



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

29 April 2025

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

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

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Tom Banham
- Jonny Uttley

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr, Deputy Director for Yorkshire and the Humber

General discussion points

- School performance in the region

Decisions

South Yorkshire and South Humberside

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities, URN 106962, Rotherham, to convert and become an academy and join St Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities is a 650 capacity school located in Rotherham with 693 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in April 2024 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities' strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the view of the Diocese of Hallam that St. Pius should move into St. Francis Multi-Academy Trust because it was best positioned to support the needs of St. Pius both academically and geographically. The trust has another school in the Local Authority which will provide school to school support.
- St Francis Catholic Multi-Academy Trust is encouraged to undertake work, on a trust-wide basis, to ensure that all current Local Academy Committees (LACs), and the local governing body at Saint Pius X Catholic High School A Specialist School in Humanities (which will become a LAC on conversion) fully understand their roles and responsibilities within the trust governance structure and Scheme of Delegation.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust settling out the conditions.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed.

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.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Franklin College is a 2100 capacity sixth form college located in North East Lincolnshire with 2029 pupils on roll. It was last inspected in May 2024 and is currently rated as Outstanding.
- Officials' assessment of the new trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Franklin College's strategic needs and the needs of the local area. In making the recommendation, consideration was also given to Franklin College's intention to work positively in the system to strengthen and protect the opportunity for young people in the local area to access high quality post 16 provision. . The proposal aims to strengthen the offer to all learners across the locality. The proposal received strong local stakeholder support.
- Board members agreed that the college has significant strength in post-16 education and were assured by Franklin College's detailed plan to support learners across the locality through Memorandums of Understanding and professional generosity.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the college.

Project: An application from Limpsfield Junior School, URN 107040, Sheffield, to convert and become an academy and join Cascade Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Limpsfield Junior School is a 240 capacity school located in Sheffield with 225 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2022 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Limpsfield Junior School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school working closely with Cascade Multi Academy Trust since the end of 2022 under a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This proposal seeks to formalise this relationship.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion. A consolidated forecast is also to be provided to aid forecasting.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.
- This project was considered along with Sharrow Nursery, Infant and Junior School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed.
- A consolidated forecast is to be provided.

Project: An application from Sharrow Nursery, Infant and Junior School, URN 134302, Sheffield, to convert and become an academy and join Cascade Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Sharrow Nursery, Infant and Junior School is a 420 capacity school located in Sheffield with 428 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in May 2024 and is currently rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Sharrow Nursery, Infant and Junior School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the school having stated that they feel the trust's ethos and values align with their own and that they look forward to being able to collaborate with the trust more closely whilst not losing their own individual identity.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion. A consolidated forecast is also to be provided to aid forecasting.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.
- This project was considered along with Limpsfield Junior School.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to the school/trust setting out the conditions.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed.
- A consolidated forecast is to be provided.

Trust Changes

Project: An application for St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy, URN 139347, Sheffield, to transfer from St Patrick's Catholic Academy Trust to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy is a 280 capacity school located in Sheffield with 310 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in Oct 2024 and of the five areas reviewed, the school was found to be inadequate in four areas (quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, leadership and management, and early years provision) and was found to require improvement in one remaining area (personal development).
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside St Patrick's Catholic Voluntary Academy's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to St Clare Catholic Multi Academy Trust being the best fit for the school of the diocesan options available.
- The trust is encouraged to continue to engage with Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) whilst the trust grows.
- Board Member's recommended that we continue to work with the trust to see how governance structures can be strengthened.

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: Fixby Junior and Infant School, Polaris Multi Academy Trust, Kirklees.

Points raised: Proposed Opening Date - 01/05/2025

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Sponsored academy orders

Project: Summer Lane Primary School, HCAT, Barnsley, to be sponsored by HCAT.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Tom Banham 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 being the CEO of HCAT.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Significant changes

Project: Francis Askew Primary School, The Constellation Trust, Kingston Upon Hull, City of, to change their age range by adding a nursery provision for children of 2 years old and over.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Thorpepark Academy, Venn Academy Trust, Kingston Upon Hull, City of, to acquire a satellite site and increase the number of pupils within an existing SEN unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Steve Hodsman 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 with Venn Academy Trust.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Concord Junior Academy, Brigantia Learning Trust Limited, Sheffield, to amalgamate with Wincobank Nursery and Infant Academy.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Wincobank Nursery and Infant Academy, Brigantia Learning Trust Limited, Sheffield, to amalgamate with Concord Junior Academy.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Helmsley Community Primary School, Areté Learning Trust, North Yorkshire to increase their age range by adding a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Mill Hill Primary School, Areté Learning Trust, North Yorkshire to increase their age range by adding a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Broomfield School, Areté Learning Trust, North Yorkshire to increase their age range by adding a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust

Project: Welburn Community Primary School, Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust, North Yorkshire, to increase their age range by adding a nursery.

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.

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