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Case Study | Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust Expansion

Delivering legal representation to aid expansion of the Education Trust

Bishop Bewick CET were seeking experienced legal representation to facilitate their academy expansion to include a total of 39 identified schools from June 2020 through to August 2022. Bishop Bewick CET approached Bloom as managers of the DfE recommended NEPRO³ framework, a fully compliant route to access cost-effective specialised support for this project. Bishop Bewick CET required legal representation to help facilitate the identified schools to join the Trust as part of the conversion process, as well as to suitably represent the individually identified schools through the process. With access to a library of standard specifications specifically designed for schools, Bloom provided Bishop Bewick CET with an outcomes-based project specification and held a mini-competition amongst suppliers to drive best value to support the CET expansion. Muckle LLP was identified as an experienced commercial law firm based in North East with extensive experience advising over 200 schools in their conversion to academies.

Actions

Muckle successfully won the competitive tender process which resulted in it being instructed to advise the Trust on its expansion as part of the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle academisation programme. This will run for 2 years and will result in the MAT growing to 39 schools. This involves all Catholic schools within the MATs' regions being converted into the MATs.

Muckle is advising on the full conversion processes covering a range of issues including employee liability issues and some complex property arrangements. Since the original engagement, Muckle have also supported the Trust on a range of issues separate to the academisation programme.

“Muckle have provided an excellent service through some complex Trust transfers. This has involved making very tight deadlines and dealing with multiple schools at once, not to mention coping with the issues around COVID-19”

Mrs Anita Bath
Chief Executive Officer - Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust

Benefits

Bishop Bewick CET's expansion requires navigating complex legal issues surrounding commercial transfer agreements, funding agreements and land transfers from multiple stakeholders. By engaging with an experienced provider, Bishop Bewick CET is able to dedicate their resources internally and respond to issues surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, along with the reassurance of knowing that their expansion would progress as scheduled.

Further, by engaging Muckle LLP through Bloom's marketplace, Bishop Bewick CET were able to achieve a near 20% saving on costs against budget, which was particularly important during the period of uncertainty brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The team at Muckle are always immediately helpful and demonstrate real expertise in this area, navigating our Trust through what is a very challenging process”

Mrs Anita Bath

Chief Executive Officer - Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust



The solution

Muckle LLP continues to advise Bishop Bewick CET on their expansion with another 21 schools set to join the Trust by July 2022. Bloom's experienced education team stand ready to support schools and academies through the unique challenges they face and offer a preferred route for educational institutions to appoint and manage specialist professional services through the NEPRO³ framework.

Get in touch with the team today to discuss your requirements.

To find out more, or to discuss your requirement in more detail, please contact us at enquiries@bloom.services

