



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

16 September 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
- Mark Wilson
- Tom Banham
- Jonny Uttley

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Rowena Hackwood

DfE senior civil servants

- None

General discussion points

- Attendance since start of new term
- New Ofsted framework
- RISE Programme feedback

Decisions

North Yorkshire and North Humberside

Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

Project: A proposal for a sponsor for Harrogate Special Presumption Free School, URN TBC, North Yorkshire.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Harrogate Special Presumption Free School will have a capacity of 80 pupils between 11-19 years of age with the primary need of Autism, Speech, Language & communication and associated mental health needs and be located in North Yorkshire.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside the strategic need for Special School places in the area. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the trust's experience in successfully running a similar provision since 2012 and the existing positive relationship with the Local Authority.
- Board members agreed that the trust was a good choice to sponsor the new school, however, recommended that further discussions take place to agree an opening date
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members recommended a review of Governance and mentoring from a Trust who have been through a similar process.
- As a condition of approval, funding should be agreed by all parties to assure long term sustainability through opening.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Feedback decision to school/trust setting out the conditions.
- Local Authority and Trust to work with department on funding position through to full opening.

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from The Market Weighton School, URN 118076, East Riding of Yorkshire, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Wyke Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- The Market Weighton School is an 852 capacity school located in East Riding of Yorkshire with 626 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in September 2022 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside The Market Weighton School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the desire to strengthen the existing partnerships, rooted in community and inclusivity, and the benefits a strong Multi Academy Trust could bring to the area.
- Whilst the proposal has some strengths, further work is required on the proposal to clearly set out how funding will work; including a fully costed central services model and plans to address any school deficits, whilst ensuring there is the necessary school improvement capacity.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing the further information required or rationale for deciding.

Project: An application from Market Weighton Infant School, URN 117912, East Riding of Yorkshire, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Wyke Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Market Weighton Infant School is a 228 capacity school located in East Riding of Yorkshire with 291 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2024 and was rated as Good.

- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Market Weighton Infant School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the desire to strengthen the existing partnerships, rooted in community and inclusivity, and the benefits a strong Multi Academy Trust could bring to the area.
- Whilst the proposal has some strengths, further work is required on the proposal to clearly set out how funding will work; including a fully costed central services model and plans to address any school deficits, whilst ensuring there is the necessary school improvement capacity.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing the further information required or rationale for deciding.

Project: An application from Wyke Sixth Form College, URN 130581, Kingston Upon Hull, City of, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Wyke Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Wyke Sixth Form College is a 2500 capacity college located in Kingston Upon Hull with 2447 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2023 and was rated as Outstanding.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Wyke Sixth Form College's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the desire to strengthen the existing partnerships, rooted in community and inclusivity, and the benefits a strong Multi Academy Trust could bring to the area.
- Whilst the proposal has some strengths, further work is required on the proposal to clearly set out how funding will work; including a fully costed central services model and plans to address any school deficits, whilst ensuring there is the necessary school improvement capacity.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing the further information required or rationale for deciding.

South Yorkshire and South Humberside

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Castledyke Primary School, URN 117967, North Lincolnshire, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Wyke Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Castledyke Primary School is a 340 capacity school located in North Lincolnshire with 213 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in July 2024 and was rated as Requires Improvement.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Castledyke Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the desire to strengthen the existing partnerships, routed in community and inclusivity, and the benefits a strong Multi Academy Trust could bring to the area.
- Whilst the proposal has some strengths, further work is required on the proposal to clearly set out how funding will work; including a fully costed central services model and plans to address any school deficits, whilst ensuring there is the necessary school improvement capacity.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing the further information required or rationale for deciding.

Project: An application from Baysgarth School, URN 118109, North Lincolnshire, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called The Wyke Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Baysgarth School is a 1200 capacity school located in North Lincolnshire with 1024 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in January 2023 and was rated as Good.

- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Baysgarth School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the desire to strengthen the existing partnerships, rooted in community and inclusivity, and the benefits a strong Multi Academy Trust could bring to the area.
- Whilst the proposal has some strengths, further work is required on the proposal to clearly set out how funding will work; including a fully costed central services model and plans to address any school deficits, whilst ensuring there is the necessary school improvement capacity.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing the further information required or rationale for deciding.

Project: An application from Dobcroft Junior School, URN 107035, Sheffield, to convert and become an academy and join Inova Multi-Academy Trust Limited.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Dobcroft Junior School is a 328 capacity school located in Sheffield with 379 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2021 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Dobcroft Junior School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the trusts' plans to build on existing strengths of the school and the strong working relationship with the Peak Edge Trust who operate the infant school.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members agreed the match, but recommended the addition of another Member to the Trust Board and that the audit committee should be separated from the finance committee to strengthen governance at the trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

West Yorkshire and Doncaster

Trust Changes

Project: An application for Middlestown Primary Academy, URN 143810, Wakefield, to transfer from Accord Multi Academy Trust to Maltby Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Middlestown Primary Academy is a 210 capacity school located in Wakefield with 205 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in May 2025 and suggests that the school's work may have improved significantly across all areas since the previous inspection.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Middlestown Primary Academy's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the 2 trusts' shared ethos and the willingness to collaborate across 3 local authorities.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members were happy to support the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application for Horbury Primary Academy, URN 143811, Wakefield, to transfer from Accord Multi Academy Trust to Maltby Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Horbury Primary Academy is a 420 capacity school located in Wakefield with 445 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in December 2022 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Horbury Primary Academy's strategic needs.

In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the 2 trusts' shared ethos and the willingness to collaborate across 3 local authorities.

- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members were happy to support the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application for Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College, URN 136462, Wakefield, to transfer from Accord Multi Academy Trust to Maltby Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College is a 2000 capacity school and college located in Wakefield with 1728 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2022 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Ossett Academy and Sixth Form College's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the 2 trusts' shared ethos and the willingness to collaborate across 3 local authorities.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members were happy to support the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application for South Ossett Infant Academy, URN 137737, Wakefield, to transfer from Accord Multi Academy Trust to Maltby Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- South Ossett Infant Academy is a 90 capacity school located in Wakefield with 80 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in December 2023 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside South Ossett Infant Academy's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the 2 trusts' shared ethos and the willingness to collaborate across 3 local authorities.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members were happy to support the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application for Horbury Academy, URN 138707, Wakefield, to transfer from Accord Multi Academy Trust to Maltby Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Horbury Academy is a 1059 capacity school located in Wakefield with 1075 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2021 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Horbury Academy's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the 2 trusts' shared ethos and the willingness to collaborate across 3 local authorities.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust post conversion.
- Board members were happy to support the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Academy opening approved in principle

No Academy openings were approved in principle this month

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: Sharow Church of England Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and become an academy and join Yorkshire Causeway Schools Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: Waltham Toll Bar Academy, Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust, North East Lincolnshire, adding two resource provisions to school site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Middlestown Primary Academy, Accord Multi Academy Trust, Wakefield, to change the age range at the academy from 3-11 years old to 2-11 years old.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: New Mill Infant School, Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust, Kirklees, to add a 9 place complex communication and interaction needs resource provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: New Mill Junior School, Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust, Kirklees, to add a 9 place complex communication and interaction needs resource provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Gleadless Primary School, Sheffield South East Trust (SSET), Sheffield, to add an integrated resource unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Woodhouse West Primary School, Sheffield South East Trust (SSET), Sheffield, to add an integrated resource unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Co-op Academy Princeville, The Co-operative Academies Trust, Bradford, removing the Resource Provision at Princeville to accommodate the expansion of Co-op Academy Delius.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Co-op Academy Delius, The Co-operative Academies Trust, Bradford, to expand into the space at Co-op Academy Princeville on the same site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Lidget Green Primary School, Pennine Academies Yorkshire, Bradford, the creation of a Resource Provision at Lidget Green Primary School to accommodate the pupils moved from the Resource Provision at Co-op Academy Princeville.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Threshfield Primary School, Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, North Yorkshire, to change their age range for nursery provision from 3-11 years old and 2-11 years old and the addition of 10 places for 3 year olds and 15 places for 2 year olds.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: East Ardsley Primary Academy, Leodis Academies Trust, Leeds, to add a SEN unit or resourced provision to a mainstream academy

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: 1) Condition of updating the Multi Funding Agency / Single Funding Agency 2) 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 Windmill CofE (VC) Primary School, URN 139912, Kirklees, to convert and become an academy and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

Reason for removal: This project will now be decided outside of the Advisory Board meeting.

Project: An application from Normanton Altofts Junior School, URN 108208, Wakefield, to convert and become an academy and join Waterton Academy Trust.

Reason for removal: This project will now be decided outside of the Advisory Board meeting.

Trust Changes

Project: An application for One In A Million Free School, URN 139474, Bradford, to transfer from One In A Million Single Academy Trust to Delta Academies Trust.

Reason for removal: This project will now be decided outside of the Advisory Board meeting.

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