

Mr Jackson highlighted the identified audit risks listed on pages 3-4 of the report. He advised that additional work had been carried out in each of these areas and no issues had arisen from this, with nothing to report.

There were two minor issues which had been raised regarding internal controls. Mr Jackson advised that a satisfactory management response had been provided for both. It was also noted that audit findings from the previous year which had been followed up were found to be largely resolved, and no further issues had been raised.

With reference to regularity assurance findings, Mr Jackson highlighted that this included detailed testing and review of financial procedures and compliance with the Academies Financial Handbook. He advised that one observation had been made in regards to regularity, and confirmed that this had now been addressed. Mr Jackson further reported that observations followed up from last year's report had been resolved where it was possible to do so.

Mr Verrier provided an overview of the data analytics within the report. He advised that these supported the auditors' assessment that the Trust operated a good system of financial control, and the higher risk transactions within the nominal ledger had been adequately evidenced to appropriate supporting information and/or justification.

Mr Verrier then highlighted page 18 of the report, relating to disclosures. He confirmed that there were no issues to note to Trustees. Furthermore, having reviewed and assessed the Trustees' assumption that the Trust remained a going concern, the auditors had nothing to note in this regard.

Trustees noted the remainder of the report, which contained draft wording for the letter of representation, which would require signature following approval by Trustees.

Annual Report and Financial Statements 2019-20

Mr Jackson highlighted that the report at the start of the financial statements reminded Trustees of their duty to ensure that the Trust was acting for public benefit at all times, having regard to the guidance set out by the Charity Commission and guidance within the Charities Act.

With reference to page 9, Mr Jackson highlighted a slight change in the Trust's Reserves Policy, taking the expected or target free reserves from £0.8m to £1.2m. Mr Jackson reported that actual reserves available, excluding designated reserves, was £1.856m at year end.

With reference to page 11, Mr Jackson highlighted a new section to the report, regarding streamlined energy and carbon reporting.

With reference to page 18, it was noted that confirmation had been given that nothing had been found during the year to report on in terms of regularity or impropriety. Mr Jackson confirmed that the audit findings report supported this statement.

Mr Jackson highlighted again Trustees' responsibilities as set out on page 19, and the need for these to be understood with regards to the financial statements. Mr Jackson confirmed that the external auditors would be signing a clean and unmodified audit report. He advised that in the view of the auditors the accounts showed a true and fair view, and no other reference had needed to be made within the audit and regularity reports.

Mr Jackson highlighted to Trustees the Statement of Financial Accounts (SOFA) on page 25, which set out the income and expenditure in-year. He advised that income was at £28.6m with

	<p>expenditure of £28.8m. Mr Jackson noted that the Trust had comfortable reserves and also a GAG carry forward from the previous year, and there were no concerns with the figures on this page. Mr Jackson highlighted the £317k movement at the bottom of the SOFA, which related to the deferred benefit pension scheme for local government employees.</p> <p>The balance sheet net assets were £46.2m, largely relating to land and buildings. Mr Jackson advised that this was very positive, with the cash position at year end increasing to £5.8m. He noted that a slight adjustment of salary costs of £1.8m which had not been transferred across at year end and had been included in accruals. Mr Jackson also highlighted the deferred benefit scheme liability which showed a liability of £9.6m at year end.</p> <p>It was noted that unrestricted funds, to be used in accordance with the aims and objectives of the trust were around £2m. Mr Jackson advised that of this, just under £1m had been designated for school improvement projects, including an additional £400k which had been allocated to the ICT equality fund and was yet to be spent.</p> <p>Page 49 of the report provided a breakdown of funds by school, which in most cases was looking positive. Mr Jackson reported that both Forest of Galtres and Vale of York showed a deficit at year end, and comments had been made within the report with regards to both of these, and how the Trust was dealing with these deficits.</p> <p>Mr Jackson completed his overview by referring to the final page of the report, relating to the Teaching School. He advised that this showed an in-year surplus of £51k, which when added to the figure brought forward gave a fund carry forward of £86k.</p> <p>Trustees thanked Mr Jackson and Mr Verrier for their report.</p> <p>The Finance Director highlighted three points within the report which still required updating, and which would be addressed before final sign off:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The inclusion of a statement regarding recognition of the Church of England’s position on sustainability on page 11. - An amendment to Note 14 on page 45 which referred to Trustee expenses. The Finance Director confirmed that this did not relate to a Trustee, and would be updated. - Correction of spelling of Lesley Welsh’s name on the list of senior leaders. <p>A question was raised as to whether page 5 of the report should also make reference to the Methodist designation as well as the Church of England. The CEO confirmed that she would check this and include if required.</p> <p><i>Trustees expressed their thanks to the Finance Director, Financial Controller and finance team for the guidance and support they had provided throughout the year. It was agreed that the accounts showed a stable position moving forward, though Trustees recognised that there was a need to keep some reserves in place for any unforeseen issues which may arise.</i></p> <p><i>APPROVED: Trustees approved the Annual Report and Financial Statements and authorised the CEO and Chair of the Board to sign these documents. Trustees also recognised and received the Audit Findings Report.</i></p> <p><i>[Jonathan Verrier and Mike Jackson left the meeting at 6.40pm]</i></p>	
3.	<p><u>Minutes from the meeting held on 4th November 2020, Action Plan and Matters Arising</u> Previously distributed. The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.</p>	

	<p>With reference to the Action Plan:</p> <p><i>1. It was agreed that the Chair should write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Mandy Bowers in recognition of her time as LGC Chair at Poppleton Ousebank Primary. Completed.</i></p> <p><i>2. In response to a request from Trustees, the CEO agreed to provide an attendance summary with self-isolating cases taken out, in order to show the more general trend in attendance over this period. Completed, it was noted this summary was attached the agenda for information. The CEO highlighted that it was important to view the figures in the context of each school. Under the circumstances, there had been relatively few positive cases in the Trust's schools, which underlined the effectiveness of the measures which had been put in place through the risk assessments.</i></p> <p>For context, it was noted that as of 9th December 2020, the DfE portal showed the national attendance rate at 86.4%. All schools within the Trust were above that figure both including and not including COVID related absences. In response to a question about how this compared to the same period last year, it was confirmed that whilst this varied from school to school, in some cases there had been an improved level of attendance. George Pindar School had seen a significant improvement from the same period last year, and Graham School had also improved. <i>Trustees noted their thanks to the schools in continuing to work hard to improve attendance.</i></p> <p>There were no other matters arising.</p>	
5.	<p><u>DYET Trustee Oversight Report to Members</u></p> <p>The draft Trustee Oversight Report had been circulated with the agenda, along with the Church School Overview reports for reference from Manor CE Academy, Forest of Galtres Anglican Methodist Primary and Baldersby St James CE Primary. Questions and comments were invited from Trustees on the draft report, which would be presented to Members at the AGM in January 2021.</p> <p>With reference to Baldersby St James, it was noted that the school's report highlighted the future of the school in terms of viability moving forward, and very low numbers on roll. Trustees asked whether this point should also be flagged up on the Trustee report to Members.</p> <p><i>ACTION: The CEO agreed to add this point into the Trustees' Oversight Report before the AGM.</i></p> <p>A number of other typographical errors were noted for correction.</p> <p><i>APPROVED: Subject to the above amendments, Trustees unanimously approved the Oversight Report for Members and thanked the CEO and schools for their work to produce the reports.</i></p>	HW
6.	<p><u>LGC Appointments</u></p> <p>The following newly elected governors were noted:</p> <p><i>Poppleton Ousebank LGC</i> – Alex Johnson, parent governor. <i>Joint Burton Green-Skelton LGC</i> – Nicola Terrett, parent governor.</p> <p>Trustees were also asked to approve the appointment of David Judson as governor and Chair of Baldersby St James LGC. It was noted that David would step down from the Board of Trustees in order to take on this role, effective from the end of the meeting this evening.</p> <p>The Chair advised that David had first been elected as a parent governor at Manor in 2010, and had provided just over ten years' service, commitment and dedication to the school and subsequently to the Trust. He had now offered to support Baldersby St James as LGC Chair, and</p>	

	<p>Trustees expressed their thanks to him for this. The COO also extended her thanks to David on behalf of the Central Team, for his continued reliable support and commitment.</p> <p>It was noted that the Board of Trustees had reduced in size considerably, with seven Trustees now remaining following David’s resignation. The Chair advised that at the point of the merger with SALT in September 2021, the RSC had confirmed that the maximum number of Trustees allowed would be ten. The Chair noted the concern raised by Trustees regarding capacity up to the point of merger, but it was agreed that this would need to be managed as best as possible.</p> <p>APPROVED: Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of David Judson as governor and LGC Chair at Baldersby St James CE Primary.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>7.1 The CEO reported that an announcement had been made by the DfE that schools could use the last day of term 18th December as a training day if required, though this day of teaching would need to be replaced during the remainder of the academic year if taken. The CEO advised that all headteachers had been asked for their view, and feedback had been that it would not be of benefit at this point to take that last day as a training day. It was noted that the first day of the spring term had already been set as a training day across both HLTY and SALT. The CEO advised that she would be working during the week before Christmas and had offered to support headteachers if required, particularly relating to any track and trace which needed to be done during that time.</p> <p>7.2 <i>The following point has been recorded as a separate, confidential minute.</i></p> <p>7.3 The Chair extended congratulations on behalf of the Board to Julie McGonigle, on her recent appointment as Head of St Andrew’s Cathedral School in Sydney. Dr McGonigle thanked Trustees for their good wishes, and stated that it would be great to explore possible links which could be set up and developed between the Trust and the school in the future.</p> <p><i>[Helen Dowds and Allyson Buckton left the meeting at 7.05pm]</i></p>	
8.	<p><u>Confidential Items</u></p> <p>8.1 Confidential Minutes from the meeting held on 4th November 2020 Previously distributed. The minutes were agreed to be a true and accurate record.</p> <p>8.2 Proposal on Pooling of Funding <i>The following discussion has been recorded as a separate confidential minute.</i></p> <p><i>[Simon Bryan-Smith left the meeting at 7.15pm]</i></p> <p>8.3 Primary Options <i>The following discussion has been recorded as a separate confidential minute.</i></p> <p>8.4 Trustee Committees <i>The following discussion has been recorded as a separate confidential minute.</i></p>	
8.	<p><u>Dates and Times of Future Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Wednesday 20th January 2021 at 6pm (following the AGM at 5.00pm) * Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 6pm * Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 6pm * Wednesday 21st July 2021 at 6pm 	

