



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

Date of meeting – 13 December 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

- Carolan Goggin (Interim Regional Director)

Advisory Board (AB) members

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

Apologies

- Kash Rafiq (AB)
- Jonny Uttley (AB)

DfE senior civil servants

Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Trinity All Saints CofE VA Primary, Bradford, to convert and join Collaborative Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- The Trust's financial health, including levels of reserves and projections for future budgets were discussed. Trinity All Saints CofE VA Primary believes joining the Collaborative Learning Trust (CLT) will support and strengthen its position.
- Forecasted pupil numbers were discussed, and it was considered the Trust has planned appropriately.
- CLT has recently began operating in Bradford and currently has 3 other Church of England schools. It was considered CLT has the required expertise and capacity to support their growth. The conversion is supported by the Diocesan Board of Education.
- The Board recommended further separation between trustees and school governors.

RD decision: Approve

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

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider St. Mary's & St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- Due to changing demographics of the community the school serves, the Diocese does not feel it is appropriate for the school to join one of their Multi Academy Trusts permanently (as the school has very low numbers of Catholic children on roll). The Board heard the proposal for the school to convert and join Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust, before submitting a Significant Change Application to de-designate as a faith school and subsequently transfer to Co Op Multi Academy Trust. This proposal has the support of both trusts, the Local Authority, the Diocese and the Catholic Education Service
- Impact on staff and local community was discussed, both were considered to be minimal.
- The Co-Op Multi Academy Trust was considered to be an appropriate match for the school in the long term, with an appropriate school improvement resource and strategy.
- The future de-designation of the school via a Significant Change application and subsequent transfer to the Co-Op Multi Academy Trust were agreed in principle.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider Poppleton Road Primary School, York, to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The school chose to join Pathfinder MAT to allow them to share best practice and be part of a community of schools.
- The Board felt this was a strong school who could add capacity to the Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jonny Uttley was not present and did not receive papers for this item

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

Project: Discussion to consider Wilberfoss Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire, to convert and join The Education Alliance.

AB discussion:

- There is an existing relationship between the school and the Trust through the East Riding School Improvement Partnership.
- Wilberfoss Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School chose to join The Education Alliance as they are closely aligned on ethos and values and are geographically close to provide necessary support and collaboration.
- The Trust was considered to be a good fit for the school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jonny Uttley was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider The Willows School, Rotherham, to convert and join Nexus Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Willows School was judged to be a Good school at its last Ofsted inspection and is the only Local Authority maintained remaining special school in Rotherham.

- Nexus Multi Academy Trust has a strong track record in similar schools and is based geographically very close to the school.
- There is a long-established working relationship and the school joining the trust is seen as mutually beneficially to both organisations.

RD decision: Approve

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

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider Our Lady and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Rotherham, to convert and join St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- There is an established working relationship and existing links with schools in the MAT. Geographical location makes sense and aligns with the Diocesan vision.
- The Board recommended that the Trust now focus on their School Improvement strategy.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) has been commissioned to the Trust.
- Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is seeking assurance on the financial capabilities of the Trust before the school joins.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision. Trust to submit updated Management Accounts to ESFA

Project: Discussion to consider St Theresa's Catholic Primary School, Rotherham, to convert and join St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- There is an established working relationship and existing links with schools in them MAT. Geographical location makes sense and aligns with the Diocesan vision.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) has been commissioned to the Trust.
- Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) is seeking assurance on the financial capabilities of the Trust before the school joins.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision. Trust to submit updated Management Accounts to ESFA

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project:

AB discussion: Lee Mount Primary, **Calderdale**, Impact Education Multi Academy Trust

RD decision: Proposed opening date 01/01/2023

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Project:

AB discussion: Highfield Farm Primary, **Calderdale**, James Montgomery Academy Trust

RD decision: Proposed opening date 01/01/2023

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Significant Change

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

Project: Discussion to consider age-range change at Wisewood Community Primary School (Tapton School Academy Trust), Sheffield, to allow delivery of 32 FTE nursery places.

AB discussion:

- The proposal is for the Trust to take on the running of nursery provision which is already established on the school premises.
- It was considered the Trust has sufficient plans to grow numbers of nursery children.
- Appropriate consultation has taken place, with no issues raised.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Discussion to consider Signhills Infants Academy, North East Lincolnshire, to transfer from Signhills Infant Academy and join The St Lawrence Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school chose to join The St Lawrence Academies Trust as they are closely aligned on ethos and values and are geographically close to provide necessary support and collaboration, and because of their existing working relationship.
- Governance of the Trust was discussed, and the Board recommended that primary expertise should be added to the Trust Board.
- It was noted that the Trust has previously had a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) commissioned.
- The transfer has been approved by the Diocesan Board of Education, and it aligns with their strategy.
- There is potential for further growth of the Trust in the locality which will further strengthen The St Lawrence Academies Trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andy Child and Mark Wilson were not present and did not receive papers for this item

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

Project: Discussion to consider St Bernards Catholic High School, Rotherham, to transfer from St Bernards Catholic High School and join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The projects forms part of the Diocese of Hallam growth plan with further projects expected to be considered in the near future.
- It was considered that the school would bring leadership capacity to the Trust.
- The Board recommended the Trust develop their School Improvement plan for any further projects as it is currently in development.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

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