

Notes of Meeting: Lancashire & West Yorkshire Advisory Board

11th July 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 Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Julie Bradley
- Julian Appleyard
- Duncan Jacques
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Karen Bramwell

Guests

- Anita Ghidotti
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Karen Burns
- Annette Williams
- Helen O'Neill
- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle

Apologies

- Jonathan Nichols
- Chris Melia

DfE senior civil servants

- AMSD representatives.

Representations received

- [1; Discussion to consider University Technical College Leeds, Leeds, to transfer to The Rodillian Multi Academy Trust, Trust change]

This representation was shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

- Regional Director 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 All Saints Catholic College, Kirklees, to convert and join Blessed Peter Snow Catholic Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board agreed the trust would need to reset internal capacity to review risk management.
- SRMA to be deployed to support the trust to uncover any financial risks.

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 Johns, Southworth RC Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Romero Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that this is a sensible proposal, however they shared concerns regarding the trust's central services.
- AMSD representative provided assurances that the SRMA findings will identify any financial issues which would be followed-up.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Julie Bradley was not present for this discussion.

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

Project: Discussion to consider Gayton Primary School, Wirral, to convert and join Cheshire Academies Trust

AB discussion:

- The board shared concerns regarding the trust's geographical reach and lack of performative evidence on schools which currently exist within the trust.
- The board agreed to defer the project and for the following actions to be completed:
 - Regional Director's office to organise conversation with the trust to discuss their growth plans
 - Trust to provide a robust growth plan of their current model
 - SRMA to be deployed

RSC decision: Deferred

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform trust of decision and to progress actions stated above.

Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

Project: Discussion to consider Parklands High School, Lancashire, sponsor application

AB discussion:

- The board were provided with a summary of this project and reflected on their initial views.

RSC decision: For Discussion Only

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Trust Change

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

Project: Discussion to consider University Technical College Leeds, Leeds, to transfer to The Rodillian Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board discussed the representation received and reflected on the concerns shared by the correspondents.
- The board also reflected on the trust's previous financial issues, however AMSD representative provided assurances that there have been financial improvements with both trust and the UTC.
- The board considered the already established relationship between the trust and UTC and the trust's work in improving other schools within the wider community.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Discussion to consider Parklands High School, Lancashire, transfer from a Single-Academy Trust to Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board were provided with a summary of this project and reflected on their initial views.

RSC decision: For Discussion Only

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.