

**EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MEMBERS AND TRUSTEES OF
BOLTON IMPACT TRUST
MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM
FRIDAY 18 MARCH 2022 AT 4.00 PM**

Present: K Davies (KD) – Chair of Trustees, B Atkinson (BA) – Member, J Bennett (JB), S Hincks (SH), T Grimshaw (TG), Paul Hodgkinson (PH) - Executive Head Teacher, D Luczka (DL) – Member and D McKeon (DMc)

In Attendance: D Smith (DS) - Finance Director and E Stoddard (ES) – Clerk to the Trust

KEITH DAVIES IN THE CHAIR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair welcomed Members and Trustees to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from P Norton (PN) and M Sidebottom (MS).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interest were made.

3. OUTWOOD GRANGE MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST (OGAT) PROPOSALS

Detailed information regarding the OGAT proposals had been circulated to Members and Trustees prior to the meeting. The Executive Principal (PH) shared the presentation on screen.

PH provided the background details of the proposals. OGAT had approached Bolton Impact Trust (BIT) to provide a 24 place Alternative Provision (AP) in Worksop. BIT, following on from discussions with OGAT colleagues, BIT Trustees, the RSC, the ESFA and colleagues from Nottinghamshire County Council are moving forward with plans to build their first 'outside of Bolton' Alternative Provision (AP) facility in Worksop. The working title of the project will be Impact Academy Worksop.

The proposal is that both OGAT and BIT will work together to build an AP facility that will initially serve 24 Key Stage 3/4 students from Outwood Academy Valley and Outwood Academy Portland. Opportunities for future growth at the Worksop facility will be built into the design specification. PH reported that after discussions with the RSC and the ESFA it has been agreed that the most pragmatic mechanism for opening Impact Academy Worksop is via the Independent School application route.

PH provided details of the referrals process, which would include:

- Upstream support for students who require critical pastoral interventions (2 days per week)
- Medium term support for students who require a block of time in the Academy to support them to retain their places in mainstream (5 days)
- Day 6 support for Permanently excluded students (5 days)
- Long term support for Key Stage 4 students who have been excluded from school who it is deemed may not be able to return to mainstream schooling (5 days)

BIT referral and review processes will be used for all commissioned places.

An annual flat fee of £600,000 would be charged via four quarterly payments in advance. Where an individual student's needs are determined to require one to one support, an additional support charge may apply, following discussion with the school.

PH stated that OGAT had now submitted a formal proposal to BIT and Members and Trustees were asked to consider this proposal and approve or otherwise to move forward with this. PH stated that there was potential for this to extend to a five-year project and there was potential for further sites to open.

PH presented the Governance Structure and proposed that a Local Governing Board (LGB) be created for Impact Academy Worksop, so this became an intrinsic part of the Trust. It was proposed that One Education be used to support HR and Payroll. Browne Jacobson would be used for legal support throughout the process.

PH presented the possible pros and cons for Members and Trustees' information. Pros included the benefits of working with a large MAT; PH stated that the proposals would also support the work of the BIT Business Strategy Group. There were some questions regarding distance, SLT and staff cover; however, a geographical hub may provide some solutions moving forward.

Questions were invited.

SH asked where children in Worksop were currently being placed. PH explained that OGAT currently outsourced their AP provision but were currently having occupancy issues. SH asked how Ofsted currently judged the two OGAT Academies. PH advised that they were both judged as Outstanding and OGAT were known for taking on challenging schools in areas of high deprivation and turning these around. They currently had 47 schools within the MAT.

SH stated that she felt there were three potential risks that needed to be addressed:

1. Executive Principal's time away from BIT and cover
2. If the initial contract is for 1 year does this then provide OGAT with an opportunity to use the expertise provided by BIT and continue themselves
3. OGAT may be looking for BIT to join the MAT

In response PH stated that SLT capacity had been discussed yesterday and there were further talks planned for Wednesday. PH stated that he was alert to the potential risks regarding sharing of BIT expertise and he did not feel that there was any intent for BIT to join the Outwood Grange MAT as talks had only centred around partnership working.

TG asked for further details regarding the price charged per pupil, how this compared to current commissioners and whether this would be profitable. DS reported that BIT would receive £600,000 over 10 months for the initial 1-year contract and there would be direct costs of £500,000. Set up costs would mainly be site specific costs. PH stated that there could also be potential future work with Nottingham CC, which would generate additional income. DMc asked what would happen after year 1 and if any surplus money would need to be returned to OGAT. DS stated that he was not anticipating that any monies would be paid back, as this would be consumed by the project. KD asked if there would be surplus income generated in year 2. DS stated that this was expected but he also anticipated to see some in year 1 but this was dependent on the set-up costs.

JB asked if BIT had engaged with LocatED regarding funding of a site. PH stated that he had engaged with the Head of Regeneration at OGAT, and he would be visiting potential sites on Monday. SH asked if BIT were limited to a certain radius when sourcing a site. PH stated that he felt a half hour radius from the OGAT academies would be ideal and he had been speaking to colleagues with local knowledge about this.

DMc stated that consideration would need to be given regarding limited status, Ofsted registration and the independent schools application. TG asked if the name should be more aligned to the Bolton Impact Trust brand i.e., Worksop Impact Trust. PH stated that Impact Academy Worksop still aligned with the BIT Brand and could be expanded if the Trust moved into other areas.

SH asked if the Trust could receive a cast iron guarantee for more than one year if certain KPIs were met. TG concurred that the project presented a significant amount of work for BIT, and he felt that assurance was needed that the project would last longer than 12 months. PH stated that he would be happy to ask this when he next met with OGAT. KD added that confirmation also needed to be requested regarding any surplus and that BIT would not be required to pay anything back.

DMc asked if BIT could access OGAT's curriculum and classroom practices. PH stated that he felt there would be a lot of goodwill presented and benefits to the Trust, including access to the curriculum.

SH asked if it would be more appropriate for another member of the SLT to head the project. PH stated that whilst he would be heading the project, he had met with the SLT and Academy Leads and there were several options and support available moving forward. SH asked PH what he would be doing if he wasn't taking on this role. PH stated that he would likely be focusing on NLE work.

Trustees agreed that this was a great opportunity for BIT and could provide further opportunities for growth following a thorough process of due diligence. The Chair asked that Members and Trustees vote on the proposal to move forward with the project. Following an unanimous vote, it was:

Resolved: That approval be given to proceed with the OGAT formal proposal to open an Alternative Provision Independent Academy in Worksop subject to a through process of due diligence and Trustees suggestions being included in the negotiations and discussions with OGAT

4. **PARK SCHOOL REVIEW**

The Board of Trustees, having designated details of the discussion that followed as confidential in accordance with Article 125 of the Articles of Association, this information is excluded from these minutes.

5. **CONSENT TO ABSENCE**

Agreed: To consent to the absence of P Norton and M Sidebottom

6. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Agreed: That the following items of discussion at this meeting be designated as confidential in accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association:

Minute Number 4 (Park School Review)

With no further business the meeting closed at 11.15 am

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Trust Board)