



## Notes of Meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board.

16 March 2023.

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

- Carol Gray.

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Inderjit Sandhu.
- Mark Thomas.
- Sian Hampton.
- Chris Wheatley.
- Paul West.
- Julian Scholefield.
- Paul Heery.

### Guests

- None.

### Apologies

- Sarah Armitage.

### DfE senior civil servants

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

## Representations received

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

## Sponsored Route:

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

**Project:** Whether to approve the sponsor match for Woodville CofE Junior School and Woodville Infant School, Derbyshire, to join Rise Multi Academy Trust and to discuss sponsorship funding (the discussion on Woodville Infant School was included in the meeting following the publication of the Ofsted report on 6 March 2023).

### **AB discussion:**

Woodville Schools Federation consists of Woodville Infant School and Woodville CofE Junior School, both are local authority-maintained schools. Woodville CofE Junior School received an inadequate Ofsted judgement in September 2022 and Woodville Infant School was judged to be inadequate in November 2022.

The schools share an executive headteacher and governing body (including chair). The schools operate in the same building, each with a separate wing of the building.

Advisory Board members heard that the department worked closely with both the Diocese of Leicester Board of Education and Derbyshire County Council to identify an appropriate sponsor and Rise Multi Academy Trust was the recommended choice.

Rise Multi Academy Trust board passed a resolution on 14 December 2022, to support both Woodville Infant School and Woodville CofE Junior School. Rise Multi Academy Trust has both Church of England and non-faith schools located less than 2 miles from the Woodville Schools Federation. Educationally, all of Rise Multi Academy Trust's existing schools are Ofsted good or better.

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

The board was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved – Rise Multi Academy Trust as sponsor.

**Conflicts:** Paul Heery. Paul was not present for this part of the meeting, nor was he in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the schools, Derbyshire County Council and the trust of the decision.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Charnwood Primary School.

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

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project:** Scarcliffe Primary School.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 1 April 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 Winthorpe Primary School (Aspire Multi - Academy Trust), Nottinghamshire, to extend its admission age range from 5-11 to 3-11 by opening pre-school provision.

### **AB discussion:**

Winthorpe Primary School is in the district of Newark and Sherwood. It converted to an academy in November 2020 and joined Aspire Multi - Academy Trust. Winthorpe Primary School is rated good by Ofsted.

Winthorpe Primary School seeks to lower its age range by 2 years. In opening a pre-school provision (Foundation Stage 1), the revised age range would be 3-11 (currently 5-11). The new provision will join the Foundation Stage 2 class to form a new Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) unit. The EYFS unit will have a maximum capacity of 28 pupils (13 Foundation Stage 1 and 15 Foundation stage 2).

Winthorpe Primary School's governing body believes that the EYFS unit will offer quality first pre-school teaching by qualified teachers, impacting positively on children's early development and establishing a smooth transition from Foundation stage 1 into Foundation stage 2.

A consultation ran for 4 weeks, from 10 June 2022 to 10 July 2022. The school received 19 responses in total, all of which were in support of the proposal. Nottinghamshire County Council also supports the proposal.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Aspire Multi - Academy 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 academy and trust of the decision. The supportive deployment of a school resource management adviser was recommended.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve Foxwood Academy (single-academy trust), Nottinghamshire, to join The White Hills Park Trust (multi-academy trust).

### **AB discussion:**

Foxwood Academy, a single-academy trust, is seeking a voluntary transfer to The White Hills Park Trust.

Both trust boards have passed resolutions agreeing to the transfer. The proposal has the support of Foxwood Academy's staff. Parents at Foxwood Academy were also informed of the proposal via a newsletter in September 2022.

Foxwood Academy is a special school in the district of Broxtowe. It became an academy on 1 September 2012. The academy received a good Ofsted judgement in May 2013 and retained this judgement following a short Ofsted inspection in October 2017.

The CEO of The White Hills Park Trust and the CEO at Foxwood Academy have a history of working together. Over the last 18 months, the trusts started to formalise their collaborative working arrangements based on a shared ethos and approach to inclusive education for children and young people with SEND.

Foxwood Academy and Bramcote College (a secondary academy within The White Hills Park Trust) share the same campus, enabling collaborative working.

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

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** Paul Heery and Julian Scholefield. Paul and Julian were not present for this part of the meeting, nor were they in receipt of associated project papers.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform both trusts of the decision.

**Project:** Whether to approve The Spires Academy (Catch22 Multi Academies Trust Limited), West Northamptonshire, to join Tove Learning Trust (multi-academy trust).

### **AB discussion:**

The Spires Academy opened as an Alternative Provision (AP) free school within Catch22 Multi Academies Trust Limited in May 2017. The school provides education for pupils with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties.

In October 2021, Ofsted judged The Spires Academy to be inadequate in leadership and management, behaviour and safeguarding.

Tove Learning Trust is an experienced trust with a proven track record of improving underperforming schools. The only secondary AP school within the local authority area is part of Tove Learning Trust and the intention is for both academies to collaborate on local AP provision.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Tove Learning 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 academy and trusts of the decision.

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