

**LIFE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD ON THE 20th JANUARY, 2025 AT 5.30PM**

VIRTUAL MEETING – NON CONFIDENTIAL

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

| NAME | | END DATE OF OFFICE | DESIGNATED ROLE | ATTENDANCE |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Liz Warren (LWA) | Trustee (Coopted) | 31.08.2025 | Vice Chair | Y |
| Chris Parkinson (CPA) | Trustee | | CEO | Y |
| David Gordon (DGO) | Trustee | 28.01.2028 | | Y @5.45pm |
| David Maitland (DMA) | Trustee (Coopted) | 19.01.2029 | | Y |
| Sue Dunford (SDU) | Trustee | 05.09.2025 | | Y |
| Liam McDonagh (LMcD) | Trustee (Coopted) | 19.01.2029 | | Y |
| Andy Smith (ASM) | Trustee | 19.09.2026 | | Y |
| Anil Majithia (AMI) | Trustee (Coopted) | 19.01.2029 | Chair | Y |
| Ja Kim (JKI) | Trustee (Coopted) | 19.01.2029 | | Y |
| Rose Harvey (RHA) | Trustee (Coopted) | 03.03.2028 | | Y |
| Anne Shipton | Trustee (Coopted) | | | N |
| IN ATTENDANCE | | | | |
| Chris Tweedale | | | Leadership & Governance | |
| Sian Griffiths (SGR) | | | Head of Governance | |

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

All present were welcomed, no apologies had been received.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The Trustees were asked to declare any potential pecuniary interest or conflict of interest between an individual and the Trust Board as a whole with the business to be discussed during the meeting. No additional declarations were made.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Anil Majithia confirmed he was happy to be nominated for the Chairs role, SGR confirmed no other nominations had been received.

RESOLVED: the Trustees agreed to elect Anil Majithia as Chair until the 30th September, 2025.

Anil Majithia took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

Liz Warren confirmed she was happy to be nominated for the Vice Chairs role, SGR confirmed no other nominations had been received.

RESOLVED: the Trustees agreed to elect Liz Warren as Vice Chair until the 30th September, 2025.

5. CO-OPTED TRUSTEES

The Trustees (Member appointed Trustees only) agreed to appoint Liz Warren and Liam McDonagh as Coopted Trustees for a further period until the 31st August, 2025 and noted the Members would be asked to reappoint for a further 4 year term at the AGM on the 10th February, 2025.

6. ARTICLES

A note had been shared with Trustees to provide an update and recommendation for consideration and approval. Following the Board meeting on the 9th December, 2024 where DMA had queried the wording of objective B of the current/proposed articles (below) several calls/communications had taken place with the solicitor from Anthony Collins.

Objective B of the current/proposed Articles states –

to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Leicester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

DMA felt the objective was too restrictive and the proposed amendment included in the note would regularise the position. SGR explained she had discussed this with the solicitor at Anthony Collins who had advised there was a small risk that any proposed change may not be approved by the Charity Commission, following a discussion the Trustees agreed the following –

RESOLVED: In the first instance to amend the objective to –

to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Leicestershire and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Should the Charity Commission decline this request then a potential fallback position/compromise would be to amend the objective to -

to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants of Leicestershire the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

ACTION: SGR to progress the process to change the Articles of Association.

7. ADMISSIONS POLICY 2026 – 2027

The Trustees received an update and note from SGR, the details of the consultation were reported to Trustees on the 9th December, 2024. In total as at the 16th January, 2025 3 separate individuals have responded to the consultation and related to the reduction in PAN at Ivanhoe. The responses received together with a reply for Trustees information were included in the note (listed below) following a discussion between Nicola Koncarevic, Director of Education and Sian Griffiths, Head of Governance -

a. Happy with the proposal – no response required.

b. I have concerns this may mean that our child's sibling may not get into Ivanhoe as we are out of catchment, which would be very difficult to manage – reply: the criteria within the Admissions policy rank that group of Children with siblings at the school 2nd after Children looked after.

c. Unsure of the benefits of dropping the PAN by 20 students, this would be a cut to the school budget – reply: that is correct but the proposal allows the School to operate on a full classes basis and thereby reduces the cost to educate a child and ensures cost effectiveness. The Trust will continue to receive the per Child funding but those monies would be used at Ashby where the proposal is to increase the PAN to address the increase in applications.

To date the proposal to remove the waiting list at the 3 National Forest Hub Schools after the 31st December of each year and the proposal to reduce the PAN at Countesthorpe have not received any comments.

Due to a change in the timings the next Trust Board was due to meet on the 31st March, 2025 whilst the Trustees were required to approve the outcomes of the consultation by the 28th February, 2025. On that date the Trust must notify the Local Authority (who must publish the changes by the 15th March, 2025), the Admission Policy for 2026 – 2027 will be amended to reflect the changes and the Schools must publish the changes to the PAN on the School Website.

The Trustees were therefore asked to approve the proposals however should further replies be received prior to the deadline i.e. 31st January, 2025 then a note would be shared with Trustees via Governor Hub and a request for a further determination maybe needed.

Q: (SDU) Does that Ivanhoe is going to be out of pocket per child, is the money going to be the same?

A: (SGR) The School will receive the same monies per Child so by increasing Ashby's PAN there would be no need to have an extra class however the number of children within each class would increase, whereas Ivanhoe would be able to reduce their class by one and make a saving.

Q: (JKI) Looking at the numbers at Countesthorpe that's a significant reduction from 300 to 224 what's the rationale for this reduction?

A: (CPA) They're not getting the Students/applications, they would, be happy to reach the 224. This is a legacy from years gone by, when they amalgamated 2 schools, a high school, and an upper school to make one school.

RESOLVED: the Trustees approved the proposals subject to any further replies received prior to the deadline i.e. 31st January, 2025 at which point a note would be shared with Trustees via Governor Hub and a request for a further determination may be needed.

CEO took the opportunity to formally thank LWA for her Chairpersonship, during an incredibly turbulent and challenging time for the Trust. The Chair of a Trust Board was a huge responsibility and LWA had, with the CEO, supported the Schools through all the inspections. This was over and above her huge achievements in the Trust Board meetings.

5.52pm Chris Tweedale left the meeting

The meeting closed at 6.15pm following the conclusion of the confidential business.