

## OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

**Decision Reference No:** 1920027

### Box 1

**DIRECTORATE:** Learning &  
Opportunities – Children & Young People

**DATE:** 21 October 2019

**Contact Name:** Neil McAllister

**Tel. No.:** 01302 735283

**Subject Matter:** North Ridge Community School Academy Conversion

### BOX 2

#### DECISION TAKEN

Further to the academy order of the Regional Schools Commissioner issued on 27 September 2019, the Council is now required to execute all formal documentation necessary to complete the conversion to academy status.

This decision record approves the appropriate instruction to the Council's Legal section to complete and seal the appropriate documentation in order for North Ridge Community School to convert to academy status on 1 January 2020 as a converter academy. It is proposed that North Ridge Community School will join a Multi Academy Trust – Nexus Multi Academy Trust.

### BOX 3

#### REASON FOR THE DECISION

To comply with the Secretary of State's Academy Order of 27 September 2019.

### BOX 4

#### ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

No further options were available for consideration in order to comply with the statutory order.

## **BOX 5**

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Under the Academies Act 2010, Local Authorities are under an obligation to give effect to the Secretary of State's Academy Order by doing all acts necessary to assist the relevant School to convert to an Academy as per the above Order.

In particular, the Local Authority are obliged to:

- (a) enter into a 125 year lease to the Academy of the premises currently occupied by the school.
- (b) enter into a Commercial Transfer Agreement transferring the Assets to the Academy.

The Lease and Commercial Transfer Agreement are based upon model documents prescribed by the DfE.

The Academisation of the School means that staff will be transferring from the employment of the Local Authority to the new Academy. This transferring of staff is likely to be regarded as a relevant transfer within the meaning of the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment Regulations 2006 (as Amended). The relevance of this is that the legislation imposes obligations on both in old and new employer in relation to consulting with staff. Not consulting in accordance with the legislation can give rise to a claim to a Tribunal where both the new and old employers can be found to be responsible for any financial penalty imposed therefore care should be taken to ensure the staff transferring are consulted in accordance with the legislation to avoid legal and financial liability. This legal obligation includes informing the staff of any action it is proposed to be taken by the employer following the transfer. Doncaster Council should therefore ensure the new employers have complied with their obligation to inform of any action to be taken and that this is communicated to transferring staff.

Any staff, whose principal or main role is with the transferring service are likely to transfer. Employees are entitled to transfer on their current terms and conditions. Liability in respect of the employment of the transferring staff transfers to the new employer and advice must be taken when considering indemnities in respect of these liabilities.

**Name: Paula Coleman Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

## **BOX 6**

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Northridge School held a surplus balance of £116,180 as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and is forecast to have a surplus balance of £71,412 at 31 March 2020.

As a **Converter Academy**, any surplus balance held by the school must be paid to the Academy Trust as per the Academy Conversion (Transfer of School Surpluses) Regulations 2013. Should the school have a deficit upon conversion, as a convertor academy, the DfE would reimburse the LA and recover the money back from the



**INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

It is in the public's interest to be aware of this decision record under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, therefore this decision will be published in full redacting signatures only.

**Name:** Neil McAllister **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:** 21 October 2019

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

**BOX 12  
BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR - NO  
(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13  
AUTHORISATION**

**Name:** Riana Nelson **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:** 12/11/2019

Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills

**Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer**  
**YES/NO**

**If yes please authorise below:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Executive/Director/Assistant Director of \_\_\_\_\_

**Consultation with Relevant Member(s)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Designation** \_\_\_\_\_

**(e.g. Mayor, Cabinet Member or Committee Chair/Vice-Chair)**

**Declaration of Interest YES/NO**

**If YES please give details below:**

**PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.**

**Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at [Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk](mailto:Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk) who will arrange publication.**

**It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.**