

## Notes of Meeting: South West Advisory Board

22 June 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

- Hannah Woodhouse

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Sally Apps
- Steve Savory
- Michael Larsen
- Paul Jones
- Suzanne Flack
- Brian Hooper
- Alun Williams

### Guests

None

### Apologies

- Joy Tubbs

### DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings (Deputy Director)
- Matthew Stevenson (Deputy Director)

### Representations received

No representations were received for any items discussed at this meeting

## General Discussion Points

### RSC Update

- AB members were provided with an update on the latest Ofsted inspection outcomes across the region.
- AB members commented on the need to proactively provide support to new and current CEOs
- AB members stressed the importance of trusts and schools keeping the Regional Director and delivery teams informed early of potential Ofsted warning notices

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project:** Whether to approve St Mark's CofE Primary School, Morwenstow, **Cornwall** converting to academy status and joining Learning Academy Partnership (South West)

### AB discussion:

No concern

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve Newtown Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining The Academies for Character and Excellence

### AB discussion:

### Other:

- There was a discussion about the need to support the Trust to manage discussions about growth beyond Devon.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Brian Hooper was not present and did not receive papers for this project

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve Gillingham Primary School, **Dorset** converting to academy status and joining Pickwick Academy Trust

### AB discussion:

No concern

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve Durweston CofE VA Primary School, **Dorset** converting to academy status and joining the Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust

**AB discussion:**

No concern

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Paul Jones, Alun Williams and Joy Tubbs were not present and did not receive the papers for this project

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

## Significant Change

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for The Mendip School, **Somerset** (The Partnership Trust), to open a satellite site providing Hospital Education, to be located at Moorlands Infant / Junior School (BANES) (The Partnership Trust)

**AB discussion:**

**School Improvement:**

- AB members were updated on the SI policy of the trust and future development plans, assurances were given on the support in place for schools already in the trust and the ongoing development of the trust leadership

**Other:**

- AB members asked about the entitlement of pupils to receive a full-time education in accordance with their health needs assessment.
- AB members sought clarification on the measures in place to assess the quality of the education being provided via the HERS provision.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Paul Jones was not present and did not receive the papers for this project

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and the trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Venturers' Academy, **Bristol** (Venturers Trust) to increase capacity by 26 places

**AB discussion:**

**Other:**

- AB members acknowledged the wider demands on the trust at this time. Assurances were given that the department are in regular contact with the trust leadership team.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Redhills Primary School, **Devon** (The Academies for Character and Excellence) to change its faith designation and become a Church of England primary school

**AB discussion:**

**School Improvement:**

- AB members commented on the strategy, strength of the SI team and future growth.
- Assurances were given that the leadership has a clear model, sufficient SI capacity and a strong track record.

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Brian Hooper was not present and did not receive the papers for this project

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

## Trust Change

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

**Project:** Whether to approve the following six academies from Celtic Cross Education, **Cornwall** transferring to The Rainbow Academy Trust:

- St Michael's Church of England Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Bishop Bronescombe CofE School, **Cornwall**
- Grampound Road Village CofE School, **Cornwall**
- Grampound-with-Creed CofE School, **Cornwall**
- Ladock CofE School, **Cornwall**
- Veryan CofE School, **Cornwall**

**Project:** Whether to approve the following five academies from Celtic Cross Education, **Cornwall** transferring to St Barnabas Church of England Multi Academy Trust:

- St Mabyn CofE School, **Cornwall**
- St Tudy CofE Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Lerryn CofE Primary School, **Cornwall**
- St Winnow CofE School, **Cornwall**
- St Petroc's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, **Cornwall**

**Project:** Whether to approve the Marhamchurch CofE Primary School from Celtic Cross Education, **Cornwall** transferring to Learning Academy Partnership (South West)

\*\* These projects were discussed together

**AB discussion:****School Improvement:**

- AB members raised questions on the school improvement models of Rainbow and St Barnabas MATs and their understanding of the impact that the additional schools joining them will bring
- Rainbow MAT have been preparing to grow and created additional capacity to support this growth.
- St Barnabas also has focused on capacity and the track record to support growth within their leadership team.

**Finance:**

- AB members commented on the levels of financial reserve in St Barnabas MAT
- An ESFA official said they are working with the trust to bring reserves in line with ESFA expectations

**Governance:**

- AB members questioned the diversity of experience within the Rainbow MAT board and the level of commercial expertise
- This will be discussed with the trust and an external review of governance was recommended

**Other:**

- AB members queried the lack of trustee background and skills that are published on the St Barnabas MAT website. It was confirmed that this has been discussed with the trust and will be updated.
- Points raised at the stakeholder sessions were discussed with AB members and opportunity to comment
- AB members raised no concerns for Marchamchurch CofE Primary School joining Learning Partnership (South West)

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the trusts.

**Project:** Whether to approve Horrington Primary School (SAT), **Somerset** transferring to The Partnership Trust

**AB discussion:**

No concern

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Paul Jones was not present and did not receive the papers for this project

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the trust

## Sponsor Application

**Project:** Whether to approve an application for The Rainbow Multi Academy Trust, Cornwall to become an approved sponsor

**AB discussion:**

No concern

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the trust

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

**Project:** Whether to approve temporary significant changes for Broadstone Middle School, Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (Castleman Academy Trust)

- Increase the capacity of its Resource Base from 15 to 23, finishing July 2023
- Age range change from 9 -13 to 9 –14, finishing July 2023

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve with conditions

**Conditions:**

- This is a temporary change for the academic year 2022/23
- Approval of planning permission

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Orchard School Bristol, Bristol (Trust in Learning (Academies)) to increase capacity by 155 places

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Belmont School, Gloucestershire (SAND Academies Trust) to increase capacity by 27 places

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Brixham College, **Torbay** (The Thinking Schools Academy Trust) to increase capacity from 18 to 22 places at the enhanced provision for students with autism

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for St Minver School, **Cornwall** (Aspire Academy Trust) to change the age range from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to incorporate nursery provision

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Castle Batch Primary School Academy, **North Somerset** (The Priory Academy Trust) to change the age range from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to facilitate the relocation of the nursery at Priory Community School

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Welton Primary School Academy, **Bath and North East Somerset** (Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership) to change the age range from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to incorporate nursery provision

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Chandag Infant School Academy, **Bath and North East Somerset** (Futura Learning Partnership) to change the age range from 4 -11 to 2 -11 to incorporate nursery provision

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Paignton Academy, **Torbay** (Bay Education Trust) to increase capacity from 1590 to 1800 places. Five additional classes to be built, with the final build and capacity change to complete by 2025

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

**Project:** Whether to approve a retrospective significant change application for Holy Cross Catholic Primary School, **Plymouth** (Plymouth CAST) to increase capacity from 255 to 315 places. Three additional classes are built, along with sourcing of additional hall space and a games room.

**Decision type:** Significant Change

**RSC decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Project lead to inform the school and trust.

## **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Bolham Community Primary School, **Devon** (Ventrus Limited)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** High View School, **Plymouth** (Learning Academies Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** St Budeaux Foundation CofE (Aided) Junior School, **Plymouth** (The First Federation Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** St Nicholas and St Laurence Church of England Primary School, Broadwey, **Dorset** (Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** Watermoor Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (The Diocese of Gloucester Academies Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** Whitchurch Community Primary School, **Devon** (The First Federation Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project:** Westwood-with-Iford Primary School, **Wiltshire** (Palladian Academy Trust)

**AB discussion:**

- Opening date 1 July 2022
- No issues raised.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

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

**Project:** Shaftesbury School, **Dorset** (Sherborne Area Schools' Trust) significant change application regarding viability of the school boarding provision

**Decision type:** Significant change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Project no longer progressing

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