

Notes of Meeting: Lancashire and West Yorkshire Advisory Board

27th January 2022

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

- Vicky Beer (RSC)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Duncan Jacques
- Karen Bramwell
- Julie Bradley
- Jonathan Nichols
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Julian Appleyard
- Chris Melia

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives

Representations received

- 1 received; Discussion to consider the sponsor options for Castle View Primary School, Lancashire, Sponsored Route

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Kaye's First and Nursery School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that the proposal is both sensible and works well geographically
- The board were also reassured by the trust's School Improvement strategy
- The board have suggested that the trust will need to review and expand their expertise as the trust grows
- SRMA to be deployed to continue reviewing the trust's financial needs, specifically focusing on their growth strategy

RSC decision: Approved.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Project: Discussion to consider All Saints Church of England Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Collaborative Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this is a sensible proposal but shared concerns regarding the location of the school
- The board also shared concerns regarding the trust's rate of growth
- The board identified expertise gaps within the trust's central team, with specific observation that there are no members who can provide challenge on the trust's educational strategy
- SRMA to be deployed
- The board suggested that the trust apply discipline on future growth and focus on the patch created with existing schools

RSC decision: Approved with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision

Sponsored Route:

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

Project: Discussion to review sponsor options for Castle View Primary School, Lancashire

Reason for Academy Order: Ofsted Category 4

AB discussion:

- The board discussed the representations received in response to this project and the concerns raised
- The board also shared concerns about the need for a variety of trusts within this area. Despite this, the board agreed that the trust is at lower risk financially and have a good track record of improving schools
- The board suggested that this could be used as a transition for Cidari to become a mixed MAT

RSC decision: Approved with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision