



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber Advisory Board

12 November 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

- Alison Wilson OBE

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Tom Banham
- Rowena Hackwood
- Mark Wilson
- Steve Hodsman

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Jonny Uttley

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr, Deputy Director for Yorkshire and Humber

General discussion points

- Education Secretary of State Bridget Phillipson's speech to the Confederation of Schools Trusts' conference.
- Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence teams.

South Yorkshire and South Humberside

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Seven Hills School, Sheffield, to convert and join Nexus Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- Seven Hills School is a 120 capacity school located in Sheffield with 224 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in May 2024 and is currently rated as Good. The published capacity is based upon the main school site only – the LA has worked with the school to set-up 2 satellite sites to accommodate the extra provision. One of the satellite sites is permanent, whilst the other is due to close in 2026 and solutions will be sought closer to the time.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Seven Hills School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school's long-term strategy and the school wanting to work with a strong trust that offers opportunities for additional collaboration at scale.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal. The Multi Academy Trust are considered to have relevant recent experience in managing similar projects.

RD Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

West Yorkshire and Doncaster

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Todmorden High School, Calderdale, to convert and join Share Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- Todmorden High School is a 900 capacity school located in Calderdale with 875 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 Todmorden High School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to Todmorden High School's vision, and the network of support that will be available from within the Multi Academy Trust. There is already a strong working relationship between the school and the trust, and their values are well aligned.
- Todmorden High School was previously approved to join a different Multi Academy Trust in September 2023. School Governors have subsequently decided that Share Multi Academy Trust more closely aligns to their vision, and is a better fit for the school.
- This project brings additional strength to the MAT and the support of a central trust team that the school is keen to access.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.

RD Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application from Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School is a 124 capacity school located in Kirklees with 116 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in December 2013 and is currently rated as Outstanding.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school having an existing relationship with the trust.
- This case was considered along with St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School, St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School.
- As a condition of approval, Schools Financial Support and Oversight to be reassured about consolidated financial forecasts for Cumberworth and St John's.

RD Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.

Project: An application from St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School is a 420 capacity school located in Kirklees with 414 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 St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school having an existing relationship with the trust.
- This case was considered along with Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School, St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School.
- As a condition of approval, Schools Financial Support and Oversight to be reassured about consolidated financial forecasts for Cumberworth and St John's.

RD Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.

Project: An application from St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 210 capacity school located in Kirklees with 193 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in September 2024 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school having an existing relationship with the trust.

- This case was considered along with Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School, St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School and Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School.
- As a condition of approval, Schools Financial Support and Oversight to be reassured about consolidated financial forecasts for Cumberworth and St John's.

RD Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.

Project: An application from Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

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

AB discussion:

- Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School is a 238 capacity school located in Kirklees with 238 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in June 2024 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Roberttown Church of England Voluntary Controlled Junior and Infant School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school having an existing relationship with the trust.
- This case was considered along with Cumberworth Church of England Voluntary Aided First School, St Thomas CE (VC) Primary School and St John's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School.
- As a condition of approval, Schools Financial Support and Oversight to be reassured about consolidated financial forecasts for Cumberworth and St John's.

RD Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Anston Park Junior School, White Woods Primary Academy Trust, South Yorkshire.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/12/2024

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Bramley Sunnyside Junior School, James Montgomery Academy Trust, South Yorkshire.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/12/2024

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Heritage Park School, T.E.A.M. Education Trust, South Yorkshire.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/12/2024

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Mowbray School, The Ascent Academies Trust, North Yorkshire.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/12/2024

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Osmotherley Primary School, Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, North Yorkshire

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/12/2024

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Decisions taken between Advisory Board meetings

List of decisions taken outside of Advisory Board meetings.

Project: An application from Joseph Norton Academy, Wellspring Academy Trust, Kirklees and the change of age range to 4-18 from 7-16, to be co-educational (currently just boys), to increase pupil numbers from 63 to 132 and to relocate to a new site.

Decision Type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Wilson

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

Project: An application from Poppleton Road Primary School, Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust, York and the change of age range from 4-11 to 3-11 to extend nursery provision.

Decision Type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from Elements Academy, Ethos Academy Trust, Rotherham using a Satellite site to tailor education to pupil needs. This change does not include any capacity increase.

Decision Type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from Newman School, T.E.A.M. Education Trust, Rotherham increasing the capacity of the school from 120 to 195 and to create a Satellite site.

Decision Type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: A proposal for Cockburn Multi Academy Trust to sponsor Ingram Road Primary School, Leeds.

Decision Type: Sponsored academy orders

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from Hunslet Carr Primary School, Leeds, to convert and become an academy and join Cockburn Multi Academy Trust.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Cases referred to ministers for a decision

No cases were referred to ministers for a decision this month.

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

None of the projects that were listed on the published draft agenda were removed before the meeting.