

## **Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Advisory Board**

**19<sup>th</sup> August 2021**

### **Meeting by Correspondence**

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

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

### **Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair**

- Carol Gray

### **Advisory Board (HTB) members**

- Andrew Child
- Inderjit Sandhu
- Paul West
- Peter Bell
- Anne Martin
- Paul Stone

### **Guests**

- None

### **Apologies**

- None

### **DfE senior civil servants**

- ESFA Representative

### **Representations received**

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** Blidworth Oaks Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join East Midlands Education Trust

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted good June 2017 (short inspection).

The school considered a number of trusts, however they were of the opinion that East Midlands Education Trust was the most suitable match due to sharing the same ethos and values of the school and the community it serves.

The trust is well-established and the school believes that it would benefit from the support available from other schools within the trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the East Midlands Education Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

**Project:** Heathlands Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join East Midlands Education Trust

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted good June 2018 (short inspection).

The school considered a number of trusts, however they were of the opinion that East Midlands Education Trust was the most suitable match, due to an existing positive working relationship and sharing the same ethos and values.

The governors, parents and staff are all supportive of the school joining the trust.

The trust is well-established and the school believes that it would benefit from the support available from other schools within the trust.

The school is working in a successful collaboration with Blidworth Oaks, a primary school which has also requested to join the trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the East Midlands Education Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

## Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Points discussed in relation to a free school's sponsor status.

**Project:** Castle Donington Primary Free School, Leicestershire, discussion to consider sponsor options.

### **AB discussion:**

Leicestershire County Council are proposing to establish a 210 place primary school. This is to meet the demand for primary places arising in the area due to inward migration to the catchment area, new housing development and increased birth rates.

Schools in the area have limited or no spare capacity. Provision is to cater for pupils aged 4 to 11 years old.

It is envisaged that the school will open with Reception year only and grow incrementally over the next seven years, in order to avoid having an adverse impact on other primary schools in the locality.

As a presumption free school, the local authority will provide funding to cover the cost of opening the proposed new school and Section 106 funding has been secured in respect of the Charters Gate housing development currently being built on land to the west of Castle Donington.

The school is proposing to open in September 2022. The local authority's preferred sponsor is Scholars Academy Trust. The trust has capacity to establish new schools on the basis of high expectations and high performance as well a strong desire to work closely with other education providers in the locality. The trust has a proven track record of school improvement.

The strength of financial management and governance at Scholars Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Inderjit Sandhu and Paul West did not receive the papers and did not provide written comments for this project

**Further actions required:** Delivery Lead to inform the local authority, MP and trust of the decision.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Carcroft Primary School, Doncaster, to join XP School Trust Limited

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Fosse Primary School, Leicester to join The Mead Educational Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Gedney Church End Primary School, Lincolnshire to join Keystone Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Horncastle Community Primary School, Lincolnshire to join Wellspring Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Keyham Lodge School, Leicester to join Discovery Schools Academies Trust Limited

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Lutton St Nicholas Primary School, Lincolnshire to join Keystone Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Millgate School, Leicester, to join Discovery Schools Academies Trust Limited

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** New Pastures Primary School, Doncaster to join Venn Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** St Augustine's School, Nottinghamshire to join The Forge Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Woodthorpe Primary School, Sheffield to join Minerva Learning Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/09/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

## Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

**Project:** Alderman White School, Nottinghamshire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to lower the age range from 11 - 18 year olds to 11 - 16 year olds and to remove the sixth form provision

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted good March 2017.

The application proposes to transfer the sixth form provision to the Bramcote College, where it is already physically located. The two schools are part of The White Hills Park Federation Trust. There is no land transfer and the PAN at the school will remain the same.

Consultations have been carried out with stakeholders, with the majority being supportive of the proposal. Nottinghamshire County Council are supportive of the proposal. There will be no impact on other sixth form providers in the locality.

The strength of financial management and governance at The White Hills Park Federation Trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Andrew Child did not receive the papers and did not provide written comments for this project

**Further actions required:** Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

**Project:** Bramcote College, Nottinghamshire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to increase the age range from 11 - 16 year olds to 11 - 18 year olds and to add a sixth form provision

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted good March 2017.

The application proposes to incorporate the sixth form provision from Alderman White School in the Bramcote College where it is already physically located. The two schools are part of The White Hills Park Federation Trust. There is no land transfer and the PAN at the school will remain the same.

Consultations have been carried out with stakeholders, with the majority being supportive of the proposal. Nottinghamshire County Council are supportive of the proposal. There will be no impact on other sixth form providers in the locality.

The strength of financial management and governance at The White Hills Park Federation Trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Andrew Child did not receive the papers and did not provide written comments for this project.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

**Project:** Castle Donington College (Single Academy Trust), Leicestershire, to transfer to East Midlands Education Trust (Multi Academy Trust)

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted good January 2019.

The proposal is a voluntary transfer.

The college recognises that it would benefit from being part of a larger organisation, with a central trust team and where school improvement support can be provided.

Castle Donington College has an existing working relationship with the trust and has been collaborating on various projects.

The board considered the transfer to be a good strategic move, which will drive further improvement in learning and teaching.

The high-quality leadership at the college could add capacity to the trust to enable it to assist other schools.

The financial health of both trusts; strength of financial management and governance at East Midlands Education Trust, and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this transfer goes ahead were considered.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Delivery Lead to inform the trusts of the decision