



Notes of Meeting: North East Advisory Board

Date of meeting – The meeting was held via correspondence only.

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

- Katherine Cowell (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Dame Maura Regan (AB)
- Jo Heaton (AB)
- Colin Lofthouse (AB)
- Dame Nicola Stephenson (AB)
- Jason Brine (AB)
- Anita Bath (AB)
- Jane Wilson (AB)
- Christina Jones (AB)

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- None

Representations received

- None

Converter academy orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: To discuss Red Hall Primary School, Darlington, to convert and join The Education Village Academy Trust (EVAT).

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that the school and trust offer a strong match, provides a good link between the primary and secondary feeder school and is in line with the local area need.
- The board agreed that the current trust governance structure is strong, however they recommended that the trust considers recruiting additional primary and secondary expertise to strengthen the board further.
- The board is aware that EVAT has increased its capacity to develop their school improvement support for primary schools.
- The board agreed with the proposal of a SRMA deployment within 3 months of Red Hall joining EVAT.
- The RD approved this decision and agreed that the SRMA should be deployed within 3 months of Red Hall joining the trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Blaydon, Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust, Gateshead to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

AB discussion:

- This is a proposal to add a nursery and change the age range at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School from 4-11 to 3-11.
- Formal consultation has been carried out; and in the main feedback has been positive, some risks have been raised with regards to surplus places and increase in traffic.
- The RD approved this decision.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Anita Bath did not receive any papers or provide any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest; Anita has a professional connection as CEO of a trust within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Vicariate of Education

Maura Regan did not receive any papers or provide any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest; Maura has a professional connection as a former CEO of a trust within the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle Vicariate of Education

Further actions required:

Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Trust changes

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: To discuss Monkton Academy (Juniors), South Tyneside, joining Oak Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that the transfer of Monkton Academy (Juniors) to Oak Learning is a good match given they already have a history of working together and the proposal is in line with the local area need.
- The board referred to the trust governance structure and suggested appointing two additional members, the board previously recommended some educational expertise including pupil premium, SEND and /or EHCP experience. The board would also benefit from a trustee with practical experience of working / leading a school.

- The RD approved this decision with recommendation that the trust reviews its governance and considers appointing additional members / trustees to strengthen its board.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings.

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings

Project: To discuss Ingleby Manor Free School and Sixth Form, to change the age range removing the sixth form provision.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Cases referred to ministers for a decision

List of decisions that have been made by the Director General of Regions Group and/or ministers.

Project: Berwick Academy, Northumberland, Trust Change. Berwick Academy to join Pele Trust (SAT to MAT)

Minister decision: Approve

Conflicts: Maura Regan did not receive any papers or provide any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, which is Consultant for Berwick Academy.

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

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Aycliffe Village Primary and Nursery School, Eden Learning Trust, County Durham

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 November

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Dunn Street Primary School, Tyne and Wear Learning Trust, South Tyneside

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 November

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Marine Park Primary School, Tyne and Wear Learning Trust, South Tyneside

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 November

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Whitburn Village Primary School, Tyne and Wear Learning Trust, South Tyneside

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 November

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Woodlea Primary School, Eden Learning Trust, Cuntly Durham

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 November

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

- None

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