointed for a period of three years. Each year they sign a register of interests. All the members of the Council are Trustees of the University and directors of the Company.

Revd Canon P Winn	(Resigned 31st July 2024) Chair
Mrs J Beever	Vice-Chair/Chair from 1st August 2024
Ms Lesley Martin-Wright	Vice-Chair from 1st August 2024
Mr Tim Alderman	
Mr Nicholas Dawe	(Joined 23rd July 2024)
Dr Edwin Djabatey	
Revd Geoff Felton	
The Very Revered Dr Sue Jones	
Fr C. McCoy	
Mr J Norbury	
Ms Deborah Shackleton	
Mrs M Swinson	
Mr Steven Townley	(Joined 11th September 2023)
HH Judge Graham Wood QC	
Ms Anne-Marie Costello	(Resigned 7th September 2024)
Ms Jean Ellis	(Resigned 1st August 2023)
Revd Canon C Fallon	(Resigned 31st July 2024)
Dr A. Naylor	(Resigned 20th September 2023)
Mr U Russell	(Resigned 1st August 2023)
Ms Jemma Steven	(Joined 3rd July 2024)
Ms Erin Meharry	(Resigned 14th August 2023)
Ms Neve Rosser	(Resigned 3rd July 2024)
Dr Penny Haughan	
Professor Atulya Nagar	(Resigned 31st July 2024)
Ms Paula Raper	
Dr Caroline Wakefield	
Professor C Ozanne	Vice Chancellor and Rector
Mr D Dykins	Company Secretary and Clerk to Council

Vice-Chancellor Remuneration Committee

Mrs J Beever
Mr J Norbury
Mr S Townley
Revd Canon P Winn

Senior Salaries Remuneration Committee

Mrs J Beever
Mr J Norbury
Mr S Townley
Revc Canon P Winn
Professor C Ozanne
(except for discussion of her own salary)

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Mr J Norbury (Chair)
Fr C. McCoy
Ms Jean Ellis – ex officio
Ms D Shackleton
Mr N Dawes – ex officio
Professor C Ozanne

Audit Committee

Mr Steven Townley (Chair)
Ms J Beever
Ms L Martin-Wright
Ms S Suchoparek – ex officio

Nominations Committee

Revd Canon P Winn (Chair)
Professor C Ozanne
Mrs J Beever

Advisers

External Auditor:

KPMG LLP
1 St Peter's Square
Manchester
M2 3AE

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank
Merchants Court
2-12 Lord Street
Liverpool
L2 XF

Santander
7th Floor
4 St Paul's Square
Liverpool
L3 9SJ

HSBC Bank
9th Floor
Royal Liver
Pier Head
Liverpool
L3 1HU

Barclays plc
48B & 50 Lord Street
Liverpool
L2 1TD

Rathbones
PO Box 1965
Liverpool
L69 3HU

Internal Auditor:

RSM Risk Assurance Services LLP
14th Floor, 20 Chapel Street
Liverpool
L3 9AG

Statement of Council responsibilities in respect of the Strategic Report, the Directors' Report and the Financial Statements

The Council is responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, Directors' Report, Statement of Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control and the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Office for Students' Terms and Conditions of Funding for Higher Education Institutions and Research England's Terms and Conditions of Research England Grant and applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Council (the members of which are the Directors of the University company for the purposes of company law) to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

Under that law it has elected to prepare the University financial statements in accordance with UK accounting standards and applicable law (UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The Terms and Conditions of Funding further require the financial statements to be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction') and the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education.

Under company law the Council must not approve the financial statements unless it is satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the University and of their income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves, and of the University's cash flows for that period. In preparing the University financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards and the 2019 Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting for Further and Higher Education have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assess the University's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- use the going concern basis of accounting unless it either intends to liquidate the University or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council is responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the University's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the University and enable it to ensure that its financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

It is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and has general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the University and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The Council is also responsible for ensuring that:

- funds from whatever source administered by the University for specific purposes have been properly applied to those purposes and managed in accordance with relevant legislation;

- funds provided by the Office for Students, UK Research and Innovation (including Research England) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Department for Education have been applied in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to them;
- ensuring that there are appropriate financial and management controls in place to safeguard public funds and funds from other sources; and
- securing the economical, efficient and effective management of the university's resources and expenditure.

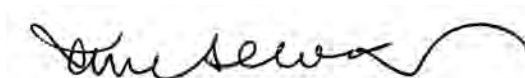
The Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the University's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

While the following is not a specific recreation of the constitutional provisions within the Articles of Government, the principal responsibilities of Council, adopted in December 2005 and amended in May 2023, may be summarised as being:

1. To approve the educational character, mission and strategic vision of Liverpool Hope University, long-term academic and business plans and key performance indicators, and to ensure that these meet the interests of stakeholders.
2. To delegate authority to the head of the institution, as Vice-Chancellor & Rector, for the academic, corporate, financial, estate and personnel management of the institution, and other responsibilities as detailed in the constitution, and keeping those functions under regular review.

3. To ensure the establishment and monitoring of systems of control and accountability, including financial and operational controls and risk assessment and procedures for handling internal grievances and for managing conflicts of interest.
4. To ensure processes are in place to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of the institution against the plans and approved key performance indicators, which should be, where possible and appropriate, benchmarked against other comparable institutions.
5. To establish processes to monitor and evaluate the performance and effectiveness of Council itself.
6. To conduct its business in accordance with best practice in higher education corporate governance and with the principles of public life drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life.
7. To safeguard the good name and values of Liverpool Hope University.
8. To appoint the head of the institution as Vice-Chancellor & Rector, and to put in place suitable arrangements for monitoring his/her performance.
9. To appoint a secretary to Council and to ensure that, if the person appointed has managerial responsibilities in the institution, there is an appropriate separation in the lines of accountability.
10. To be the employing authority for all staff in the institution and to be responsible for establishing a human resources strategy.
11. To be the principal financial and business authority of Liverpool Hope University, to ensure that proper books of account are kept and resources used

- properly, effectively and efficiently, and to approve the annual budget and financial statements and have overall responsibility for the University's assets, property and estate.
12. To be the institution's legal authority and, as such, to ensure that systems are in place for meeting all of the institution's legal obligations, including those arising from contracts and other legal commitments made in Liverpool Hope University's name.
 13. To make such provision as it thinks fit for the general welfare of students, in consultation with senate, and for the operation of the Students' Union under a constitution approved by council.
 14. To act as trustee for any property, legacy, endowment, bequest or gift in support of the work and welfare of Liverpool Hope University.
 15. To ensure that Liverpool Hope University's constitution is followed at all times and that appropriate advice is available to enable this to happen.



Mrs Jane Beever

Director and Chair of Council
20th November 2024





Statement of Corporate Governance

This statement of corporate governance explicitly relates to the period 1st August 2023 – 31st July 2024, up to and including the date when the financial statements are approved.

The institution endeavours to conduct its business in accordance with the seven principles identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership), and with the guidance to institutions of higher education from the Committee of University Chairs in its Guide for Members of HE Governing Bodies in the UK. The University is committed to best practice in all aspects of corporate governance and conducts its business in line with the Office for Students (OfS) general ongoing conditions of registration. The University, through its arrangements for governance, is committed in a demonstrable way to the principles of academic freedom and equality of opportunity.

Liverpool Hope University is an incorporated body whose legal status is that of a company limited by guarantee, a registered charity and a University with taught and research awarding powers. Its objects, powers and framework of governance are set out in the articles of association which were approved by the Privy Council in 1996. The current version of the articles was approved by the Privy Council with effect from 20th

April 2005 and amended in 2023. The articles require Liverpool Hope University to have a governing body and a Senate, each with clearly defined functions and responsibilities to oversee and manage its activities.

The University Council is the executive governing body, responsible for matters including the finance, property and staffing of the institution. It is specifically required to determine the educational character and mission of the institution and to set its general strategic direction. The governing body has a majority of independent members and the chair is elected from among the independent members. There is also provision for the appointment of co-opted members, and representatives of the academic staff and the student body. No members of University Council receive any reimbursement for the work they do for that body.

Subject to the overall responsibility of the governing body, Senate has oversight of the academic affairs of Liverpool Hope University and draws its membership entirely from the staff and the students of the institution, save for 1 Network of Hope College Principal. It is particularly

concerned with general issues relating to the learning and teaching and research work of Liverpool Hope University.

The Chief Executive Officer (Vice Chancellor and Rector) is the head of Liverpool Hope University and has a general responsibility to the governing body for the organisation, direction and management of the institution. As Chief Executive, the head of the institution exercises considerable influence upon the development of institutional strategy, the identification and planning of new developments, and shaping of the institutional ethos. The University Senior Executive Team all contribute in various ways to these aspects of the work, working in close collaboration with the Vice Chancellor and University Council, which has ultimate responsibility for the University's strategic direction, education character and use of resources.

Members of University Council make an annual declaration of interests and further declare any interests in relation to matters under discussion at meetings. The University also makes an annual declaration on matters that confirm that they are "fit and proper" as defined under the Framework for the Office for Students.

University Council has adopted a Statement of Primary responsibilities reflecting sector guidance. This statement reflects the University Council's understanding of its responsibilities in relation to governance and internal control. In accordance with the articles of association, a secretary to the governing body has been appointed. The Company Secretary and Clerk to Council and the Solicitor & Senior Officer for Legal Services, Governance and Risk, provide independent advice on matters of governance to all members of University Council. Although the governing body meets four times per year, much of its detailed work is handled by committees, including Finance and General Purposes Committee, Audit Committee, Staffing Committee, Health and Safety Standing Committee, Nominations Committee and a Remuneration Committee. The decisions of the Committees are formally reported

to the full University Council by the respective chairs.

Regularity and propriety in the use of public funding is delivered through the overarching governance structure described above. Public funding of research has an additional layer of governance provided through the Research Committee which reports to Senate. The research Committee considers research strategy, policy, funding and scholarly activity. The University governance structure described above facilitates a transparent, adequate and effective system of governance. The structures, policies and processes can be viewed at: <https://www.hope.ac.uk/aboutus/governance/#:~:text=The%20governing%20body%20of%20Liverpool,company%20directors%20and%20charity%20trustees.>

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee meets four times per year, with the University's External and Internal Auditors in attendance. The Committee considers detailed reports including recommendations, for the improvement of the University's systems of internal control, management responses and implementation plans. It also reviews and tracks the University's progress against these plans and monitors the risk register. Whilst senior executives attend meetings of the Audit Committee as necessary, they are not members of the Committee. The Committee is empowered to meet the External and Internal Auditors on their own for independent discussions.

The overall opinion within the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2023/24 is that the University has an 'adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance, internal control and economy efficiency and effectiveness'. However, audit work has identified further enhancements to the framework of risk management, governance, internal control and economy, efficiency and effectiveness to ensure that it remains adequate and effective. The Audit Committee noted that three audits resulted in substantial assurance, one resulted in partial assurance – for project procurement framework and

reasonable insurance for implementation. The internal audit of project management of the i3 building resulted in reasonable assurance.

Finance and General Purposes

The Finance and General Purposes Committee meet three times per year and maintains an oversight of the University's financial and capital development strategies and the financial policy framework.

Staffing Committee

The Staffing Committee is responsible for supporting the strategic direction, performance measurement and service development of the human resource function within the University. It also has an oversight of compliance with equal opportunities and other employment law matters.

Council Standing Committee on Health and Safety

The Committee develops and monitors the implementation of the University's Health and Safety Policy, Safety Management System and the associated procedures and codes of practice. It keeps under review the University's compliance with health and safety legislation and monitors trends in accidents and dangerous occurrences.

Remuneration Committee for University Senior Executive Team and Remuneration Committee for Vice Chancellor

The purpose is to determine and review the salaries, terms and conditions of the Head of the institution and such other members of staff as Council deems appropriate. These two Committees report annually to Council.

The Remuneration Committees aim to balance the safeguarding of public funds and the need to remain competitive by reference to the Committee of University Chairs HE Senior Staff Remuneration Code. Remuneration decisions are linked to the context in which the University operates and are made with reference to similar institutions, the level of complexity of the role regardless of size, and the responsibilities of the post holder in comparison to the size of the senior team, and the number of years a senior post holder has successfully served in that role.

Performance objectives are agreed with all senior staff by their line manager. The Remuneration Committees base their decisions on the annual performance of the senior staff, taking into account external benchmarks and the particular financial circumstances of the University.

The Remuneration Committee for the University Senior Executive Team comprises the Pro-Chancellor, the Chair of Audit Committee, the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Deputy Chair of University Council and the Vice Chancellor. The Committee meets annually to set the salaries of the members of the senior team.

The remuneration package of the Vice Chancellor is set by the Remuneration Committee for the Vice-Chancellor, which comprises the Pro-Chancellor, the Chair of Audit Committee and the Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The Vice Chancellor does not attend this meeting. The performance of the Vice Chancellor is monitored and assessed by regular meetings with the Pro-Chancellor and progress against a range of key performance indicators by which Council monitors the overall performance of the University.

Nominations Committee

The purpose is to seek out and recommend new lay/independent co-opted members to the appointing body, taking account of the current skills mix of Council and the diversity of the current membership.



Statement of Internal Control

This statement of internal control explicitly relates to the period 1st August 2023 - 31st July 2024, up to and including the date when the financial statements are approved.

The key elements of the University's system of internal financial control, which is designed to discharge the responsibilities set out above, include the following:

- Clear definitions of the responsibilities of, and the authority delegated to, members of the University Senior Executive Team and other senior managers;
- A comprehensive medium and short-term planning process, supplemented by detailed annual income, expenditure, capital and cash flow budgets;
- Regular reviews of academic performance and monthly reviews of financial performance involving variance reporting and updates of forecast outturns;

University Council has the responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. Consistent with the Risk Management Strategy approved, the following processes have been established:

- University Council meets four times a year to consider the plans and strategic direction of the institution.
- Periodic reports from the chairman of the Audit Committee concerning internal control are received together

with regular reports from managers on the steps they are taking to manage risks in their areas of responsibility, including progress reports on key projects.

- A report on discussions of risk at the University Executive Board is delivered to Audit Committee who provides oversight on risk.

The Audit Committee receives regular reports from the internal auditor, which include the internal auditor's independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of the institution's system of internal control, together with recommendations for improvement.

- Both local and an organisation-wide risk register is operational.
- Reports are received from budget holders and project managers on internal control activities.
- Policies such as the Code of Practice on Whistleblowing, Declarations of Interest, Financial and other Irregularities, including Fraud Policy and an Anti-Bribery Policy have been periodically reviewed and revised.

Control Weaknesses Identified

The annual review of the Internal Auditors indicated that the organisation has an adequate and effective framework for risk management, governance and internal control and economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Weakness in the project and procurement framework is being actively addressed.

Role of the External Auditor

The University external auditors perform an interim audit mid-year to review control procedures prior to year-end substantive testing. Throughout the year, communication between the University and external auditors is key critical to obtain reasonable assurance the University's financial information is free from material misstatement, fraud and errors.

Role of the Internal Auditor

The University's internal auditors continue to monitor the systems of internal control, risk management controls and governance processes in accordance with an agreed plan of input and report their findings to management and the Audit Committee. Management is responsible for the implementation of agreed audit recommendations, and internal audit undertakes periodic follow-up reviews to ensure such recommendations have been implemented. Both Internal and External auditors in attendance at the Audit Committee, they have to present their detailed plan for the forthcoming year. These plans are prepared in accordance with University requirements, regulatory requirements, accounting standards and direction of funding bodies.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Council of Liverpool Hope University

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Liverpool Hope University ("the University") for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Reserves, the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows and related notes, including the Statement of Principal Accounting Policies.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the University's affairs as at 31 July 2024, and of the University's income and expenditure, gains and losses and changes in reserves, and of the University's cash flows, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland; 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 are described below. We have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities under, and are independent of the University in accordance with, UK ethical requirements including the FRC Ethical Standard. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is a sufficient and appropriate basis for our opinion.

Going concern

The Council has prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as it does not intend to liquidate the University or to cease their operations, and as it has concluded that the University's financial position means that this is realistic. It has also concluded that there are no material uncertainties that could have cast significant doubt over their ability to continue as a going concern for at least a year from the date of approval of the financial statements ("the going concern period").

In our evaluation of the Council's conclusions, we considered the inherent risks to the University's business model and analysed how those risks might affect the University's financial resources or ability to continue operations over the going concern period.

Our conclusions based on this work:

- we consider that the Council's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate;
- we have not identified, and concur with the Council's assessment that there is not, a material uncertainty related to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the University's ability to continue as a going concern for the going concern period.

However, as we cannot predict all future events or conditions and as subsequent events may result in outcomes that are inconsistent with judgements that were reasonable at the time they were made, the above conclusions are not a guarantee that the University will continue in operation.

Fraud and breaches of laws and regulations – ability to detect

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement due to fraud

To identify risks of material misstatement due to fraud ("fraud risks") we assessed events or conditions that could indicate an incentive or pressure to commit fraud or provide an opportunity to commit fraud. Our risk assessment procedures included:

- Enquiring of the Council, the Audit Committee and inspection of policy documentation as to the University's high-level policies and procedures to prevent and detect fraud, including the internal audit function, and the University's channel for "whistleblowing", as well as whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud.
- Reading Council, Audit Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee minutes.

We communicated identified fraud risks throughout the audit team and remained alert to any indications of fraud throughout the audit.

As required by auditing standards, we perform procedures to address the risk of management override of controls, in particular the risk that management may be in a position to make inappropriate accounting entries. On this audit we do not believe there is a fraud risk related to revenue recognition because tuition fees are generally based on standard fee rates and are non-variable in nature. We do not believe there to be an incentive or pressure to manipulate this or other income streams that are material as amounts received either typically relate to a single specific financial year or the source transactions are non-complex, involving little judgement.

We did not identify any additional fraud risks.

We performed procedures including:

- Identifying journal entries and, where relevant, other adjustments to test based on risk criteria and comparing the identified entries to supporting documentation. These included those posted to cash with unexpected or unusual entries.
- Assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias.

Identifying and responding to risks of material misstatement related to compliance with laws and regulations

We identified areas of laws and regulations that could reasonably be expected to have a material effect on the financial statements from our general commercial and sector experience, through discussion with the Council and other management (as required by auditing standards), and discussed with the Council and other management the policies and procedures regarding compliance with laws and regulations.

We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. The potential effect of these laws and regulations on the financial statements varies considerably.

Firstly, the University is subject to laws and regulations that directly affect the financial statements including financial reporting legislation (including related companies and related higher education legislation), taxation legislation and pensions legislation, and we assessed the extent of compliance with these laws and regulations as part of our procedures on the related financial statement items.

Secondly, the University is subject to many other laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on amounts or disclosures in the financial statements, for instance through the imposition of fines or litigation. We identified the following areas as those most likely to have such an effect: compliance with regulatory requirements of the Office for Students, recognising the nature of the University's activities. Auditing standards limit the required audit procedures to identify non-compliance with these laws and regulations to enquiry of the Council and other management and inspection of regulatory and legal correspondence, if any. Therefore, if a breach of operational regulations is not disclosed to us or evident from relevant correspondence, an audit will not detect that breach.

We have reported separately on the University's use of funds in the section of our audit report dealing with other legal and regulatory requirements.

Context of the ability of the audit to detect fraud or breaches of law or regulation

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned

and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it.

In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of fraud, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. Our audit procedures are designed to detect material misstatement. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance or fraud and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

Other information

The Council is responsible for the other information, which comprises the Strategic Report, Directors' Report, Statement of Corporate Governance and Statement of Internal Control. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except as explicitly stated below, any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether, based on our financial statements audit work, the information therein is materially misstated or inconsistent with the financial statements or our audit knowledge.

Based solely on that work:

- we have not identified material misstatements in the other information;
- in our opinion the information given in Strategic Report and Directors' Report, which together constitute the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year, is consistent with the financial statements; and

- in our opinion those reports have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2006.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Under the Companies Act 2006, we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Council responsibilities

As explained more fully in its statement set out on page 35, the Council (the members of which are the Directors of the University for the purposes of company law) is responsible for: the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view; such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; assessing the University'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 it either intends to liquidate the University or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities

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 our opinion in an auditor's report. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but does not 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 aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

A fuller description of our responsibilities is provided on the FRC's website at www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

We are required to report on the following matters by the Accounts Direction dated 25 October 2019 issued by the Office for Students ('the Accounts Direction').

In our opinion, in all material respects:

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

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required by the Accounts Direction to report to you where the University has an access and participation plan that has been approved by the Office for Students' director of fair access and participation and the results of our audit work indicate that the University's expenditure on access and participation activities for the financial year disclosed in Note 10 has been materially misstated.

We are also required by the Accounts Direction to report to you where the results of our audit work indicate that the University's grant and fee income, as disclosed in note 6 to the financial statements, has been materially misstated.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Council, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and

paragraph 13(2) of the University's Articles of Government and section 124B of the Education Reform Act 1988. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Council 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 University and the Council for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



**James Boyle (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of KPMG LLP,
Statutory Auditor**

Chartered Accountants

1 St Peter's Square, Manchester, M2 3AE

25 November 2024



Statement of Principal Accounting Policies

1. Basis of preparation

The University is a company limited by guarantee, and was incorporated on 26 November 1996. Under the terms of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the members of the University Governing Council have each undertaken to contribute a maximum of £1 in the event of winding up of the company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 (FRS 102), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP): Accounting in Further and Higher Education (2019 edition), the Charities SORP (2019) and the Companies Act where appropriate. They have also been prepared in accordance with the 'carried forward' powers and duties of previous legislation (Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and the Higher Education Act 2004) and the new powers of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 during the transition period to 31 July 2019, the Accounts Direction issued by the Office for Students (OfS), the Terms and conditions of funding for higher education institutions issued by the Office for Students and the Terms and conditions of Research England Grant. The University is a public benefit entity and therefore has applied the relevant public benefit requirement of the applicable UK laws and accounting standards.

The fixed assets were valued at 31st July 2014, the University chose to freeze the valuation at that date and use the deemed cost going forward in accordance with FRS 102. Capital grants are accounted for using the performance model as opposed to the accruals model. A requirement for holiday pay involves an accrual for unused annual leave as an expense. Pension fund changes relate to interest computations and the inclusion of the USS scheme.

2. Going Concern

The University's activities, together with the factors likely to affect its future development, performance and position, are set out in the Strategic Report which forms part of the Council's Report. The Council's Report also describes the financial position of the Institution, its cash flows, liquidity position and borrowing facilities.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis which the Council consider to be appropriate for the following reasons.

The University have prepared a cash flow forecast for a period up to July 2026. After reviewing these forecasts, the Council is of the opinion that, taking account of severe but plausible downsides, the University will have sufficient funds to meet their liabilities as they fall due over the period

of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

The University has prepared a financial model and cash flow forecasts for a period up to July 2026 which takes account of severe but plausible scenarios. After reviewing the assumptions underpinning these forecasts, the Council is of the opinion that the University will have sufficient funds to meet their liabilities as they fall due, over the period of 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements (the going concern assessment period).

The financial planning model has used a series of pessimistic but not unrealistic assumptions to demonstrate going concern, reduction in recruitment, inflationary increases in relation to staffing and general inflation and Utility costs. Even on this basis, liquidity levels are forecast to remain strong despite funding the committed capital programme from cash reserves.

Consequently, the Council is confident that the University will have sufficient funds to continue to meet their liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements and therefore have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

3. Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the deemed cost of certain fixed assets.

4. Basis of consolidation

The financial statements include the University only as there are no trading subsidiaries in existence.

The financial statements do not include those of Liverpool Hope Students' Union as it is a separate organisation in which

the University has no control or significant influence over policy decisions.

5. Format of the accounts

The directors have taken advantage of the Companies Act 2006 to adapt the format of the accounts to reflect the special nature of the Company's business.

6. Recognition of income

The recurrent grants from the Office for Students (OfS) and Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) represent the funding allocation which is attributable to the current financial year and is credited direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Grants intended to support the acquisition of tangible fixed assets are credited to the statement of comprehensive income when the University becomes entitled to them, subject to any performance related conditions being met.

Tuition fees represent student fees received and receivable attributable to the current accounting period.

Income to which the University is entitled from research grants and contracts is released to the statement of comprehensive income in proportion to the degree of completion of the associated activity, with reference to expenditure. The University uses the accruals method of accounting for research grants and contracts.

The University acts as an agent in the payment of training bursaries from the Department of Education. Related payments received and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income and are shown separately in note 19.

7. Retirement benefits

The University operates a defined benefit scheme for staff, the Enhanced Pension Provision (EPP). The scheme is a defined benefit scheme which is externally funded and contracted out of the State Second Pension (S2P).

Defined Contribution Plan

A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution pension plans are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the periods during which services are rendered by employees.

Defined Benefit Plan

A defined benefit plan is a post-employment benefit plan other than a defined contribution plan. The University's net obligation in respect of defined benefit pension plans and other post-employment benefits is calculated separately for each plan by estimating the amount of future benefit that employees have earned in return for their service in the current and prior periods; that benefit is discounted to determine its present value, and the fair value of any plan assets (at bid price) and any unrecognised past service costs are deducted. The liability discount rate is the yield at the balance sheet date on AA credit rated bonds denominated in the currency of, and have maturity dates approximating to the terms of the University obligations. When the calculation results in a benefit to the University, the recognised asset is limited to the total of any unrecognised past services costs and the present value of benefits available in the form of any future refunds from the plan, reductions in future contributions to the plan or on settlement of the plan and takes account of the adverse effect of any minimum funding requirements.

The USS is a multi-employer scheme for which it is not possible to identify the assets and liabilities to the University members due to the nature of the scheme and therefore this scheme is accounted for as a defined contribution retirement benefit scheme. A liability is recorded within provisions for liabilities and charges for any contractual commitment to fund past deficits within the USS scheme (Note 23).

Retirement benefits for employees of the University are provided by defined benefit schemes, which are funded by contributions from the University and its employees.

The principal schemes for the University's staff are the Teacher's Pension Scheme (TPS) for academic and related staff, the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) and the Merseyside Pension (MPF) for non-academic staff. These are defined benefit schemes which are externally funded and contracted out of the State Earnings Related Pension Scheme.

Contributions to the scheme are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income so as to spread the cost of pensions over employee's working lives with the University in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of present and future pensionable payroll. Variations from regular costs are spread over the expected average remaining lifetime of members of the schemes after making allowances for further withdrawals. The contributions are determined by qualified actuaries.

IFRIC 14: limit on Defined Benefit Asset

The standard limits the measurement of the defined benefit asset to the present value of economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or a reduction in future contributions to the plan.

For both LGPS schemes the University has set a limit of 50 employees to determine the long-term viability of the scheme. If the scheme falls below 50 members we

recognise a 'short term' approach and calculate the present value of future projected service costs over the term determined by the difference between the average employee age and the normal retirement age. If the scheme remains above 50 members we recognise a 'perpetuity' approach and calculate the projected service costs in perpetuity.

Merseyside Pension Fund

There are 5 members in the pension scheme with an average age of 59. Although the scheme is 'open' the University does not necessarily encourage new employees to opt into MPF as the preferred pension fund. Three of the members to MPF have been transferred in rather than opted to join. For calculation purposes we have assumed the employees will retire at the age of 67 and therefore calculations this year are based on 8 years (average age (59) to retirement age (67)). Given the low membership of the scheme, and therefore uncertain future membership, MPF has been treated as a closed scheme

Greater Manchester Pension Fund

GMF is the preferred pension fund for Professional Services staff, new employees joining the University pension fund are automatically included within GMF. The actuary report confirms the active members in the fund is 350 (at 31st March 2022), the University calculates 349 active members at the end of July 2024 which demonstrates continuing membership. For calculation purposes we have assumed this fund will continue in perpetuity.

8. Employment benefits

Short term employment benefits such as salaries and compensated absences are recognised as an expense during the year in which the employees render service to the organisation. Any unused benefit is accrued and measured as the additional amount the University expects to pay as a result of the unused entitlement.

9. Maintenance of premises

The cost of routine corrective maintenance is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income as incurred.

10. Operating Leases

Costs in respect of operating leases are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income as incurred on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

11. Provisions

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

The calculation of the cost of early retirement provisions charged to the statement of comprehensive income in the year of retirement is based on the total capital cost of providing enhanced pensions with allowance for future investment returns at 2.5% in excess of price inflation.

An amount is included in provisions for liabilities and charges representing the extent to which the capital cost charged exceeds actual payments made. The provision will be released against the cost to the University of enhanced pension entitlements over the estimated life expectancy of each relevant employee. (See note 23).

12. Fixed assets

In 1980 the two former colleges, St. Katharine's and Christ's and Notre Dame, entered into a Deed of Adherence with the Liverpool Institute of Higher Education under which they provided their respective properties to the Institute. These were superseded in 1998 by similar Deeds of Arrangement of Membership with Liverpool Hope.

St. Katharine's College (Warrington Training College Incorporated), was granted a 99 year lease in 1963 from the Central Board of Finance of the Church of England for the properties provided to the Institute under the Deed of Adherence. The lease is renewable upon request for a second and final 99 years from 2062.

Christ's and Notre Dame College property is owned by the Trustees of Christ's and Notre Dame College. Under the Deed of Adherence, the property of the College was made available for the use of the Institute. These buildings have been included on the Statement of Financial Position since 2004/05 to reflect the fact that the University carries the majority of the benefits and liabilities of the buildings.

Under the terms of the Deed of Adherence, neither College shall withdraw from Liverpool Hope without the agreement of the remaining College and the consent of the Secretary of State for Education.

Subject to the appropriate agreements, written notice must be given at least five years prior to any withdrawal and, in the first instance, may only be given to expire no earlier than 31st August 2024.

Within the Trust Deed and the Deeds of Adherence between the Colleges and the Institute, those elements of the tangible fixed assets which are additions and/or improvements to buildings also become the property of the respective College Trustees.

Fixed assets land and buildings were subject to a full revaluation as at 31st July 2014 under a policy of periodic reappraisal at least every five years. The revaluation was undertaken by Eddisons, a firm of chartered surveyors and the basis of valuation has varied depending upon the nature of the property. The majority of properties were valued on a depreciated replacement cost basis, others such as St Michaels & St Julies at Aigburth and Gerard Manley Hopkins at Everton at market value. The accounting policy hitherto had been to revalue all land and

buildings within a class of revalued assets.

The revaluation carried out as at 31st July 2014 will serve henceforth as deemed cost in accordance with the SORP and no further revaluations will be taking place.

Where buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants the assets are capitalised and depreciated on the basis shown below. The related grants are treated as income and released to the statement of comprehensive income within the year in which the grant is received.

Finance costs which are directly attributable to the construction of land and buildings are not capitalised as part of the cost of those assets.

A review for impairment of a fixed asset is carried out if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount of the fixed asset may not be recoverable. During the year demolition of the Security Lodge is considered an indication of impairment and an accelerated depreciation charge will be included. An annual impairment review is also carried out annually across the Estate.

Buildings under construction are accounted for at cost, based on the value of architects' certificates and other direct costs incurred to 31st July. They are not depreciated until they are brought into use.

Building refurbishment works are capitalised subject to a minimum threshold of £20,000 per refurbishment project. Such costs are not depreciated until the works are completed. Costs of refurbishment projects costing less than £20,000 are written off to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period in which they are incurred.

Equipment costing less than £10,000 per individual item or group of related items constituting a single suite of equipment is written off to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

All assets are depreciated over their useful economic lives as follows, and a full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition or transfer:

Land & Buildings

Buildings existing at 31st July 2014
(As estimated)*

New buildings	50 years
Building refurbishments (greater than £20,000)	10-30 years

Vehicles

Motor vehicles	5 years
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Equipment

Computer equipment	5 years
Furniture & fittings	10 years

*As part of the revaluation carried out on 31st July 2014, the estimated useful lives of the existing buildings were reassessed in consultation with the firm of chartered surveyors who had carried out the revaluation. Estimates varied from building to building, ranging from a minimum of 10 years to a maximum of 60 years.

13. Taxation Status

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

The University is partially exempt in respect of Value Added Tax, so that it can only recover a minor element of VAT

charged as inputs. Irrecoverable VAT on inputs is included in the costs of such inputs and added to the cost of tangible fixed assets as appropriate, where the inputs themselves are tangible fixed assets by nature.

14. Bursaries and Scholarships

The University provides bursaries and scholarships to students from its own revenue funds. These bursaries and scholarships are shown in the Statement of Comprehensive Income, as expenditure, and not deducted from income.

The University also distributes bursaries on behalf of the Department of Education in relation to Teacher Training. The University only acts as agent and has no interest in these funds. As such, these transactions are not recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

15. Cash Flows, Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash flows comprise increases or decreases in cash. Cash includes cash in hand, deposits repayable on demand and overdrafts. Deposits are repayable on demand if they are in practice available within 24 hours without penalty. Cash Equivalents are short term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. They include term deposits, government securities and loan stock held as part of the University's Treasury Management activities and policies.

16. Finance Leases

Fixed assets held under hire purchase agreements and the related hire purchase obligations are recorded in the balance sheet and these assets are depreciated over their useful life. As at 31st July 2024 the University held no such assets.

17. Accounting Estimates and Judgements

Preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates, judgement and assumptions that affect the application of accounting policies and reported amounts of assets and liabilities, income and expenses. These estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on professional advice, historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Management consider the areas set out below to be those where critical accounting judgements have been applied and the resulting estimates and assumptions may lead to adjustments to the future carrying amounts of assets and liabilities:

Impairments: Management make judgements as to whether any indicators of impairment are present for any of the University's assets.

Recoverability of Debtors: The provision for bad debts is based on our estimate on the expected recovery of the debt. Assumptions are made based on the level of debtors who have defaulted historically.

Pensions: The University operates 3 defined benefit pension schemes, the Teacher's Pension Scheme (TPS), the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) and the Merseyside Pension (MPF). The present value of the University obligations is dependent on a number of factors including life expectancy, salary increases, asset valuations, liability periods and discount rates on corporate bonds. A qualified actuary estimates these values so management can determine net pension obligations in the balance sheet. This does not include an obligation to make contributions to fund past deficit payments.

18. Financial Instruments

The University's principal financial instruments are cash, investments and loans. The core objective of these instruments is to meet the financing needs of the University's operations. The fair value of each category of University's financial instruments are the same as their carrying value in the statement of financial position. The University has adopted to apply the provisions of both Section 11 and Section 12 of FRS102 in full.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

Year ended 31st July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Income			
Funding council grants	1	3,834,004	3,766,741
Tuition fees and short course fees	2	43,618,052	46,673,547
Research grants and contracts	3	195,221	202,846
Other operating income	4	7,447,256	6,640,797
Investment income	5	1,854,155	959,492
Total Income		56,948,688	58,243,423
Expenditure			
Staff costs	7	36,468,544	36,452,253
Other operating expenses	8	15,893,559	14,229,394
Depreciation	12	5,033,384	4,490,251
Interest and other finance costs	9	177,274	762,323
Total expenditure	11	57,572,761	55,934,221
Operating (deficit)/surplus		(624,073)	2,309,202
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme		5,091,294	13,230,452
Total comprehensive income for the year		4,467,221	15,539,654
Represented by:			
Restricted comprehensive income for the year		-	-
Unrestricted comprehensive income for the year		4,467,221	15,539,654

Statement of Changes in Reserves

Year ended 31st July 2024

	Unrestricted Reserve	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at 1 August 2023	136,406,938	29,563,739	165,970,677
Operating deficit	(624,073)	-	(624,073)
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme	5,091,294	-	5,091,294
Transfers	883,360	(883,360)	-
Balance at 31 July 2024	141,757,519	28,680,379	170,437,897

Statement of Changes in Reserves

Year ended 31st July 2023

	Unrestricted Reserve	Revaluation Reserve	Total
	£	£	£
Balance at 1 August 2022	119,939,885	30,491,136	150,431,021
Operating surplus	2,309,202	-	2,309,202
Actuarial gain in respect of pension scheme	13,230,452	-	13,230,452
Transfers	927,398	(927,398)	-
Balance at 31 July 2023	136,406,938	29,563,739	165,970,677

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 31st July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Non-current assets			
Tangible assets	12	137,147,225	133,719,104
Pension asset	24	19,643,000	15,112,000
		156,790,225	148,831,104
Current assets			
Debtors	13	2,066,062	2,064,731
Cash at bank and in hand Investments	14	12,154,694 9,500,000	19,100,566 10,000,000
		23,720,755	31,165,297
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	(7,543,572)	(10,073,649)
Net current assets		16,177,183	21,091,648
Total assets less current liabilities		172,967,408	169,922,752
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	16	(2,472,711)	(2,845,389)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	23	(56,800)	(1,106,686)
Total net assets		170,437,897	165,970,677
Unrestricted Reserves:			
Income and expenditure reserve		141,757,519	136,406,938
Revaluation reserve		28,680,378	29,563,739
Total funds		170,437,897	165,970,677

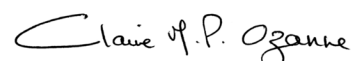
The financial statements on pages 58 to 86 were approved by the University Council on 20th November 2024, and signed on its behalf by:



Mr J Norbury
Chair of Finance & General
Purposes Committee



Mrs J Beever
Chair of University Council



Professor C Ozanne
Rector & Vice Chancellor

Statement of Cash Flows

Year ended 31st July 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(624,073)	2,309,202
Adjustment for non-cash items		
Depreciation	5,033,384	4,490,251
Investment income	(1,854,155)	(959,492)
Interest payable	177,274	762,323
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors	(1,331)	(146,639)
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	(2,550,092)	(2,616,400)
Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	(11,597)	(11,316)
Pension costs	298,000	973,000
Adjustment for investing or financing activities		
Capital grants utilised in year	(441,068)	(235,602)
Net cash inflow from operating activities	26,342	4,565,327
Cash flows from investing activities		
Capital grants received	441,068	235,602
Payments to acquire fixed assets	(8,461,505)	(14,550,849)
(Gain) / Loss on tangible fixed assets	-	(51,432)
Proceeds from sale of tangible fixed assets	-	92,475
Withdrawal/ (New) Deposits	500,000	12,750,000
	(7,520,437)	(1,524,204)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Other interest received	1,075,287	844,492
Interest paid	(174,401)	(722,586)
Repayments of borrowed amounts	(352,662)	(331,697)
	548,224	(209,791)
(Decrease)/Increase in cash	(6,945,873)	2,831,332

Notes (forming part of the financial statements)

1. Funding council grants

	2024	2023
	£	£
Recurrent Grant – OfS	1,500,210	1,517,775
Specific		
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council - EPSRC	1,447,246	1,553,111
Higher Education Innovation Fund	499,485	466,414
OfS Hardship Fund	-	58,839
EPSRC Special initiatives	322,349	120,000
ITT Accreditation	32,514	-
Capital Grants	32,200	50,602
	3,834,004	3,766,741

2. Tuition fees and short course fees

	2024	2023
	£	£
Full-time students	38,860,684	41,293,537
Full-time students charged overseas fees	2,389,852	2,898,577
Part-time students	546,349	672,723
	41,796,885	44,864,837
Short course fees	1,821,168	1,808,710
Total	43,618,052	46,673,547

3. Research grants and contracts

	2024	2023
	£	£
Research councils	14,468	-
Research charities	63,909	10,359
Industry and commerce	34,744	103,851
Other	82,100	88,636
Total	195,221	202,846

4. Other operating income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Residences, catering and conferences	6,164,868	6,164,872
Other income	735,704	390,925
Capital Grants – (Salix)	546,684	85,000
	<u>7,447,256</u>	<u>6,640,797</u>

Note: Salix grants: 2023/24 £441,068 Capital, £106,616 Revenue. 2022/23 £85,000 Capital.

5. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest receivable	<u>1,854,155</u>	<u>959,492</u>

6. Grant and fee income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grant income from the OfS	1,500,210	1,517,775
Grant income from other bodies	2,333,794	2,248,966
Fee income for taught awards (exclusive of VAT)	42,029,775	45,300,694
Fee income for research awards (exclusive of VAT)	298,877	207,908
	<u>46,162,656</u>	<u>49,275,343</u>
Total		

Note: excludes research grants and contracts as they are shown separately in Note 3

7. Staff costs (including directors' emoluments)

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	27,729,629	27,547,817
Social security costs	2,840,898	2,750,423
Other pension costs	5,751,325	5,320,725
FRS102 staff pension adjustments	146,692	833,288
	<u>36,468,544</u>	<u>36,452,253</u>
Total		

The average numbers of staff employed by the University (FTE)

	2024	2023
	Number FTE	Number FTE
Academic	309	314
Administrative and technical	231	228
Manual and ancillary	102	102
Total	642	644

Emoluments of the Vice-chancellor & Rector

	23/24	22/23	22/23	22/23
	Prof Claire Ozanne	Prof Claire Ozanne	Dr Penny Haugan	Prof Gerald Pillay
	£	£	£	£
Salary	250,000	104,167	28,775	152,330
Benefits (Company Car)	-	-	-	2,773
Pension	63,367	19,733	3,053	36,072
Total	313,367	123,900	31,827	191,175
		From 1 March 2023	*Interim VC 1-28 February	To 31st January 2023

The emoluments of the Vice-chancellor & Rector are shown on the same basis as for higher paid staff (excluding employer's social security contributions). The University's pension contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme are paid on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor & Rector at the same rate as for other academic staff (23.68%).

Historically, the Remuneration Committee has an established policy of placing the Vice Chancellor's salary within the top decile of heads of institutions that were granted University status in 2005

dependent on satisfactory performance. This recognises the experience of Professor Pillay as one of the longest serving Vice Chancellor's in the sector and his pivotal role in both the creation of the strategic vision for the University and driving forward its implementation.

The median salary has been calculated in accordance with the guidance provided by the OfS, determining the full-year, full-time equivalent for each worker employed during the year and ranking them from high to low. In the absence of specific guidance for determining the mid-point

value within this list, the University has chosen to do so by making a cumulative total of the full-time equivalent fraction (FTE) for each worker and then finding the midpoint of that cumulative total, thus taking full account of the relative statistical significance of individual workers according to their FTEs.

All payments to Directors are in respect of services as members of staff and relate to the period of office. Where appropriate these emoluments are also included in the bands for higher paid staff.

Doctor Penny Haughan

Basic Salary Ratio 2024: not applicable (2023: £38,974: 8.86 times)

Total Remuneration Ratio 2024: not applicable (2023: £47,701: 8.11 times)

Professor Claire Ozanne

Basic Salary Ratio (Based on a median pay rate of £39,347): 6.35 times (2023: £38,974: 6.36 times)

Total Remuneration Ratio (Based on a median pay rate of £49,320): 6.35 times (2023: £47,071: 6.27 times)

Professor Gerald Pillay

Basic Salary Ratio 2024: not applicable (2023: £38,974; 7.82 times)

Total Remuneration Ratio 2024: not applicable (2023: £47,071: 8.12 times)

The number of the staff, including senior post-holders and the Vice Chancellor & Rector, who received remuneration excluding employer pension contributions in the following ranges was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
£100,000 - £104,999	3	2
£105,000 - £109,999	-	1
£110,000 - £114,999	2	1
£135,000 - £139,999	1	1
£150,000 - £154,999	1	-
£155,000 - £159,999	-	1
£170,000 - £174,999	-	1
£250,000 - £254,999	1	-
	8	7

Key Management Personnel

2024 Number	2023 Number
1,071,838	1,157,817

While administration of the University is controlled and managed by the University Council, the day to day operations are conducted by the University Senior Executive Team, the Academic Leadership Team and the Operational Leadership Team. The figure disclosed comprises total gross salaries of the University

Senior Executive Team excluding employer's pension and national insurance contributions.

Severance Payments - Payments were made to 14 individual members of staff equating to £402,247.

8. Other operating expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Residences, catering and conference operating expenses	710,251	714,206
Teaching departments	2,566,356	2,371,184
Books and periodicals	582,702	574,099
Heat, light, water and power	2,900,495	2,003,723
Repairs and general maintenance	1,743,975	1,961,164
Grants to Liverpool Hope Students' Union	273,000	260,000
External auditors' remuneration	157,760	111,718
Other support services	596,688	650,951
Administration and central services	4,393,558	3,585,318
Other income generating activities	340,097	535,622
Other operating expenses	1,628,595	1,460,576
Reimbursement of Trustees' expenses	82	833
	15,893,559	14,229,394

In 2023/24 the Trustees' expenses related to travel amounted to £82 (2022/23 - £833).

	2024	2023
	£	£
External auditor's remuneration in respect of audit services	120,000	103,968
Audit related assurance services	37,760	9,000
	157,760	111,718

9. Interest and other finance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interest payable on bank loans not wholly repayable within five years	174,401	195,366
Pension fund interest payable	2,873	39,736
Interest payable on finance lease	-	527,221
	177,274	762,323

10. Access and Participation

	2024	2023
	£	£
Access Investment	559,227	460,217
Financial Support	216,283	400,217
Disability Support	634,921	632,547
Research and Evaluation	-	-
	1,410,431	1,492,981

As a small institution, the access and participation activities are embedded within the operations of the University and cannot be easily identified as stand-alone costs for the target student population. For some of the categories of expenditure these are subjective in nature. Therefore, the total costs are used and then a percentage of these costs shown as countable expenditure: 61% for Access Investment as this is the average percentage of our students who fall into the APP countable category, Financial Support includes 65% of Learning Support

Fund plus an uplift of 25% on staff costs for overheads, Disability Support cost is uplifted by 25% for overheads.

£869,157 of these costs relates to staff costs and have already been included in the overall staff expenditure figure in note 7.

https://www.hope.ac.uk/media/aboutus/governancedocuments/LiverpoolHopeUniversity_APP_2020-21_V1_10003956%20submitted%2002-02-21.pdf

11. Analysis of expenditure

	Staff costs	Depreciation	Interest payable	Other operating expenses	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Academic departments	23,205,873	-	-	2,566,356	25,772,229
Academic support services	2,064,327	-	-	1,680,441	3,744,768
Other support services	1,642,458	-	-	869,688	2,512,145
Administration and central services	4,473,427	-	-	4,551,400	9,024,827
General education expenditure	-	-	-	52,954	52,954
Premises	3,270,573	-	-	5,122,373	8,392,946
Other income generating activities	393,621	-	-	340,097	733,718
Residences, catering and conferences	1,271,573	-	-	710,250	1,981,823
Depreciation	-	5,033,384	-	-	5,033,384
Interest payable	-	-	177,274	-	177,274
FRS 102 pension costs adjustment	146,692	-	-	-	146,692
Total per statement of comprehensive income	36,468,544	5,033,384	177,274	15,893,559	57,572,761

12. Fixed Assets

	Assets in the course of construction	Land and Buildings	Equipment	Vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Deemed cost					
At 1 August 2023	10,586,618	150,179,352	13,364,428	124,250	174,254,648
Additions at cost	6,008,417	1,415,375	978,792	58,920	8,461,504
Disposals at cost	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers	(14,799,683)	14,799,683	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	1,795,352	166,394,410	14,343,220	183,170	182,716,152
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2023	-	30,717,426	9,720,689	97,429	40,535,544
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Charge for the year	-	4,145,282	867,377	20,725	5,033,384
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	-	34,862,707	10,588,067	118,154	45,568,928
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 July 2023	10,586,618	119,461,926	3,643,739	26,821	133,719,104
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 July 2024	1,795,352	131,531,703	3,755,153	65,017	137,147,225
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Included in the 2023 net book value of land and buildings was £7,543,437 which related to Gerard Manley Hopkins Hall, formerly held under a hire purchase agreement. This included a net premium of £2,673,097 paid in July 2023 to acquire the unencumbered freehold. This net premium was treated as an addition to land and

buildings. The net premium consisted of £9,000,000 less the outstanding hire purchase creditor.

Fixed assets include £8,921,000 in relation to land. The land has not been depreciated in the accounts.

13. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	1,123,273	943,116
Sundry debtors	35,728	29,056
Prepayments and accrued income	907,060	1,092,559
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,066,061	2,064,731
	<hr/>	<hr/>

14. Investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Deposits maturing in one year or less	9,500,000	10,000,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Two fixed term deposits with Santander for £5,000,000 and £4,500,000.

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Loans	372,676	352,661
Trade creditors	1,236,058	2,659,119
Social security and other taxation payable	1,387,461	1,401,051
Accruals and deferred income	4,547,377	5,660,818
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,543,572	10,073,649
	<hr/>	<hr/>

16. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Loans secured on residential and other property repayable by 2030	2,472,711	2,845,389
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,472,711	2,845,389
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Analysis of secured and unsecured loans:	2024 £	2023 £
Due within one year or on demand (Note 15)	372,676	352,661
Due between one and two years	394,378	372,676
Due between two and five years	1,325,729	1,252,592
Due in five years or more	752,604	1,220,121
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Debt due after more than one year	2,472,711	2,845,389
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total secured and unsecured loans	2,845,387	3,198,050
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Interest/terms on loans:

	Original Value £	Interest rate %	Basis	Number of years remaining
Student accommodation	8,300,000	5.72 1.10	£7m Fixed £1.3m Variable	7

The loan relates to student accommodation and is secured on the relevant asset of the University. The loan will be repaid by instalments over the period of the loan.

17. Reconciliation of cash flow to Statement of Financial Position

	2023 £	Cash flows £	2024 £
Cash at bank	19,100,566	(6,945,873)	12,154,694
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

18. Capital and other commitments

Provision has not been made for the following capital commitments at 31 July

	2024 £	2023 £
Capital commitments	1,104,725	6,288,983

19. Training bursary payments

	2024 £	2023 £
Grant paid by Department of Education (DfE)	2,150,600	967,500
Payments to trainees	(2,136,600)	(991,400)
Grant due to/(from) DfE at end of year	14,000	(23,900)

During the year the University administered the Training Bursary Scheme for PGCE students. The University acts only as paying

agent. The grants and related disbursements are therefore excluded from the statement of comprehensive income.

20. Related party disclosures

Due to the nature of the University's operations and the composition of the University Council (being drawn from local public and private sector organisations), it is inevitable that transactions will take place with organisations in which a Member of the Board may have an interest. All transactions involving organisations in which a member of the board of governors may have an

interest are conducted at arm's length and in accordance with the University's financial regulations and normal procurement procedures. Council members declare their interests and the University updates the register of interests annually.

Included in the financial statements are the following transactions with related parties:

	Income £	Expenditure £
Rev Peter Winn Chair of Governing Body, St Margaret's C of E Primary School	-	300
Fr Christopher McCoy Governor, Holy Spirit Primary School	1,386	-
Dr Penny Haughan Chair of Governors, Locking Stumps Community Primary School	15,096	-
Ms Lesley Martin-Wright Company Secretary, Knowsley Chamber of Industry & Commerce	-	7,200

The nature of expenditure transactions relates to payments to schools on behalf of students all payments with the exception of £7,200 to Knowsley Chamber of Commerce,

were made during the financial year 2023/24 and there were no debtors or creditors at the year end.

21. Connected Charitable Institutions

The University is connected to one charitable institution, Liverpool Hope Carter Preston Foundation which was set up in its current state in April 2012. The University appoints two of the trustees. The Foundation has minimal income and expenditure related

to its investments and administration. The net book value of Heritage assets on the Statement of Financial Position were £305,270 and the Foundation had £31,005 in its current account as at 31 July 2024.

22. Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Obligation to fund deficit on USS pension £	Pension enhancement on termination £	Total pension provision £
At 1st August 2023	1,049,224	57,462	1,106,686
Movement in year	(38,553)	(11,597)	(50,150)
Interest cost	24,132	2,873	27,005
Actuarial gain	(1,034,803)	8,062	(1,026,741)
	<u>-</u>	<u>56,800</u>	<u>56,800</u>

The obligation to fund the past deficit on the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) arises from the contractual obligation with the USS to deficit payments in accordance with the deficit recovery plan that was put in place as part of the 2020 valuation. As set out in Note 20, no deficit recovery plan was required under the 2023 valuation

because the scheme was in a surplus on a technical provisions basis. The institution is no longer required to make deficit recovery contributions from 1 January 2024 and accordingly released the outstanding provision to the statement of comprehensive income.

23. Pension and similar obligations

The University's employees belong to three principal pension schemes, the Teachers' Pension Scheme England and Wales (TPS) for academic and related staff, the Greater

Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) and the Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF) for non-academic staff. The total pension cost for the period was £5,751,325 (2023: £5,332,486).

	2024 £	2023 £
As at 1 August	(15,112,000)	(2,862,000)
(Decrease)/Increase in liability	(4,531,000)	(12,250,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
As at 31st July	(19,643,000)	(15,112,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
The University's pension (asset)/ liability is analysed as follows:	£	£
Greater Manchester Pension Fund	(19,281,000)	(14,781,000)
Merseyside Pension Fund	(362,000)	(331,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(19,643,000)	(15,112,000)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Accounting Surplus

LGPS surplus can only be recognised to the limit of the present value of the projected future service rates. The GMPF surplus of £19,281k can be fully recognised as the present value of projected services costs is greater than the surplus, the fund is open to new members and is therefore valued in perpetuity. The MPF actuary, Mercer, provided a valuation of the schemes present value of future accounting service costs in the case of both closed and open schemes. Given the low membership of the scheme, and therefore uncertain future membership, MPF has been treated as a closed scheme and the accounting surplus has been limited to £362k as per the Mercer report.

Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS)

The Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is a statutory, contributory, defined benefit scheme, governed by the Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010, and, from 1 April 2014, by the Teachers' Pension Scheme Regulations 2014. These regulations apply to teachers in schools and other educational establishments, including academies, in England and Wales that are maintained by local authorities. In addition, teachers in many independent and voluntary-aided schools and teachers and lecturers in some establishments of further and higher education may be eligible for membership.

Membership is automatic for full-time teachers and lecturers and, from 1 January 2007, automatic too for teachers and lecturers in part-time employment following appointment or a change of contract. Teachers and lecturers are able to opt out of the TPS.

The Teachers' Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account

Although members may be employed by various bodies, their retirement and other pension benefits are set out in regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972 and are paid by public funds provided by Parliament. The TPS is an unfunded scheme and members contribute on a 'pay as you go' basis – these contributions, along with those made by employers, are credited to the Exchequer under arrangements governed by the above Act.

The Teachers' Pensions Regulations 2010 require an annual account, the Teacher's Pension Budgeting and Valuation Account, to be kept of receipts and expenditure (including the cost of pension increases). From 1 April 2001, the Account has been credited with a real rate of return, which is equivalent to assuming that the balance in the Account is invested in notional investments that produce that real rate of return.

Valuation of the Teachers' Pension Scheme

The latest actuarial review of the TPS was carried out as at 31 March 2020 and in accordance with The Public Service Pensions (Valuations and Employer Cost Cap) Directions 2014. The valuation report was published by the Department for Education (the Department) on 26 October 2023. The key results of the valuation are:

- employer contribution rates were set at 28.6% of pensionable pay;
- total scheme liabilities for service to the effective date of £262.0 billion, and notional assets of £222.0 billion, giving a notional past service deficit of £39.8 billion
- an employer cost cap of 10.9% of pensionable pay.

The employer contribution rate for the TPS was implemented in April 2024.

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

TPS 31 March 2020 Actuarial Valuation Report

Scheme Changes

Following the Hutton report in March 2011 and the subsequent consultations with trade unions and other representative bodies on reform of the TPS, the Department published a Proposed Final Agreement, setting out the design for a reformed TPS to be implemented from 1 April 2024.

The key provisions of the reformed scheme include: a pension based on career average earnings; an accrual rate of 1/57th; and a Normal Pension Age equal to State Pension Age, but with options to enable members to retire earlier or later than their Normal Pension Age. Importantly, pension benefits built up before 1 April 2015 will be fully protected.

In addition, the Proposed Final Agreement includes a Government commitment that those within 10 years of Normal Pension Age on 1 April 2012 will see no change to the age at which they can retire, and no decrease in the amount of pension they receive

when they retire. There will also be further transitional protection, tapered over a three and a half year period, for people who would fall up to three and a half years outside of the 10 year protection.

Regulations giving effect to a reformed Teachers' Pension Scheme came into force on 1 April 2014 and the reformed scheme commenced on 1 April 2024.

The pension costs paid to TPS in the year amounted to £3,506,527 (2023: £3,109,001).

Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF)

The GMPF is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in a separate trustee administered fund.

The total contribution made for the year ended 31 July 2024 was £2,665,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £1,986,000 and employee's contributions totalled £679,000. The agreed contribution rates for future years are 19.1% for employers and ranges between 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, dependent on salary.

The CPI assumption has been adjusted to recognise the impact of the 2024 PI Order and its medium and long term effects on discount rates and inflation. The CPI assumption has been updated to make allowance for inflation experience since October 2023 being higher than assumed. This adjustment has resulted in the CPI assumption being 0.5% p.a. lower at short durations (less than 17 years), and no change at medium durations (between 17 and 23 years) and at long durations (more than 23 years), compared to the assumption that would have been derived using the methodology adopted at 31 July 2022.

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund as 31 March 2022 updated to 31 July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

	2024	2023	2022
Rate of increase in salaries	3.55%	3.80%	3.45%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment/inflation	2.75%	3.00%	2.70%
Discount rate for liabilities	5.00%	5.05%	3.50%
Commutation of pension to lump sums	50.00%	50.00%	55.00%

The mortality assumptions as at 31 July 2024 include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates in line with the latest Continuous Mortality Investigation

(CMI) The assumed life expectancies are based on age 45 for future pensioners and aged 65 for current pensioners as per the latest triennial valuation.

	At 31 July 2024	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
Retiring today			
Males	20.20	20.20	20.30
Females	23.70	23.70	23.20
Retiring in 20 years			
Males	21.10	21.20	21.60
Females	24.70	24.70	25.10

The sensitivities regarding the principal assumptions used to measure the scheme obligations are:

Change in assumptions at 31 July 2024	Approximate% Increase to DBO	Approximate monetary amount
		£000
0.1% decrease in Real Discount Rate	2%	1,241
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4%	2,404
0.1% increase in the Salary Increase Rate	0%	71
0.1% increase in the Pension Increase Rate (CPI)	2%	1,194

The University's share of assets in the scheme (which is estimated at less than 1% of total scheme assets) and the estimated rates of

return (are based on actual returns to 30th June 2024 and adjusted to calculate the estimated returns as at 31st July 2024) were:

	Value at 31 July 24	Value at 31 July 23	Value at 31 July 22
	£000	£000	£000
Equities	54,777	50,886	48,152
Bonds	11,908	10,034	10,622
Property	6,351	5,734	6,373
Cash	6,351	5,017	5,665
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Share of total market value of assets	79,387	71,671	70,812
Present value of scheme liabilities			
- Funded	(60,085)	(56,868)	(68,268)
- Unfunded	(21)	(22)	(24)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) in the scheme	19,281	14,781	2,520
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Analysis of the amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Current service cost	(1,847)	(2,807)	(4,975)
Past service cost (including curtailments)	(394)	(12)	(50)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total service cost	(2,241)	(2,819)	(5,025)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Analysis of pension finance income

	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Interest income on plan assets	3,641	2,495	1,042
Interest cost on defined benefit obligation	(2,901)	(2,423)	(1,567)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net interest	740	72	(525)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total defined benefit recognised in the statement of comprehensive income	(1,501)	(2,747)	(5,550)

Movement in deficit during year

	2024	2023
	£'000	£'000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) in scheme	14,781	2,520
Movement in year:		
Current service charge	(1,847)	(2,807)
Past service charge (including curtailments)	(394)	(12)
Net interest / return on assets	740	72
Contributions	1,986	1,911
Remeasurements recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive income	4,015	13,097
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit) in scheme at end of year	19,281	14,781

History of experience gains or losses

	2024 £	2023 £	2022 £	2021 £	2020 £
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	3,204	(2,699)	4,134	9,903	(3,826)
Value of Assets	79,387	71,671	70,812	64,700	53,058
% of scheme assets	4.04%	(3.77%)	5.84%	15.31%	(7.21%)
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities	(811)	(15,796)	(33,430)	9,266	4,925
Total present value of liabilities	(60,106)	(56,890)	(68,292)	(95,888)	(81,975)
% of Total present value of scheme liabilities	1.35%	27.77%	48.95%	(9.66%)	(6.01%)
Actuarial gain/(loss) recognised in statement of comprehensive income	4,015 (6.68%)	13,097 (23.02%)	37,564 (55.00%)	637 (0.66%)	(8,751) 10.68%
% of the present value of liabilities					

Merseyside Pension Fund (MPF)

The MPF is a funded defined benefit scheme, with the assets held in separate trustee administered funds. The total contribution made for the year ended 31 July 2024 was £170,000 of which employer's contributions totalled £153,000, £151,000 of this was offset by deficit contributions credits and employees' contributions totalled £17,000.

The agreed contribution rates for future years are 64.1% for employers and ranges between 5.5% to 12.5% for employees, dependent on salary.

The following information is based upon a full actuarial valuation of the fund as at 31 March 2022 updated to 31 July 2024 by a qualified independent actuary.

	2024	2023	2022
Rate of increase in salaries	4.20%	4.20%	4.20%
Rate of increase in pensions in payment/inflation	2.80%	2.80%	2.80%
Discount rate for liabilities	4.90%	5.30%	3.40%
Commutation of pension to lump sum	50.00%	50.00%	50.00%

The mortality assumptions as at 31 July 2024 include sufficient allowance for future improvements in mortality rates but does not include the potential effects of Covid-19 this is mainly because there remains uncertainty of the Covid-19 impact on long term mortality rates for pension scheme

members. This will be monitored in future periods and will be updated as appropriate. The assumed life expectancies are based on age 45 for future pensioners and aged 65 for current pensioners as per the latest triennial valuation.

	At 31 July 2024	At 31 July 2023	At 31 July 2022
Retiring today			
Males	20.80	20.80	20.90
Females	23.40	23.30	24.00
Retiring in 20 years			
Males	22.00	22.10	22.40
Females	25.10	25.10	25.90

The University's share of assets in the scheme (which is estimated at 0.2% of total scheme assets) and the estimated rates of return (are

based on actual returns to 30th June 2024 and adjusted to calculate the estimated returns as at 31st July 2024) were:

	Value at 31 July 24	Value at 31 July 23	Value at 31 July 22
	£000	£000	£000
Equities	2,713	2,980	3,020
Bonds – government	1,155	865	1,772
Bonds – other	396	269	661
Property	574	688	670
Cash & other	1,762	1,749	2,042
IFRIC14 surplus adjustment	(745)	(859)	(896)
Total market value of assets	5,855	5,692	7,269
Present value of scheme liabilities			
- Funded	(5,490)	(5,356)	(6,923)
- Unfunded	(3)	(5)	(4)
	362	331	342

Analysis of the amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income

	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Employer service cost (net of employee contributions)	(44)	(66)	(62)
Past service cost	0	0	0
Total operating credit/(charge)	(44)	(66)	(62)

Analysis of pension finance income/(costs)

	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Interest on plan assets	337	273	127
Interest on pension scheme liabilities	(274)	(230)	(128)
Pension finance costs	63	43	(1)
	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Actual return on plan assets	87	(1,617)	244
Experience gains and losses arising on the scheme liabilities	26	190	(465)
Change in financial and demographic assumptions underlying the scheme liabilities	(216)	1,401	1,691
IFRIC14 surplus adjustment	(745)	(859)	(896)
Total remeasurement included within statement of comprehensive income	(848)	(885)	574

Movement in deficit during year

	2024	2023	2022
	£000	£000	£000
Deficit in scheme at beginning of year	331	342	(170)
Movement in year:			
Current service charge	(44)	(66)	(62)
Contributions	2	2	2
Past service costs	0	0	0
Administration costs	(1)	(1)	(1)
Settlements and Curtailments	-	-	-
Net interest/return on assets	63	43	(1)
Actuarial gain	(103)	(26)	1,470
IFRIC14 surplus adjustment	114	37	(896)
Surplus/(Deficit) in scheme at end of year	362	331	342

History of experience gains or losses

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Return on assets excluding amounts included in net interest	87	(1,617)	244	914	(82)
Value of assets	5,855	5,692	7,269	8,060	7,331
% of scheme assets	1.49%	(28.41%)	3.36%	11.34%	(1.12%)
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities	190	(1,591)	(1,226)	55	(342)
Total present value of liabilities	(5,493)	(5,361)	(6,927)	(8,230)	(8,302)
% of Total present value of scheme liabilities	(3.46%)	29.7%	17.7%	(0.67%)	4.12%
Actuarial gain/(loss) recognised in statement of comprehensive income % of the present value of liabilities	(848) 15.44%	(885) 16.51%	574 (8.29%)	859 (10.44%)	260 (3.13%)

Actuarial Gain in respect of pension scheme

	2024 £	2023 £
GMP	4,015,000	13,097,000
MPF	11,000	11,000
USS	1,073,356	112,732
EPP	(8,062)	9,720
	5,091,294	13,230,452

Recent changes in global and UK economic pressures and tightening of monetary policy have had a significant impact on asset markets and corporate bonds yields, which are key to the FRS102 assessment of the net pension asset or liability. In particular, AA corporate bond yields, used to set the FRS102 discount rate have increased significantly since 31 July 2023, with corresponding falls in asset values. The markets have been exceptionally volatile and therefore while both gross defined benefit obligations and assets will have fallen, it is difficult to estimate the impact of these changes on the net balance sheet position.

In June 2023, the High Court handed down a decision in the case of Virgin Media Limited v NTL Pension Trustees II Limited and others relating to the validity of certain historical pension changes due to the lack of actuarial confirmation required by law. In July 2024, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal brought by Virgin Media Ltd against aspects of the June 2023 decision. The conclusions

reached by the court in this case may have implications for other UK defined benefit plans. Liverpool Hope University, Hymans and Mercers are monitoring developments in terms of whether there is expected to be any impact on LGPS Funds and will consider if there are any implications for the MPF and GMPF. As a result, Liverpool Hope University does not consider it necessary to make any allowance for the potential impact of the Virgin Media case in its financial statements.

24. Financial Instruments

The University operates a treasury management function which is responsible for managing the credit, liquidity and interest risk. These financial risks are managed within the parameters specified in the approved Treasury Management Policy. The Treasury Management Policy adopts the key recommendations of the Chartered Institute of Public Practice (CIPFA)'S 'Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice.

The University's principal financial instruments are cash, investments and loans. The core objective of these financial instruments is to meet the financing needs of the University's operations. The University also has other financial assets and liabilities arising directly from its operations such as trade debtors and creditors.

Credit risk arises from bank balances, investments, student debtor and commercial customers. Student and commercial debtors

are reviewed on an ongoing basis and a bad debt provision is made if recovery becomes uncertain, or written off if deemed irrecoverable.

Liquidity risk refers to the risk that the University will not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Daily, weekly and monthly monitoring of cash position and regular cashflow forecasts are part of the control environment and planning throughout the year. The University policy is to maintain a balance of no more than £10m with any single banking organisation.

Interest rate risk refers to the likelihood that changes in interest rates will result in fluctuations in the value of balance sheet items.

The fair values of each category of the University's financial instruments are the same as their carrying value on the statement of financial position.

Financial Assets

	2024 £	2023 £
Investments	9,500,000	10,000,000
Trade & Other Receivables	1,159,001	972,171
Cash & Cash Equivalents	12,154,694	19,100,566
	22,813,695	30,072,737
Financial Liabilities	2024 £	2023 £
Loans	2,845,387	3,198,050
Trade & Other Payables	1,236,058	2,659,119
	4,081,445	5,857,169

25. Reconciliation of Net Debt

	2024 £	2023 £
Net Debt at 1 August	(15,902,516)	(6,517,144)
Movement in Cash & Cash Equivalents	(6,945,872)	2,831,332
Other non-cash changes	13,539,081	(12,216,704)
Net Debt at 31 July	(9,309,307)	(15,902,516)
Change in Net Debt	6,593,209	(9,385,372)

Analysis of Net Debt

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash & Cash Equivalents less:	12,154,694	19,100,566
Borrowings: amounts falling due within 1 year		
Secured Loans	372,676	352,661
Borrowings: amounts falling due after 1 year		
Secured loans	2,472,711	2,845,389
Net Debt	(9,309,307)	(15,902,516)



LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY

1844

Liverpool Hope University Financial **Statements** for year ending 31st July 2024

Registered Company Number: 3285547

A company limited by guarantee,
without share capital, registered in England

Registered Charity number: 1060579