

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

22 September 2021

### Attendance

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
- Kate Copley

### Advisory Board Members

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

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- None

### DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representative
- Kelly Hughes

### Representations received

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

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** Roe Farm Primary School, Derby, to join Odyssey Collaborative Trust

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted requires improvement June 2020.

The school and trust have formed a working relationship this year and as a result the school has seen the benefit of joining the trust. Formalising the relationship with the trust will allow the school to develop and improve further.

The trust has appointed a new CEO whose expertise as a National Leader of Education will help embed the school improvement strategy which has been developed in collaboration with leaders from other schools.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the Odyssey Collaborative 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:** William Rhodes Primary and Nursery School, Derbyshire, to join Embark Multi Academy Trust

### **AB discussion:**

Ofsted requires improvement April 2018.

The school has been Ofsted requires improvement since 2013 and for the past three full section 5 inspections.

The senior leadership team recognised that to make rapid improvements the school would need to join a strong academy trust, and it would benefit from the support and stability a trust could provide.

The school considered a number of trusts and decided that Embark Multi Academy Trust was the most suitable match.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the Embark Multi Academy 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:** Oakham Church of England Primary School, Rutland, to join The Rutland Learning Trust

**AB discussion:**

Ofsted good September 2017.

The school considered a number of trusts, however, they concluded that The Rutland Learning Trust was the most suitable match due to sharing the same vision and values.

The trust has worked with the school on several occasions and has provided support during the pandemic.

Rutland County Council are supportive of the school's proposal to become an academy and to join the trust. The governing body has also received diocesan consent from the Diocese of Peterborough for the proposal.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at The Rutland Learning 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:** Belgrave St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Leicester, to join Rise Multi Academy Trust

**AB discussion:**

Ofsted good June 2016.

The school considered a number of trusts, however, they concluded that the Rise Multi Academy Trust was the most suitable match due to sharing the same vision and values.

The trust has been providing support to the school during the summer term on leadership and teaching and learning.

To sustain improvement, the school would continue to be supported by the trust under its school improvement strategy.

The governing body has also received diocesan consent from the Diocese of Leicester for the proposal.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the Rise Multi Academy 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:** Cotgrave Church of England Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi Academy Trust

**AB discussion:**

Ofsted good May 2019 (short inspection).

The school wishes to join the trust because it is a Church of England based trust and it fits in with their designation as a Voluntary Aided school.

The trust has a similar ethos and follow the same principles as the school. The school believes that the trust can meet their needs and they can contribute to the trust.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham Multi Academy 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 and DCS. Trust to be informed of decision.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Ferham Primary School, Rotherham, to join James Montgomery Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/10/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

**Project:** Highfields School, Derbyshire, to join East Midlands Education Trust

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01/10/2021

**Further actions required:** No action required

## Significant Change

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

**Project:** Heatherbrook Primary Academy, Leicester, to discuss whether it should be allowed to add a nursery provision and lower the age range from the current 4-11 year olds to 2-11 year olds.

**AB discussion:**

Ofsted requires improvement January 2020.

The planned capacity of the nursery is 32 places and the trust are proposing to run at half capacity initially and review the need and take up after 6 months.

There is accommodation available on the existing school site which has previously been used as a private nursery.

A full consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and no objections were received to the proposal. The local authority is supportive of the proposal.

Effective date of proposal is January 2022.

The strength of financial management and governance at Learning without Limits Academy Trust, and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered, as was the impact on the community of providing additional nursery places.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** Dorothy Goodman School Hinckley, Leicestershire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to increase capacity from 290 pupils to 345 pupils

**AB discussion:**

Ofsted outstanding June 2016 (short inspection).

The local authority is seeking to develop more special educational needs provision, due to the increased demand in Leicestershire. The proposal forms part of Leicestershire's special educational needs and disability strategy.

The additional 55 spaces are proposed to be split over 3 sites (25 at Cleveland House which is located at Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre, 7 at Hinckley Academy and John Cleveland Sixth Form Centre and 23 at the Open Thinking Partnership's sixth form site).

There is no need for any substantial building modifications however minor capital works are required to refurbish the buildings and adapt existing spaces and the local authority are providing capital funding to support the proposal.

A full consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and no objections were received to the proposal. The local authority is supportive of the proposal.

The RSC requested further clarity on staffing, pupil numbers, and the allocation of pupils across the 3 sites in order to make an informed decision.

The strength of financial management and governance at the Open Thinking Partnership trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

**RSC decision:** Defer

**Conflicts:** None

**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:** Landau Forte Academy Moorhead, Derby, to discuss the sponsor match

**AB discussion:**

Following a full section 5 inspection in June 2016, Ofsted judged the academy inadequate (special measures).

Following a second section 5 in March 2019, Ofsted again judged the academy inadequate (special measures).

An Ofsted S8 monitoring visit took place in May 2021.

A Termination Notice was issued in July 2021.

Transform Trust has proven track record of delivering school improvement and has a plan in place to support the school as part of a local hub.

The board's view was that the transfer will drive rapid improvement in the school.

The financial health of both trusts, strength of financial management and governance at Transform 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

© Crown copyright 2021