

# Internal Audit

## Grant Audit Committee Summaries

2022/23



### Bus Service Operators Grant 2022/23

#### Grant certification and verification

We confirmed that funding was received by Lancashire County Council for the full amount of £1,866,269 in July 2022. Grant conditions state that funding may be used only for the purposes of supporting bus services (including community transport services run under a section 19 permit), or for the provision of infrastructure supporting such services in that authority's, or a neighbouring authority's area.

We confirmed that all expenditure incurred complied with grant conditions, including annual charges for a charitable organisation providing transport services, pay enhancement for alternative shift work, utility billing for a bus station and private contractor work for reactive maintenance. A survey is required to be completed which reports how the authority made use of the devolved funds.

The Department for Transport (DfT) is expected to provide this survey in late September and the authority will ensure that this survey is completed and published online. While we were unable to confirm that this survey was published due to the need to submit a compliance certificate to the DfT by the end of September, we confirmed the council published the survey for 2021/22 funding on its internet page.

A grant certificate containing the grant income received and spent in the financial year was produced and signed off by the Head of Internal Audit and the Chief Executive for submission to the DfT by Public Transport.

#### Context

This audit has been conducted to provide assurance to the DfT that the Internal Audit Service considers information and evidence provided by the Public Transport team in support of grant claims submitted for 2022-23 is complete, accurate and compliant with grant terms and conditions. The audit covers the 2022-23 financial year and has been conducted in conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. Our audit work was completed during September 2023.

Grant funding was allocated to Lancashire County Council by the DfT to provide support to the authority towards expenditure lawfully incurred relating to bus services or the provision of infrastructure supporting such services.

#### Financial Information

In line with the grant determination letter, full funding totalling £1,866,269 was received by the council in July 2022. This funding has been spent throughout the 2022-23 financial year, supporting bus station operations through employment of staff, utilities bills, funding for charitable transport services, as well as contributing towards private contractor and agency costs.

#### Scope of Audit

The scope of our work was to confirm receipt of devolved funding and to verify that the expenditure incurred was in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to the grant.

## Core Growth Hub Grant Funding to Local Enterprise Partnerships

### Grant certification and verification

We have examined the Growth Hub core grant funding claims from April 2021 to March 2022 submitted by Lancashire County Council on behalf of Lancashire LEP. We have examined records as necessary and obtained such explanations and carried out such tests as we consider necessary.

We found that the Accountable Body has expended monies to cover the eligible expenditure specified in Schedule 1 of the Grant Offer letter, which has been incurred and defrayed during the period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 as per the grant conditions

### Context

The review was conducted to provide assurance to BEIS that Lancashire County Council has expended the sums in respect of which Core Growth Hub Grant claims were made, and that all the activities were completed by 31st March 2022.

Lancashire County Council received grant funding from the Department of Business Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) for the 2021-2022 Lancashire Economic Partnerships Growth Hub (Core Growth Hub Grant). The grant is to support the further development of Growth Hubs aligned to the Government's commitment to ensure that businesses in every region have access to high quality advice and guidance also to further simplify access to support for businesses.

The Core Growth Hub Grant is payable quarterly, in advance, for up to 100% of the net Eligible Expenditure incurred by the Lancashire Economic Partnership for the purpose of undertaking the project up to a maximum amount of £536,500, with any overpayments being refundable to BEIS.

### Scope of Audit

The scope of our work was to verify the accuracy of the grant submissions and to verify that the expenditure incurred was in accordance with the terms and conditions attached to the grant.