

Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Advisory Board

15th December 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

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anne Martin
- Andy Child
- Inderjit Sandhu

Guests

- none

Apologies

- Paul West
- Paul Stone
- Peter Bell

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr

Representations received

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

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Stocksbridge Nursery & Infants School, Sheffield, to convert and join Peak Edge Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

Stocksbridge Nursery & Infants School received an Ofsted good judgement (short inspection) on 11 December 2019.

Stocksbridge N&I applied to become an academy and has chosen Peak Edge Multi Academy Trust as their preferred trust as they are local and have built a good working-relationship.

The trust is keen for Stocksbridge N&I to join as they believe that the school would bring additional expertise and experience to the trust and the trust believes it has a strong offer of school improvement to give in return.

The trust has an NLE, an LLE, seven SLEs and other undesignated leaders within the trust.

Hearing the trust's school improvement plans for 2022 and performance of their current schools, the board were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at the Peak Edge Multi Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were also 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 the decision. Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended, along with an external review of governance.

Project: West Melton Primary School, Rotherham, to convert and join The James Montgomery Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

West Melton Primary School (West Melton) received its fourth consecutive requires improvement Ofsted judgement on 30 January 2019.

The James Montgomery Academy Trust (JMAT) is a mixed faith multi-academy trust. West Melton is 0.6 miles away from JMAT's lead school (Brampton 'The Ellis' CofE Primary School).

JMAT has been supporting West Melton since February 2021 and has put in place a headteacher and two additional senior leaders, therefore is already providing significant leadership and school improvement capacity to this school.

West Melton is currently in a deficit budget position, but JMAT have a proven track record of deficit management in the schools they currently support.

The Governing Body at West Melton passed a resolution to join JMAT as they believe JMAT has the necessary capacity and capability and also aligns with their needs and ethos.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at The James Montgomery Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were also 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 the decision.

Significant Change

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

Project: Approve the significant change of the creation of a satellite site of Stubbin Wood School in Nottinghamshire by T.E.A.M Education Trust.

AB discussion:

T.E.A.M Education Trust is a three school multi-academy trust (MAT) with two primary and one special school in Derbyshire. Stubbin Wood School is the lead school in the MAT and converted to academy status in 2019.

T.E.A.M Education Trust are seeking approval to establish a SEND satellite site for 24 students (predominantly students with Autistic Spectrum Condition) located in a vacant building on school property of King Edward Primary School in Mansfield which is 20 minutes away from Stubbin Wood School. The places will be split into three class groups, years 1 and 2, years 3 and 4 and years 5 and 6.

If approved, the provision will be in place from 1st July 2022.

Costs are being met by the LA from within their existing budgets. The Trust and LA have confirmed that funding covers the cost of procurement and operation of dedicated inter-site transport to support students to access the specialist SEND therapy facilities at Stubbin Wood site and the satellite provision in Mansfield.

A 4-week local consultation began on 14th September and ended on 31st October 2021. 57 responses were received overall online and all were in support.

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

The Advisory Board were supportive of the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school of the decision. ESFA to make contact regarding supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) which was recommended.

Project: Approve the significant change of opening of an integrated resource unit in Churchfield Primary School, Barnsley (Part of Waterton Academy Trust).

AB discussion:

Waterton Academy Trust is a 13 school, primary-only MAT based across Normanton, Pontefract and Wakefield with one academy, Churchfield Primary, in Barnsley.

The trust proposes to open an integrated resource (IR) unit within Churchfield Primary School to support pupils with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs).

Barnsley Local Authority (LA) are strongly in favour of the proposal due to increasing demand in the area for this type of provision. If approved, the provision will support their overall strategic plans for SEND.

Churchfield Primary received a good Ofsted judgement in October 2013. The Section 8 Ofsted inspection of March 2018 stated that the school 'continues to be good', having maintained a good quality of education since their previous inspection and had successfully addressed the areas of improvement advised.

The IR unit will provide ten full-time places. Pupils with an EHCPs will be placed by the LA SEND panel and be registered at the school.

Operationally, the IR will work within and be part of the wider school. The IR will be led by a manager, in a dual role as they will also support the Churchfield SENCo, a specialist teacher, three Teaching Assistants and two Lunch Time Supervisors (LTS). There will also be a mentor who is a trust employee and will offer support to the manager.

The build is a refurbishment of an unused area and the unit has its own WC and care facilities. There is an outdoor area for sand, construction, and water learning. There is an allotment space, flower beds and ample space to deliver a PE curriculum. Inside there is a dedicated wet play area and a fully equipped kitchen for cooking and baking. There are two main classrooms, each with space to afford ample room for the ten children attending.

The trust started its consultation on the 1st June 2021 and this ran to the 28th September 2021. Parents and stakeholders were consulted. In total 15 responses were received of which 100% were in favour of the change, but some raised concerns including how the unit will be funded. These concerns were responded to by the trust advising the LA will provide funding.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

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

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school of the decision. ESFA to make contact regarding supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) which was recommended. Delivery Officer to feedback to the trust that they must plan future projects of significant change and not take steps that pre-empt Regional Schools Commissioners' decisions.

Trust Change

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

Project: Approve the transfer of schools in Inspiring Futures Trust, Doncaster, to Exceed Learning Partnership, Doncaster.

AB discussion:

This proposal is for the voluntary transfer of the three primary schools in Inspiring Futures Academy Trust (IFAT) in Doncaster to Exceed Learning Partnership (ELP), resulting in the closure of IFAT as a trust.

One of IFAT's schools was judged good by Ofsted in 2019, one requires improvement judgement in 2020 and the third has an inadequate judgement from 2016.

Exceed Learning Partnership is a five-school primary trust also based in Doncaster, with a track record of school improvement and is financially strong. ELP has three good, one outstanding and one requires improvement school.

There is already an established partnership between the two trusts, with staff having established collaborative working relationships to drive improvements.

ELP are also supporting IFAT to manage their financial position and have the capacity and expertise to continue to do so. The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) for ELP has already been agreed.

The board were supportive of the proposal.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trusts and the impact on the future financial health were considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the trusts of the decision. Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

Project: Whether to approve the Diocese of Hallam to form two new trusts - St Clare Multi Academy Trust and St Francis Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

The Diocese of Hallam has 50 schools (including three independent schools) across six LAs (Barnsley, Derbyshire, Doncaster, Nottinghamshire, Rotherham, and Sheffield). This is a mix of single academy trusts (23), maintained schools (19) and one MAT, The Hallam Schools' Partnership Academy Trust (HSPAT) consisting of five academies.

In 2019, the Diocese of Hallam expressed a desire to convert and transfer all of their schools into a Multi Academy Trust (MAT).

The proposal to Advisory Board is to convert all the diocesan voluntary aided schools to academies and transfer existing academies into two new Catholic Multi Academy Trusts (CMATs), to be called St Clare CMAT and St Francis CMAT.

The establishment of St Clare CMAT and St Francis CMAT will be made up of four phases.

- St Clare Phase One: 16 schools join in March and April 2022.
- St Clare Phase Two: 8 schools join in September 2022
- St Francis Phase One: 15 schools join in March and April 2022
- St Francis Phase Two: 8 schools join in September 2022

The phasing of the schools into their respective MATs will ensure the schools transfer/convert into the CMAT with their existing families/cluster of schools, whilst prioritising those most vulnerable, educationally or financially, and taking into account their feeder schools and geographical location.

St Clare CMAT phase one will be made up of 16 schools in Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley, and Doncaster. This includes:

- conversion of 3 x Voluntary Aided schools
- transfer of 13 x academies

St Clare CMAT phase two will be made up of eight schools in Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley. This includes:

- conversion of 6 x Voluntary Aided schools
- transfer of 2 x academies

St Francis CMAT phase one will be made up of 15 schools in Doncaster, Rotherham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This includes:

- conversion of 4 x Voluntary Aided schools
- transfer of 11 x academies

St Francis CMAT phase two will be made up of eight schools in Doncaster, Rotherham, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. This includes:

- conversion of 6 x Voluntary Aided schools
- transfer of 2 x academies.

Two interim CEOs have been appointed, who will focus on setting up and shaping the establishment of St Clare and St Francis CMATs. The two CMATs will provide viability, financial stability, and increased school improvement capacity to the schools within the trusts.

The board were supportive of this proposal.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trusts and the impact on the future financial health were considered, should the proposal go ahead.

As part of the overall decision to create the two new CMATs, the following separate decisions were considered:

Trust Change – St Clare Catholic MAT

- Whether to approve the transfer of All Saints Catholic High School (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Notre Dame High School (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Sacred Heart School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Ann's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Marie's School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Primary School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, **Sheffield** (Single Academy Trust), to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Catherine's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Hallam, **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Thomas of Canterbury School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St John Fisher Primary, A Catholic Voluntary Academy, **Sheffield**, from the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Emmaus Catholic and CofE Primary School, **Sheffield**, from the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.

- Whether to approve the transfer of Holy Trinity Catholic and Church of England School, **Barnsley**, from the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Thomas More Catholic Primary, A Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Joseph's Primary School (Single Academy Trust), **Sheffield**, to St Clare Multi Academy Trust.

Converter Academy Orders – St Clare Catholic MAT

- Whether to approve Saint Pius X Catholic High School, A Specialist School in Humanities, Rotherham, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Rotherham, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Alban's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Sheffield, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Rotherham, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Holy Rood Catholic Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Helen's Catholic Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Michael and All Angels Catholic Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join St Clare Multi Academy Trust.

Trust Change – St Francis Catholic MAT

- Whether to approve the Diocese of Hallam to form a new trust – St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Holy Family Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Doncaster, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of The McAuley Catholic High School (Single Academy Trust), Doncaster, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Maltby, Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.

- Whether to approve the transfer of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Bede's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Bernard's Catholic High School (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Immaculate Conception Catholic Primary (Single Academy Trust), Derbyshire, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Catholic High School, A Catholic Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), Derbyshire, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy (Single Academy Trust), Nottinghamshire, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Joseph's School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy, Doncaster, from the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Voluntary Academy, Doncaster, from the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Gerard's Catholic Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham, to St Francis Multi Academy Trust.

Converter Academy Orders – St Francis Catholic MAT

- Whether to approve St Francis Xavier Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Edlington, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Mary's Catholic Primary, Derbyshire, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.

- Whether to approve St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Joseph and St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Joseph's Catholic and CofE (VA) Primary School, Derbyshire, to convert and join St Francis Multi Academy Trust.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the Diocese, DCS and Trust of the decision made. Converter Academy Orders to be sent to the schools' Chair of Governors and DCS. Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

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