



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

29 September 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 Director (RD) chair

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Rama Venchard
- Vanessa Ogden
- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Susan Douglas
- Emma Bradshaw
- Gill Bal
- Penny Barratt

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Cassie Buchanan

DfE senior civil servants

- Anna Barker
- Alan Parnum

Representations received

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

General discussion points

RD update

- RD welcomed the new Advisory Board (AB)

Induction

- RD provided an overview of the core functions of Regions Group (RG), role of AB and introduced the RG London team.
- Discussed regional picture in London, which included academisation and Ofsted judgments.

AB discussion

- Question on how schools are identified for intervention.
- AB discussed Ofsted complaints.

Converter academy orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Downshall Primary School, Redbridge – to convert to become an academy and join New Vision Trust (NVT) in Newham

AB discussion: Downshall Primary School is a 2FE school in Redbridge wanting to join a trust in Newham

Downshall has been working with NVT for many years. They are in close proximity.

The trust has English and maths hubs and a good CPD offer.

Discussed consultation which took place in February and over the summer. No major concerns identified.

Discussed trust finances and governance compliance.

Noted falling pupil numbers at school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Ernest Bevin College (EBC), Wandsworth – to convert to become an academy and join United Learning Trust (ULT)

AB discussion: EBC, a boys secondary selective school, is seeking to join ULT to improve the students and college community.

EBC was judged to be good by Ofsted in June 2022, following a requires improvement judgement in December 2018.

Governing body supports EBC joining ULT as due to the trust's extensive experience of school improvement.

Noted falling pupil numbers and recruitment and retainment challenges.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Downe Primary, Bromley – to convert to become an academy and join the Pioneer Academy (TPA)

AB discussion: Downe Primary School is a small rural primary school with 74 pupils on roll in 2021/22. It was last inspected by Ofsted in 2017 and was judged to be good.

The proposal is supported by the governing body and the London Borough of Bromley.

TPA are currently supporting Downe Primary School under a Memorandum of Understanding with the London Borough of Bromley.

No major issues identified following consultation.

A trust wide improvement plan, submitted by TPA, included Downe Primary as a part of a 3-year plan for strategic capital investment along with other school improvement areas of focus.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Lee Mason-Ellis was not present for this agenda item

Further actions required: No action required

Sponsor application

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

Project: Wandle Learning Trust, Wandsworth – sponsor application

AB discussion: Wandle Learning Trust is a Wandsworth based Multi Academy Trust, which currently comprises of four schools (3 primary schools and 1 secondary school in Wandsworth and Croydon).

Wandle Learning Trust has a strong track record of school-to-school support and is a nationally accredited Maths, English and Teaching School Hub.

AB noted that the trust currently operates on a joint CEO model.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: SRMA visit to include consideration of CEO model

Significant change

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

Project: Marshalls Park Academy, Havering – sixth form expansion

AB discussion: Marshalls Park Academy in Havering is a 11-16 secondary school which is part of South West Essex Community Schools Trust (SWECET). The trust has applied to add a sixth form at the school.

Although students and parents want to see more school-based sixth forms in Havering, there is not a clear need for additional sixth form places at this time.

Positive consultation – no significant concerns raised.

The LA are generally supportive but noted the lack of need for additional post-16 places.

AB discussed parental choice, local opportunities already available and how new provisions would affect existing providers.

RD decision: N/A – for SoS to decide

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College, Havering – sixth form expansion

AB discussion: Abbs Cross Academy and Arts College in Havering is a 11-16 secondary school which is part of Loxford Schools Trust. The trust has applied to add a sixth form at the school.

See above discussion.

RD decision: N/A – for SoS to decide

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Harris Academy Rainham, Havering – adding an SEN provision

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Coopers Company and Coborn School, Havering – adding a representative religious body to their funding agreement

Decision type: Significant change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

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

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

Project: The Michael Tippett School, Lambeth – sponsored route (London South East Academies Trust)

Type of decision: Sponsored route

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

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