



Notes of Meeting: East of England Advisory Board

Date of meeting – 17 November 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

- Jonathan Duff (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Brian Conway (AB)
- Tim Coulson (AB)
- Mark Farmer (AB)
- Clare Flintoff (AB)
- Lawrence Chapman (AB)
- Sarah Skinner (AB)
- Josephine Valentine (AB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative
- Ashish Vadher, Deputy Director (DD)

Representations received

- No representations were received for this meeting.

General Discussion Points

AB Member feedback

- The October AB meeting notes were discussed and agreed.
- AB members provided feedback on issues within the sector
- AB members were given a high-level presentation on performance trends for the East of England regional area.

Converter

Project: Whether Canewdon Endowed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, **Essex**, and St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Rawreth, **Essex**, should join Berlesduna trust, **Essex**.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that Canewdon Endowed Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School operate in a federation and wish to convert to academy status and join Berlesduna Academy Trust.
- The Governing body decided to join a MAT to work in partnership to raise standards, improve teaching and learning, and build on the strengths of both schools.
- They consulted five trusts and favoured Berlesduna because of its similar ethos and strong desire to support the federation's teaching and learning needs to improve Canewdon's Requires Improvement Ofsted judgement.
- The board discussed the capacity of the trust to provide the required support and noted that a new Director of School Improvement had recently been recruited.
- The board also discussed additional support to bolster capacity that could be provided to the trust if the move was agreed.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to advise the schools and the trust of the decision and discuss with the trust their governance and the types of support that can be offered.

Trust Merger

Project: Whether to agree the merger of Brickfields MAT, **Essex** with HERA Primary Academy Trust, **Essex**.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that HERA Primary Academy Trust has voluntarily agreed to transfer Lawford Mead and Kings Road Primary Schools to the Brickfields Multi Academy Trust, and in the process wind up its own operations.
- HERA Trustees considered the credentials and compatibility of 6 local Trusts before selecting Brickfields as their preferred option.
- The board discussed, in particular, the geography and the distance between the trusts. DfE colleagues confirmed that the two trusts had already worked together for some time and, through this, had found practical ways to collaborate across the distance.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trusts of decision. Project lead to discuss and review governance arrangements with the trusts as well as ongoing plans for bridging the gap between the two hubs.

Significant Change

Project: Whether to approve the application from Flamstead End Primary School, **Hertfordshire**, to close its speech, language and communication unit.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that Flamstead End School (FES) have requested approval to close a speech and language unit, which has been unused since 2019.
- The application is supported by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), as part of their wider plan around Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision.
- FES is a medium size primary SAT in Hertfordshire, currently rated Outstanding by Ofsted.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform the School of the Regional Directors decision