



Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

Monday 5 December 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
- Claire Lowe
- Sue Samson MBE

Apologies

- Stuart Gardner

DfE senior civil servants

- Paul Schofield – Deputy Director, South East Regions Group

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 AB members.
- AB members had no amendments to the meeting note of October 2022.

Medway, Kent and Surrey

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider West Ashtead Primary School, **Surrey**, to convert and join Leo Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the potential change in PAN and the mechanism that would be used to achieve this.
- AB members discussed the financial position of LEO Academy Trust.
- AB members discussed Leo Academy Trust's work across Surrey.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Sponsored Route

Project: Discussion to consider the sponsor match for The Abbey School, **Kent**.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the financial position of the school and potential sponsoring trusts.
- AB members discussed the current number of pupils on roll at The Abbey School and the risk associated with any further decrease.
- AB members discussed the strength and impact of existing relationships between the school and academy trusts.

RD decision: Howard Trust approved as sponsor.

Conflicts: None.

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

Trust Change

Project (Returning Item) Discussion to consider the following **Kent** trusts: The Skinners' Kent Academy, The Marsh Academy (SAT), The Skinners' School (SAT), The Skinners' Academy (SAT) to merge and create a new trust called Skinners' Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the potential governance structure and financial security of the new trust.
- AB members discussed the need for educational support model for The Marsh Academy.
- AB members discussed the potential growth of the new trust if it were to be formed.
- AB members discussed what assurances The Skinners Company have given the schools.
- AB members reflected on whether the MAT and SATs could have an external review of governance and/or obtain support in forming a larger MAT.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the trusts of the RD decision.

Significant Change

Project: Discussion to consider a change of site for Lakeside Nursery and Primary Academy, **Surrey**, from their current site to a new building on the Mindenhust development in Deepcut Village, effective from September 2023.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the consultation that had taken place and responses.
- AB members discussed the cost of the proposal.
- AB members discussed the composition of the members and trust board.

RD decision: Approve with conditions:

1. That the members of the trust number 5
2. Clarity on uniform policy, bus transport and the support in place

Conflicts: None.

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

Coastal

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider the application of Crofton School, **Hampshire**, to convert and join HISP Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the need for clear differentiation between being a MAT and a Teaching School.
- AB members were in agreement for this project to be approved.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Sponsored Route

Project: To discuss and consider the sponsor match for Fernhill School, **Hampshire**.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the school improvement plan.
- AB members discussed the numbers of pupils on roll and the implications of this.
- AB members discussed the local governing body composition and the number of members at the sponsoring trust.
- AB members discussed the performance of pupil premium pupils at the school.

RD decision: Approve with condition:

1. That the sponsoring trust review and change the composition of the local governing body

Conflicts: None.

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

Sponsored Route

Project: To discuss and agree the funding route for The Flagship School, **East Sussex**.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the itemised costs.
- AB members discussed the condition of the building.
- AB members discussed any updates with regards to the external review of governance.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Seek clearance for the transfer grant before seeking ministerial approval.

West

Converter Academy Order

Project: Discussion to consider the applications from Prestwood Infant School and Prestwood Junior School, **Buckinghamshire**, to convert and join Great Learners Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance structure at Great Learners Trust.
- AB members discussed the external review of governance conducted earlier in the year.
- AB members discussed the track record of Great Learners Trust with regards to school improvement.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Sponsored Route

Project: To discuss and consider Oxford Diocesan Bucks Schools Trust as the sponsor for Westcott Church of England School, **Buckinghamshire**.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the viability of the school with regard to pupil numbers.
- AB members discussed the trust's track record of school improvement.
- AB members discussed the capacity of the trust to improve the school.
- AB members discussed the composition of the trust board and members.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Significant Change

Project: To discuss and consider the retrospective application from Arbour Vale School, **Slough**, to remove the school's residential provision and increase their capacity .

AB discussion:

- AB members were in agreement that the RD should approve the retrospective application.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

- All Saints CofE Junior School, Windsor and Maidenhead, to join the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust.
- Bishopswood School, Oxfordshire, to join Propeller Academy Trust.
- Priory Rise School, Milton Keynes, to join The 5 Dimensions Trust.
- Rivermead Primary School, Wokingham, to join Bellevue Place Education Trust.
- St Cecilia's CofE Primary School, Wokingham, to join The Keys Academy Trust.