



## Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board

**Date of meeting – 12 December 2024**

### Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but sent in their comments on agenda items, are listed under the apologies section. These members' views are reflected in the discussions below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

### Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge
- Karen Burns
- Shane Ireston
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Helen O'Neill
- Annette Williams

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Nic Brindle

### DfE senior civil servants

- Jon Howlin, Deputy Director, North West Region

### General discussion points

A temperature check was completed for the Region.

## **Greater Manchester sub region.**

### **Converter academy orders**

**Project: To discuss an application from Caldershaw Primary School, Rochdale Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join Altus Education Partnership.**

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

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board members considered the details of the project and did not have any further comments in relation to the application.

#### **Decision:**

- Approve

#### **Conflicts:**

- None

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

- Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project: To discuss an application from the following schools to convert and become an academy and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.**

- Holy Rosary RC Junior, Infant and Nursery School
- St Herbert's RC School
- St John Fisher RC Primary School, Denton
- English Martyrs' RC Primary School

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

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board members considered the details of the project and did not have any further comments in relation to the application.
- There was a discussion around the sequencing of future growth plans for the Trust, and any relationships with other Catholic Trusts that could help support them with their experience.
- It was noted that the Trust is currently receiving a supportive Schools Resource Management Adviser (SMRA) deployment and working well with our team.

#### **Decision:**

- Approve

**Conflicts:**

- None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Trust Changes

### **Project: A request from Smithills School, Bolton Local Authority to join The Bolton Impact Trust.**

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

**AB discussion:**

- When approved a condition will be that a Schools Resource Management Adviser (SMRA) to be deployed.
- There was a discussion around governance, the board were positive about a review of the governance moving forward and suggested a need for more broad experience on the Trust board.
- Further clarity is required from the Trust on the reset of their governance model before a decision can be made.

**Decision:**

- Defer

**Conflicts:**

- None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing further information required.

**Liverpool City Region, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester and Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and Lancashire and Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness sub region.**

## **Converter academy orders**

**Project: To discuss an application from Park Primary School, Wirral Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join Leading Learners Multi Academy Trust.**

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

### **AB discussion:**

- The board members considered the details of the project and did not have any further comments in relation to the application.

### **Decision:**

- Approve

### **Conflicts:**

- None

### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project: To discuss an application from St Charles Catholic Primary School, Liverpool Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join St Joseph Catholic Multi Academy Trust.**

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

### **AB discussion:**

- The board members considered the details of the project and did not have any further comments in relation to the application.
- The board discussed the commitment of the Trust to grow and discussed how this is their first voluntary conversion.
- There was a discussion around how the school will fit in to the diocese's plans.

### **Decision:**

- Approve

### **Conflicts:**

- Helen O'Neill – did not receive any papers and did not participate in discussions or provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, which is that Helen was the interim CEO of the Trust and later Director. This conflict of interest ended in March 2024

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## **Trust Changes**

### **Project: A request from Marlfields Primary School, Cheshire East Local Authority to transfer from Congleton Primary Academy Trust Limited and join Children First Learning Partnership Trust.**

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

**AB discussion:**

- The board were informed that this Trust is located within the West Midlands Region, and the project is being worked on with colleagues from the West Midlands Regions Group.
- The board asked the project lead to clarify the trust's governance, particularly finance expertise arrangements.

**Decision:**

- Defer until more evidence is provided on the trust's governance arrangements.

**Conflicts:**

- None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing further information required.

### **Project: A request from the following schools to transfer from Rural Church Schools Academy Trust and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust.**

- Bunbury Aldersey CofE Primary School
- St Oswald's Worleston CofE Primary School
- Warmingham CofE Primary School

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

**AB discussion:**

- There was a discussion around the Trust's governance and the size of their central team as well as their sequencing of growth.
- There was a discussion regarding the Trust to provide evidence of a plan to evolve their governance and trust model.
- Members agreed that the trust would benefit from a Schools Resource Management Adviser (SRMA).

**Decision:**

- Approve

**Conflicts:**

- None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing further information required.

## **Decisions taken between AB meetings**

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

### **Significant changes to an open academy.**

**Project: To discuss Willow Tree Primary School of Vantage CE Academies Trust, Knowsley Local Authority. Change of age range including adding a nursery.**

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project: Haveley Hey Community School of Children of Success Schools Trust, Manchester Local Authority. Removing two-year old provision and addition of SEN provision.**

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

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