

Notes of Meeting: South West Advisory Board

4 July 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 Director (RD) chair

- Hannah Woodhouse

Advisory Board (AB) members

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

Guests

- Rachel Howie – AB member from Sept 22
- Jackie Smith – AB member from Sept 22
- Mark Ducker – AB member from Sept 22
- Adele Haysom – AB member from Sept 22
- Ben Antell – AB member from Sept 22
- Jen Blunden – AB member from Sept 22
- Margaret Simmons-Bird – AB member from Sept 22

Apologies

- Brian Hooper
- Joy Tubbs

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings

- Matthew Stevenson

Representations received

- Twelve representations were received for the transfer of the academies from Southerly Point Co-Operative Multi Academy Trust, **Cornwall** transferring to alternative trusts
- Five representations were received for the transfer of the four academies from The Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset), **Dorset** transferring to Wimborne Academy Trust
- One representation was received for the four schools in **North Somerset** converting to academy status and joining Lighthouse Schools Partnership

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

Local Update

- Welcome and introductions to the new advisory board members who will be joining from September. This was an opportunity to shadow the current board.
- Brief overview on the running of the boards and the importance of early engagement with the delivery teams
- Current AB members confirmed that they are available to support new members
- The priorities for the region for 2022 / 2023 were presented

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve St Sidwell's Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining St Christopher's CofE (Primary) Multi Academy Trust

AB discussion: No concern

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve the following four schools in **North Somerset** converting to academy status and joining Lighthouse Schools Partnership

- Wrington CofE Primary School, **North Somerset**
- Burrington CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School, **North Somerset**
- Golden Valley Primary School, **North Somerset**
- Churchill CofE Primary School, **North Somerset**

AB discussion:

School Improvement:

- AB members asked questions about the trust's school improvement model.
- Assurances were given that the trust has created additional capacity to support this growth and the trust is keeping the department informed on their developing approaches, including work to further align curriculum at primary and secondary phase.

Governance:

- AB members questioned the diversity of the trust board and the level of education expertise in the primary sector. This has been acknowledged by the trust and trustee interviews are currently taking place.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Adele Haysom was not present and did not receive the papers for this project

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

Sponsored Route

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Whether to approve Manor Park Church of England First School, **Dorset** joining Wessex Multi Academy Trust

Reason for Academy Order: Directive Academy Order

AB discussion:

Governance:

- AB members asked about the structure of the board and the capacity for growth. Assurances were given that the trust are commissioning an external review of governance and that they will consolidate as they have grown significantly in a short period.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Significant Change

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change for St Mary's CofE Primary, **BANES** (Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership) to make an age range change from 4 - 11 to 2 –11 and add nursery provision.

AB discussion: No concern

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Alun Williams, Sally Apps, Brian Hooper were 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 Plaistow Infants and Nursery School, (Horizon MAT), **Plymouth** to extend the age range from 3-7 to 3-11 (transition to all-through primary and nursery), reduce PAN from 60 to 20 and amend its admissions policy.*

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for St Budeaux Foundation Church of England Junior School (First Federation), **Plymouth** to extend the age range from 7-11 to 2-11 (transition to all-through primary and nursery), reduce PAN from 60 to 20 and amend its admissions policy.*

*These projects have been jointly submitted by their respective trusts and as such will be discussed together.

AB discussion:

Other:

- AB members sought clarification on why the schools are not amalgamating. The different ethos of the schools and offer they would provide to the local community was explained.
- AB members commented on the strength the schools would have in working with disadvantaged pupils through their full primary learning journey.
- AB members noted that the consultation period had been extended to 13 July and the approval would be in principle, subject to the consultation's outcomes. Consultation period ended with no additional comments received for St Budeaux, and one additional comment at Plaistow Hill which the school has responded to.

RD decision: Approve subject to consultation's outcome.

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 trust.

Trust Change

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

Project: Whether to approve Highcliffe School (SAT), **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole** transferring to HISP Multi Academy Trust LTD

AB discussion:

School Improvement:

- AB members raised some queries regarding the trusts current school improvement model and how it aligns with their growth plans.

Finance:

- AB members financial governance of the trust. An ESFA official provided the background and assurances that the trusts management of finances is in line with ESFA expectations
- AB members asked for further information on the trust top slice policy.

Other:

- AB members sought clarification on the distance of the school from other academies within the trust
- There was a discussion around the delivery team staying in contact with the trust to discuss the scope for future growth in the area.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve the following seven academies from Southerly Point Co-Operative Multi Academy Trust, **Cornwall** transferring to Crofty Multi Academy Trust**

- Godolphin Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Sithney Community Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Trannack Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Porthleven School, **Cornwall**
- Parc Eglos School, **Cornwall**
- Halwin School, **Cornwall**
- Garras Community Primary School, **Cornwall**

Project: Whether to approve the following four academies from Southerly Point Co-Operative Multi Academy Trust, **Cornwall** transferring to Truro and Penwith Academy Trust**

- Helston Community College, **Cornwall**
- Mullion School, **Cornwall**
- Mullion Community Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Landewednack Community Primary School, **Cornwall**

Project: Whether to approve the following five academies from Southerly Point Co-Operative Multi Academy Trust, **Cornwall** transferring to Aspire Academy Trust**

- Breage Church of England School, **Cornwall**
- Manaccan Primary School, **Cornwall**
- St Keverne Community Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Grade-Ruan CofE Primary School, **Cornwall**
- Coverack Primary School, **Cornwall**

** These projects were discussed together

AB discussion:

School Improvement:

- AB members commented on the strength of the SI models of both TPAT and Aspire. AB members questioned the structure and readiness of the SI model for Crofty MAT for taking on such a large number of additional schools.
- Assurances were given that a review of Crofty's school improvement model and school improvement capacity would be progressed with the trust in advance of the academy transfers.

Other:

- The representations received in connection with Parc Eglos School were discussed at length. On balance the Advisory Board saw more merit in Parc Eglos transferring to Crofty MAT than TPAT but did recommend that the incoming trust engage comprehensively with the local community to respond to some of the concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jennifer Blunden, Adele Haysom, Suzanne Flack and Michael Larsen were not present and did not receive the papers for this project

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Project: Whether to approve the following four academies from The Minerva Learning Trust (Dorset), **Dorset** transferring to Wimborne Academy Trust

- The Sir John Colfox Academy, **Dorset**
- Bridport Primary School, **Dorset**
- Bridport, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, **Dorset**
- Burton Bradstock Church of England Voluntary Controlled School, **Dorset**

AB discussion:

Finance:

- AB members commented on the financial position of The Minerva Learning Trust. An ESFA official provided assurances that this has been reviewed and that there are no concerns.

Governance:

- AB members questioned the high number of trustees. Assurances were given that the trust will commission an external review of governance.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Ben Antell was not present and did not receive the papers for this project

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Cabot Primary School, **Bristol City of** (Excalibur Academies Trust)

AB discussion:

Opening date 1 August 2022

No issues raised.

Further actions required: No action required.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Whether to approve a retrospective significant change application for Bristol Brunel Academy, **Bristol** (Cabot Learning Federation) to amend its age range to 11-16, removing the post -16 age range. Post-16 students will be registered at John Cabot Academy

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust.

Project: Whether to approve a retrospective significant change application for Bristol Metropolitan Academy, **Bristol** (Cabot Learning Federation) to amend their age range to 11-16, removing the post -16 age range. Post-16 students will be registered at John Cabot Academy

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Four Acres Academy, **Bristol** (Little Acorn Trust) to increase capacity by 105 places

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Uplands School, **Swindon** (Brunel Academies Trust) to increase capacity by 21 places

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve on condition of planning approval

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Westlea Primary School (SAT), **Swindon** to add a provision for SEN pupils of ten places

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Nine Maidens Alternative Provision Academy, **Cornwall** (Wave Multi Academy Trust) to increase capacity by 20 places

Decision type: Significant change

RD Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for North Cornwall Alternative Provision Academy, **Cornwall** (Wave Multi Academy Trust) to increase capacity by 23 places

Decision type: Significant change

RD Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Penwith Alternative Provision Academy, **Cornwall** (Wave Multi Academy Trust) to increase capacity by 20 places

Decision type: Significant change

RD Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

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: Whether to approve Amesbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, **Wiltshire** joining Magna Learning Partnership

Decision type: Sponsored route

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Necessary papers were not ready.

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