



Notes of Meeting: South-East England and South London Advisory Board

23 June 2022

Attendance

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

AB members who have 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 has declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Paula Farrow
- Mark Ducker
- Stephen Carey
- David Boyle
- Jon Chaloner
- Sir Andrew Carter

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Alison Beane

DfE senior civil servants

- Anna Barker

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

RSC Update

- RSC gave an update on Schools White Paper briefings and webinars. Roundtables have been held with trust CEOs, chairs, and Diocesan education leaders.
- RSC office have also held a factual webinar for LA maintained schools.
- Discussed July AB meeting.

Ofsted

- Discussed a generally positive picture for SESL academies across the region.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Scott Broadwood Infant School, Surrey, to join The Good Shepherd Trust.

AB discussion: Scott Broadwood Infant School is a Church of England one-form entry infant school based in Mole Valley, Surrey. As a small infant school its capacity is 90 pupils, currently with 48 pupils on roll.

In the last full Ofsted inspection in May 2013, the school was judged to be good in all areas and the short inspection in July 2017, it continued to be good.

The Good Shepherd Trust (GST) was established in 2012 by the Diocese of Guildford. The schools in the trust are grouped in hubs based on their location. If approved, Scott Broadwood Infant School will be part of the Eastern Hub of the trust joining with The Weald, St John's Primary School, and Surrey Hills CofE Primary School. Each hub is led by a Director of Education, to provide greater local accountability and stronger coordinated school-to-school support.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant Change

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

Project: Borden Grammar School, Kent, physical expansion.

AB discussion: Borden Grammar School Trust proposes to expand Borden Grammar School's (Borden) capacity for years 7-11 from 603 to 750 allowing the academy to increase its PAN from 120 to 150 from September 2022.

Borden is a four-form entry (4FE) selective boys school based in Sittingbourne, rated good by Ofsted. Borden, and all of the other secondaries in Sittingbourne are over-subscribed. As such, there is a low risk that Borden's expansion will have a negative impact on other schools.

Existing temporary buildings can accommodate the first year's increase in PAN, but permanent building expansion will be required from Sept 2023 to accommodate the increase of pupils as they move through the school.

Discussed that Borden is already above capacity so this application is partially retrospective; trust governance is not fully aligned with DfE expectations; concerns that projected pupil numbers would take the school beyond the currently allowable capacity limit; discussion of the public sector equality duty.

RSC decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Write to the trust regarding: bringing governance in line with the department's expectations; the need for a significant change application in the autumn to expand the sixth form if the academy intends to recruit in line with projections for September 2023. Trust to consider joining a MAT.

Write to Kent County Council about maintaining equality of access to selective education in the area for boys and girls.

Project: Beths Grammar School, Bexley, physical expansion.

AB discussion: The proposal is for the demolition of an existing single storey building and erection of a three-storey building to provide 7 classrooms, kitchen/dining facilities, learning resource spaces with ancillary facilities and landscaping. A consultation has been conducted, all responses were positive and include that of the local MP and the local authority. Planning permission has been granted.

Discussed school's Ofsted results.

Discussed governance.

RSC decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: The Articles of Association to be updated to the new model. The Funding Agreement to be updated to the latest model. Removal of two staff places from the

Board of Trustees by 1 September 2022. Recommendation to review trust's governance under the NGA scheme. To consider joining a MAT.

Project: Kennington Park and Park Campus (part of Parallel Learning Trust), Lambeth, amalgamation of provision to create two all-through schools.

AB discussion: PLT proposes to amalgamate KPA and PCA into one all-through academy. It then proposes to deliver AP education at one site and SEMH provision at the other. Currently both sites have a mix of AP and SEMH pupils. the new all-through school will have a new name/URN.

KPA is an alternative provision primary academy for 5–11-year-olds. There are currently 24 pupils on roll (capacity for 50). PCA is an alternative provision secondary academy for 11–16-year-olds. There are 56 pupils currently on roll (capacity for 110).

Discussed LA concerns and pupil place planning.

Discussed transport arrangements for SEND and AP pupils. Discussed if PLT would still be financially viable if Lambeth did not commission the places. Noted that they will still be financially viable.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Discussion with the trust regarding their transport proposition to ensure the children are safe. DD to meet with trust and LA to discuss commissioning.

Project: Crawley Ridge Infants, Surrey, nursery expansion.

AB discussion: Crawley Ridge Infant School, part of The Alliance Multi Academy Trust (TAMAT), is proposing to establish a nursery and therefore change its lower age limit by three years, from 5 - 7 to 2 - 7 years. The school believes incorporating nursery children as part of the main school will provide a smooth transition into the Early Years Group and the school. The proposed change to be effective from 1 September 2022.

The nursery will be housed in the purpose-built space, which has been unused since a private nursery vacated three years ago.

The school consulted with Surrey County Council, which has provided a letter of support for the extension of age range at the school.

Noted that the school appointed a new headteacher with significant early years' experience in September 2021.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Hoe Valley, Surrey, physical expansion.

AB discussion: Hoe Valley was established as a Free school in September 2015. It is a 4FE mixed secondary school, with sixth form provision for ages 11-18, located in Woking, Surrey. As a relatively new school, it has been building up to the point where it can launch its Post-16 offer. The school opened in temporary premises at Woking Park and moved to a permanent site on Egley Road in September 2018. In December 2018, the school decided to defer the planned opening of its Sixth form to allow a focus on getting its first GCSE groups through their exams and then Covid followed. It now intends to open the Sixth form in 2023.

The current building was designed to accommodate 840 students: 120 per year group (Years 7-13). LA asked the school to increase its PAN to 150 in year 7-11. LA also agreed to fund the project.

Discussed governance.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: To get updated governance structure from the trust.

Project: Burntwood School, Wandsworth, specialist resource provision.

AB discussion: Burntwood School is a single sex 11FE secondary school for girls in the London borough of Wandsworth, which currently has 1780 pupils on roll. The school converted on 1 July 2013 and formed the Burntwood Trust, a Single Academy Trust. Burntwood was judged as 'good' by Ofsted in March 2020.

The proposed change is for a Specialist Resource Provision unit (SRP) based at Burntwood School.

The SRP unit would be for 12 pupils with complex needs, which are primarily Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, opening in September 2022.

Wandsworth Local Authority is fully in support of the change.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: George Abbot School, Surrey, proposal to close the SEN centre.

AB discussion: George Abbot School is a 11-18 secondary school with a 'Good' Ofsted rating from the last inspection, in December 2019. Situated in Burpham, Guildford, Surrey, the school has 1915 pupils currently on roll (as of 12 January 2022) including 3 at the VIU.

Due to lack of need, as indicated by Surrey's place planning analysis, the trust is seeking to formerly close the VIU at George Abbot School at the end of this academic year. If the proposal is agreed the trust plans to retain the SEN staff currently employed in the VIU as ongoing support to future children attending George Abbott who don't require the level of specialist intervention provided by a VIU.

The space vacated by this unit will be redirected for educational use. Surrey County Council is supportive of this proposal.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: St Francis Catholic and CE Primary Academy (part of Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust), Isle of Wight, additional resource provision.

AB discussion: The establishment of an Additional Resourced Provision (ARP) for young people with autism and social communication and interaction difficulties needs was identified within an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), at St Francis Catholic and Church of England Primary Academy, Ventnor (St Francis).

The aim is for this provision to be available from September 2022

There has been an increase in the number of children with autism and social communication and interaction difficulties needs on the Isle of Wight. St Francis was approached by the Isle of Wight Council to create an ARP to meet this need at the school and support the Island wide strategy of offering support for these pupils to access mainstream education.

The proposal will be fully funded by the council.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Tangmere Primary Academy, West Sussex, proposing to move the school to a new site and increasing from 1FE to 2FE.

AB discussion: The proposal is to relocate Tangmere Primary School 0.5 miles to a new site based on a new housing development in Tangmere Village. Dependent upon the number of houses being built the school seeks to expand from 1FE to 2FE with the potential to increase this to 3FE following a separate application if the capacity of the housing development requires additional places.

The project will be funded in conjunction with local authorities and The Kemnal Academies Trust (TKAT).

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Trust Change

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

Project: The Academy of Woodlands to join with Rivermead Inclusive Trust

AB discussion: This is a proposed transfer of Woodlands Primary School, in Medway, to Rivermead Inclusive Trust (RIT) and the subsequent winding up of The Academy of Woodlands (AoW). The change is voluntary and is at the request of the Academy of Woodlands board.

The AoW is a SAT. Rivermead is providing leadership support to the school. Woodland's board has requested this merger.

Discussed trust governance and financial oversight.

Discussed pupils being left out of education.

Noted that there is a new board in place at AoW.

RSC decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: To bring trust's governance in line with DfE's best practice guidance. To review financial oversight.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC outside of AB meetings.

Project: Meopham Community Academy

Decision type: Significant Change

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: St Mary's Catholic High School, Croydon, to join South East London Catholic Academy Trust.

Type of decision: Converter Academy Order

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Application not submitted.

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