

## Notes of Meeting: North Advisory Board

Thursday 10 March 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

- Katherine Cowell (RSC)

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge (AB)
- Lesley Powell (AB)
- Elizabeth Horne (AB)
- Sir Michael Wilkins (AB)
- Zoe Carr (AB)
- Andy Bayston (AB)

### Apologies

- Nick Hurn (AB)
- Chris Clarke (AB)

### DfE senior civil servants

- Kim Mitchell (DD)

### Representations received

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

### General Discussion Points

RSC welcomed board members to the meeting.

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** This is a proposal for Oakridge Community Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Yorkshire Endeavour Academy Trust (YEAT)

### **AB discussion:**

- Oakridge Community Primary School was judged to be 'Outstanding' in 2014. The board was advised that the school recognises it is an old Ofsted judgement and the move into YEAT would provide a more sustainable future for the school where it could access the support the trust could provide.
- Oakridge has already built partnerships with YEATs primary and secondary schools through the former Esk Valley Teaching School Alliance.
- Oakridge has seen a decline in pupil numbers, however, North Yorkshire LA forecasts indicate pupil numbers are due to rise slightly over the coming years. The trust also has plans for a marketing campaign to increase numbers on roll further.
- The board was informed the trust recently accepted an offer to review their governance using an NLG. The trust has 1 trustee vacancy which Academy Ambassadors are working to recruit.
- The board discussed the trust's future growth plan and suggested an SRMA to be deployed to help with the long-term plan.
- The board agreed that the trust has the capability to support this school and therefore supported this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** This is a proposal for Holy Trinity CofE Infant School, Holy Trinity CofE Junior School, Dacre Braithwaite CofE Primary School, Roecliffe CofE Primary School, Fountains CofE Primary School, Grewelthorpe CofE Primary School, Kirby Hill CofE Primary School North Yorkshire to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

### **AB discussion:**

- The board was advised that the proposed converters are part of the Diocese of Leeds 'Academy Strategy and Operational Policy' to convert academies creating clusters in cold spot areas.
- The diocese identified Ripon in North Yorkshire as the first potential cluster for LDLT and these 7 schools have already been working closely with the diocese.
- The board was informed that the current Diocesan Director of Education at the Diocese of Leeds will initially be the part-time CEO before moving to a full time CEO position. The board advised this should be limited in time and mentoring would be helpful from an experienced CEO to help this set up and transition. .
- The schools proposed to join are varied in terms of performance, pupil numbers and finance and the central capacity will be provided initially by the diocese meaning these schools will have the benefit of being a part of a family of schools.
- The trust board has 3 vacancies and is open to utilising Academy Ambassadors to fill these as well as undertaking a review of governance to ensure the governance board is operating effectively.
- The board advised they would like to see further plans of growth and leadership of the trust including moving as quickly as possible towards the appointment of a full time CEO
- ESFA would like to see monthly management accounts for the trust following the conversion of these phase 1 schools as well as receiving confirmation of compliance with the Academy Trust Handbook
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision:** Approve with conditions

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** This is a proposal for Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School, St Gregory's Catholic Primary School, Cumbria to convert and join Mater Christi Multi Academy Trust

### **AB discussion:**

- The board was advised that this is the second tranche of Catholic schools converting to academy status in line with the Diocese of Lancaster's strategic plan for full academisation.
- The three schools in this proposal will add capacity to the trust and are all either Ofsted Good or Outstanding.
- The trust will be able to provide the back-office function, procurement processes and use of common systems that will allow these three schools to focus on education and staff to access more development opportunities.
- The board was informed there is an experienced SRMA within the trust who is in the process of implementing a cross trust ICFP
- Future growth is anticipated within Mater Christi and the financial position will be monitored monthly by the DfE
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision.

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: This is a proposal for Vickerstown School, Cumbria to convert and join South Cumbria MAT (SCMAT)**

**AB discussion:**

- Vickerstown is a small primary school located in Cumbria which received an Ofsted Good in 2013, with a short inspection in 2017.
- The school has been working collaboratively with SCMAT since Covid-19 and now would like to formalise this by joining the trust
- With a resourced provision for SEND, the school is eager to share its expertise, knowledge and experience with SCMAT.
- The board discussed additional growth of the trust as more schools are expected to join the trust.
- The trust is looking to strengthen its governance through the addition of a trustee.
- The board support this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: This is a proposal for Durham Community Business College (DCBC), Durham to convert and join Advance Learning Partnership (ALP).**

### **AB discussion:**

- DCBC was judged to be Inadequate whilst part of Durham Federation in September 2014 followed by an RI judgement in October 2018, with leadership and management deemed Good.
- The board was advised that DCBC received support through the department's ONE vision programme, however, the school needs further support through joining a MAT now the programme is drawing to a close.
- ALP has the reputation and capacity in the area to take the school into the trust to secure its future.
- The LA supports this application as it believes it is in the best interests of the local community.
- The trust plans to conduct an ICFP analysis and will be working with an SRMA.
- ALP's governance structure is in line with DfE preference.
- The board supported this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Sponsored Route:

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

**Project:** This is a proposal for Carleton Endowed CoE Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and be sponsored by Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)

**Reason for Academy Order:** Inadequate Ofsted Judgement

### AB discussion:

- Carleton Endowed primary school in Skipton, North Yorkshire was judged as Inadequate by Ofsted in June 2021, particularly in relation to safeguarding and leadership and management. It was judged to be RI for the quality of education and early years provision
- The board was advised that LDLT was identified as the sponsor for Carleton and the trust has a plan in place for support, with the majority of support being provided by the central team, including the diocesan education team.
- The governance structure is not yet in line with the DfE preference and the trust is planning to recruit additional trustees, using Academy Ambassadors to ensure skills gaps are filled. LDLT should therefore ensure it is compliant with the ATH.
- As a new trust the ESFA will monitor the trust in the first year of operation and an SRMA visit should take place within the first few months.
- The board supported this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve with conditions

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

**Project: This is a proposal for Selby Educational Trust (SET), North Yorkshire to apply for sponsor status**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board was advised Selby College was granted sponsor status in 2012 and SET was established in February 2016. The sponsor has been to date officially classed as an FE sponsor, however, Selby College is stepping away from its role as a sponsor and SET wishes to re-confirm its approved status as a sponsor trust in its own right.
- There are two primary schools within the trust, one judged Good by Ofsted and the other was judged RI (prior to conversion) in January 2021.
- The board discussed the governance of the trust and a strong preference that the trust should have 5 members and a minimum of 9 trustees. The trust is engaging with Academy Ambassadors to recruit.
- The board recommended that the trust arranges an external third party for the trust audits to comply with the ATH.
- The trust has experience of working with a range of schools on school improvement and has the capacity to support schools. .
- The board supported this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

**Project: This is a proposal for Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT), North Yorkshire to apply for sponsor status**

### **AB discussion:**

- LDLT is a prospective MAT which is being established by the Diocese of Leeds (CofE).
- Significant support will be provided by the diocese initially as the trust is established.
- The board was advised that all schools in the first tranche of proposed converters are Ofsted 'Good' or 'Outstanding', with the exception of one which is RI.
- The board was informed that the current Diocesan Director of Education at the Diocese of Leeds will initially be the part time CEO and the board advised an experienced mentor and to move to a full time CEO position as soon as possible.
- The trust board has 3 vacancies and open to utilising Academy Ambassadors to fill these as well as undertaking an external review of governance to ensure the governance board is operating effectively.
- The board advised they would like to see further plans of growth and leadership of the trust.
- The trust must confirm they are compliant with the Academy Trust Handbook in relation to the Finance and Audit committee.
- The department would like to see monthly management accounts for the trust following the conversion of phase 1 schools.
- The board supports this proposal.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

### **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Handale Primary School, Redcar & Cleveland

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

### **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Langley Park Primary School, Durham

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

### **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Oakdene Primary School, Stockton-on-Tees

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

### **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Rossmere Primary School, Hartlepool

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Aidan's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Northumberland**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School, Berwick, Northumberland**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School, Sunderland**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Gregory's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School, South Tyneside**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Helen's Primary School, Hartlepool**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St John Vianney RC Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School Aided, North Tyneside**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Matthew's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School, South Tyneside**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Robert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School, Northumberland**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Stephen's Roman Catholic Primary School Aided, North Tyneside**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: St Vincent's RC Primary School, Newcastle upon Tyne**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project: Willow Tree Community Primary School, North Yorkshire**

**AB discussion:** Proposed opening date 01/04/2022

**Further actions required:** No further action required

## Significant Change

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

**Project: This is a proposal for Woodlands Academy, North Yorkshire to increase capacity from 110 to 163.**

### **AB discussion:**

- Woodlands Academy has applied to increase capacity of the school from 110 to 163 in line with the LA forecasts. It is currently operating above capacity with 126 pupils on roll with growing demand for places in the area. Both North Yorkshire and East Riding LA commission places at the Academy.
- The board heard that Woodlands has been prioritised for a rebuild through the Schools Rebuilding Programme (SRP) based on condition need and to futureproof the new building, the academy and LA are seeking to increase the capacity now.
- The academy consulted on this proposal with East Riding LA and North Yorkshire LA both supporting this proposal.
- Although judged 'Requires Improvement' in January 2020 the headteacher now is confident the school would now be judged 'Good' if inspected.
- The board was content with the current governance and leadership at Woodlands.
- The board agreed for a condition to be set stating that the Deed of Variation (DoV) isn't signed until the level of funding for the capital project is agreed.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Elizabeth Horne was not present and did not receive papers for this item

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Significant Change

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

**Project:** This is a proposal for James Rennie School, Cumbria for a physical expansion onto a satellite site and increase of capacity from 150 to 195 from 01 September 2022.

### **AB discussion:**

- James Rennie School has applied for a physical expansion onto a satellite site and to increase their capacity by 45 places as requested and funded by the LA.
- The board was advised that the sites are approximately 4.5 miles apart with the post-16 provision to be based at the new site. The type of SEN provision offered by the school will not change.
- The trust has been working closely with Cumbria LA on this proposal as the LA requires additional SLD and PMLD places in the surrounding areas.
- Formal consultation has been carried out; the responses were positive with only transport raised as a query. However, the trust and LA responded to state that they are working closely to manage the transition of pupils between the two sites and to accommodate the additional pupils expected at the existing site.
- The school was judged to be 'Outstanding' in 2014 with a short inspection in 2018 reconfirming this judgement.
- The trust's leadership is experienced at multi-site schooling including managing provision across satellite sites. The trust plans to recruit additional staff in advance of the expansion.
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Significant Change

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

**Project:** This is a proposal for Walker Riverside Academy, Newcastle to introduce a 12 place Cognition and Interaction ARP from September 2022.

### **AB discussion:**

- Walker Riverside has applied for the introduction of a 12 place Cognition and Interaction ARP following Newcastle LA's request for schools hosting ARP to accommodate the needs of students.
- The board was advised that the proposal is not to have all the places filled by September but instead have some 'in year' capacity.
- The LA forecast indicates that a further 320-380 additional places will be needed for pupils with autism by 2025 therefore there is a need locally for these places.
- The school was running an official consultation at the time of discussion.
- The board discussed the trust's scheme of delegation and leadership.
- The trust plans to appoint designated ARP staff, as required.
- The board supported this proposal subject to any issues arising from the consultation.

**RSC decision:** Provisionally approve subject to ongoing consultation completing

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Trust Change

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

**Project: This is a proposal for Ebor Academy Filey, North Yorkshire to join Coast and Vale Learning Trust (CVLT)**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board was advised this was a voluntary transfer for Ebor Academy Filey to transfer from Ebor Academy Trust to CVLT.
- Ebor Academy Filey was judged Requires Improvement in May 2018 with a further inspection in December 2021. The report is not yet published.
- Ebor Academy Trust has recognised that it needs to focus on being a primary only trust and does not have the capacity to support Ebor Academy Filey.
- As a five school MAT based in and around the Scarborough area, CVLT has capacity to support other schools The trust is already providing significant leadership and SI support to Ebor Academy Filey.
- The board discussed finances and advised an SRMA to be deployed to CVLT.
- The board supported this proposal..

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Trust Change

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

**Project: This is a proposal for Broughton Primary School, Cumbria to join Learning for Life Trust**

### **AB discussion:**

- Broughton Primary School has operated as a single academy trust (SAT) since October 2011.
- Broughton was judged by Ofsted to be Good in 2015. They are now looking to join Learning for Life trust, a single school MAT.
- Learning for Life has a measured growth plan in place, however, with the trust not being an approved sponsor, they wish to grow by including schools that will add capacity.
- By joining the trust Broughton will benefit from the expertise the trust has at present as well as the development of the central offer
- The board discussed the mismatch between the capacity of the school and the larger numbers on roll. The board was advised the capacity of the school is higher than recorded and that this will be corrected before transfer.
- The board was content with the current governance and leadership at Learning for Life and noted the current recruitment in process for additional members and trustees to strengthen the board further.
- The board supported the proposal

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC outside of AB meetings.

### **Project: St Mary Magdalen's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School**

**Decision type:** Academy Converter

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

### **Project: Bloemfontein Primary School**

**Decision type:** Significant change to add nursery provision for 2- and 3-year-olds

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

### **Project: Skipton Academy, Moorlands Learning Trust**

**Decision type:** Significant change to add an 8-place facility with a focus on autism

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Andy Bayston did not receive any paperwork for this project

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision