

Summary of discussions of the Local Academy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at Thrumpton Primary Academy

Membership	Initials	Governor category	Absence
Mr A Murray Chair	AMU	Appointed	
Mrs F Simpson Vice	FS	Appointed	
Mrs C Wyles	CW	Appointed	
Mrs J Gawthorpe	JG	Appointed	
Dr E Farrar	EF	Appointed	A
Mr M Wintle	MW	Appointed	
Mrs M Malcolm	MM	Appointed Parent	
Mrs S Willows	SW	Appointed	A
Mrs K Cleary	KC	Appointed Parent	
Mr A Michael	AMI	Appointed	A

In Attendance	Initials	Position	Absence
Mrs H Cawkill	HC	Principal – BLPA & THPA	
Mrs V Read	VR	Vice Principal – Bracken Lane	A
Mrs L Spacey	LS	Executive Principal	A
Mrs R Chambers	RC	Governance Professional (GP)	
Mr A Hardie	AH	Trustee	

Quorum	5	Governor's present	7
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*Arrived Late

Outstanding Actions Log

C	= Complete	CF	= Carried forward	I	= Incomplete (carried forward more than once)
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Agenda item	Meeting Ref	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline	Update	Status
AC/14/2526	2526 - 2	Contact governors individually regarding outstanding mandatory training.	NB	26/11/2025	Marked as completed as new annual training will be due in September.	C
AC/40/2526	2526 – 4	Schedule SEND Link visits before the next LAC meeting.	JG	13/05/2026	SEND Link visit at THPA planned for 16.07.26. JG to send report after	CF
AC/40/2526	2526 - 4	Schedule Safeguarding Link visits before the next LAC meeting	CW	13/05/2026	Reports received and submitted in advance of the meeting	C

Notes of meeting:

Bold blue text = academy committee governor check and challenge

Bold green text = academy committee governor decision-making / approval

Q = Question from Governors

A = Answer from senior leaders

Agenda item	Key points / Summary	Action Required	Responsible Person	Timeline
AC/54/2526	Apologies for absence and welcome - Apologies were sent and approved from SW due to illness, EF due to work and AM due to holiday. - Welcome to AH. AH introduced himself and a background of the trustees and their focuses. It was advised that Diverse Academies Trust are the only trust in country where every primary has improved attendance. Governors praised this.			
AC/55/2526	Declaration of Interests - No new declarations made. - No declarations in relation to items on the agenda.			
AC/56/2526	Review of Action Log to include outstanding items from the last meeting. - The Actions log from 20th May was reviewed and approved.			
AC/57/2526	Governance housekeeping - Both MM and SW are resigning from the committee. Both were thanked for their dedication and commitment to the committee. - Governors were reminded to complete the Declaration of Interest and Code of Conduct for the new academic year. - Governors voted unanimously for AMu to continue as Chair of Governors for a 2-year term of office from September 2026. - Governors voted unanimously for FS to continue as Vice-Chair of Governors for a 2-year term of office from September 2026. - Link roles were agreed and confirmed as below; - o Safeguarding – CW			

	○ SEND – JG ○ GDPR – FS ○ Pupil Premium - EF ○ Health & Safety – AMu ○ Reading and Enrichment – MW ○ Voice 21 - KC - RC to share the link to the new link visit report - Governors voted unanimously for JG to be reappointed for another 4-year term of office from 08.07.26.	Share new link visit form	RC	09.07.26
AC/58/2526	Self-evaluation and action plan - The self-evaluation and the action plan were discussed with the committee, and it was then approved.			
AC/59/2526	Training – Pupil Premium (PP) - HC shared a presentation with governors – RC to share - It is important for governors to understand how pupil premium funding is spent. Most goes towards staffing so that teaching assistants can run interventions or so that they can lead classes to allow for teachers to run smaller group interventions. - The funding does not always need to be used from an academic point of view and may be used for social intervention. Q: Are there many forces children at the academies? A: There are relatively small amounts in both academies. In the past month there have been an additional 9 children go on to the PP register at BLPA which takes it to 22% which is as high as it was during COVID. Q: What can you do with the PP money to support the children who may not be getting the same experiences as others? A: The academies strive to make sure the enrichment activities offered are supportive and relevant for the community group. It is ensuring that the academy	To share presentation.	RC	22.07.26

	look at what the community need, what the children need and then what enrichment opportunities can be chosen based on what they cannot currently access. It is also about understanding the context of each school as BLPA and THPA are becoming more alike in terms of the number of PP children and children with additional need. Governors noted that some children may have never been on a bus or visited the local museum so not always high-cost activities. Q: Does the funding stay with the child? A: The funding is dependant on a multitude of factors including benefits and the hours of which parents work. Children can go on to the PP register at any stage within primary school, it does not need to be from when they join. The academies try to remove the stigma around PP, like they do with free school meals as it only advantages the child. Governors added that the academies do email out reminding parents to check if they are eligible. - The purpose of the funding is to close the attainment gap. This also means more experiences and not just necessarily more learning. - There are a group of children who sit above the threshold who are vulnerable who do not qualify as parents work too many hours. Q: Is the data easy to gather? A: It is something that the academies are doing regularly. BLPA is slightly further ahead due to HC being there for longer and the Assistant Principal at THPA is currently on maternity leave. There will be a common approach across both schools moving forward and ensuring that all trips are appropriate for the school community. For example, at THPA, Y3 have a camp out on the school field, yet at BLPA, Y3 have a sleepover in the school hall as 50% of the children may have never stayed away from home. Whilst trips do not need to be the same, the reason for them can be mirrored. Governors agreed that it is important to adapt the offer to the children and parents. HC agreed it is also for the community too.			
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	- The academies complete the annual strategy and report on the impact that the funding has. This has to be published on the websites by the 31st December. EF, as the PP link governor, has always quality assured the report and provided more in-depth challenge on where the academy plans to spend the funding. - The academies track which children engage in clubs and enrichment offers. Q: Do you do targeted invites? A: Yes, and some of the offers are paid for through the PP budget. At Bracken Lane, breakfast club is free for PP children, but after-school club is not. The academies do track engagement for PP children at all school events including share the learning and discos, so that if a trend is noticed then this can be discussed further to ensure cost is not a barrier. - The EEF guidance details the interventions which have the biggest impact on children. - Equity commitment is high on the focus list for the academies and is not about giving more, but about levelling up.			
AC/60/2526	Ofsted – THPA - Governors were reminded of the THPA Ofsted report which is now live. - Both inspections have been very fair and rigorous and have been accommodating of the academy's circumstances. Q: Is 'expected standard' comparable to 'good'? A: No, the new Ofsted framework gradings cannot be comparable to the previous one-word gradings that academies received. Ofsted - BLPA - The published report for BLPA is due in September. - BLPA's report will show that they achieved 'met' in safeguarding and 'strong standard' in all other grading areas which the academy is very pleased about. - A full detailed run through of the inspection was shared with governors.			

	- Huge praise for the staff team at BLPA for their hard work and thank you to AMu, MW and CW who supported during the inspection. - The inspector passed comment that BLPA was the tidiest school they had ever seen - It has been a very positive end to the year and showcases the journey that the academy has been on. The governors congratulated HC and the team at BLPA for getting ‘strong standard’ and the team at THPA for the ‘expected standard’ which is a huge credit to both academies at the end of a year of change. Q: Will the ‘strong standard’ help with increasing recruitment of children into BLPA? A: BLPA are nearly full but ultimately children and parents have to feel comfortable in a school setting and for some that may be a school that do not have a great report. Governors added that some people do choose schools and move house to get into schools with the better Ofsted reports. - There is a changing landscape in the community, and it is now about being inclusive. If there are spaces in the academy, then there is no reason why children cannot join and there needs to be a level of understanding from parents around this. BLPA are pleased that they obtained the strong standard in the inclusion area of grading. Q: Is the parent feedback available to governors? A: Yes, it is available except the free text box. Q: Is the academy happy with the response rate? A: It is not as good as parents evening, but it is a short lead time for completion. Q: What is the timeframe for the next inspection?			
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	A: It will be 5-years unless there is a change of Principal, data or if someone complains. Q: Will you be celebrating with the children? A: Unfortunately, the final report will not be live until September which by then, the Y6 children will have left the academy. There is the academy's 50th year celebration event on Monday 13th July 2026 and it was celebrated in an assembly. Governors commented that the children saw it as a normal day and did not know anything was any different which is a true reflection of the academy.			
AC/61/2526	Cat C trips BLPA - Bikeability – this is a free activity and is open to KS2 children. Q: Do you provide the PPE for children? A: Children are asked to bring their own but if it is thought a child needs support then the academy will look to do so. - Swimming – Y4 The academy will be going to Bawtry Swim Stars from September as it is better price to the academy. This is an activity for the whole class whether they can swim or not. The academy provides the government the data on the percentage of children who meet the required standard. Bawtry Swim Stars offer half price vouchers for any children who do not meet the standard. - Y6 residential – Walesby A questionnaire has been sent to parents with multiple options before the academy booked the residential. Following this the academy is looking to book Walesby at £150 per student. Q: Do children have to pay? A: No-one has to pay but parents are asked as it is over and above the normal school day. Remissions can be applied for but ultimately if the academy do not receive enough money to cover the cost of trips then unfortunately, they cannot go ahead.			

	Governors discussed the price of transport for trips. HC added that previously BLPA have used Sports Premium funding to pay for the transport for the residential, but this funding has been stopped and therefore that cost needs to be passed on which has made it seem much more expensive to parents. Q: Is there an educational value to the trip? A: All trips that are being discussed are either linked to the curriculum or personal development. E.g. bikeability and swimming are linked to the curriculum on safety whereas the residentials are about personal development and developing resilience especially in the lead up to the transition to secondary school. - Y4 camp This is held on the school field and is a repeat of the camp that was held this year. - Y3 sleepover This is held in the school hall and is a repeat of the sleepover that was held this year. - Y2 Clumber Park – pond dipping This is the same trip as THPA. THPA - Bikeability – KS2 - Swimming – Y5 As with BLPA, this will now be held at Bawtry Swimstars. - Y6 residential Q: Are all children eligible to go regardless of medical conditions?			
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	A: If a trip cannot work for every child in the class, then the trip will be held elsewhere. Both academies are fully inclusive and ensure that all children can take part. Q: For all staff attending trips, are they fully medically trained? A: Yes, all staff are fully trained. For those children with bespoke medical conditions, conversations are held with parents in advance so that parents feel comfortable with their child attending. - Y4 Rand Farm residential Q: Do you have special contingencies for if children do not want to stay? A: If children do not want to stay overnight then this is something that can be accommodated by working with parents. This is also the same if children have food concerns or dietary requirements. - Y3 camp on the field Q: Has there been any pushback on this camp? A: Parents have expressed that they believe the camp is expensive in comparison to the Y4 camp at BLPA. The BLPA camp is subsidised through class fundraising and the PTA whereas at THPA currently the cost sits with parents. This is something that the academy is looking in to for future. - Y2 Clumber Park – pond dipping Q: Are there any trips for the other year groups? A: All classes have 3 trips or visits per year, but the academies are mindful of the costs to parents so these are all lower in value. Because Y6 have the residential, the other 2 trips tend to be lower value e.g. an art class at Retford Oaks or an in-school experience day. All Cat C trips were approved by the committee.			
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	- The Trust have appointed a Business Partnerships and Income Generation lead who is working with local businesses to obtain funding either for transport to trips or for extra outdoor classrooms for both schools. The governors praised this and hoped to see some benefit in future meetings.			
AC/62/2526	Complete annual summary template on the effectiveness of governance 2025/26 - The annual summary was completed.			
AC/63/2526	Determine Confidentiality Governors considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should be deemed as confidential. It was resolved: - It was agreed that there were no confidential items discussed - It was agreed that there had been no Equality Act implications.			
AC/64/2526	Next meeting Wednesday 7 th October at 4:15 pm at Bracken Lane Primary Academy Meeting closed at 6:40pm			

Signed by Chair: *A.Murray*

Date: 07.10.26