



## Notes of Meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board.

14 June 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 (Regional Director, East Midlands).

### Advisory Board (AB) members

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

### Guests

- None.

### Apologies

- Paul West.

### DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes (Deputy Director, East Midlands Regions Group).
- SFSO representative.

## Representations received

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

## General Discussion Points

### Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** To discuss Marston Montgomery Primary School, Derbyshire, to convert and join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust.

#### **AB discussion:**

Marston Montgomery Primary School is a community school located in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Marston Montgomery Primary School was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020 and judged to be requires improvement. Marston Montgomery Primary School forms part of the Acorn Federation with Long Lane Church of England (CofE) Primary School.

In January 2023, Marston Montgomery Primary School submitted an application to convert to academy status and join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust.

Whilst Marston Montgomery Primary School is a community school, given the cross-working with staff within Long Lane CofE Primary School and communities served, the governing body believe the schools should convert together.

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust is a Diocese of Derby trust supporting both CofE and non-faith schools across Derby and Derbyshire. The Derby Diocesan Academy Trust board has voted in favour of Marston Montgomery joining the trust.

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust has demonstrated it has the capacity to support Marston Montgomery Primary School, given the work already in place at Long Lane CofE Primary School. The large central team of Senior School Improvement Officers can be deployed flexibly across the trust's current schools and those that are due to join the trust in the future.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**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, trust and Derbyshire County Council of the decision taken.

## Sponsored Route:

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

**Project:** To discuss Derby Diocesan Academy Trust to sponsor Long Lane CofE Primary School, Derbyshire.

### **AB discussion:**

Long Lane CofE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school based in Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Long Lane CofE Primary School was judged inadequate by Ofsted following an inspection in June 2022 and was consequently issued with an Academy Order to convert to academy status.

Long Lane CofE Primary School forms part of the Acorn Federation with Marston Montgomery Primary School and operates under the Diocese of Derby. The Diocesan Board of Education's strong preference is that the school joins a sponsor with majority faith articles such as Derby Diocese Academy Trust.

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust has been providing significant support, including SENCO support, under a service level agreement with the school. The large central team of Senior School Improvement Officers at the trust can be deployed flexibly across the trust's current schools and those that are due to join the trust in the future.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**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, trust, Diocese and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Derby Diocesan Academy Trust to sponsor Stanley Common CofE Primary, Derbyshire.

### **AB discussion:**

Stanley Common CofE Primary School is a voluntary controlled school based in Stanley, Derbyshire.

Stanley Common CofE Primary School was judged inadequate by Ofsted following an inspection in November 2022. The inspection report was published in May 2023 and the school was consequently issued with an Academy Order.

Derby Diocesan Academy Trust is well-positioned to provide support. The trust has a large central team of Senior School Improvement Officers which can be deployed flexibly across the trust's current schools and those that are due to join the trust in the future.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**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, trust, Diocese and Derbyshire County Council of the decision.

**Project:** To discuss Epworth Education Trust to sponsor Bakewell Methodist Junior School, Derbyshire.

**AB discussion:**

Bakewell Methodist Junior School is a smaller-than average-sized junior school in Derbyshire local authority.

Bakewell Methodist Junior School was judged by Ofsted to be requires improvement in September 2021 and again judged requires improvement in November 2022. In March 2023, a decision was made to issue an Academy Order under the Coasting Schools (England) Regulations 2022.

The Methodist Academies and Schools Trust has a preference that the sponsor is a Methodist Church multi-academy trust. Epworth Education Trust is Methodist Church multi-academy trust with strong school improvement capacity and has overseen 3 Ofsted good outcomes at its schools since December 2022.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Inglehurst Infant School.

**AB discussion:** Proposed school opening date – 01 July 2023.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Significant Change

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

**Project:** To discuss an increase in capacity at Kestrel Mead Primary Academy (The Mead Educational Trust), Leicester, from 8 places to 10 places, within its Designated Special Provision unit.

**AB discussion:**

Kestrel Mead Primary Academy is a primary academy situated in Leicester, which includes a nursery. It has a capacity of 837 and currently has 758 pupils and is run by The Mead Educational Trust.

The school has a Designated Special Provision (DSP) unit on-site which provides a fully secure, purpose-built learning environment for pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

This proposal seeks an increase in capacity of the DSP unit by 2 places. The DSP unit currently holds up to 8 pupils and Kestrel Mead Primary Academy wishes to add an additional 2 places making this a 10 place DSP unit.

This proposal contributes to meeting the needs within Leicester City for SEND provision by expanding SEND places in a good primary school.

A consultation ran for a 4-week period from January to February 2023. This was a joint consultation with Thurnby Mead Primary Academy (see below). Information was sent to parents and staff at the academy via email and all local primary and secondary schools across Leicester City. Information about the consultation was also shared on the school and trust websites. 6 responses were received, and all were in favour of the change.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** Inderjit Sandhu. Inderjit was not present for this part of the meeting.

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

**Project:** To discuss an increase in capacity at Thurnby Mead Primary Academy (The Mead Educational Trust), Leicester, from 15 places to 20 places, within its DSP on site.

**AB discussion:**

Thurnby Mead Primary Academy is a primary academy situated in Leicester. It has a capacity of 210 and currently has 250 pupils.

The school converted to become an academy on 1 July 2016 and joined The Mead Educational Trust. The school has not had a full inspection since joining the trust, however it remains good following a short inspection in 2019.

The school has a DSP, a fully secure, integral part of the school for pupils with speech language communication and hearing impairment.

This proposal seeks an increase in capacity of the DSP, by 5 places to 20 places in total.

This proposal contributes to meeting the needs within Leicester City for SEND provision by increasing SEND capacity at a good primary school.

A consultation ran for a four-week period from January to February 2023. This was a joint consultation with Kestrel Mead Primary Academy (see above). Information was sent to parents and staff at the academy via email and all local primary and secondary schools across Leicester City. Information about the consultation was also shared on the school and trust websites. 6 responses were received and all were in favour of the change.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** Inderjit Sandhu. Inderjit was not present for this part of the meeting.

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

**Project:** To discuss Wollaston School (Nene Valley Partnership), North Northamptonshire, to add a 12 place SEND unit.

**AB discussion:**

North Northamptonshire Council is seeking to increase the number of places for children with an Education, Health and Care Plan by opening units within mainstream schools to provide tailored support in small settings.

This proposal is to add a SEND unit catering for 12 additional students with communication and interaction as their primary EHCP need.

Following discussions between the local authority and The Nene Valley Partnership, they have identified an existing building (formerly a caretaker's house) which could be renovated and extended to accommodate a small SEND unit.

A consultation conducted by the trust ran from the 24 February 2023 to 24 March 2023. The trust received 5 responses via email and a meeting was also held with local residents. Responses were positive regarding the establishment of the SEND unit.

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

The Regional Director was in agreement with this proposal.

**RD decision:** Approved.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform the trust and North Northamptonshire Council of the decision.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

**Project:** To discuss The Gainsborough Parish Church CofE Primary School (single-academy trust), Lincolnshire, to join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (multi-academy trust).

### **AB discussion:**

The Gainsborough Parish Church CofE Primary School (GPC) is a primary single academy trust based in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

The school had a short Ofsted inspection in March 2020 and was judged as continues to be good.

The Gainsborough Parish Church CofE Primary School has voluntarily applied to join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust.

Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust opened in 2013. It is one of 4 multi-academy trusts approved by the Diocese of Lincoln for their schools to join. The trust currently has 20 open academies, all of which are Church of England schools.

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

The Regional Director 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. Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust has agreed to a bespoke School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment.

**Project:** To discuss Champion School and Language College (single-academy trust), West Northamptonshire, to join United Learning Trust (multi-academy trust).

**AB discussion:**

Campion School is a secondary single academy trust in the village of Bugbrooke, southwest of Northampton. The school currently has 1271 pupils on roll.

The school opened as an academy in August 2011 and was judged good by Ofsted in September 2011. However, successive requires improvement judgements followed after inspections in 2016 and 2018. Since then, leaders have driven significant improvement and Campion School achieved a good Ofsted rating in November 2021.

Campion school wishes to join a large and experienced trust because this would provide the school with the expertise and support required to drive further improvement and allow them to share their expertise.

Trustees assessed that United Learning was the best 'fit' for the school due to their robust focus on continuous improvement and collaboration. The trustees believe the balance of external challenge and supportive networks offered would be beneficial for their staff and have a positive impact on outcomes and improve the experience of their pupils.

Both the Campion School and United Learning board have confirmed they agree to this proposal.

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

The Regional Director 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.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

**Project:** To discuss whether to reduce the Published Admission Number at Newton Road School (Nene Education Trust), North Northamptonshire, from 45 to 30 pupils.

**Decision type:** Significant Change.

**RD decision:** Approved.



**Conflicts:** None.

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

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