



Notes of Meeting: South-East England and South London

03 November 2021

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

AB members who send their apologies for the meeting are, where possible, consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Jon Chaloner
- Stephen Carey
- Mark Ducker
- Paula Farrow
- Alison Beane

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Andrew Carter
- David Boyle

DfE senior civil servants

- Paul Schofield

Representations received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

General Discussion Points

RSC update

- Minutes from previous meeting agreed.
- The RSC reflected on early meetings with the new ministerial team and noted the outcomes of the spending review.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Uplands Community College, East Sussex, to join Beacon Community College Academy Trust

AB discussion: The application for Uplands Community College to join the Beacon Community College Academy Trust was previously discussed at the September AB. The application was deferred due to more information being required on governance, the school improvement strategy, pupil admissions, the sixth-form vision and top slice. The AB noted the responses from the trust. The AB discussed the proposed review of governance and the future plans and vision of the trust.

RSC decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust to ensure that the proposed governance review includes a focus on the board's strategic planning and vision.

Project: Shears Green Infant School, Kent, to join Hornchurch Academy Trust

AB discussion: Shears Green Infant School has been working with and receiving support from Hornchurch Academy Trust for about two years. They are now looking to formalise the relationship. Shears Green Junior School works closely with Shears Green Infant School but is not currently planning to join the trust.

The AB discussed Hornchurch Academy Trust's plans for supporting Shears Green, growth plans and opportunities in Gravesend and its engagement with local networks. The AB noted the position of the linked junior school and asked about plans to ensure curriculum continuity at transition.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: The AB recommended that the regional team support Hornchurch Academy Trust in developing links with Kent MATs and school leaders.

Trust change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

Project: Impact MAT, Bromley, and Langley Park Learning Trust, Bromley, to merge

AB discussion: The recommendation was put to the RSC for approval in principle. Impact MAT and Langley Park Learning Trust to merge to create a new MAT. This is a voluntary merger. Impact MAT will be dissolved and its two schools will join LPLT and the trust will then adopt a new name.

The AB noted that the trust has provided assurances that admissions will not change after the merger.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: The trust will need to confirm members, trustees, CEO and trust name in due course.

Significant change:

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: West Huntspill Primary Academy, Somerset. Change of age range from 4-11 to 2-11 and nursery

AB discussion: West Huntspill Primary is seeking approval for an age range change from 4-11years to 2-11years. This will allow the school to bring the co-located community run preschool into the school's funding agreement.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the AB meeting.

Project: Holland Junior School, Surrey, to Join Pioneer Academy Trust

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Awaiting further information needed for the paper.

Project: Harris Girls Bromley. Change to increase PAN by 2FE

Type of decision: Significant change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Awaiting further information needed for the paper.

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