

Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and The Humber Advisory Board

15 June 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

- Kate Copley.

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Inderjit Sandhu.
- Paul Stone.
- Andy Child.
- Anne Martin.
- Paul West.

Guests

- None.

Apologies

- Peter Bell.

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative.
- Kelly Hughes (Deputy Director).

Representations received

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

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve Ravenhurst Primary School, Leicestershire, to convert and join Oadby, Wigston and Leicestershire Schools Academy Trust (OWLS Academy Trust).

AB discussion:

Ravenhurst Primary School is a mixed community primary school in Leicestershire. It was inspected by Ofsted in June 2019 and received a judgement of requires improvement. This is the second time the school has been judged as requires improvement, following a previous inspection in March 2017.

Ravenhurst Primary School is keen to join a trust to obtain additional support and the opportunity to collaborate with other schools. The school started to work closely with OWLS Academy Trust during the pandemic and the governing body passed a resolution to join the trust.

OWLS Academy Trust consists of 6 local academies (5 are good or outstanding and a free school that is awaiting its first inspection). The trust has developed a clear and detailed school improvement plan with the school and has the capacity to implement it.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at OWLS Academy Trust, and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Paul Stone and Inderjit Sandhu. Paul and Inderjit were not sent any project papers in advance of the meeting, nor were they present for this part of it.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors and the Director of Children's Services for Leicestershire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser post conversion was recommended.

Project: Whether to approve Woodland View Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to convert and join Transform Trust.

AB discussion:

Woodland View Primary School is a medium sized primary school in the constituency/district of Ashfield in Nottinghamshire. It was judged as requires improvement by Ofsted in April 2019.

Woodland View Primary School wish to convert voluntarily. The governing body passed a resolution to convert to academy status and join Transform Trust.

Transform Trust has a strong track record of improving schools and capacity to support the school.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at Transform Trust, and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors and the Director of Children's Services for Nottinghamshire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser, post-conversion, was recommended.

Project: Whether to approve Wilthorpe Primary, Barnsley, to convert and join Every Child Matters Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

Wilthorpe Primary was judged requires improvement by Ofsted in November 2021.

The school wishes to convert into an academy as they recognise the need for improvement following their latest Ofsted judgement. The school has already been working closely with Every Child Matters Academy Trust.

Every Child Matters Academy Trust is an eight-academy primary trust based in Barnsley, established by High View Primary Learning Centre (primary school) and Wombwell Park Street Primary School in October 2015.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at ECM and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision. Academy order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors and the Director of Children's Services for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. A written statement on post-transfer funding, prior to Wilthorpe Primary joining the trust, is to be sought.

Sponsored Route

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

Project: Discuss sponsor options for Morton Primary School, Derbyshire.

AB discussion:

Morton Primary School is based in Derbyshire and is a primary school in the district of Alfreton. Morton Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in March 2022 and judged inadequate with safeguarding concerns. The school was issued with an academy order in May 2022.

The department recorded two expressions of interest from potential sponsors. The board considered both options, and whilst both were strong candidates, it was agreed that Djanogly Learning Trust was the preferred choice.

Djanogly Learning trust has a track record of school improvement, with two of its sponsored primary academies being judged good by Ofsted on their first inspection.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at Djanogly Learning Trust, and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve - Djanogly Learning Trust.

Conflicts: Andy Child. Andy was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

Project: Discuss funding route for Glebe Junior School, Derbyshire, which is joining Flying High Trust.

AB discussion:

Glebe Junior School is a larger-than-average size junior school which was judged inadequate by Ofsted following an inspection in October 2021. The school was issued with an academy order in December 2021, naming Flying High Trust as the sponsor.

In line with the Department's sponsor funding framework, the project meets intermediate funding criteria.

Flying High Trust consists of primaries across Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The trust has a track-record of turning around challenging schools. The trust has 8 academies within a five-mile radius of Glebe Junior School and 4 of these are within a two-mile radius.

The board was satisfied that the circumstances warranted the authorisation of intermediate funding and an award of an Environmental Improvement Grant. .

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Paul Stone. Paul was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

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

Significant Change

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

Project: Whether to approve the de-amalgamation of Astrea Academy (Astrea Academy Trust), Sheffield to become 2 schools: a primary and a secondary.

AB discussion:

Astrea Academy Trust wish to de-amalgamate Astrea Academy, an all-through school, into separate primary and secondary schools. The primary phase would be re-named Andover Street Primary Academy and the secondary school would retain its school name (Astrea Academy Sheffield).

Astrea Academy was opened as a 2-18 all-through free school in September 2018. Astrea Academy Trust feel that the school does not operate effectively as an all-through – it is split across 2 sites and has distinct leadership structures in each school phase. The trust's rationale for wanting to de-amalgamate the school is to improve education for children in the local community.

The board was not in agreement with this proposal. The board's view was that the decision to de-amalgamate the school after a relatively short period since its formation is not compelling enough. Additionally, the views of pupils' parents were not clear.

RSC decision: Decline.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Whether to approve the de-amalgamation of Becton School (Nexus Multi Academy Trust), Sheffield, to become 2 schools: a special academy and an Alternative Provision / hospital school.

AB discussion:

Becton School is a special academy and is part of Nexus Multi Academy Trust. The school converted to become an academy and join the trust in April 2020.

Becton School, located in Sheffield, currently operates across 5 sites around the city. The school comprises a mix of alternative provision and special academy provisions, with 2 sites operating as a special academy and 3 sites as alternative provision/hospital school settings. In total, there are currently 220 places at the school.

The trust proposes to de-amalgamate the school to separate the hospital/alternative provision from the special school provisions.

The school and trust believe separating the hospital school/alternative provision and special school provisions will help improve the administration of Becton School by enabling leaders to focus on the different cohorts and improving clarity for families and other stakeholders. The trust believes this is the right time for this project as the 2 arms of the school are now large enough to stand alone.

The board agreed with this proposal. They noted that there would be limited disruption. The board was also satisfied with the proposed structure that would be created.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Andy Child. Andy was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

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

Project: Whether to approve the physical expansion of John Port Spencer Academy (The Spencer Academies Trust), Derbyshire, to increase capacity from 2070 to 2600 (an increase from 1720 to 2100 at Year 7 to Year 11 and from 350 to 500 at Post 16).

AB discussion:

John Port Spencer Academy is a large secondary school with sixth form provision based in Derbyshire. The academy was transferred into The Spencer Academies Trust in 2018 following an inadequate Ofsted judgement in 2017.

This proposal is to increase the capacity of the school from 2070 to 2600, (an increase of 530 places) by the expansion of the post-16 centre, science building, art provision and dining provision.

The proposed expansion is to meet local demand for places due to local housing developments and is to be funded by the local authority.

Planning permission for the master plan and car park were approved by South Derbyshire District Council on 21 April 2021. Alongside this, a further application was submitted to seek detailed approval for the Post-16 and Science elements of the projects. Approval is expected week commencing 6 June 2022.

The board recognised the basic need and agreed with the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Paul West. Paul was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision. Decision regarding the Post-16 increase to be escalated to the Minister.

Project: Whether to approve the increase in the number of places at Forest Way School (single academy trust), Leicestershire from 245 to 265 with effect from 31 August 2022.

AB discussion:

Forest Way School is an academy located in Coalville, North-West Leicestershire and opened as a standalone academy in March 2012. The school was rated as outstanding by Ofsted at the time of its conversion into an academy and in its most recent section 8 inspection (December 2021) it was confirmed that the school remained outstanding.

This proposal is to increase the capacity/planned number of places at Forest Way School from 245 to 265 with effect from 31 August 2022. This will be achieved by constructing a new modular building to provide 2 additional classrooms. As the modular building is not anticipated to be ready until spring term 2023, the trust is proposing to set up a temporary satellite base for the 2 new classes from August 2022 at Ashby Hastings Primary School (a Leicestershire free school within Symphony Learning Trust which opened in 2021).

This proposal is in response to Leicestershire County Council's request to admit a further 21 pupils from August 2022, to address an increase in demand for special school places in the Coalville area in the 2022-23 academic year. This is also part of Leicestershire County Council's SEND Strategy.

There are no planned changes to the governance of the school.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the school/trust, the strength of financial management and governance, including the impact on the school/trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve (subject to securing the related planning permissions).

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended.

Project: Whether to approve the expansion of the Social, Emotional and Mental Health Unit from 5 places to 12 places, at Orchard Mead Academy (The Mead Educational Trust), Leicester.

AB discussion:

Orchard Mead Academy is a larger than average sized secondary school located in Leicester. The school converted to become an academy in September 2017 to be sponsored by The Mead Educational Trust (TMET) following an inadequate Ofsted judgement in December 2016. The school was recently inspected on the 9 February 2022 and was rated by Ofsted as good across all categories.

This proposal is to increase their social, emotional and mental health unit across both KS3 and KS4 by 7 places, taking them from 5 to 12 places. This will be achieved by adapting the building that houses the unit on the school site to cater for the extra places. Current projections shows that there is a growing need for children with an education, health, and care plan across Leicester.

A consultation period ran from 25 April to 23 May 2022 - 11 responses were received, and all were in favour of the change.

The board agreed with this proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Paul Stone and Inderjit Sandhu. Paul and Inderjit were not in receipt of associated project papers, nor were they present for this part of the meeting.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended.

Project: Whether to approve Dorothy Goodman School (Open Thinking Partnership), Leicestershire, to add a new satellite site at New Lubbesthorpe Primary School and whether to increase the capacity by 50 places from 345 to 395.

AB discussion:

Dorothy Goodman School is a special academy located in the Hinckley and Bosworth area of Leicestershire and is part of the Open Thinking Partnership Trust. The school had an Ofsted judgement of outstanding in June 2011 and an inspection in October 2021 confirmed that it remained outstanding.

Dorothy Goodman School would like to increase their capacity by 50 places from 345 to 395. This request is a phased approach starting with an increase in capacity of 24 from August 2022 (20 places at a proposed satellite at New Lubbesthorpe and 4 places at the school's main primary site) and a further 26 places over the next four years.

This will be achieved by adding 2 classrooms to the primary's base and creating a temporary satellite site at New Lubbesthorpe Primary School from September 2019.

This proposal is in response to Leicestershire County Council's request to admit a further 24 EYFS and KS1 pupils from August 2022, in order to address an increase in demand for special school places in the Blaby area. This proposal forms part of Leicestershire County Council's wider SEND Strategy.

A consultation regarding the proposed changes was undertaken between 28 March 2022 and 20 May 2022. In total, 8 responses were received and they were all in favour of the proposals.

The board agreed with this proposal in part. The board was satisfied with the proposal for an increase of 20 places at the new satellite site and 4 places at the main primary site. The board had concerns about the proposal for an increase of 26 places and the need for further clarity on how the additional places would be accommodated. The board agreed to defer this part of the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve - 20 places at the new satellite site and 4 places at the main primary site.

Defer - proposal for the remaining increase of 26 places.

Conflicts: Inderjit Sandhu. Inderjit was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was she present for this part of the meeting.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended.

Trust Change

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

Project: Whether to approve a proposal from the Diocese of Hallam to form a new trust - St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

There are 50 faith schools (including 3 independent schools) in the Diocese of Hallam, spanning 6 local authorities (Barnsley / Derbyshire / Doncaster / Nottinghamshire / Rotherham / Sheffield).

Of the 47 state-funded schools, 19 are voluntary aided schools, 23 are single-academy trusts and 5 schools are in The Hallam Schools' Partnership Academy Trust.

In December 2021, the proposal of converting and transferring all 47 of the Diocese of Hallam's schools into 2 new trusts (St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust and St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust) was presented to the Advisory Board. The proposal was approved, and academy orders issued. These academy orders were later withdrawn.

7 schools (4 academies and 3 academy conversions) have now passed resolutions and wish to join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The following individual decisions were considered:

- Whether to approve Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to convert and join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (Maltby) (Single Academy Trust), Rotherham to St Francis Catholic 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 Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Joseph's School, a Catholic Voluntary Academy (Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust), Doncaster, to St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Voluntary Academy (Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust), Doncaster, to St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

The board was satisfied that the issues that arose following the December advisory board had been resolved and therefore agreed to approve this decision.

The financial health of the schools, the strength of financial management and governance at St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

The financial health of the schools, the strength of financial management and governance at St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the diocese, Director of Children's services and the trust, of the decision. Academy order to be sent to the schools' Chair of Governors and Director of Children's Services. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended. An external review of governance was recommended within the next 12 months.

Project: Whether to approve the transfer of 3 schools to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

The board considered the transfer of 3 schools to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust. The proposed creation of St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust was presented and approved following the advisory board discussion on 18 May 2022. The proposal included 10 schools in total to formally join the St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust. 3 further resolutions have been received from schools within the Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust that wish to join St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust. Those discussed at this meeting were:

- Whether to approve the transfer of Emmaus Catholic and CofE Primary School (Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust), Sheffield, to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Holy Trinity Catholic and Church of England School (Hallam Schools partnership Academy Trust), Barnsley, to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St John Fisher Primary, a Catholic Voluntary Academy (Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust), Sheffield, to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

The financial health of the schools, the strength of financial management and governance at St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the diocese, Director of Children's services and the trust of the decision.

Project: Whether to approve the transfer of Norbridge Academy (single academy trust), Nottinghamshire, to Delta Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

Norbridge Academy is a larger than the average-sized primary school. It converted to an academy status on 1 September 2011 as a single academy trust (Venture Academy Partnership Trust) and received an outstanding Ofsted judgement in 2014.

Norbridge Academy believes now is the right time for them to join Delta Academies Trust. Joining Delta Academies Trust will give the academy opportunities to further enhance provision through collaboration and share good practice as being part of a bigger trust. This will benefit pupils and will also help contribute to improving lives across a wider geographical area.

The financial health of the 2 trusts, the strength of financial management and governance arrangements at Delta Academies Trust were considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Paul West. Paul was not in receipt of associated project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the academy and trust of the decision.

Project: Whether to approve Hall Cross Academy (single academy trust), Doncaster, to join Exceed Learning Partnership.

AB discussion:

Hall Cross Academy is a single academy trust which converted to academy status in February 2012. It is based on the south-east outskirts of Doncaster city centre. The school was last inspected by Ofsted in March 2018 and was judged to be good.

Hall Cross Academy wishes to join a trust whose values and ethos align with their own.

Hall Cross Academy and Exceed Learning Partnership have a long-standing relationship, including working jointly on curriculum development to facilitate a smooth transition for pupils.

HCA researched other local multi academy trust options prior to choosing Exceed Learning Partnership as their preferred partner.

The financial health of the 2 trusts, the strength of financial management and governance arrangements at Exceed Learning Partnership were considered.

The board agreed with this proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the academy and trust of the decision. An external review of governance was recommended post transfer.

Project: Whether to approve the transfer of 7 academies from St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust to St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

The Diocese of Middlesbrough currently has 3 diocesan multi academy trusts: St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust, St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust (SMCCAT) and Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust. The Diocese of Middlesbrough has 53 schools and academies, providing Catholic education to circa.18,000 children and young people.

A review by the Diocese of Middlesbrough concluded that urgent intervention was needed at SMCCAT due to concerns regarding leadership and governance. It was determined by the Diocese that transferring the SMCCAT's academies into one of the other Diocesan trusts would bring about the systemic changes required.

The Diocese's proposal is to transfer 7 SMCCAT academies to St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust, and the remaining 10 academies to Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust is currently comprised of 8 academies – 7 primary schools and one secondary school, which includes a college. The trust believes that the proposed transfer of the 7 academies from SMCCAT is a natural extension of their system leadership capacity which has developed successfully over time in the trust.

The following individual decisions were considered:

- Whether to approve the transfer of St Augustine's Catholic School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), North Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of Our Lady and St Peter Catholic Primary School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), East Riding of Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St George's Catholic Primary School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), North Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Mary's Catholic Primary School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), East Riding of Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.

- Whether St Mary & St Joseph Catholic Primary School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), East Riding of Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St John of Beverley Catholic Primary School (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), East Riding of Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.
- Whether to approve the transfer of St Peter's Catholic Primary school (St Margaret Clitherow Catholic Academy Trust), North Yorkshire, to join St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust.

The board agreed with this proposal.

The financial health of the schools, the strength of financial management and governance at St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were also considered.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the academies and the trust of the decision. The supportive deployment of a schools resource management advisor was recommended as was an External Review of Governance.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Whether to approve Welland Park Academy, Leicestershire, in proposing to expand on its current site from September 2022 in order to meet basic need for secondary places in the planning area.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: N/A

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

Project: Whether to approve the removal of the Warning Notice for Dinnington Primary School.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: N/A

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

Project: Whether to approve the age-range change at Croxby Primary School and the addition of a new nursery provision.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: N/A

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

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