



## Notes of Meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board

22 February 2023.

### Attendance

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

Advisory Board 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

- Kate Copley.

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Chris Wheatley.
- Sarah Armitage.
- Paul Heery.
- Sian Hampton.
- Mark Thomas.
- Julian Scholefield.
- Paul West.

### Guests

- None.

### Apologies

- Inderjit Sandhu.

### DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes, Deputy Director, East Midlands Regions Group.
- ESFA representative.

## 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 Thrapston Primary School, North Northamptonshire, to convert and join Brooke Weston Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

Thrapston Primary School is a mixed foundation school situated in Kettering, Northamptonshire. The school received a good Ofsted judgement in September 2022.

The school's governing body passed a resolution to convert to academy status and join a multi-academy trust in December 2021.

Prior to the latest Ofsted judgement, Thrapston Primary School received a requires improvement judgement in January 2019. The school has received school improvement support from Brooke Weston Trust since December 2021, including affiliation with Brooke Weston Trust's Primary Training Hub. Thrapston Primary School staff have benefitted from the training and support provided.

Brooke Weston Trust is already working with the school and approval would formalise the existing relationship.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Brooke Weston Trust, and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the school, the trust and North Northamptonshire Council of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended, as well as an external review of governance.

**Project:** Whether to approve Stonebroom Primary and Nursery School, Derbyshire, to convert and join Christopher Nieper Education Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

Stonebroom Primary and Nursery School made a voluntary application to convert to academy status and join Christopher Nieper Education Trust. We have received a governing body resolution from the school.

Stonebroom Primary and Nursery school received a good judgment from Ofsted in February 2016. A short Ofsted inspection in September 2019 confirmed that the school continues to be good school.

Stonebroom Primary and Nursery School has an established relationship with the trust, sharing the same vision, values and ethos and an understanding of the local community. The school has an experienced leadership team which will work with the trust to help devise a new primary strategy.

Christopher Nieper Education Trust is now in a position to progress its ambitions for growth into the primary phase and formalise the partnerships it has built with other local schools. Stonebroom Primary and Nursery School will add valuable primary expertise and experience to the trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Christopher Nieper Education Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the school, the trust and Derbyshire County Council of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended, as was an external review of governance.

**Project:** Whether to approve Flying High Trust as a sponsor for Stanhope Primary and Nursery School, Nottinghamshire.

**AB discussion:**

Stanhope Primary and Nursery School has received consecutive requires improvement judgements by Ofsted. The most recent inspection in June 2022 judged the school as requires improvement in all areas, except early years.

In November 2022, the department notified the school's governing body that the school met the definition of a school that is coasting (not making necessary improvements) as set out in the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022 and invited the governing body to submit representations.

In December 2022, the school informed the department that the governing body had been considering joining a multi-academy trust for some time and had passed a resolution to join Flying High Trust. However, as the school met the legal definition of a school that is coasting, a sponsor matching exercise was completed to identify an appropriate sponsor. Flying High Trust was selected due to its proven track record of improving schools.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Flying High Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** Chris Wheatley. Chris was not in receipt of project papers, nor was he in attendance for this part of the meeting.

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

## Sponsored Route:

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

**Project:** To discuss and agree a sponsor match for Inglehurst Infant School, Leicester.

### **AB discussion:**

Inglehurst Infant School in Leicester was inspected by Ofsted on 27 and 28 September 2022 and judged to be inadequate (previously good). The school was issued with an Academy Order in November 2022.

Following an information-gathering exercise, Attenborough Learning Trust was identified as the most appropriate sponsor for the school.

Attenborough Learning Trust is a primary phase trust based in Leicester. The trust was formed in April 2019 and currently comprises of 2 infant schools (both Ofsted good) and 2 primary schools (both Ofsted outstanding). A further Ofsted outstanding primary school, Charnwood Primary School, is expected to join the trust in April 2023.

The trust has a track record of supporting infant and primary schools throughout Leicester and is currently investing in re-structuring and enhancing its school improvement offer as a foundation for further growth.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Attenborough Learning Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

Fast track sponsorship funding was proposed for the conversion. This will be confirmed following due diligence by Attenborough Learning Trust.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved – Attenborough Learning Trust.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust and Leicester City Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss and agree sponsor funding for Morton Primary School, Derbyshire.

**AB discussion:**

Morton Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in March 2022 and judged inadequate (serious weaknesses), with safeguarding concerns. The school was issued with an Academy Order on 6 May 2022.

Djanogly Learning Trust was approved as the sponsor of Morton Primary School at Advisory Board in June 2022. In December 2022, Morton Primary School was reinspected by Ofsted and judged requires improvement.

Djanogly Learning Trust has completed its due diligence and developed a plan to address the areas of improvement identified by Ofsted.

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

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved – Fast Track Sponsor Funding.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Gamston St Peter's CofE Primary School.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 1 March 2023.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** Morton Primary School.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 1 March 2023.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** Snarestone Church of England School.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 1 March 2023.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

## Significant Change

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

**Project:** Whether to approve the expansion in capacity of King Edward VI Grammar School, Louth, Lincolnshire, from 970 places to 1070 places.

**AB discussion:**

King Edward VI Grammar School is a former boarding school dating from the 16th Century. It has 967 pupils on roll, with a capacity figure of 970.

The school wishes to expand the physical capacity to ease overcrowding in the science department and offer a wider curriculum.

The school received CIF funding for a new sports hall in 2021, which is now in use. This has meant the previous activity hall and changing rooms are now redundant. The trust is requesting agreement to convert this space into four new engineering, physics and resistant materials laboratories, a dedicated examination hall and whole school assembly hall. This will increase the school's physical capacity from 970 to 1070.

The school undertook a full consultation on the proposal. This was posted on the school website and consultation notices and letters were sent to key stakeholders. The school held a public meeting on 14 September 2022 including presentation of the plans for the project. No objections were raised.

The local authority has confirmed they have no objections to the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at King Edward VI Education Trust and the trust's future financial health were also considered.

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved – subject to CIF bid.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the trust and Lincolnshire County Council of the decision made.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

**Project:** Whether to approve an increase in capacity at Babington Academy (Learning Without Limits Academy Trust), Leicester, from 1050 to 1350.

**Decision type:** Significant Change.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the school / trust and Leicester City Council of the decision.

## List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the AB meeting.

**Project:** To discuss and agree Rise Multi-Academy Trust as a sponsor match for Woodville CofE Junior School, Derbyshire.

**Type of decision:** Sponsored Route.

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Awaiting the published report for the federated school (Woodville Infant School).