



Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

29 September 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

- Dame Kate Dethridge

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Sarah Bennett
- Dame Yasmin Bevan
- Sarah Brown
- Sir Andrew Carter
- Stuart Gardner
- Claire Lowe

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Sue Samson

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

- It was agreed there were no conflicts of interest for the members in attendance.

Medway, Kent and Surrey

Significant Change

Project: Discussion to consider removing the Sixth Form at The Beacon School, **Surrey**, and to adjust the age range of the school from 11-18 to 11-16 from September 2024.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the impact of pupil numbers at the school if sixth form were to be removed.
- AB members discussed the Ofsted ratings of the other schools within the trust (GLF Schools).
- AB members discussed the governance structure at The Beacon School.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform trust and school of the RD decision.

Coastal

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider Test Valley School, **Hampshire**, to convert and join HISP Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the financial position of HISP MAT.
- AB members discussed the governance structure and expertise on the trust board.
- AB members discussed the need for more detailed information on the trust's school improvement strategy.

RD decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform trust and school of RD decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider Woodgate Primary School, **West Sussex**, to convert and join Sussex Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the educational expertise on the trust board at Sussex Learning Trust.
- AB members discussed the pupil place numbers at Woodgate Primary School.
- AB members discussed the capacity of the trust to take on the school.
- AB members discussed the finances of Woodgate Primary School.
- AB members considered the school improvement offer the trust will provide the school.

RD decision: Approve with condition. Condition: for additional external educational expertise to be added to further strengthen the trust board.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform trust and school of the RD decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider The Haven Voluntary Aided CofE / Methodist Primary School, **East Sussex**, to convert and join Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members were satisfied and in agreement for this voluntary conversion.
- RD had no further reflections and happy to approve.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the schools and trust of the RD decision.

Sponsored Route

Project: Discussion to consider the sponsor match for Heene CofE Primary School, **West Sussex**.

Project: Discussion to consider the sponsor match for St Andrew's CofE High School, **West Sussex**.

AB discussion on both items:

- AB members discussed both Bishop Luffa Learning Partnership (BLLP) and Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT).
- AB members discussed the capacity of both trusts at primary and secondary education level.
- AB members discussed the performances rates of some of the schools within DCAT.
- AB members discussed the current size and growth plans for both trusts.

RD decision (Heene): Approve.

RD decision (St Andrews): Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the schools and the trusts of the RD decisions.

West Sub-Region

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider Rivermead Primary School, **Wokingham**, to convert and join Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET).

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance structure at BPET and recommended an external review of governance.
- AB members discussed the finances of BPET.
- AB members discussed the performance rates of the schools currently within the trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the trust and school of the RD decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider The Bulmershe School, **Wokingham**, to convert and join The Corvus Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the capacity and finances of The Corvus Learning Trust.
- AB members discussed and recommended the need for educational expertise on the trust board.
- AB members queried whether there was need for a risk committee to be formed within the trust due to the size of trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RD decision.

Trust Change

Project: Discussion to consider the transfer of Grove Academy, **Slough**, from SASH Education Trust to Slough and East Berkshire CofE Multi Academy Trust (SEBMAT).

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed pupil numbers at the school and more broadly the need for places within the local area.
- AB members discussed the governance structure and capacity at SEBMAT, in the context of the trust's future growth plans.
- AB members considered the need for a more detailed school improvement plan from SEBMAT for Grove Academy.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RD decision.

Sponsored Route

Project: Discussion to consider Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) as sponsor for All Saints CofE Junior School, **Windsor & Maidenhead**.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the performance of the schools currently within ODST.
- AB members discussed the need for a school improvement plan for All Saints
- AB members discussed the governance at the trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school and trust of the RD decision.

Decisions escalated

Project: Discussion on the revocation of the directive Academy Order for Liphook Infant School, **Hampshire**.

AB discussed:

- AB members considered the project presented and mutually agreed it would support the approval of revoking the academy order.
- RD clarified it would be submitted to the Minister for their approval.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Submission to Minister seeking approval.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open on 1 October 2022.

- Chyngton School Seaford, East Sussex
- Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Primary School, West Sussex
- Sandy Lane Primary School, Bracknell Forest
- Scott-Broadwood CofE Infant School, Surrey
- St Laurence Church of England School, Oxfordshire
- St Peter's Catholic Primary School, West Sussex

AB discussion: None.

Further actions required: None.

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

Project: Discussion to consider sponsor match for The Flagship School, **East Sussex**.

Type of decision: Sponsor Route

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Paper submission was not ready for meeting.

Projects: John Mayne CofE Primary School, **South Kent**, to convert and join Tenterden Schools Trust.

Type of decision: Converter Academy Order

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Paper submission was not ready for meeting.