



# Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

19 March 2024

## 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

- Alison Wilson OBE

## Advisory Board (AB) members

- Andy Child MBE
- Mark Wilson
- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Tom Banham
- Kash Rafiq
- Rowena Hackwood

## Guests

- Steve Hodsman

## Apologies

- Jonny Uttley
- Jenn Plews

## **DfE senior civil servants**

- Katherine Cowell, Regional Director for North East

## **Representations received**

- None

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

### **Project: To discuss Hedon Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire to convert and join Horizon Academy Trust**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Hedon Primary School is a 210 capacity primary school located in East Riding of Yorkshire with 156 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2023 and is currently rated as requires improvement.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Hedon Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation consideration was given to the trust's experience of providing a high quality and inclusive education to urban, disadvantaged cohorts; track record for improving underperforming schools and financial stability. The consideration also factored in the existing relationships between the school and the trust, through the provision of school improvement support, as well as the geographical proximity of the trust to the school.
- It was recommended that the Trust needs to consider how it can simplify its governance structure including the committee structure.
- The trust's central team structure and financial forecast were considered. The trust has accepted a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) deployment which who will take place prior to conversion.

#### **RD decision:** Approve with conditions:

- ESFA to be reassured about finances post SRMA deployment.

#### **Conflicts:** None

#### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable), setting out the conditions.

## **Project: To discuss Cliffe Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Selby Educational Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Cliffe Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 119 capacity primary school located in Selby with 90 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2021 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Cliffe Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation consideration was given to the trust's positive track record for improving underperforming schools through its school improvement offer provided evidence which will support this small, rural primary school. There was also consideration taken in terms of the trust's strong finances which can provide stability and immediate improvement to support the primary school.
- It was recommended that an SRMA is to be deployed post conversion.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable).

## **Project: To discuss Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 105 capacity primary school located in Selby with 78 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in June 2019 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation it was considered that the trust demonstrated experience in delivering high quality school improvement and consistently has above national average KS2 results which suitably match the strategic needs of the schools converting. Consideration also factored in the trust development statement to increase the number of high quality trusts in the North Yorkshire area who are willing to support small, rural primary schools.
- The size and growth of the trust was considered. CEO mentoring was recommended, with a strong focus on supporting the trust to manage trust growth.
- This item was discussed alongside Burton Salmon Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire and Welburn Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all converting and joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. All the above projects were approved.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable).

## **Project: To discuss Burton Salmon Community Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Burton Salmon Community Primary School is a 65 capacity primary school located in North Yorkshire with 66 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2023 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Burton Salmon Community Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation it was considered that the trust demonstrated experience in delivering high quality school improvement and consistently has above national average KS2 results which suitably match the strategic needs of the schools converting. Consideration also factored in the trust development statement to increase the number of high quality trusts in the North Yorkshire area who are willing to support small, rural primary schools.
- The size and growth of the trust was considered. CEO mentoring was recommended, with a strong focus on supporting the trust to manage trust growth.
- This item was discussed alongside Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire and Welburn Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all converting and joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. All the above projects were approved.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable).

## **Project: To discuss Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 70 capacity primary school located in Selby with 85 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2021 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation it was considered that the trust demonstrated experience in delivering high quality school improvement and consistently has above national average KS2 results which suitably match the strategic needs of the schools converting. Consideration also factored in the trust development statement to increase the number of high quality trusts in the North Yorkshire area who are willing to support small, rural primary schools.
- The size and growth of the trust was considered. CEO mentoring was recommended, with a strong focus on supporting the trust to manage trust growth.
- This item was discussed alongside Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, Burton Salmon Community Primary School, North Yorkshire and Welburn Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all converting and joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. All the above projects were approved.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable).

## **Project: To discuss Welburn Community Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Welburn Community Primary School is a 95 capacity primary school located in York with 52 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in January 2019 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Welburn Community Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation it was considered that the trust demonstrated experience in delivering high quality school improvement and consistently has above national average KS2 results which suitably match the strategic needs of the schools converting. Consideration also factored in the trust development statement to increase the number of high quality trusts in the North Yorkshire area who are willing to support small, rural primary schools.
- The estate was discussed and assurances were given that North Yorkshire Council is currently in discussions with Castle Howard Estate regarding the lease and this will be resolved prior to conversion.
- The size and growth of the trust was considered. CEO mentoring was recommended, with a strong focus on supporting the trust to manage trust growth.
- This item was discussed alongside Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, Burton Salmon Community Primary School, North Yorkshire and Chapel Haddlesey Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, all converting and joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust. All the above projects were approved.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable).



## **Project: To discuss Sessay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire to convert and join Elevate Multi Academy Trust**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Sessay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 105 capacity primary school located in Thirsk with 87 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in January 2020 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Sessay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs, and the needs of Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (with whom the school is federated). In making the recommendation consideration was given to the trust's educational and school improvement offer has been considered as being suited to addressing the needs across both schools, and the proximity of both schools to others within the trust will aid delivery of support.
- The Advisory Board discussed the trust's finances and recommended that full financial due diligence (including consolidated forecasts) be approved by Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues prior to conversion. It was also recommended that an SRMA is to be deployed within 6 months of the schools joining the trust.
- This item was discussed alongside Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire converting and joining Elevate Multi Academy Trust. Both projects were approved with conditions.

### **RD decision:** Approve with conditions:

- The trust should share full financial due diligence (including consolidated forecasts) with the department prior to academy conversion.

**Conflicts:** Alison Wilson, Regional Director for Yorkshire and Humber, was not present and did not receive papers for this item due to a personal conflict. The decision on this item was taken by Katherine Cowell, Regional Director for North East.

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable). setting out the conditions.

## Sponsored Route

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

### **Project: To discuss Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to be sponsored by Elevate Multi Academy Trust.**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 105 capacity primary school located in York with 68 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2022 and is currently rated as requires improvement.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Husthwaite Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs, and the needs of Sessay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (with whom the school is federated). In making the recommendation consideration was given to the trust's educational and school improvement offer has been considered as being suited to addressing the needs across both schools, and the proximity of both schools to others within the trust will aid delivery of support.
- The Advisory Board discussed the trust's finances and recommended that full financial due diligence (including consolidated forecasts) be approved by Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues prior to conversion. It was also recommended that an SRMA is to be deployed within 6 months of the schools joining the trust.
- This item was discussed alongside Sessay Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire being sponsored by Elevate Multi Academy Trust. Both projects were approved with conditions.

#### **RD decision:** Approve with conditions:

- The trust should share full financial due diligence (including consolidated forecasts) with the department prior to academy conversion.

**Conflicts:** Alison Wilson, Regional Director for Yorkshire and Humber, was not present and did not receive papers for this item due to a personal conflict. The decision on this item was taken by Katherine Cowell, Regional Director for North East.

#### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and any other stakeholders such as the local authority, diocese (where applicable). setting out the conditions.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

### Project: Bramley Sunnyside Primary School, James Montgomery Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

### Project: Eastburn Primary School, Moorlands Learning Trust

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

### Project: Hebden Royd CofE Primary School, Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Holgate Meadows School, Nexus Multi Academy Trust  
Niels Academy, Great Heights Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Park Aspire Alternative Provision Academy, Exceed Academies  
Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Parson Cross Church of England Primary School, James  
Montgomery Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Saint Barnabas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Laceby Stanford Primary Academy, Wellspring Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

## **Project: Strawberry Fields Primary School, Selby Educational Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

## **Project: Wilthorpe Primary School, Every Child Matters Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/04/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/a

## 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: To discuss Wharncliffe Side Primary School, Sheffield to expand its Indicated Admissions Number (IAN) from 150 to 210 pupils, due to new development/homes built in the area.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

**Project: To discuss Norfolk Community Primary School, Sheffield converting a large unused room in the main school building to create a 10 place Integrated Resource.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

**Project: To discuss Phillimore Community Primary School, Sheffield converting an existing space in the main school building to create a 10 place Integrated Resource, including a small extension which will enable the creation of a sensory/break out space.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

**Project: To discuss Wybourn Community Primary and Nursery School, Sheffield converting a large room in the main school building to create a 12 place Integrated Resource.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

**Project: To discuss Manor Lodge Community Primary and Nursery School, Sheffield extending the existing school building to create two additional classrooms, WC 3 provision, storage, breakout area and plant room, to accommodate up to 60 pupils. The extension will be within the main school boundary but separate to the main school building, situated at the rear of the existing school building.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

**Project: To discuss Oasis Academy Lister Park, Bradford to close the academy Sixth Form and to reduce academy age range from 11 – 18 to 11-16.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** This item will be decided outside of the Advisory Board meetings

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