

Company registration number 08714780 (England and Wales)

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

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UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Members	M Houghton Sellafield Ltd (Nominated person: I Belger) T Liskiewicz
Trustees	Mr L M Barber (Accounting Officer until 1 June 2021) (Appointed 8 September 2021) I Critchley (Resigned 5 October 2022) P Gibbens M Houghton (Chair of Trustees) T Jennings P Middlehurst (Resigned 17 March 2022) N Merriman J Patterson J Thomason C J Hatherall (Accounting Officer since 1 June 2021) W J McCann C Bates (Appointed 10 November 2021) B Stringer (Appointed 23 November 2022) R Cosgrove (Appointed 23 November 2022) L Bibby (Appointed 5 October 2022)
Senior management team	
- Head of College (from 27 May 2021)	C Hatherall
- Vice principal	P Rigby
- Vice principal (until 31 August 2022)	J Varey
- Chief Financial Officer	T Fabian
Company secretary	L Devine (appointed 13 September 2021) M Ward (resigned 17 September 2021)
Company registration number	08714780 (England and Wales)
Principal address	Dallam Lane Warrington WA2 7NG
Registered office	Dallam Lane Warrington WA2 7NG
Independent auditor	Jackson Stephen LLP James House Stonecross Business Park Yew Tree Way Warrington Cheshire WA3 3JD

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Bankers

Lloyds Bank plc
Horsemarket Street
Warrington
Cheshire
WA1 1TP

Solicitors

Hill Dickinson LLP
No.1
St Pauls Square
Liverpool
Merseyside
L3 9SJ

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The trustees present their annual report together with the accounts and auditor's report of the charitable company for the year 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report, and a directors' report and strategic report under company law.

The academy trust operates an academy for pupils aged 14-19 serving a catchment area in North West England. It has a pupil capacity of 620 and had a roll of 211 in the school census on October 21.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The academy trust is a company limited by guarantee and an exempt charity. The charitable company's memorandum and articles of association are the primary governing documents of the academy trust.

The trustees of University Technical College Warrington are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law. Details of the trustees who served during the year, and to the date these accounts are approved, are included in the Reference and Administrative Details on page 1.

Members' liability

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the charitable company in the event of it being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £10, for the debts and liabilities contracted before they ceased to be a member.

Trustees' indemnities

UTC Warrington has granted indemnities to each of its Governors and other officers to the extent permitted by law. Qualifying third party indemnity provisions (as defined by section 236 of the Companies Act 2006) were in force during the period and remain in force, in relation to certain losses and liabilities which the Governors or other officers may incur to third parties in the course of acting as Governors or officers of UTC Warrington.

Method of recruitment and appointment or election of trustees

Under the terms of its Articles and Funding Agreement, UTC Warrington must provide to the Secretary of State the names of all new or replacement Charity Trustees and Members of the Academy Trust. Stating whether they have been appointed or elected, the date of their appointment or election and, where applicable, the name of the Charity Trustee or Member they replaced as soon as is practicable and in any event within 14 days of their appointment or election. UTC Warrington must not appoint any new or replacement Charity Trustees or Members until it has first informed them, and they have agreed that their names will be shared with the Secretary of State to enable them to assess their suitability. UTC Warrington must not amend or remove the provisions in its Articles relating to the appointment, election, resignation or removal of Charity Trustees or Members ("the Governance Articles") without the Secretary of State's consent.

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees

During the year under review the Trust Board met on a monthly basis at board meetings with members of the board also representing committees of the Trust Board. Trustees attend an annual induction, which includes a skills audit and general training/updates, the outcome of the skills audit then forms part of a training plan for the year dependent on their individual and group needs. All new Trustees meet with the Chair and the Clerk and are given an induction, which includes a tour of the college and the chance to meet with staff and students. All Trustees are provided with copies of policies, procedure minutes, accounts, budgets, business development strategic plans and other documents that they will need to undertake their role as a Trustee.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Organisational structure

The organisational structure consists of three levels: The Trust Board (which includes Members and Trustees), the Senior Leadership Team and the extended Senior Leadership Team, which includes middle leaders. The aim of the management structure is to devolve responsibility and encourage involvement in decision making at all levels. The Trust Board are responsible for appointing the Head of College, setting general policy, adopting an annual plan and budget, monitoring the use of budgets and making major decisions about the direction of UTC Warrington.

The Senior Leadership Team comprises of the Head of College and two Vice Principals. The Head of College also acts as the Accounting Officer. These Senior Leaders control the Academy at an executive level implementing the policies laid down by the trustees and reporting back to them. As a group, the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the authorisation of spending up to a level delegated to them within agreed budgets and the appointment of staff, although appointment boards for posts in the Senior Leadership Team always contain a Trustee. Some spending control is devolved to Budget Holders, who are generally members of the middle management team. Any limits above are authorised by the Head of College. The Middle Management Team includes Faculty Leaders and Heads of Subject. Along with the Senior Leadership Team, these managers are responsible for the day to day operation of UTC Warrington, organising the teaching staff, facilities and students. The key management personnel of UTC Warrington comprise the trustees and senior leadership team as disclosed on page 1.

The day to day running of the remuneration policy is delegated to the Head of college and monitored by the Pay Committee. All details for setting pay and remuneration of key management personnel are set out in the staff appraisal policy and pay policy which are reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees. The Head of College's salary is set by a pay committee of 3 Trustees, chaired by the Chair of Trustees. Advice is also sought from external sources, such as the Baker Dearing Education Trust who advise appropriately. Benchmark data is also used at the annual review.

Remuneration of key management personnel is set at an individual level, and where possible the trustees have taken external professional advice which includes benchmarking, market trends and advice on structuring of incentives. Senior management salaries are linked to pay spines (i.e. National Teachers or Local Government Pay Scales), helping trustees conclude that each individual's remuneration is at an appropriate level, and also linked to factors such as length of service and experience. Total remuneration packages include employer pension contribution rates at specific approved rates.

The board are always mindful of the charitable status of UTC Warrington and recognise the fact the trust receives funding under a funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education, and therefore ensures the remuneration paid to senior management personnel never exceeds a reasonable amount that provides value for money to the trust. The performance of senior management personnel is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure continuing value for money.

Related parties and other connected charities and organisations

UTC Warrington is sponsored by Manchester Metropolitan University. Connected organisations include: Sellafield Ltd, Fujitsu, Jacobs, Cavendish Nuclear, Stanley Engineered Fastenings and the Royal Engineers (British Army). Related Party Questionnaires are completed by Trustees and the Clerk keeps a register of related parties / declarations of interest which are also included on UTCW's website.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

UTC Warrington's object ("the Object") is specifically restricted to the following: to advance for the public benefit education in the United Kingdom, in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing by establishing, maintaining, carrying on managing and developing a school offering a broad and balanced curriculum which includes provision for technical education. UTC Warrington ("the Academy") specialises in Science & Engineering and provides education for students aged 14-19.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Objectives, strategies and activities

UTC Warrington aims to create an outstanding academic and technical institution, with support from our employer and university partners, to achieve the following objectives:

- Address the skills gap, as identified by the science, engineering and digital industries and government. As trends evolve, UTCW will be adding T-levels to its specialist Post 16 curriculum;
- Be known as a pioneering institution for outstanding quality STEM (Science Technology, Engineering & Maths) education in Warrington;
- Prepare a generation of skilled, career-ready young people with the necessary technical, academic and softer skills to succeed;
- Establish a modern, progressive college with an innovative and forward-thinking curriculum, valued by students and employers alike;
- Support female engineers into the profession, working alongside high profile aspirational women in Engineering;
- Embed a culture of excellence and kindness, which delivers outstanding outcomes and destinations for young people;
- Provide a platform for social mobility for disadvantaged students, by accessing high calibre STEM careers through our vast employer network.

Public benefit

UTC Warrington is a Single Academy Trust catering for students aged 14 to 19, striving to promote and support the advancement of education within the Warrington area. UTC Warrington provides an extensive programme of academic and technical education — all designed to contribute to the overall education of its students focussing on areas such as Science, Technology Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment and Maths.

The vision is for students to be inspired by the relevance and challenge of solving real-life problems and developing the skills and confidence to succeed throughout their journey into their working lives.

UTC Warrington works with:

- Manchester Metropolitan University, our University sponsor;
- A large network of local employers;
- Secondary and Further Education educational establishments;
- Apprenticeship training providers;
- Professional bodies.

UTC Warrington also aims to contribute to the benefit of the wider public, by making available the premises to third parties for the provision of educational and other opportunities. For example:

- Use of a state of the art lecture theatre;
- Use of high quality engineering equipment/machinery and/or science laboratories;
- Use of high quality conferencing and catering spaces;
- Loan of specialist technical equipment and expertise through its local growth fund projects.

In setting our objectives and planning our activities the Trustees have given careful consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. The Trustees believe that the Academy Trust's aims, together with the activities outlined above, are demonstrably to the public benefit.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Strategic report

Achievements and performance

Trustees and the Senior Leadership Team identified 4 key areas of school improvement, which were identified at the beginning of the academic year. Staff focused intently on improving:

1. High quality teaching for all
2. Mental health and well being
3. Focus on UTCness and ambitious destinations
4. COVID recovery

UTC Warrington had its first Ofsted inspection in May 2019 and achieved a 'Good' grade in all areas, with particular strengths identified in the 6th form and within the Personal Development Behaviour and Welfare. Outcomes for students in summer '22 reinforced the Good status of the college, this year saw a return to externally assessed grades resulting in improved outcomes. Main highlights include progress from entry baseline showing that UTCW is operating in the top 25% of all UTCs nationally, and continued success in the 6th form technical curriculum, where the average grade in Engineering and Construction was Distinction.

Students progressing onto ambitious destinations was another key indicator of success with 50% of the year 13 cohort moving onto higher status degree and higher apprenticeships with a variety of national and international employer partners, this was an increase of 10% on the previous year. The UTC is currently ranked 13th of 4518 providers nationally for students progressing onto a higher or degree apprenticeship at 18 and has an excellent record of supporting learners so they do not become NEET.

Key performance indicators

The Trust Board recognises the financial challenges faced in operating a university technical college. Estimated and fluctuating student numbers each year present a real challenge in developing a steady budget and therefore presents challenges in staff recruitment and planning. The UTC has right sized the staff team in recent years and uses the ICFP planning tool effectively to deliver its intended educational aims within its allocated budget. The turbulence the UTC has faced in recent years remains a threat but a growth in student numbers is helping to mitigate these challenges:

- Many UTCs do not have economies of scale, as they are smaller than some primary and average secondary schools. They largely all start as single academy trusts, too.
- Students are disadvantaged by 3 transition points rather than 2, which impacts on standards.
- UTCs struggle to recruit good secondary specialists, without a KS3.
- Accountability measures in England are not fit for purpose for the UTC model; Progress 8 and Ebacc fail to recognise UTC curricula and employer priorities.
- Recruitment at 14 is extremely challenging, with no sign of that changing despite better relationships with local schools.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The Trust Board identified the following priorities pertaining to financial management:

- Increase student recruitment numbers in line with growth projections and local basic need by improving levels of school engagement locally and sub-regionally, to improve access to students.
- Operate within an agreed (and funded) budget from the ESFA, creating sufficient surplus.
- Assess student numbers early and place emphasis on creating the right staffing structure for the number of students achieved.
- Develop long-term sustainability plans through a Trust Business Development Strategy, looking for opportunities to increase revenue streams through expanding age range, delivering apprenticeship provision and development of the curriculum offer.
- Identify and join a Multi-Academy Trust that can help the UTC derive economies of scale and provide support with student recruitment.

UTC Warrington secured a first, very positive Ofsted inspection report, which highlighted a good quality of education and it noted 'Leaders know what the college does well and what it still needs to do to improve. They are prepared to address aspects that have not been fully successful, so that there is the best possible provision for pupils.' Moreover that 'Effective governance is a strength of the college. Governors, who are also trustees, have skills and experience that help them to provide good challenge to leaders.'

Student Recruitment

Year Group	Pupil Numbers 2018/19	Pupil Numbers 2019/20	Pupil Numbers 2020/21	Pupil Numbers 2021/22	Pupil Numbers 2022/23
10	93	53	55	84	100
11	77	82	54	52	87
12	60	58	58	33	40
13	35	38	40	42	25
TOTAL	265	231	207	211	252

Student recruitment figures remained stable in this academic year, however strong recruitment at KS4 has been achieved in September 22. Further positive trends are being seen in application numbers for 23/24 which can be attributed to positive relationships with other local schools and colleges, the introduction of provider access legislation and improved stakeholder engagement.

The UTC has further developed its technical curriculum in line with government policy and from September 2023 will be delivering T-levels in each of its specialist areas. These are Engineering and Manufacturing, Construction Design and Surveying with Civil Engineering, Science with Laboratory Techniques and Digital Support Services. Each T-Level programme of study has been carefully considered with the UTCs employer partner organisations to ensure learners will have access to meaningful industry placements and well-defined progression routes into a variety of early career frameworks with the UTCs employer partners. To support the development of the T-level programme the UTC successfully secured capital funding from the DfE to enable refurbishment work to take place in summer 2023 ensuring T-level learners have the access to the best learning facilities on the UTC site.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Going concern

The trustees are required to assess whether the use of going concern basis of accounting is appropriate for the Academy and consider whether there are any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy to continue as a going concern. Where such conditions are identified, which are beyond the control of the Academy then these are disclosed in the financial statements. The trustees make their assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements. The trustees have identified the following matters when making their assessment:

1. At the year-end, the Academy owed £965K to the ESFA mainly owed to incorrect VAT claims from previous years. The College has worked with the ESFA and have agreed and signed off a deficit recovery plan with an achievable repayment payment plan based on conservative student number growth. Full repayment of amounts owed has been profiled over 15 years with the first repayment scheduled to be made in May 23.
2. The academy has seen significant student growth in the current academic year 22/23, and also positive pupil number adjustment figures since 21-22.
3. A surplus budget has been achieved since 20-21 and future surpluses are forecasted with conservative student growth and introduction of TLevel curriculum in 23-24.
4. The Academy is currently a single academy trust and has a set of financial targets it is currently set to achieve, these being surplus budget and positive cash position.
5. The College is also targeted to join a multi academy trust (MAT), in order to strengthen student recruitment and find economies of scale assisting better financial performance. UTCW trustees are still seeking a suitable MAT partner but are engaged with a number of suitable possibilities, which they will explore in 23/24.

The Trustees have reviewed the 5-year forecast and taken note of the negative cash positions each year and the requirement for cash flow assistance from the ESFA. Dialogue is happening with the ESFA to profile the pupil number adjustment in advance of the normal payment terms in order to assist. This has been confirmed for 22/23 but remains a discussion point and an uncertainty in future years. This represents a material uncertainty that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Academy to continue as a going concern.

The trustees remain in close contact with the ESFA and have continued positive and upfront dialogue with them regarding the deficit recovery plan and the repayments.

They have received positive feedback from the ESFA on the improvement in financial performance over the last 3 years and the ESFA have shown understanding and agree the college is addressing the challenges that the UTC model and single academy trust status brings. The trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Academy will have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, being twelve months from the date of the approval of these financial statements and thus they continue to use the going concern basis.

If the Academy were unable to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future, adjustments would have to be made to reduce balance sheet values to their recoverable amounts, to provide for future liabilities that may arise and to reclassify fixed assets to current assets.

Financial review

During the year to 31 August 2022 the academy has aimed to implement the foundations of which it will operate for the foreseeable future. Most of the Academy's income is obtained from the DfE via the ESFA in the form of its General Annual Grant (GAG), the use of which is restricted to particular purposes i.e. the objects of the Academy Trust. The GAG received during the period covered by this report and the associated expenditure are shown as restricted funds in the Statement of Financial Activities.

There were no unrestricted fund balances as at the balance sheet date. Restricted general funds (GAG only) were overdrawn by £975,672 (2021: £1,053,713). This can be expected with the academy becoming established at an early stage in its life. There were no large capital grants during the year from the ESFA, the only capital income received was the Devolved Formula Capital Grant (DFC). In accordance with the Charities SORP 2019, the capital income received is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) as restricted fixed asset funds. The academy generated a deficit of £295,039 (2021: £234,320) before actuarial losses. The academy has a net current liability position of £80,672 (2021: £1,064,145) and cash reserves of £68,050 (2021: £132,636) at the balance sheet date.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Financial effect of significant events

Effective financial management and monitoring throughout the academic year has seen an increase in surplus outturn achieved compared to the initial budget set.

Achieving increased student numbers and continuing with a rightsized staff team for the cohort has allowed all other budget lines to remain in operation as planned.

The continuation of ESFA post COVID-19 catch up grants have been used to provide academic tuition support to students in order to close the gap in knowledge from lost learning time. This has taken place in small group intervention sessions and out of curriculum time catch up events.

Increasing electricity contract rates from January has been managed within the scope of the college budget and supported via the government supplementary grant of £5k. Most of the support funding has been deferred to the next academic year 22-23 (approx. £10k) when increased electricity prices are expected.

The college has seen a positive increase in achieved student numbers in year and from September 23, giving confidence in the projected growth.

Successful dialogue with the ESFA and robust budgeting and planning based on conservative numbers has allowed a deficit repayment plan to be agreed.

The focus for the college financially over the next year will be to continue operating in a surplus position in line with repayments planned to the ESFA. Conversations will continue with the ESFA to monitor and track student recruitment growth and the requirements for allocation for advanced funding owed to such increase.

Financial planning and monitoring for the introduction of TLevels will be a priority for the next financial year, with the college being successful in securing a £596k Capital fund grant in order to improve the building and facilities to run TLevels from 23/24. Further bids for specialist equipment and other waves of capital funding are being applied for to support the change in curriculum.

Reserves policy

The Trustees will review the reserve levels of UTC Warrington annually. This review encompasses the nature of income and expenditure streams, the need to match income with commitments and the nature of reserves. The Trustees will always try to match income with expenditure in the current year and set and manage a balanced budget. UTC Warrington will only carry forward reserves that it considers necessary and will have a clear plan for how it will be used to benefit the students. At the balance sheet date, UTC Warrington had total funds of £7,677,464 comprising fixed asset funds of £8,652,136 (2021: £8,914,216), restricted income reserves deficit of £975,672 (2021: £1,053,713), a pensions surplus of £1,000 (2021: £460,000(deficit)) and unrestricted income funds of £nil (2021: £nil).

Investment policy

UTC Warrington held no investments within the financial year.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which UTC Warrington is exposed, in particular those relating to the specific teaching, outcomes, student recruitment, finances and operational matters such as facilities. The Trustees held risk workshops and regularly reviewed a risk register. They have introduced systems, including operational procedures (e.g. vetting of new staff and visitors, supervision of college grounds and internal financial controls in order to manage risk). UTC Warrington has an effective system of internal financial controls and this is explained in more detail in the Governance Statement.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Financial and risk management objectives and policies

Within the financial year, UTC Warrington has established a full set of key financial policies to meet its obligations. Guidance from the Academies Financial Handbook has been used to inform an internal financial manual, which is reviewed regularly. The Trust Board met 13 times during the financial year, providing support and scrutiny, ensuring adequate financial controls are in place. The meeting structure is designed so that all Trustees are to attend all meetings as opposed to committee structures; this is to give more emphasis on financial management and to be able to review areas more regularly.

UTC Warrington has kept a risk register, which has been reviewed on a half-termly basis; The biggest risks identified are on-going student recruitment, retention of students, financial sustainability (including cash flow) and IT Systems and its robustness to support future remote learning.

Fundraising

UTC Warrington carries out a limited amount of fundraising, mindful of the communities within which it operates. In the circumstances when fundraising is undertaken, systems and controls are in place to separate and protect funds. The trust is mindful of its responsibilities under the Charities (Protection and Social Investment) Act 2016 and legal rules, and ensures all activities are agreed and monitored at Senior Leadership Team level in compliance with relevant legal rules. Recognised standards are applied to ensure that fundraising is open, honest and respectful, protecting the public from undue pressure to donate. Complaints are handled and monitored through the Trust's complaints procedure.

Plans for future periods

UTC Warrington is currently working on a business development strategy in order to ensure long term sustainability. Trustees have discussed and agreed to the following:

- Join a Multi Academy Trust suitable to the needs and values of UTC Warrington
- Further develop local relationships to improve access for young people
- Establish the UTC as Warrington's T-level centre of excellence with a narrow and focused technical curriculum that aligns with workforce demand and high-status industries

Auditor

In so far as the trustees are aware:

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

The trustees' report, incorporating a strategic report, was approved by order of the board of trustees, as the company directors, on 21 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Houghton

Michael Houghton (Dec 22, 2022 17:04 GMT)

M Houghton

Chair of Trustees

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Scope of responsibility

As trustees, we acknowledge we have overall responsibility for ensuring that University Technical College Warrington has an effective and appropriate system of control, financial and otherwise. However, such a system is designed to manage rather than eliminate the risk of failure to achieve business objectives, and can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance against material misstatement or loss.

The board of trustees has delegated the day-to-day responsibility to the Head of College, as accounting officer, for ensuring financial controls conform with the requirements of both propriety and good financial management and in accordance with the requirements and responsibilities assigned to it in the funding agreement between University Technical College Warrington and the Secretary of State for Education. The accounting officer is also responsible for reporting to the board of trustees any material weaknesses or breakdowns in internal control.

Governance

The information on governance included here supplements that described in the Trustees' Report and in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities. The board of trustees has formally met 13 times during the year. Attendance during the year at meetings of the board of trustees was as follows:

Trustees	Meetings attended	Out of possible
Mr L M Barber (Accounting Officer until 1 June 2021) (Appointed 8 September 2021)	10	11
I Critchley (Resigned 5 October 2022)	9	13
P Gibbens	7	13
M Houghton (Chair of Trustees)	11	13
T Jennings	3	13
P Middlehurst (Resigned 17 March 2022)	8	8
N Merriman	7	8
J Patterson	12	13
J Thomason	7	13
C J Hatherall (Accounting Officer since 1 June 2021)	2	2
W J McCann	10	13
C Bates (Appointed 10 November 2021)	6	7
B Stringer (Appointed 23 November 2022)	0	0
R Cosgrove (Appointed 23 November 2022)	0	0
L Bibby (Appointed 5 October 2022)	0	0

The key changes in the composition of the Trust Board within the financial year were the appointment of Chris Bates as a new trustee, who has links with the UTC as an enterprise adviser and is an employer partner working at United Utilities. Lee Barber joined the Trust Board as a trustee after his employment at the UTC had ended, his ongoing support will continue in this role, offering his support and expertise in the national education policy and the local education context. Paul Middlehurst resigned as a Parent Trustee in March 22 having secured a senior volunteer position within the Greater Manchester RAF cadets reducing his capacity to support the UTC as a trustee.

The continued growth in knowledge and experience of existing trustees has resulted in valuable support of the leadership team which has been reduced in size compared to previous years. Throughout the academic year they have also demonstrated a valuable contribution through their link governance roles. Providing support and challenge where needed to senior and middle leaders.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

Key performance data is produced by way of monthly reports covering detailed information around student performance and college life. The CFO provides monthly management accounts giving trustees up to date financial performance month to date and variances to budget as well as future years forecasting. Senior leaders present key information to Trustees, regarding pastoral, curriculum and other trends, with mitigating actions. The Head of College leads a robust process of self-evaluation and college improvement, which is cognisant of the college's long term strategic aims and objectives.

Many of the Trustees have worked with the college from its inception. They are very knowledgeable about the college and the way that it has developed over time. This, together with their strong links with significant local employers and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), gives them the insight that they need to provide strategic guidance and challenge to leaders.

Trustees are appropriately involved in the strategic use of the college's funding. They work very closely with statutory agencies to account for the college's overall current and future spending plans. They know how the additional funding available is used to support disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND. Trustees ensure that this funding supports pupils' achievement.

Conflicts of interest

Governance reviews

A flat Trust Board structure has remained throughout this academic year, all areas of governance are covered in monthly trust board meetings attended by all Trustees. Alongside the main Trust Board meetings there continues to be an Audit & Risk Meeting once a term, although a committee meeting, the expectation is that all Trustees attend. John Patterson chairs this committee and all elements relating to audit recommendations, financial benchmarking and risks contained in the risk register are scrutinised.

The Trust Board hopes to increase its membership in the new academic year, with recruitment of new parent trustees and trustees with links to our university partner. Post COVID the aspiration is to move away from the remote meetings and move towards the traditional face to face meeting structure.

Review of value for money

As accounting officer, the Head of College has responsibility for ensuring that the academy trust delivers good value in the use of public resources. The accounting officer understands that value for money refers to the educational and wider societal outcomes achieved in return for the taxpayer resources received.

The purpose of the system of internal control

The system of internal control is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level rather than to eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives. It can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an on-going process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of academy trust policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically. The system of internal control has been in place in University Technical College Warrington for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts.

Capacity to handle risk

The board of trustees has reviewed the key risks to which the academy trust is exposed together with the operating, financial and compliance controls that have been implemented to mitigate those risks. The board of trustees is of the view that there is a formal ongoing process for identifying, evaluating and managing the academy trust's significant risks that has been in place for the period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022 and up to the date of approval of the annual report and accounts. This process is regularly reviewed by the board of trustees.

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL COLLEGE WARRINGTON

GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2022

The risk and control framework

UTC Warrington's system of internal financial control is based on a framework of regular management information and administrative procedures including the segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability. In particular, it includes:

- A comprehensive budgeting and monitoring system with an annual budget and periodic financial reports which are reviewed and agreed by the Trust Board
- Monthly reviews by the Trust Board, which indicate financial performance against the forecasts and of major purchase plans, capital works and expenditure programmes;
- Setting targets to measure financial and other performance:
- Clearly defined purchasing (asset purchase or capital investment) guidelines.
- Delegation of authority and segregation of duties;
- Identification and management of risks.

The Trust Board has considered the need for a specific internal audit function and has decided to appoint Redrambler Ltd as internal auditor for the accounting period 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022.

The internal auditor's role this academic year was to audit, purchasing and procurement, Risk Management, Cyber Security and Estates management, as these areas were highlighted as the largest risk factors. After each internal audit visit, the auditor reports to the Trust Board on the operation of the systems of control and recommendations for improvement.

Review of effectiveness

As accounting officer, the Head of College has responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of internal control. During the year in question the review has been informed by:

- The work of the internal auditor and a peer reviewer;
- The work of a School Resource Management Advisor
- The work of the external auditor;
- The work of the executive managers within the academy trust who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework.

The accounting officer has been advised of the implications of the result of their review of the system of internal control by the Audit & Risk Committee and a plan to address weaknesses and ensure continuous improvement of the system is in place.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21 December 2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Houghton

Michael Houghton (Dec 22, 2022 17:04 GMT)

M Houghton
Chair of Trustees

Chris Hatherall

Chris Hatherall (Dec 22, 2022 14:01 GMT)

C J Hatherall
Accounting Officer since 1 June 2021