



Department  
for Education

## **Notes of Meeting: East of England and North East London Advisory Board**

**Date of meeting – 26 May 2022**

### **Attendance**

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

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been 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**

- Jonathan Duff (RSC)

### **Advisory Board (AB) members**

- Karen Kerridge (AB)
- Duncan Ramsey (AB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (AB)
- Tom Canning (AB)
- Brian Conway (AB)
- AL Kingsley (AB)
- Caroline Derbyshire (AB)
- Diane Rochford (AB)

### **DfE senior civil servants**

- ESFA representative
- Alan Parnum (DfE Deputy Director)

## Representations received

No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting

## General Discussion Points

### AB Member Reflections

- The April AB meeting notes were discussed and agreed.
- The final AB meetings for this academic year were discussed, including the induction of new members.

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** Whether Ashdon Primary School, **Essex**, should convert to become an academy and join Saffron Academy Trust.

### AB discussion:

- The board and RSC discussed the conversion of Ashdon Primary School, to join Saffron Academy Trust.
- The RSC noted that this is a strong match and necessary for the school, as it will attract future pupils.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Caroline Derbyshire

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform trust of the RSCs decision.

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** Whether Downshall Primary School, **Redbridge**, should convert to become an academy and join New Vision Trust, **Newham**.

### AB discussion:

- The board discussed the potential conversion of Downshall Primary to become an academy and join New Vision Trust.
- The board indicated that they view the match positively, given the long-term relationship between the school and Trust, but were unable to formally agree 'in principle' due to local sensitivities.

- The RSC and board noted, therefore, that a full consultation should take place and the conversion discussed at a later Advisory Board.

**RSC decision:** Defer

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead will inform Trust and School of the RSCs decision to defer until consultation complete.

## **Decisions taken between AB meetings**

**Project:** Whether Newham Community Schools Trust, **Newham**, and the Leading Learning Trust, **Newham**, should merge.

**AB discussion:**

- The RSC previously decided to defer the merger of NSCT, and Learning Trust during the April AB.
- The RSC has since met with the CEO of NSCT to reiterate his expectations of the proposed merger. The RSC received assurances from the CEO, that the expectations will be met. The RSC decided to approve the merger.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project Lead to inform Trust of the RSCs decision.