



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

17 January 2023

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

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

Representations received

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

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Ashfield Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Collaborative Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- There is an existing relationship between Ashfield Primary and the Trust. They are geographically close, and the school believes the ethos of the Trust is aligned to their own.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The age of the building was discussed, the Trust is to complete due diligence into the condition of the building.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Project: Discussion to consider Lowerhouses CofE (Voluntary Controlled) Junior Infant and Early Years School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school has considered a number of local Multi Academy Trusts and Learning Accord MAT has undertaken extensive due diligence on the school.
- It was considered that the school would bring capacity to the Trust in the form of experienced staff.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended to support the Trust in ensuring it operates effectively with appropriate separation between governance layers.
- 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

Conflicts: N/A

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

Project: Discussion to consider Highburton Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School, Kirklees, to convert and join Enhance Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- It was considered that Highburton Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School would bring additional capacity to the Trust, and that the match made sense geographically.
- The Trust's School Improvement model was discussed, less external resource is expected to be used as the central team is strengthened.
- The Trust has high reserves, due to cancelled building projects during the pandemic, and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The proposed conversion is supported by the Diocese.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. External Review of Governance and consolidated financial forecasts to be provided to ESFA, for their assurance, prior to conversion. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Batley Parish Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior Infant and Nursery School, Kirklees, to convert and join Enhance Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- It was considered that Batley Parish Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior Infant and Nursery School had strength in early years, and that the match made sense geographically.
- The Trust has high reserves, due to cancelled building projects during the pandemic, and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The proposed conversion is supported by the Diocese.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. External Review of Governance and consolidated financial forecasts to be provided to ESFA, for their assurance, prior to conversion. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Carrwood Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Leading Learners Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- It was considered the school shares a similar ethos to the Trust, and that Leading Learners MAT has experience of taking on similar schools.
- The Trust's governance was discussed with clear separation between members, trustees and governors was recommended.
- The Trust has a plan in place to ensure the school remains viable in the long term.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

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

Sponsored Route:

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

Project: Discussion to consider Hoylandswaine Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join Hoyland Common Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- There is an existing relationship between the school and the Trust, and the school is a feeder to one of the Trust's secondaries.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended.
- The Local Authority has confirmed the need for the places the school provides, and the Trust has done due diligence into the school's long-term viability.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Tom Banham was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: External Review of Governance to be commissioned. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Coomb Briggs Primary School, North East Lincolnshire, Wellspring Academy Trust

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/02/2023

RD decision: Further actions required: N/A

Project: South Kilvington Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, Elevate Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/02/2023

RD decision: Further actions required: N/A

Significant Change

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

Project: Whether to approve the addition of a 12-place resourced specialist provision at Littlecoates Primary Academy (Wellspring Academies Trust), North East Lincolnshire.

AB discussion:

- This Significant Change supports the growth of high needs places across North East Lincolnshire, aligned to the LA's SEND sufficiency plan.
- It was considered that the Trust has the capacity and experience to deliver the additional provision.
- 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

Conflicts: Mark Wilson 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: Whether to approve the addition of a 12 place SEN resourced provision at Appleton Academy (Exceed Academies Trust), Bradford.

AB discussion:

- This Significant Change forms part of a wider Local Authority backed programme for the expansion of SEND places across the district.
- The resourced provision will be an integral part of the school, thus enabling pupils with ASD to remain in mainstream where appropriate (based on individual needs) while also being able to access a specialist setting.
- It was considered that the Trust has the capacity and experience to deliver the addition provision.

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 Horbury Bridge Church of England Junior and Infant Academy (Horbury Bridge St Johns Academy Trust), Wakefield, to join Enhance Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Horbury Bridge Church of England Junior and Infant Academy has been working with Enhance Academy Trust since the beginning of the current academic year.
- The Trust has high reserves, due to cancelled building projects during the pandemic, and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The proposed conversion is supported by the Diocese.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. External Review of Governance and consolidated financial forecasts to be provided to ESFA, for their assurance, prior to conversion. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of 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: Discussion to consider Primley Wood Primary School, Leeds, to join Owlcotes Multi- Academy Trust.

Type of decision: Trust Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Withdrawn by Khalsa Education Trust

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