



Department
for Education

Notes of Advisory Board: North-West London South Central

16 December 2021

Attendance

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

HTB 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

- Dame Kate Dethridge

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Sarah Bennett
- Dame Yasmin Bevan
- Dame Sue Bourne
- Sarah Brown
- Dr Jamie Clarke
- Claire Robins OBE

DfE senior civil servants

- Jo Thomas, Deputy Director, NWLSC

Representations received

- Representations received for item 1.4 from Lion Academy Trust.

General Discussion Points

- The RSC and Board discussed the current situation for schools in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and the contingency framework.
- The meeting note of the November Advisory Board was agreed.
- Conflicts of interest were noted for items 1.3 and 1.4.

Items for discussion in this meeting

North Sub-Region

Converter Academy Order

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary application made by St James' Church of England VA Primary School, **Bedford**, to join Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the benefits of St James' Church of England VA Primary School joining the MAT.
- AB members reflected on the overall performance of St James' Church of England VA Primary School.
- AB members discussed the performance of other schools in Diocese of St Albans Multi-Academy Trust.

RSC decision: Approve subject to conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision. The trust to send detailed information on their primary expertise.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the retrospective significant change request from Northampton Primary Academy Trust for Pavillion Pre School to join Abington Vale Primary School, **West Northamptonshire**, effective from 1 March 2018.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members discussed the retrospective request from Northampton Primary Academy Trust and whether there would be further retrospective requests.
- AB members considered Northampton Primary Academy Trust's future plans and capacity.
- The RSC and AB members reflected on the benefits for the pre-school in joining Abington Vale Primary School.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the physical expansion of Adeyfield Academy, **Hertfordshire**, from 5 form entry to 6 form entry.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- The RSC and AB members discussed the application for physical expansion of Adeyfield Academy, considering the risks and benefits.
AB members discussed the Educational Expert (EE) report.

RSC decision: Approve subject to conditions.

Conflicts: Claire Robins did not have this item in her papers and was not present when item discussed.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Free School Presumption - Sponsor Approval

Project: Whether to approve the Local Authority's preferred sponsor of Northampton Primary Academy Trust (NPAT) for Stanton Cross Free School, **North Northamptonshire**.

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- The RSC and AB members discussed the representation received.
- AB members reflected on the process that the LA undertook for this free school presumption.
- The RSC and AB members were given context and background on the presumption process by the project and team lead.
- AB members discussed the financial status of the trust and school.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Jamie Clarke and Sarah Bennett do not have this item in their papers and were not present when item discussed.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

West Sub-Region

Converter Academy Order

Project: Whether to approve the application made by Speen Church of England VA School, **Buckinghamshire**, to join Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust (ODBST).

Advisory Board (AB) discussion:

- AB members reflected on the application by Speen Church of England VA School and the merits of this.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RSC decision.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

The following schools are due to open on 1 January 2022.

- Langland Community School, **Milton Keynes**, to join Northampton Primary Academy Trust.
- The Mandeville School, **Buckinghamshire**, to join Insignis Academy Trust.
- Whiteknights Primary School, **Wokingham**, to join Bellevue Place Education Trust.

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