Accounting Policies

General Information

Halesowen College is a corporation established under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 as an English general college of further education. The address of the College's principal place of business is Halesowen College, Whittingham Road, Halesowen B63 3NA. The nature of the College's operations are set out in the Members' Report.

Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education 2019* (the 2019 FE HE SORP), the *College Accounts Direction for 2023 to 2024* and in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 – *"The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland"* (FRS102). The College is a public benefit entity and has therefore applied the relevant public benefit requirements of FRS102.

The preparation of financial statements, in compliance with FRS102, requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise judgement in applying the College's accounting policies.

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

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

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

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention modified by the revaluation of certain fixed assets.

Basis of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the College and its subsidiary, Halesowen College Enterprises Limited, controlled by the Group. Control is achieved where the Group has the power to govern the financial and operating policies of an entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities. The results of any subsidiaries acquired or disposed of during the period are included in the consolidated income and expenditure account from the date of acquisition or up to the date of disposal. Intra-group sales, profits and balances are eliminated fully on consolidation. In accordance with FRS102, the activities of the student union have not been consolidated because the College does not control those activities. All financial statements are made up to 31 July 2024.

All intra-group transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group entities are eliminated on consolidation. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of an impairment of the asset transferred. Where necessary, adjustments are made to the financial statements of subsidiaries to bring the accounting policies used into line with those used by other members of the Group.

Going Concern

Halesowen College has good financial health and a strong liquidity ratio. The Corporation is provided with information to assure it of financial resilience and considers that the College has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and for this reason, it continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

The activities of the Group, together with the factors likely to affect its future development and performance, are set out in the Strategic Report. The financial position of the Group, its cash flow, liquidity and borrowings are described in the Financial Statements and accompanying Notes. The Group has £1,784,000 (2023: £2,101,000) of loans outstanding with bankers on terms negotiated in 2006 with the loans being secured by a charge on Group cash.

A summary of outstanding loans is included in the table below:

Date	Value Drawn	Term	Type	Rate	Bank
May 2006	£1,525,000	20 years	Fixed	6.08%	NatWest
March 2009	£1,250,000	20 years	Fixed	5.55%	NatWest
Nov 2010	£1,250,000	20 years	Variable	1.5% + SONIA	NatWest
Aug 2011	£1,320,000	20 years	Variable	1.5% + SONIA	NatWest

The Group's forecasts and financial projections indicate that it will be able to operate within this existing facility for the foreseeable future.

The College has pledged its support to the subsidiary to enable it to continue to operate. Going forward, the College does not require the Company to make payment for inter-company expenditure until it is affordable.

Accordingly, in 2023/24, the Group has a reasonable expectation that it has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being at least 12 months from the approval of the financial statements and for this reason will continue to adopt the going concern basis in its preparation of its Financial Statements.

Recognition of Income

Revenue Grants Funding

Government revenue grants include funding body recurrent grants and other grants and are accounted for under the accrual model as permitted by FRS102.

Funding body recurrent grants are measured in line with best estimates for the year of what is receivable and depend on the particular income stream involved. Any under achievement of the Adult Education Budget is adjusted for and reflected in the level of recurrent grant recognised in the income and expenditure account. The final grant income is normally determined with the conclusion of the year end reconciliation process with the funding body following the year end and the results of any funding audit. Where this process involves negotiations in respect of over achievement or adjustment to claw back in respect of underachievement, where negotiations are subsequent to the year end, they are not reflected in the income recognised.

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

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

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

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

Other Income

Income from the supply of services is recognised at fair value of the consideration received or receivable and represents the value of services to the extent there is a right to consideration. Income from tuition fees is recognised over the period for which it is received.

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

Retirement Benefits

Retirement benefits to employees of the College are principally provided by Teachers' Pensions Scheme (TPS) and the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), which are multi-employer defined benefit plans.

The TPS is an unfunded scheme. Contributions to the TPS are calculated so as to spread the cost of pensions over employees' working lives with the College in such a way that the pension cost is a substantially level percentage of current and future pensionable payroll. The contributions are determined by the Government Actuary on the basis of valuations using a projected unit method. The TPS is a multi-employer scheme but sufficient information is not available to use defined benefit accounting and therefore it is accounted for as a defined contribution scheme, with the amount charged to the statement of comprehensive income being the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments.

The LGPS is a funded scheme, and the assets of the scheme are held separately. Pension schemes are measured at fair value and liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit credit method. The actuarial valuations are obtained at least triennially and are updated at each balance sheet date. The amounts charged to operating surplus are the current service costs and the costs of scheme introductions, benefit changes, settlements and curtailments. They are included as part of staff costs. The net interest cost on the net defined benefit liability/asset is charged to comprehensive income and included within finance costs. Re-measurement comprising actuarial gains and losses and the return on scheme assets (excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability) are recognised immediately in other comprehensive income.

Short Term Employment Benefits

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

Enhanced Pensions

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

Fixed Asset Investments

College

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

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

Group

Jointly Controlled Entities

Entities in which the Group has a long term interest and shares control under a contractual arrangement are classified as jointly controlled. Jointly controlled entities are accounted for using the equity method, as described in the accounting policy for associates above. There are no jointly controlled entities in 2023/24.

Other Investments

Listed investments are stated at fair value through the profit or loss. Investments comprising unquoted equity instruments whose fair values cannot be measured reliably are measure at cost less impairment.

Tangible Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Certain items of fixed assets that had been revalued to fair value on or prior to the date of transition to the 2015 FE HE SORP, are measured on the basis of deemed cost, being the revalued amount at the date of that revaluation.

Land and buildings

Freehold buildings are depreciated on a straight line basis over their expected useful lives which is usually 50 years.

Freehold land is not depreciated.

The College has a policy of depreciating major adaptations to buildings over the period of their useful lives of between 10 and 50 years.

Where land and buildings are acquired with the aid of specific grants, they are capitalised and depreciated as above. The related grants are credited to a deferred income account within creditors and are released to the income and expenditure account over the expected useful life of the related asset on a systematic basis consistent with the depreciation policy. The deferred income is allocated between creditors due within one year and those due after more than one year.

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

On adoption of FRS102, the College followed the transitional provision to retain the book value of land and buildings, which were not revalued. The College has adopted a policy of no revaluation of these properties in the future unless there is belief that the carrying value is materially different from the fair value at the end of each accounting period.

Assets under construction

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

Subsequent expenditure on existing fixed assets

Where significant expenditure is incurred on tangible fixed assets after initial purchase it is charged to comprehensive income in the period it is incurred, unless it increases the future benefits to the College, in which case it is capitalised and depreciated on the relevant basis.

Equipment

Equipment costing less than £5,000 per individual item is recognised as expenditure in the period of acquisition. All other equipment is capitalised at cost.

Capitalised equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis over its remaining useful economic life as follows:

- technical equipment 6-10 years
- motor vehicles 10 years
- computer equipment 6-10 years
- other 6-10 years

Other

Assets which are used collectively for one purpose may be grouped.

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

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

Intangible fixed assets

Any goodwill or similar intangible fixed assets will be realised on the face of the balance sheet and amortised over an appropriate period.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost and are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. Intangible assets are amortised to the statement of comprehensive income on a straight-line basis over their useful lives.

Impairments of Fixed Assets

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

Shortfalls between the carrying value of fixed assets and their recoverable amounts, being the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value-in-use, are recognised as impairment losses. Previously revalued assets are now at deemed cost therefore there is no impairment. All other impairment losses are recognised in comprehensive income.

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

Borrowing Costs

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

Leased Assets

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

Assets held under finance leases are recognised initially at fair value of the leased asset at the inception of the lease. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet as an obligation under lease.

Stock

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

Financial Instruments

The Group has chosen to adopt Sections 11 and 12 of FRS102 in full in respect of financial instruments.

Financial Assets and Liabilities

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

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

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

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

Derecognition of financial assets and liabilities

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

Taxation

The College is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the College is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by sections 478-488 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

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

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

Provisions and Contingent Liabilities

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

Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the amount expected to be required to settle the obligation is recognised at present value using a pre-tax discount rate. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as a finance cost in the statement of comprehensive income in the period it arises.

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

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

Agency Arrangements

The College acts as an agent in the collection and payment of discretionary support funds. Related payments received from the funding bodies and subsequent disbursements to students are excluded from the income and expenditure of the College where the College is exposed to minimal risk or enjoys minimal economic benefit related to the transaction.

Critical Accounting Judgements and Estimation Uncertainty

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

Critical areas of judgement

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

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

- *Tangible fixed assets*

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

- *Local Government Pension Scheme*

The present value of the Local Government Pension Scheme defined benefit liability depends on a number of factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a variety of assumptions. The assumptions used in the net cost (income) for pensions include the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions, which are disclosed in note 26, will impact the carrying amount of the pension liability. Furthermore, a roll forward approach which projects results from the latest full actuarial valuation performed at 31 March 2022 has been used by the actuary in valuing the pensions liability at 31 July 2024. Any differences between the figures derived from the roll forward approach and a full actuarial valuation would impact on the carrying amount of the pension liability.

In order to recognise a pension asset, FRS 102 requires the College to consider whether the asset calculated by the actuary will actually be recoverable through reduced contributions in the future or through refunds from the scheme.

At this stage, the College do not believe that there is significant uncertainty over the ability to obtain any significant benefits from the year end asset valuation. As a result, no asset has been recognised in the financial statements.

- *Impairment of fixed assets*

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

Reviewed/Approved	By	Date
Updated by	Andrew Woodford	December 2024
Approved at	Corporation	17 December 2024
Website	Yes / No	Yes
Next Review		December 2025