



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: Yorkshire and the Humber

Date of meeting: 24 February 2026

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

- Tom Banham
- Steve Hodsman

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Rowena Hackwood
- Jonny Uttley

DfE senior civil servants

- Matthew Edwards

General discussion points

- Alison recognised and thanked AB members past and present
- Reflections on the white paper announcement of 23/02/2026.
- General admissions / school placements.
- SEND provision
- Ofsted inspections

Decisions

West Yorkshire, North and North East Lincolnshire

Trust changes

Project: An application for Hollingwood Primary School, URN 144860, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Hollingwood Primary School is a 420 capacity school located in Bradford with 482 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 Hollingwood Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.

- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Laycock Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Grove House Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Laycock Primary School, URN 144861, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Laycock Primary School is a 105 capacity school located in Bradford with 88 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 Laycock Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Grove House Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Farnham Primary School, URN 144862, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Farnham Primary School is a 420 capacity school located in Bradford with 449 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2023 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Farnham Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Laycock Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Grove House Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Crossley Hall Primary School, URN 146581, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Crossley Hall Primary School is a 762 capacity school located in Bradford with 676 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in May 2023 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Crossley Hall Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Laycock Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Grove House Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Grove House Primary School, URN 148201, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Grove House Primary School is a 472 capacity school located in Bradford with 417 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2023 and was rated as Good.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Grove House Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Laycock Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Clayton Village Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Clayton Village Primary School, URN 148869, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Clayton Village Primary School is a 210 capacity school located in Bradford with 193 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2024 and was judged to be Good in all categories.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Clayton Village Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Laycock Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Grove House Primary School and Lidget Green Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Project: An application for Lidget Green Primary School, URN 150016, Bradford to transfer from Pennine Academies Yorkshire to Impact Education Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- Lidget Green Primary School is a 743 capacity school located in Bradford with 516 pupils on roll. The school is awaiting being inspected by Ofsted.
- Officials' assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Lidget Green Primary School's strategic needs. In making the recommendation, consideration was given to the well-established collaboration between the two trusts, including joint leadership development, cross trust SEND and safeguarding networks, and shared governance work.
- Schools Funding and Strategic Oversight (SFSO) colleagues were supportive of the proposal, however recommended the deployment of a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to the trust within 6 months of the transfer. The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- Board members were supportive of the project, noting that transition should be smooth given the current working relationships and the longer-term benefits the transfers could bring. To further strengthen progress towards KS2 outcomes, it was recommended that the trust undertakes a structured review of high-performing MATs to identify approaches that could be adapted and scaled across its primary schools. This would support continued refinement of teaching, curriculum design and assessment practice. To support continued improvement in KS4 performance, it is recommended that the trust undertake an Integrated Curriculum and Financial Planning (ICFP) exercise.
- It was recommended that the trust should review its governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, within the next two months to ensure they provide clarity, consistency, and robust lines of accountability. Updated arrangements must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers.
- This project was considered alongside the Trust Changes for Hollingwood Primary School, Laycock Primary School, Farnham Primary School, Crossley Hall Primary School, Grove House Primary School and Clayton Village Primary School.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

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

- The Trust must also provide a consolidated 3-year forecast prior to the transfer.
- A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) is to be deployed to the trust within 6 months of the transfer
- Updated Governance arrangements, including schemes of delegation, must be submitted to the Department prior to completion of the transfers

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Hunter's Bar Infant School, Peak Edge, Sheffield.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/03/2026

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: Hunter's Bar Junior School, Peak Edge, Sheffield.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/03/2026

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Project: St Oswald's CofE Primary School, Collaborative Learning Trust, Leeds.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed Opening Date – 01/03/2026

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No action required

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter academy orders

Project: St Barnabas CofE Primary School, Barnetby, St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd, North Lincolnshire.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Kirmington CofE Primary School, St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd, North Lincolnshire.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit, Venn Academy Trust, North Yorkshire.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Steve Hodsman did not receive any papers or provide any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest with Venn Academy Trust.

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: Swinton Academy, Aston Community Education Trust, Rotherham, to remove the Sixth Form provision from the academy.

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 Scarborough Pupil Referral Unit, URN 132027, North Yorkshire, to convert and become an academy and join Venn Academy Trust.

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

© Crown copyright 2026