

Notes of Meeting: Lancashire & West Yorkshire Advisory Board

29th 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

- Vicky Beer (RSC)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Duncan Jacques
- Jonathan Nichols
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Chris Melia
- Karen Bramwell

Apologies

- Julie Bradley
- Julian Appleyard

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representatives

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

- RSC provided an update on the transition to the new Regions Group, key priorities in the region and area-based commissioning discussions currently taking place.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Blessed John Henry Newman Catholic College, Oldham, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- Positive example of strong schools joining a trust to help balance its portfolio.
- Proposal shows positive trust progression.
- Supportive offer of SRMA offered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Kentigern's RC Primary School, Manchester, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- Positive example of strong schools joining a trust to help balance its portfolio.
- Proposal shows positive trust progression.
- Supportive offer of SRMA offered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Holy Family RC Primary School, Oldham, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- Positive example of strong schools joining a trust to help balance its portfolio.
- Proposal shows positive trust progression.
- Supportive offer of SRMA offered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Mesne Lea Primary School, Salford, to convert and join Prestolee Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed this was a sensible proposal which consolidates a relationship that already exists between the school and trust.
- The board added a condition to understand what the trust plans for sustainable leadership.

RSC decision: Approved with condition

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Greasby Junior School, Wirral, to convert and join Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this was sensible proposal.
- The board would like to see more detail in the trust's strategic plan for future growth and one which encompasses a range of expertise.
- SRMA recommended to support trust.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Trust Change

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

Project: Discussion to consider Birkdale High School, Sefton, transfer options.

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this was a sensible proposal however the trust would need to manage any future growth plans.
- The board also queried where the trust would acquire its Secondary School Improvement lead.
- The board set out the following conditions:
 - Project lead to manage trust's expectations regarding its growth strategy
 - Trust to provide a strategic plan which outlines its emerging risks and future opportunities

RSC decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider Bradford Girls Grammar School, Bradford, to transfer to Bradford Diocesan Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board recommended the trust take this opportunity to revisit its governance structure.
- The board were assured by the plans the trust had provided which projected the improvements they can make at the school.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision

Project: Update on The Brooksbank School, Calderdale, trust transfer to Together Learning Trust

AB discussion: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

RSC decision: None.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Discussion to consider All Saints Catholic College, Tameside, transfer options

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this transfer would provide stability for the school.
- The board agreed on the following conditions:
 - Trust to update legal documents
 - Trust to provide an action plan based on the results of the SRMA.

RSC decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider St Catherine's CE Primary School, Bolton, to transfer to The Bishop Fraser Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed this is a positive transfer for the school.
- The board suggested the trust review the roles on their trust board.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the Trust of decision