



Notes of Meeting: North

Thursday 11 February 2021

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

HTB members who sent apologies have been consulted on all projects, where available, before the meeting. This excludes items where there were conflicts. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate).

Regional school commissioner (RSC) chair

- Katherine Cowell (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Zoe Carr (HTB)
- George Beveridge (HTB)
- Lesley Powell (HTB)
- Nick Hurn (HTB)
- Elizabeth Horne (HTB)
- Andy Bayston (HTB)
- Chris Clarke (HTB)
- Sir Michael Wilkins (HTB)

Guests

- none

Apologies

- none

DfE senior civil servants

- Kim Mitchell (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC Update

RSC welcomed board members to the meeting.

Discussion of projects, including decisions made by RSC with advice from HTB.
All decisions are made in reference to relevant legislation and the published criteria.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to approving significant changes to academies.

Project: This is a proposal for West Cliff Primary School to add specialist provision for children with SEMH

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that in response to North Yorkshire County Council recent SEND strategy review, the school wants to offer specialist provision for SEMH children with an EHCP who currently have no local provision.
- Historically children have had to travel to an enhanced maintained school in Scarborough to access specialist support, this provision has since closed which leaves no accessible provision for Whitby children.
- NYCC supports West Cliff's proposal to secure this provision which will provide 8 places for children with SEMH needs.
- The board was informed that consultation has been carried out and feedback has been supportive.
- West Cliff was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in November 2013
- The board was advised that the trust will review the current governance structure to ensure it meets DfE expectations and will consider working with Academy Ambassadors to help fill current vacancies on the board.
- The board agreed this was a good proposal, however, they had some concerns regarding the proposed staffing structure for the provision and agreed that further consideration was needed to ensure that the school has the best model in place to deliver a consistent level of teaching and specialist care.
- The board supported this proposal with recommendation that the school accepts some specialist support from an experienced mentor who deals with SEMH provision. The board also suggested having some further discussions with the LA to get an update on their SEND strategy.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for St John Fisher Catholic High School to convert and join Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that this proposal is in line with the RC Diocese of Leeds vision on Catholic education.
- St John Fisher Catholic High School was judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding' in November 2006.
- By joining the trust existing local partnerships will be consolidated.
- Educational performance at the school is strong.
- The board was advised that St John Fisher shares a sixth form with another local school, this is an informal arrangement dating back to the 1970's. If approval is granted, the trust has expressed its wish to formalise the sixth form arrangements.
- The board was informed that by joining a MAT a more robust financial management oversight would be introduced. The trust expects to work with the school to implement ICFP.
- The board was advised that the school is working with the SRMA to review the finances.
- The board discussed the current leadership and trust governance structure and was advised that the trust has advertised for a full time CEO which reflects the growing size of the trust.
- The board supported this proposal with condition that a financial recovery plan is obtained prior to the signing of the funding agreement and to formalise an agreement on the shared sixth-form arrangements.

RSC decision: approve with condition

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: This is a proposal for Threlkeld CofE Primary School to convert and join The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- Threlkeld, was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in February 2012.
- Performance at the school is in line with the national average.
- Joining GSMAT will provide the Threlkeld with access to a school improvement offer tailored to rural schools, the board agreed that Threlkeld is a good fit with the trust's strategic vision.
- The board discussed the geographic location of the schools in the trust and the approach for dealing with the distances involved.
- The board discussed the current pupil numbers and long-term viability of the school and agreed that joining a trust would be a positive choice for the school.
- The board supported this proposal with agreement that conversations will continue with the Diocese on the strategy for trust growth within Cumbria.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: This is a proposal for Bishop Barrington School A Sports with Mathematics College to convert and join Advanced Learning Partnership

HTB discussion:

- Bishop Barrington, was judged by Ofsted to be 'Requires Improvement' in November 2017.
- Performance at the school is well below national average.
- The board was advised that pupil numbers are expected to decline over the next three years. ALP has considered the fall in numbers in its financial forecast and have planned contingencies.
- ALP has a robust school improvement strategy and are already working closely with the school, providing support to Bishop Barrington through the ONE Vision programme.
- The trust's COO is the One Vision NLE for the school. The board was advised that this support will continue if approval is granted.
- The board recognised that Bishop Barrington needs to join a trust and agree that joining ALP would be the obvious decision given the relationship between the school and trust and the support structures now in place.
- The board was informed that ALP's support is having a positive impact on Bishop Barrington and progress will continue to be monitored through the ONE Vision Programme.
- The board supported this proposal.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: This is a proposal for St Patrick's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Dipton, All Saints' Catholic VA Primary School, Dipton, St Augustine's Catholic Primary School & St Joseph's Roman Catholic VA Primary School to convert and join Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that this proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education.
- The four primary schools converting are rated Ofsted 'Good' and will join a strong hub with the secondary schools.
- The primary schools are performing above national averages.
- The board was advised that Bishop Wilkinson CET is a high performing trust with a strong trustee board and financial expertise.
- The board discussed the scheme of delegation and current top slice figure and questioned whether this would be altered to meet the needs of the individual trust.
- The trust has undertaken due diligence and identified specific needs for each school, the board was informed that the trust has sufficient hub capacity at primary level to provide the necessary support.
- The trust plans to undertake an ICFP exercise once the schools join the MAT, to identify further efficiencies.
- The board was advised, where schools have falling pupil numbers, work will be carried out in the local area to increase roll numbers.
- The board supported this proposal; however, they agreed they would like an update prior to the next trench of conversion cases, which outlines the current progress of the Diocese strategic plan.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: Nick Hurn was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: This is a proposal for Archway to convert and join Horizons Specialist Academy Trust (HSAT)

HTB discussion:

- Archway was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in March 2018.
- The board was advised that Archway is a pupil referral unit, providing provision for pupils aged 11-16 that are at risk of or have been permanently excluded or because they are struggling to maintain attendance due to anxiety or crisis.
- The PRU will provide 85 commissioned places from September 2021, the board was advised that the LA is confident that these places will be filled.
- Academic outcomes are not published because this school is a PRU, however, performance is in line with expectations.
- The board was advised that HSAT already has two academies catering for pupils of secondary age with SEMH difficulties. Therefore, the trust already has the expertise of dealing with many of the issues encountered by pupils accessing the PRU.
- HSAT is financially healthy and will be able to provide Archway with the necessary financial support and shared services.
- The board supported this proposal.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: Elizabeth Horne was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: St Alban's Catholic Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Benet's Roman Catholic VA Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Joseph's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Stanley

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Mary's Catholic Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Mary's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Blackhill

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Michael's Roman Catholic VA Primary School, Esh Laude

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Oswald's Roman Catholic VA Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Robert's Catholic Primary School, Harrogate

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: The Holy Family Catholic High School, Carlton

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC between HTB meetings.

Significant Change

Project: St Mary's Catholic Primary School - changing age range from 3-11 to 2-11

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Harry Watts Academy (HWA) - physical expansion to a satellite site

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Selby Community Primary School – increase in capacity

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Converter Academy Orders

Project: Bishopton Centre, to convert and join Tees Valley Collaborative Trust

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Trust Change

Project: Whether to approve the proposal for South Cumbria MAT to form a Multi Academy Trust

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Projects listed on the published draft agenda but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published agenda but not discussed at the meeting.

Dean Gibson Catholic Primary School, St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, St Bernard's Catholic High School, St Joseph's Catholic High School, St Margaret Mary Catholic Primary School & St Cuthbert's Catholic Community School, **Cumbria** to form Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust.

Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust, **Cumbria** - sponsor application

These cases were removed from the agenda pending a request for some additional information.