



## Notes of Meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board.

17 May 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

- Kate Copley.

### Advisory Board (AB) members

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

### Guests

- None.

### Apologies

- None.

### DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes (Deputy Director, East Midlands Regions Group).
- ESFA representatives.

## 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 Round Hill Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to convert and join Equals Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

Round Hill Primary School has made a voluntary application to convert to academy status and join Equals Trust.

Round Hill Primary School is located in the district of Broxtowe, Nottinghamshire and is a larger-than-average primary school. The school was judged good by Ofsted in November 2012. A short inspection in February 2018 confirmed that the school continues to be good.

Copies of the school governing body resolution/consent to join Equals Trust and the trust board decision for the school to join the trust have been received.

Round Hill Primary School has been working jointly with Equals Trust on the potential benefits that joining the trust would bring, and would like to formalise that arrangement. These benefits include collaborative school improvement support, streamlining and enhancing staff continuous professional development to recruit and retain the best staff.

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

The board requested additional information on this proposal before a decision can be taken.

**RD decision:** Deferred.

**Conflicts:** Sian Hampton and Paul Heery. Sian and Paul 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 the school and trust of the decision.

**Project:** Whether to approve Salford Church of England Primary School, Leicestershire, to convert and join Learn Academies Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

Salford Church of England Primary School is a smaller-than-average voluntary controlled primary school. In April 2015 it was judged good by Ofsted. Ofsted conducted a short inspection in October 2018 and found the school continued to be good.

The governing board of Scalford Church of England Primary School has passed a resolution to voluntarily join Learn Academies Trust. A copy of the resolution from the governing body has been received, as well as a letter of consent from the Leicester Diocesan Board of Education.

The governing board determined that Learn Academies Trust's vision, values and ethos align closely with those of the school and that its religious character would be respected and nurtured by the trust. Governors and staff are fully committed to both collaborating with and contributing to the Learn Academies Trust family of schools.

If approved, Scalford Church of England Primary School would form part of a new northern cluster of schools within the trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Learn Academies 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 and trust of the decision, along with Leicestershire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management advisor to Learn Academies Trust was recommended.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Buxton Community School.

**AB discussion:** Approved.

**RD decision:** Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2023.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project:** Oakham CofE Primary School.

**AB discussion:** Approved.

**RD decision:** Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2023.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project:** Soar Valley College.

**AB discussion:** Approved.

**RD decision:** Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2023.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project:** St Patrick's Catholic Primary School.

**AB discussion:** Approved.

**RD decision:** Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2023.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project:** The City of Leicester College.

**AB discussion:** Approved.

**RD decision:** Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2023.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve the transfer of Thrussington Church of England Primary School (single-academy trust), Leicestershire, to join Learn Academies Trust (multi-academy trust).

**AB discussion:**

Thrussington Church of England Primary School was judged by Ofsted to be outstanding in December 2009 and converted to become a single-academy trust in November 2012.

The Thrussington board and senior leaders are keen to become part of a family of schools to benefit from access to school improvement and central team support as well and achieve economies of scale. A resolution was passed.

The Diocese Board of Education has given consent to the school joining a multi-academy trust and, having conducted due diligence, determined the school would be best served by joining Learn Academies Trust.

Thrussington Church of England Primary School will benefit from improved access to school improvement support, including leadership coaching and school-to-school peer reviews.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Learn Academies 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 and trust of the decision, along with Leicestershire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management advisor to Learn Academies Trust was recommended.

**Project:** Whether to approve the transfer of Queniborough Church of England Primary School (single-academy trust), Leicestershire, to join Learn Academies Trust (multi-academy trust).

**AB discussion:**

Queniborough Church of England Primary School converted to become a single-academy trust on 1 November 2012. In October 2014 the school was judged as good by Ofsted and a further inspection in October 2018 confirmed the school continued to be good.

The Diocese Board of Education has given consent to the school joining a multi-academy trust and, having conducted due diligence, determined the school would be best served if it joined Learn Academies Trust.

By joining Learn Academies Trust, the school will have access to the trust's full school improvement offer and other forms of support.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Learn Academies 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 and trust of the decision, along with Leicestershire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management advisor to Learn Academies Trust was recommended.

**Project:** Whether to approve the transfer of Bottesford Church of England Primary School (single-academy trust), Leicestershire, to join Learn Academies Trust (multi-academy trust).

**AB discussion:**

Bottesford Church of England Primary School converted to become a single-academy trust on 1 November 2012. The school was judged by Ofsted to be good at a full inspection in October 2014, and a short inspection in June 2018 confirmed the school remained good.

Trustees and senior leaders believe that Learn Academies Trust shares its ethos and vision for the school and will provide access to shared resources and economies of scale. They also wish to be able to access to the extensive continuous professional development that Learn Academies Trust provides for all staff members, as well as its support networks and working groups.

The Diocese Board of Education has given consent to the school joining a multi-academy trust and, having conducted due diligence, believe the school would be best served by joining Learn Academies Trust.

The financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance in place at Learn Academies 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 and trust of the decision, along with Leicestershire County Council. The supportive deployment of a school resource management advisor to Learn Academies Trust was recommended.

## Any 'other' RD decisions not covered above

List of decisions that have not been covered in any of the boxes above.

**Project:** To discuss and agree a sponsor match for Lincoln Castle Academy, Lincolnshire

### **AB discussion:**

This project was discussed at the April 2023 meeting of the Advisory Board. At that meeting the board was presented with 3 potential sponsors for Lincoln Castle Academy, which was judged inadequate by Ofsted in July 2022. The Regional Director decided to approve The Spencer Academies Trust as the successful sponsor.

Subsequent to this discussion, and having reviewed their position, The Spencer Academies Trust determined that they would not be the right match for the school at this point in time.

In replacement of the original decision taken, the Regional Director, with the support of the Advisory Board, approved Delta Academies Trust as the sponsor Lincoln Castle Academy.

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

**RD decision:** Approved – Delta Academies Trust.

**Conflicts:** Paul West. Paul was not present for this part of the meeting.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the academy and trust of the decision taken.

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