



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

18 March 2025

Advice

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence. The views of members that sent in advice are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD)

- Alison Wilson OBE

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

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

Decisions

North Yorkshire and North Humberside

Trust changes

Project: An application for Fulford School, URN 144711, York, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Fulford School is a 1603 capacity school located in York with 1726 pupils on roll. The school was last fully inspected in November 2023 and is currently rated as Outstanding.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Fulford School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application for Wheldrake with Thorganby Church of England Primary School, URN 144712, York, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Wheldrake with Thorganby Church of England Primary School is a 210-capacity school located in York with 190 pupils on roll. The school was last fully inspected in November 2022 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Wheldrake with Thorganby Church of England Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application for Dunnington Church of England Primary School, URN 144713, York, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Dunnington Church of England Primary School is a 210-capacity school located in York with 199 pupils on roll. The school was last fully inspected in July 2022 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Dunnington Church of England Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application for Archbishop of York's CofE Junior School, Bishopthorpe, URN 146483, York, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Archbishop of York's CofE Junior School, Bishopthorpe, is a 240-capacity school located in York with 214 pupils on roll. The school was last fully 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 Archbishop of York's CofE Junior School, Bishopthorpe's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application for Escrick Church of England Primary School, URN 148120, North Yorkshire, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Escrick Church of England Primary School is a 154-capacity school located in York with 180 pupils on roll. The school was last fully inspected in December 2022 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Escrick Church of England Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: An application for Bishopthorpe Infant School, URN 148823, York, to transfer from South York Multi Academy Trust to The STAR Multi Academy Trust

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Bishopthorpe Infant School is a 170-capacity school located in York with 104 pupils on roll.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Bishopthorpe Infant School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the existing relationship between the 2 trusts and the benefits and long-term stability forming a larger MAT could bring.
- Board members recommended that the new MAT constitutes key committees with trustees with the key skills and expertise needed and use the recruitment to those committees to support the formation post-merger of a sensible sized board – within our recommendation of 9-12 trustees, within 12 months of transfer.
- The Regional Director would like the newly formed trust board to prioritise centrally held resource for activities that directly drive educational impact, including ensuring centrally appointed school improvement staff should have roles directly working in schools to support improvements to outcomes in reading, writing and maths at end of KS2.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight colleagues recommend that the trust commission a School Resource Management Advisor review post-merger.
- AB Members supported the proposal, which supports both MATs in securing future economies of scale which will permit them to focus resources on educational outcomes.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Aberford Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Selby Educational Trust, Leeds.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Brinsworth Manor Infant School, White Woods Primary Academy Trust, Rotherham.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Fountain Primary School, Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust, Leeds.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Hyrstmount Junior School, Batley Multi Academy Trust, Kirklees.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Purlwell Infant and Nursery School, Batley Multi Academy Trust, Kirklees.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Saltergate Community Junior School, Red Kite Learning Trust, North Yorkshire.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Saltergate Infant School, Red Kite Learning Trust, North Yorkshire.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Todmorden High School, Share Multi Academy Trust, Calderdale.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/04/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant Changes

Project: The Compass Academy, Hope Sentamu Learning Trust, Kingston Upon Hull, to increase its capacity from 60 to 75.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Alison Wilson 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 a personal connection.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Holderness Academy and Sixth Form College, The Consortium Academy Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire, to close their Sixth Form

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Cottingham High School and Sixth Form, The Consortium Academy Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire, to close their Sixth Form

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Rokeby Park Primary School, The Constellation Trust, Kingston Upon Hull to add nursery provision to their site for children from the age of 2 years old.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Fairfield Academy, The David Ross Education Trust, North East Lincolnshire to establish a unit to support children with a primary need identified as communication and interaction difficulties and children with a diagnosis of autism.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Bradford Alternative Provision Academy, Exceed Academies Trust, Bradford. The trust is looking to expand their Alternative Provision by at least 20 places and acquire a satellite site

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

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Franklin College, URN 130586, North East Lincolnshire, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Franklin College Trust.

Reason for removal: This project has now been moved to the April 2025 Advisory Board meeting.

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