



Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

18th July 2023

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anita Ghidotti-Gibson
- Karen Burns
- George Beveridge
- Helen O'Neill
- Annette Williams
- Tania Lewyckyj

Apologies

- Nic Brindle

DfE senior civil servants

- Jon Howlin, Deputy Director, North West Regions Group

Representations received

8 received; Sponsored Route; Discussion to consider sponsor options for the following schools.

- Chesham Primary School, Bury: 4 representations

- Hazelhurst Community Primary School, Bury: 2 representations
- A further 2 representations were received representing both schools

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

- Regional Director reflected on successes from the current academic year and discussed preparation for the next academic year.

AB member reflections

- The board reflected on recent network meetings and general feedback from the sector.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of Falinge Park High School, Rochdale, to convert and join Watergrove Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board members considered the details of the project and raised no concerns in relation to the proposal.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of Gillibrand Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation, with one condition.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. Condition for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Sponsor Application:

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to consider Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust sponsor application.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation, with one condition.
- The board noted the SLA between with trust and Sir Edward Bamber Catholic Multi Academy Trust and advised that Regions Group should assure itself that the support being provided reflects the move to sponsor status.
- The board agreed that it would be helpful for the trust to think about future growth and how it's going to be sequenced.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. The trust to provide assurances on how secondary specialist training will be managed.

Conflicts:

- Helen O'Neill. Member was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Diocese of decision.

Sponsored Route:

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to consider Alexandra Park Junior School, Oldham, sponsor options.

AB discussion:

- The project returned to the Advisory Board after a discussion at June's Advisory Board meeting.
- The board supported the project recommendation that The Pinnacle Learning Trust is the preferred sponsor option.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of Denton Community College, Tameside, to convert and join Northern Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- The board reflected that Northern Education Trust are experienced with working with disadvantaged and high English Additional Language schools.
- The board reflected on the trust's track record, with good or outstanding schools and a strong school improvement model.
- The board reflected on the legacy of challenge within Denton Community College, and how the trust could support the school.
- The board noted that the trust and Regions Group are keen to increase the trust's presence in the North West.
- The board reflected that the trust will want to develop its relationship with local authorities and local trusts as it increases its presence in the North West.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Chesham Primary School, Bury, sponsor options.

AB discussion:

- There was a discussion about the contents of the representations received.
- The board were provided with an update on the sponsor options for Chesham Primary School, Bury.
- The board understood that this decision is based on the consideration of several sponsor options.
- The board agreed that the project should return to the Advisory Board once Regions Group had further reflected on the representations and sponsor options.

RD decision: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Return to future AB meeting as a recommendation.

Project: Discussion to consider Hazlehurst Community Primary School, Bury, sponsor options.

AB discussion:

- There was a discussion about the contents of the representations received.
- The board were provided with an update on the sponsor options for Hazlehurst Community Primary School, Bury.
- The board understood that this decision is based on the consideration of several sponsor options.
- The board agreed that the project should return to the Advisory Board once Regions Group had further reflected on the representations and sponsor options.

RD decision: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Return to future AB meeting as a recommendation.

Project: Discussion to consider Walton-le Dale High School, Lancashire, to convert and join Aspirational Futures Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with two conditions.
- The Board understood that this decision is based on the consideration of several sponsor options.
- The board reflected on Walton-Le-Dale being a multiple Requires Improvement school rather than Inadequate.
- The board shared reservations regarding the governance model with only 4 trustees currently in place.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

1. School to receive mentorship from another trust sponsoring a school in similar circumstances.

2. An external review of governance to be undertaken by the trust.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider the proposal of Barnacre Road Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join The Bay Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition.
- The board reflected on The Bay Learning Trust's priority to build a primary arm to their trust.
- The board appreciated that primary leadership experience is already in place.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. Condition for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Kirkby Thore School, Westmorland and Furness, to convert and join Changing Lives Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition.
- The project was brought back as an update following June Advisory Board.
- The board reflected that a previous School Resource Management Advisor deployment showed Changing Lives Learning Trust were implementing savings and have a plan that shows affordability.
- The board reflected that governance has changed.
- The board agreed that the project is sensible in terms of strategic design.
- The board appreciated that actions from the June Advisory Board were responded to effectively.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. The trust to provide further detail on their school improvement model.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust and Local Authority of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Christ The King Catholic High School, Lancashire, to convert and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that it would be helpful for the trust to think about future growth and how it's going to be sequenced.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approve with condition

1. The trust to provide assurances on how secondary specialist training will be managed.

Conflicts:

- Helen O'Neill. Member was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Hesketh-With-Beaconsall All Saints CofE School, Lancashire, to convert and join The Learning Together Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust, Local Authority and Diocese of decision.

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Points discussed in relation to a free school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to propose a trust to take forward a Manchester Presumption Free School

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation that Prospere Learning Trust is the preferred sponsor.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Local Authority of decision.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Discussion to consider the transfer of Buile Hill Academy, Salford, to Northern Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- Discussed alongside Denton Community College. No specific comments raised in relation to this transfer.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust of decision.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to approving significant changes to academies.

Project: To discuss the age range and addition of nursery provision at Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy, Blackburn with Darwen, of the Wensley Fold Church of England Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- Recommendation for School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) to be deployed.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform Trust of decision.

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