



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

20 September 2022

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Carolan Goggin (Interim Regional Director)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Tom Banham (AB)
- Andrew Child MBE (AB)
- Carol Dewhurst OBE (AB)
- Rowena Hackwood (AB)
- Mark Wilson (AB)
- Jenn Plews (AB)
- Kash Rafiq (AB)
- Jonny Uttley (AB)

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (DD)

Representations received

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

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for All Saints RC School, York, to convert and join Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted outstanding, popular locally with parents and has good performance as of the 2019 results and is the final Local Authority maintained school in the Diocese of Middlesbrough. There is an existing relationship between the school and the Trust and the school's feeder primaries are already a part of Nicholas Postgate.
- The school's estate was discussed, and the Board was satisfied the Trust has a sufficient plan in place to address capital requirements.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- It was considered that the school would add capacity to and strengthen the Trust.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for Mill Hill Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Areté Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted requires improvement. The Trust's assessment of the school is that there have been improvements made since the Ofsted inspection. The school feeds one of the Trust's existing secondaries and feels the Trust is the best placed to understand the local community.
- This would be the first primary school to join the Trust. The board was satisfied that there was sufficient primary expertise and capacity within the trust. The CEO is a HMI for both primary and secondary and the Trust has a vision to grow as a cross phase Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor was recommended.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for Coomb Briggs Primary School, North East Lincolnshire, to convert and join Wellspring Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted good. The school considers the Trust aligns with their beliefs and vision and have other schools nearby to work collaboratively with .
- The board discussed the trust's future growth plan and recommended that the Trust's current pipeline is monitored when considering further growth
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and there are no concerns over the current financial forecasts.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Wilson was not present and did not receive papers for this item

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 Oastlers School, Bradford, to convert and join Exceed Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted good and it was agreed that this was a good match overall.
- This would be the first Special Educational Needs (SEN) school to join the Trust. The Board considered that the match was mutually benefit with the Trust benefitting from the school's SEN expertise.
- There are no concerns over the current financial forecasts.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jenn Plews and Mark Wilson were not present and did not receive papers for this item

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 Bardsey Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join The GORSE Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted good but required support from the Trust through the pandemic. The trust has been supporting the school and has currently seconded a Headteacher for the rest of the calendar year. The Local Authority is supportive of the conversion. The school feeds a Trust secondary school.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and sought further clarification from DfE regarding forecasts and financial governance.
- A School Resource Management Advisor was recommended.

RD decision: Defer awaiting assurances that the trust can deliver all the actions stated in their action plan (submitted 6 October) by the dates specified.

Conflicts: Kash Rafiq was not present and did not receive papers for this item

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 Lee Mount Primary School, Calderdale, to convert and join Impact Education Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is Ofsted requires improvement and is currently being supported by the Trust. The school feels they have already benefitted from the Trust's expertise in estates, buildings, finance and compliance.
- The Board considered the continuation of the relationship to be a good fit but noted the Trust board may benefit from further financial expertise
- A School Resource Management Advisor was recommended, and the trust has previously stated this would be welcome.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Kash Rafiq was not present and did not receive papers for this item

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 to consider the sponsor options for Bankwood Community Primary School, Sheffield.

AB discussion:

- The school was Ofsted judged inadequate at an inspection in March 2022 and is currently being supported by Steel City Schools Partnership Trust (SCSPT) at the request of the Local Authority. SCSPT has provided capacity from the CEO, COO and a headteacher.
- SCSPT was considered to have a good recent track record of school improvement and sufficient capacity to continue current levels of support. The continuation of the existing relationship was considered a positive factor.
- The Board noted a lack of trustee numbers. This has been acknowledged by the Trust as it's due to 2 trustees leaving their posts recently, the trust is actively recruiting replacements to add to the board.
- A School Resource Management Advisor was recommended.

RD decision: Approve Steel City Schools Partnership Trust as sponsor for Bankwood Community Primary School

Conflicts: Andy Child was not present and did not receive papers for this item

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

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Howden Junior School

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/10/2022

RD decision: Further actions required:

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Kaye's First and Nursery School

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/10/2022

RD decision: Further actions required:

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Miriam Lord Community Primary School

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/10/2022

RD decision: Further actions required:

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Oakridge Community Primary School

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/10/2022

RD decision: Further actions required:

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Roecliffe Church of England Primary School

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/10/2022

RD decision: Further actions required:

Significant Change

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

Project: This is a proposal to consider physical expansion and increase in school capacity at Brinsworth Academy, Rotherham

AB discussion:

- The secondary school has provision for 16-18 year olds as well as 20 pupil Special Educational Needs and was judged good by Ofsted in February 2023.
- The Trust has experience of delivering a school building project in budget and on time. The proposal does not represent any capital risk.
- This expansion application is to be fully funded by the Local Authority in order for them to be able to meet their school sufficiency obligation.
- The board noted the unusual Pupil Admission Number and recommended review to ensure maximum efficiency.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: This is a proposal for Norton College, North Yorkshire, to transfer to Ryedale Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- Evolution Schools Learning Trust (ESLT) is a single school Multi Academy Trust (MAT) who have voluntarily resolved for their only school to transfer to Ryedale Learning Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and recommended detailed due diligence by the Trust prior to conversion.
- A School Resource Management Advisor was recommended to realise efficiencies and ensure the Trust's School Improvement plan is affordable.
- It was recognised that the school would benefit from being in a MAT with more than one school, however SRMA and due diligence were recommended to ensure Ryedale Learning Trust is not destabilised by the transfer.
- The transfer represents a sensible option locally.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: This is a proposal for The Woodlands Academy, North Yorkshire, to transfer to Horizons Specialist Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Woodlands Academy Trust is a single school Multi Academy Trust (MAT) who have voluntarily resolved for their only school to transfer to Horizons Specialist Academy Trust (HSAT).
- Geography was considered by the Board. While the school is the first in North Yorkshire Local Authority to join the Trust, HSAT is looking to develop a hub in the locality and the transfer provides local schools with access to a sponsor that has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) experience.
- HSAT also has recent bespoke building projects experience and is well placed to support the school through upcoming rebuild.
- The Department is satisfied that the forecast surplus is healthy, but is keen to see revised figures.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: This is a proposal for Anston Greenlands Primary School, Rotherham, Redscope Primary School, Rotherham and Thorpe Hesley Primary School, Rotherham, to transfer to New Collaborative Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The 3 schools form Creative Children's Academy Trust (CCAT) and the proposal is for all of the schools to voluntarily transfer to New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) and CCAT to subsequently close.
- The Board considered NCLT to have capacity currently in place to take on the 3 schools, and that the Trust would be stronger following the transfer. There is a good opportunity to realise savings through economies of scale.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended to realise efficiencies and the Board recommended an SRMA with Further Education experience.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Carol Dewhurst was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: SRMA with Further Education experience to be deployed to the Trust. Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: This is a proposal for Salterlee Primary School, Calderdale, to transfer to Polaris Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The project represents a Single Academy Trust (SAT) voluntarily transferring its only school, Salterlee Primary, to Polaris Multi Academy Trust and subsequently closing. The school is a feeder to the Trust's secondary.
- As a relatively small school making up a SAT, it was considered that joining a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) would make the school more secure. The Trust has experience of working with schools of this size and in similar communities.
- The school's governance will be strengthened by joining the MAT.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended as the Board noted schools of this size require careful financial management.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision.

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