



Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

21st November 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

- Vicky Beer (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anita Ghidotti-Gibson
- Karen Burns
- George Beveridge
- Helen O'Neill
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Annette Williams

Apologies

- Nic Brindle

DfE senior civil servants

- Jon Howlin, Deputy Director, North West Regions Group

Representations received

none

General Discussion Points

- None.

AB member reflections

- None.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of a new MAT called Ambition Community Trust to be formed and for the following schools to convert and join the trust:

- **Tameside Pupil Referral Service, Tameside.**
- **Russell Scott Primary School, Tameside.**
- **Greswell Primary School and Nursery, Tameside.**
- **Corrie Primary School, Tameside.**
- **Millbrook Primary School, Tameside**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition.
- The board reflected that this was a sensible proposal and is in line with the published trust development statement for Tameside.
- The board reflected that the trust board would benefit from recruiting trustees who are not involved in the five schools, to bring an independent voice.
- The board noted the trust's long term strategy to grow beyond Tameside.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. Trust to provide the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) with a trust level 3-year financial plan.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Archbishop Temple Multi Academy Trust:

- **Bolton Parish Church CofE Primary School, Bolton.**
- **St John CofE Primary School, Kearsley, Bolton.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition.
- The board reflected on the trust's school improvement track record and the steps the trust should now take to build on what they have done to date.
- The board noted that ESFA intends to support the trust to ensure it is in a strong

financial position.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. The trust to secure additional financial expertise on the board.

Conflicts: Tania Lewyckyj – CEO is on one of the member’s governing boards. Member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Helix Academies Trust:

- **Marple Hall School, Stockport.**
- **Romiley Primary School, Stockport.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected that the trust board would benefit from recruiting trustees who are not involved in the two schools, to bring an independent voice.
- The board recommended the trust board access training and development to support new trustees develop into the role.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join East Lancs Learning Trust (Permanent name TBC):

- **Unity College, Lancashire.**
- **Sir John Thursby Community College, Lancashire.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with three conditions.
- The project was deferred at October’s board meeting.
- The board reflected on the information provided by the trust, specifically the trust level financial plan and further detail on the trust’s proposed governance arrangements.

- The board reflected that there was further work needed to ensure the trust established on the strongest footing possible and would support approving with conditions.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment was recommended once the trust is set up.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

1. Trust to provide the Education and Skills Funding Agency with a trust level 3-year financial plan
2. Chair and CEO access training and development to support them develop into their role.
3. Recruitment of an independent trustee onto the board with High Quality Trust experience.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Horizon Learning Trust:

- **Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool.**
- **Chadwick High School, Lancashire.**
- **McKee College House, Lancashire.**
- **Lytham St Annes High School, Lancashire.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with two conditions.
- The board reflected that this was a sensible proposal and is in line with the published trust development statement for Blackpool and the emerging area based approach for Lancashire.
- The board noted the trust's long term strategy is to focus on Lancashire.
- ESFA recommends a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment once the trust is set up.

RD decision: Approve with conditions.

1. The board to appoint at least one trustee with MAT board level experience in one or more high quality MAT.

2. CEO to access training and development from an established CEO with CEO or executive experience in one or more high quality MAT.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Chapel End Primary School, St Helens, to convert and join Everyone Matters Schools Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: • Discussion to consider Dallam Primary School, Warrington, to convert and join The Challenge Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Karen Burns – the CEO is on one of the member's governing boards. The member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Willow Tree Primary School, St Helens, to convert and join The Three Saints Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the

recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Holy Family Catholic Multi Academy Trust:

- **SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School, Wirral.**
- **Our Lady's Catholic Primary School, Warrington.**

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition.
- The board were informed that since the trust was last brought to the advisory board, the trust board had been strengthened with three experienced individuals, including finance and HR.
- The board noted that ESFA intends to support the trust to ensure it is in a strong financial position.

RD decision: Approve with one condition

1. Condition for a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of the following schools to convert and join Oak Trees Multi Academy Trust:

- **Irby Primary School, Wirral.**
- **Blackhorse Hill Junior School, Wirral.**

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Sponsored Route:

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

Project: Discussion to consider St Ambrose Barlow RC High School, Salford, to be sponsored by St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected that the school is currently been offered external support from another multi academy trust and so St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust will want to work with the other trust to ensure a smooth transition of support.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Shuttleworth College, Lancashire, to be sponsored by East Lancs Learning Trust (permanent name TBC).

AB discussion:

This was discussed alongside the project to form the East Lancs Learning Trust (permanent name TBC) and for Unity College and Sir John Thursby Community College to convert and join.

RD decision: Approve with conditions.

1. Trust to provide the Education and Skills Funding Agency with a trust level 3-year financial plan
2. Chair and CEO access training and development to support them develop into their role.
3. Recruitment of an independent trustee onto the board with High Quality Trust experience.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Well Lane Primary School, Wirral, to be sponsored by Rainbow Education Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: To discuss the transfer of Kirkby Stephen Grammar School, Westmorland & Furness, to Cumbria Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected on the trust's growth plans and how the trust intends to develop a cluster of schools around Kirkby Stephen Grammar School.
- The board noted the support Cumbria Education Trust was already providing to the school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: George Beveridge is the Chair of Trustees for Cumbria Education Trust. Member did not receive the papers for and was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust of decision.

Project: To discuss the transfer of Hodgson Academy, Lancashire, to Horizon Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- This item was discussed alongside the Horizon Learning Trust discussion in the Converter Academy Orders section.
- The board supported the project recommendation with two conditions.

RD decision: Approve with conditions.

1. Recruitment of an independent trustee onto the board with High Quality Trust experience.
2. CEO to be mentored by a High Quality MAT CEO.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust of decision.

Project: To discuss the transfer of The Sutton Academy, St Helens, to The Challenge Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- This item was discussed alongside Dallam Primary School.
- The board members considered the details of the project and supported the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Karen Burns – the CEO is on one of the member's governing boards. The member was not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust of decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings:

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

Project: St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Ulverston, Westmorland and Furness, for age range change from 3-11 to 2-11

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform trust and diocese of decision.

Project: New Bridge School, Oldham, for addition of a satellite site

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

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