

#### MINUTES

# Meeting of the Academy Transformation Trust Board

### 11 October 2022

# 12:30pm to 15:00pm

### Venue: Harvest Fields

Board members	Initial	Position
Pat Beanland	PB	Chair
Tom Clark	TC	Vice-Chair
Tania Craig	TCr	Trustee
Diane Elleman	DE	Trustee
Mark Gill	MG	Trustee
Alistair Milne	AM	Trustee
Louise Jones	LJ	Trustee
Attendees	Initials	Position
Austin O'Malley (item 002.1 only)	AO	Acting Head of Finance (AHoF)
Ed Thomas (item 002.1 only)	ET	Director of Operations (DoO)
Derek Trimmer (item 003.1 only)	DT	National Education Director (NED)
Amber Fitch	Clerk	Governance Officer

#### Minutes

ITEM	Detail
001	Routine business
001.1	Apologies for Absence
	Apologies were received and consented for Elaine Bonar & Carl Edwards. The meeting was quorate.
001.2	Annual Declarations of interest and declarations for this meeting
	<ul> <li>The Clerk confirmed that all Trustees had completed and returned their annual declaration form. Information had been updated on the Trust website.</li> </ul>
	b) There were no declarations of interest for this meeting.
001.3	Election of a Chair & Vice-Chair
	a) Following a call for nominations for Chair for the 2022/23 academic year, Patricia Beanland was nominated.
	<ul> <li>Following a call for nominations for Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 academic year, Tom Clark was nominated.</li> </ul>
001.4	Resolution
	Trustees unanimously agreed the below appointments –
	<ul> <li>a) Patricia Beanland as Chair for the 2022/23 academic year</li> <li>b) Tom Clark as Vice-Chair for the 2022/23 academic year</li> </ul>
001.5	Confirmation of sub-committee memberships

	Trustees v year.	were asked to review and appoint to	various commit	tees for the 2022/23 academic		
001.6	Resolution					
	Trustees	unanimously agreed the below com	mittee members	ships –		
	b) Fi T( c) Sf & d) R <i>e)</i> R	<ul> <li>a) Audit &amp; Risk Committee (ARC) – Mark Gill, Alistair Milne &amp; Diane Elleman</li> <li>b) Finance &amp; Resources Committee (FRC) – Louise Jones, Alistair Milne, Carl Edwards &amp; Tom Clark</li> <li>c) Standards &amp; Outcomes Committee (SOC)– Patricia Beanland, Tom Clark, Elaine Bonar &amp; Tania Craig</li> <li>d) Remunerations Committee – Committee Chairs</li> <li>e) Remunerations Committee (Appeals) – Tom Clark (Vice-Chair) and any other Trustees, based on availability</li> </ul>				
	Action Action	Description of task	Who	When		
	A01	To update the committee memberships on the website	Clerk	After meeting		
001.7	Challenge	and clarification		I		
	Action	rustee to establish if they could join Description of task	Who	When		
	Action AO2	To liaise with CE to see if he was willing to join ARC	PB	After meeting		
001.8			of Poference (TO	D)		
001.8	To review & agree the sub-committee Terms of Reference (TOR) The TOR for the below committees had been shared prior to the meeting.					
	a) A b) Fi c) St	udit & Risk Committee (ARC nance & Resources Committee (FRC andards & Outcomes Committee (S emunerations Committee	)			
001.9	Resolutio	n				
	Trustees unanimously agreed the TOR as circulated.					
001.10	To agree I	To agree Link Trustee roles 2022/23				
	The Clerk reported that the following academies were due an Ofsted inspection in the 2022/23 academic year –					
	b) B c) G d) Ic e) N f) N	eck Row Academy (BEC) ristnall Hall Academy (BHA) reat Heath Academy (GRE) eni Academy (ICA) Iildenhall College Academy (MCA) orth Walsall Primary Academy (NWF hoenix Academy (PHO)	2)			

	i) Su j) Tl k) Fu The Chair this year o noted tha	avens Academy (RAV un Academy (SUN) he Hathaway Academy (THA) urther Education College (ATTFE) highlighted that Trustees would focus due to workloads, as well as highlightin t the Trustees were expected to arran The Chair & Vice-Chair offered suppor	ng the need to recruit ad ge visits to their link aca	lditional Trustees. It was demies as soon as
	Action	Description of task	Who	When
	AO3	To arrange visits to link academies	All	After meeting
001.11	Resolutio	n		
	Trustees unanimously agreed the below link Trustee roles for 2022/23 – <ul> <li>Sutton Community Academy – Tom Clark</li> <li>Ravens Academy - Pat Beanland (already established)</li> <li>Pool Hayes Academy - Pat Beanland</li> <li>Nicholas Hamond Academy - Flying Squad with Alistair Milne as observer</li> <li>Star Academy - Tom Clark</li> <li>Beck Row Academy – Diane Elleman</li> <li>Iceni Academy – Diane Elleman</li> <li>Caldmore Primary Academy - Tania Craig</li> <li>Phoenix Academy – Tania Craig</li> <li>Kingsmoor Academy – Patricia Beanland</li> <li>Sun Academy – Tom Clark</li> <li>The Queen Elizabeth Academy – Elaine Bonar</li> <li>Mildenhall College Academy – Alistair Milne</li> <li>Great Heath Academy – Mark Gill</li> <li>The Hathaway Academy – Mark Gill</li> <li>Bristnall Hall Academy – Louise Jones</li> </ul> The following will be assigned a link Trustee in due course: <ul> <li>Jubilee Primary Academy</li> <li>North Walsall Primary Academy</li> <li>SEND</li> <li>Safeguarding</li> </ul>		erver	
	Action AO4	Description of task To share the updated link Trustee link with the National Education Director for information	Who Clerk	After meeting
	A05	To contact Trustees to establish if they are willing to take on the role of Safeguarding	РВ	After meeting
001.12	Minutes of the last meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2022         The minutes of the last meeting shared before the meeting, were <b>agreed</b> as accurate and accepted.			

004.45	Matters arising and actions			
001.13	Matters arising and actions			
		wing matters were raised from the acti or discussion unless stated otherwise –	-	mpleted / on the
	Fi fi A A A A d A b a jo A A p ra A n A n A T	O2 – The Chair advised that she would inance (AHoF) to gain an update on the nancial model. O4 – The Chair would chase CE for a re O5 – The Clerk would chase CE on the O6 – The Clerk was asked to remind th ocument. 11 – The Chair highlighted that a 2022 y the ATT Finance Team despite this be pproving the budget. This would be rai bined the meeting. 12 - A breakdown of the staff costs our resentation considered by FRC on 06.0 aised with Austin O'Malley (AHoF) whe 15 – The Clerk would check with the C ew vision and values. 17 – The Clerk would check with the C nprovement Plan had been reviewed / 19 – The Chair reminded Trustees of th raining shared via email as a matter of nat this had been completed within an	e pace of training for Print esponse on his link Trust use of his ATT email acc ne CEO to share the Ofsto /23 budget recovery pla eing requested as a cond ised with Austin O'Malle tlined on slide 12 of the 07.2022 had not been sh en he joined the meeting EO if all pages on the Tru EO if the success criteria d' expanded. he need to complete the urgency or to confirm v	ee role. ount. ed summary evaluation n had not been drafted dition by Trustees for y (AHoF) when he 2022/23 budget ared. This would be g. ust website included the in the Trust e Level 1 Safeguarding
	Action	Description of task	Who	When
	AO6	To contact AO to gain an update on the pace of training for Principals on the new finance model	PB	After meeting
	A07	To chase CE for a response on his link Trustee roles	РВ	After meeting
	A08	To chase CE on the use of his ATT email account	Clerk	After meeting
	A09	To remind the CEO to share the Ofsted summary evaluation document	Clerk	After meeting
	A10	To check with the CEO if all pages on the Trust website included the new vision and values.	Clerk	After meeting
	A11	To check with the CEO if the success criteria in the Trust Improvement Plan had been reviewed / expanded	Clerk	After meeting
	A12	To complete the Level 1 Safeguarding training as a matter of urgency or to confirm via email to the Clerk that this had been	All	ASAP

completed within another role.

001.14	Challenge and clarification
	1. A Trustee asked if Board minutes were uploaded to the website. The Clerk confirmed that this was the case for non-confidential sections of the minutes.
002	Strategic Considerations
002.1	CEO Report
	Trustees noted the appendices to the CEO report as circulated prior to the meeting. Austin O'Malley, Acting Head of Finance (AHoF) and Ed Thomas, Director of Operations (DoO) joined the meeting to report on these items.
	AO (AHoF) highlighted the below key points relating to the increase in energy costs -
	<ul> <li>The end of year accounts 2021/22 were still being finalised; there was a projected surplus of +£900k.</li> <li>The 2022/23 budget forecast a £2m deficit. However, since Trustees had approved the budget in July 2022 the Trust had received confirmation on Government funding to assist with increasing energy costs and NI contributions. In addition, the Trust were projecting a 10% saving in usage.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Since the approval of the budget in July 2022, Operations staff costs had increased from 4.7% to 7.3%.</li> </ul>
	• The new CEO, taking post from 1 November 2022, would review the increased costs in Operations staffing and energy.
	<ul> <li>The 2022/23 budget recovery plan would be presented at the December 2022 FRC meeting.</li> </ul>
002.2	Clarification and challenge
	<ol> <li>A Trustee asked how many Operations staff were in post at the Trust and how the increase from 4.7% to 7.3% had been approved. AO advised that there were 400 non- teaching staff within the Operations Team and that the increase to 7.3% had been made in line with national guidelines. This was based however on worse case scenarios.</li> </ol>
	2. A Trustee asked how the Trust would achieve a 10% saving in energy usage in 2022/23. ET (DoO) advised that a presentation had been delivered to academies on how to reduce energy costs which would include changing energy boards, only allowing academies to let premises until 6pm, turning all lights off at the end of the day, investing in renewables, reducing the use of air conditioning and exploring autostoppers for lighting.
	3. A Trustee asked if / how the Trust would track the reduced use in energy throughout the year. ET (DoO) advised that this would be tracked centrally via the monthly management accounts. Regular meter readings would also be obtained and provided to each academy to compare consumption.
	4. A Trustee asked if figures could be provided relating to any Capital costs (to reduce energy usage) compared to projected savings. ET agreed to provide these figures following the meeting.
	5. A Trustee asked AO (AHoF) if he had been made aware that the 2022/23 budget recovery plan was expected to be presented to Trustees at the meeting today. AO stated that he was not aware of this.
	6. A Trustee asked for an update on the ICFP implementation. They were advised that data had been shared with all academies to complete their planning for the 2023/24

academic year: deadline for completion being 28.11.22. INP (forecast tool) was also being used on a trial basis to provide personalised models for the Trust. 7. A Trustee requested that the Board receive a demonstration on ICFP. AO agreed to arrange this via MS Teams following the meeting. 8. A Trustee questioned why energy costs at academies were high during the night. Many staff members worked from home outside of school hours. ET advised that many members of staff continued to work on site late at night. Staff members also regularly left laptops on 'standby' when leaving the premises. The use of cloud-based servers was still being explored in the hope to move to this system as soon as possible. Academy lettings had also ceased where these were not deemed sustainable and / or did not generate income. 9. A Trustee asked when they were required to decide on which energy broker to use going forward. ET reported that historically, the Trust obtained an annual price for energy costs via Ginger. Due to increased costs and concerns raised by Trustees, alternative brokers had been explored and it was evident that purchasing energy on a flexible model going forward would be beneficial in order to make savings. The use of E-Energy was being proposed as they offered a flexible energy model which provided a buy-back clause option (which could result in in-year savings), a risk management workshop and monthly reports on energy usage and pricing. It was recommended that Trustees make a decision on which energy broker to use by the end of the autumn term 2022. 10. A Trustee asked ET if he felt that communication from Ginger had been previously delayed in relation to energy costs. ET felt that Ginger could have been more proactive with their communications. Based on his research, ET felt that E-Energy were more experienced in delivering a flexible energy model and added an increased level of meter readings which would be useful to track usage and savings. 11. A Trustee asked if there were any fees associated to E-Energy. ET advised that this information had been requested and was awaited; this would be shared with Trustees once received. 12. A Trustee asked ET if he believed that the majority of the education sector would move to a flexible energy model. ET believed this to be the case following his research. 13. A Trustee asked ET to explain how E-Energy purchased energy internationally. He explained that E-Energy purchased energy for a variety of sectors resulting in them requiring a high volume of energy sources. This also enabled them to provide the 'buy-back' option should energy costs decrease. 14. A Trustees asked if any other multi-academy trusts (MATs) used E-Energy. ET stated that this was the case, and that contact would be made with these Trusts to obtain feedback on the services. 15. A Trustee asked if the Trust were currently locked into energy rates with Ginger. ET reported that the Trust were no longer tied into any contracts with Ginger. 16. A Trustee asked if members of the FRC were able to make a decision on which energy broker to use going forward. The Chair advised that this was the case and recommended that this be considered at their next meeting.

Outcomes 2021/22, key developments, academy categorization & annual report on Pupil Premium		nnual report on Pupil		
<ul> <li>Trustees unanimously agreed the below proposals within the report produced by SE, Head of Governance.</li> <li>a) That trustees continue to support the cluster until a new chair is appointed, two new parent governors are appointed and at least two more community governors recruited.</li> <li>b) That vice-chairs are proposed to the trustees by the chair, who has already been ratified. This means that trustees will not need to speak with all the vice chairs.</li> </ul>				
Resolution				
A17	To seek clarification from SE as to why the clustering of BEC & GRE had been delayed	РВ	After meeting	
A16	To meet with SE, HoG w/c 17.10.22	РВ / ТС	After meeting	
Action	Description of task	Who	When	
2. A re	Trustee reported that discussions we elation to them being ready to cluster	with GRE. They aske	ed why the clustering had	
1. A Trustee volunteered to provide the Trust with support in governance, including				
		, .	. ,	
cluster chairs and governors in more challenging areas.				
-			nce team in order to recruit	
was repo future of	rted that the Chair and Vice-Chair wou governance within the Trust. The Chair	ld meet with SE w/c r proposed that the E	17.10.22 to discuss the	
Update o	n local governance			
A15	FRC to consider which energy broker to use at their next meeting	ET / LJ / Clerk	Next FRC	
A14	To share information on E-Energy fees once available	ET	After meeting	
A13	To request that Trustee receive a demonstration on ICFP via MS Teams from AO (AHoF)	РВ	After meeting	
Action	Description of task	Who	When	
	A13 A14 A15 Update of Trustees of was report future of the below a) T cl b) T Challenge 1. A re 2. A re n Action Action Action Alfo A17 Resolutio Trustees Governar a) T p re b) T	A13       To request that Trustee receive a demonstration on ICFP via MS Teams from AO (AHoF)         A14       To share information on E-Energy fees once available         A15       FRC to consider which energy broker to use at their next meeting         Update on local governance         Trustees noted the report provided by Sam Elms was reported that the Chair and Vice-Chair wou future of governance within the Trust. The Chain the below recommendations until after this meet a)         The approval of a small recruitment buc cluster chairs and governors in more chains and yice-chains and yice-chains and governors in more chains and governors in more chains and yice-chains and governors in more chains and yice-chains and governors in more chains and yice-chains and yice-chains are appointed the to the transtee chains and yice-chains are provide the the transtee chains and yice-chains are proposed to the transtee chains that trustees will pretformance - education	A13       To request that Trustee receive a demonstration on ICFP via MS Teams from AO (AHoF)         A14       To share information on E-Energy fees once available         A15       FRC to consider which energy broker to use at their next meeting         Update on local governance       ET / LJ / Clerk         Trustees noted the report provided by Sam Elms, Head of Governanwas reported that the Chair and Vice-Chair would meet with SE w/c future of governance within the Trust. The Chair proposed that the P the below recommendations until after this meeting –         a)       The approval of a small recruitment budget for the governarc cluster chairs and governors in more challenging areas.         b)       That trustees, chairs and vice-chairs meet twice a year, in Ja         Challenge and clarification       1.         A Trustee volunteered to provide the Trust with support in research, impact and recruitment.         2.       A Trustee reported that discussions were held at the most relation to them being ready to cluster with GRE. They aske not yet taken place. The Chair advised that she would raise         Attion       Description of task       Who         A17       To seek clarification from SE as to why the clustering of BEC & GRE had been delayed       PB         Resolution       Trustees continue to support the cluster until a new of parent governors are appointed and at least two more corr recruited.         b)       That trustees continue to support the cluster until a new of parent governors are appointed and at le	

	Discussed in item 002.1
004.1	2022/23 budget update
004	Performance – finance and operations
	6. In response to a question relating to national outcomes in 2021/22, DT reported that data had not yet been released.
	5. A Trustee asked if outcomes across the Trust had been lower than anticipated in 2021/22. DT confirmed that this was the case but explained that Ofsted would not place significant judgement on results during an inspection post Covid19. Clear mandates and support systems were in place at academies causing concern to increase aspirations and expectations. CSIs continued to take place, where necessary.
	4. A Trustee questioned if the outcome in Maths at JUB had caused any concern. DT advised that the Maths outcome had been identified as an area of concern in relation to the quality of teaching in Year 6; this teacher had since left the academy. Bobbie Caisley, Director of Primary Education had visited the academy on 10.10.22 and had provided positive feedback on improvements in staffing and the quality of teaching.
	3. A Trustee asked when RAV were expected to be visited by Ofsted. DT confirmed that an inspection was due at RAV and he believed that they could achieve a strong judgement of RI, or even 'good' due to progress being made since the last inspection.
	2. The Chair noted that a letter had been received from the DfE concerning BEC. It appears that the DfE are looking at schools that are not making necessary improvement. However, as BEC was 'inadequate' when the Trust took it over and has since moved to 'requires improvement', and also recognizing the improvement the Trust are making across other academies, the DfE stated that no further action would be taken.
	1. A Trustee asked for clarification that the concerns relating to ICA were for the secondary provision; DT confirmed this was the case.
003.2	Challenge and clarification
	<ul> <li>academies causing concern as outlined below –</li> <li>ICA – There had been low levels of improvement and there continued to be concerns within the leadership and management. New leaders had joined the academy in September 2022 with support plans in place similar to the models used at BEC which had so far proved successful. Mark Woodhouse was supporting the academy as the Executive Principal.</li> <li><u>BEC</u> – There continued to be concerns relating to safeguarding at the academy however processes and results had improved. Good teaching and learning had been observed during recent visits and the Executive Principal, Naomi Brown continued to provide support.</li> <li><u>RAV</u> – Slow improvements were being made. Bobbie Caisley, Director of Primary Education continued to provide support and had provided feedback on her recent visit to the academy where improvements in Reading and Phonics had been identified. There were still concerns relating to safeguarding, attendance, persistent absence and communication between Senior Leaders.</li> <li><u>DUK</u> – Significant improvements had been made at the academy so far this year.</li> </ul>
	Due to the SOC meeting being postponed on 10.10.22, Derek Trimmer (NED) was invited to join the meeting to provide a verbal update on this item. The NED provided an update on those academies causing concern as outlined below –

004.2	Update o	n introduction of new financial model		
	Discussed	in item 002.1		
004.3	Verbal up	date on annual accounts		
	Discussed in item 002.1			
005	Risk and compliance			
	No matte	No matters to discuss.		
006	Corporate	e matters		
	No matte	rs to discuss.		
007	Matters f	or approval		
007.1	Policies			
	<ul> <li>The policies listed below had been shared with Trustees for approval via GVO prior to the meeting. The Chair highlighted that the Scheme of Delegation had been updated but would be subject to further review once the new CEO was in post.</li> <li>a) Safeguarding Policy 2022/23</li> <li>b) Attendance Policy</li> <li>c) Behaviour Policy</li> <li>d) Exclusions Policy</li> <li>e) Anti-Child-on-Child Abuse</li> <li>f) EYFS Policy</li> <li>g) Trustee &amp; Governor Allowance &amp; Expenses Policy</li> <li>h) Whistleblowing Policy</li> <li>i) Scheme of Delegation</li> </ul>			
007.2	Resolutio	n		
	Trustees	unanimously agreed to adopt the abo	ve policies.	
008	Any other business			
008.1	Annual So	afeguarding training autumn term 202.	2	
	Discussed	in item 001.13.		
008.2	Verbal re	port on annual Skills Audit		
	The Chair reported that the annual skills audit would be shared with Trustees via G were asked to complete the proforma by the deadline issued by the Clerk. Outcome discussed at the next meeting to identify skill gaps and recruit new Trustees. <i>Action</i>			
	Action	Description of task	Who	When
	A18	To circulate the annual skills audit via GVO	Clerk	After meeting
	A19	To complete the skills audit by the date set by the Clerk	All	After meeting
	A20	Skills Audit outcomes to be an item	Clerk	Next meeting
		on the next agenda		

	Due to the Clerk's pending maternity leave, it was reported that dates for the 2023/24 academic year would be set before the end of term. Action				
	Action	Description of task	Who	When	
	A21	To set Board / committee meeting dates for the 2023/24 academic year	Clerk / PB	After meeting	
009	Confidential items				
009.1	Confidential minutes are recorded on a separate document and are available to Trustees <u>only</u> .				
	The meeting ended at 3.00pm and Trustees went into confidential session at that point.				

#### Date of next meeting:

Thur 15 Dec 2022 12:30pm to 15:00pm

Venue: MS Teams

Signed by Chair .....

Date.....

Action	Description of task	Who	When
A01	To update the committee memberships on the website	Clerk	After meeting
AO2	To liaise with CE to see if he was willing to join ARC	РВ	After meeting
AO3	To arrange visits to link academies	All	After meeting
AO4	To share the updated link Trustee link with the National Education Director for information	Clerk	After meeting
A05	To contact Trustees to establish if they are willing to take on the role of Safeguarding	РВ	After meeting
AO6	To contact AO to gain an update on the pace of training for Principals on the new finance model	РВ	After meeting
A07	To chase CE for a response on his link Trustee roles	РВ	After meeting
A08	To chase CE on the use of his ATT email account	Clerk	After meeting
A09	To remind the CEO to share the Ofsted summary evaluation document	Clerk	After meeting

A10	To check with the CEO if all pages on the Trust website included the new vision and values.	Clerk	After meeting
A11	To check with the CEO if the success criteria in the Trust Improvement Plan had been reviewed / expanded	Clerk	After meeting
A12	To complete the Level 1 Safeguarding training as a matter of urgency or to confirm via email to the Clerk that this had been completed within another role.	All	ASAP
A13	To request that Trustee receive a demonstration on ICFP via MS Teams from AO (AHoF)	РВ	After meeting
A14	To share information on E-Energy fees once available	ET	After meeting
A15	FRC to consider which energy broker to use at their next meeting	ET / LJ / Clerk	Next FRC
A16	To meet with SE, HoG w/c 17.10.22	РВ / ТС	After meeting
A17	To seek clarification from SE as to why the clustering of BEC & GRE had been delayed	РВ	After meeting
A18	To circulate the annual skills audit via GVO	Clerk	After meeting
A19	To complete the skills audit by the date set by the Clerk	All	After meeting
A20	Skills Audit outcomes to be an item on the next agenda	Clerk	Next meeting
A21	To set Board / committee meeting dates for the 2023/24 academic year	Clerk / PB	After meeting