



Notes of Meeting: South West

14 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

- Hannah Woodhouse

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Mark Ducker
- Jennifer Blunden
- Margaret Simmons-Bird
- Adele Haysom
- Steve Savory

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Jackie Smith
- Rachel Howie
- Benjamin Antell

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings
- Matthew Stevenson

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

Regional Director Update

- The Ofsted inspection outcomes from the start of this academic year were shared.
- AB members shared local intelligence.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve Gulworthy Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Learning Academy Partnership (South West).

Points raised in discussion: None.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Lamerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Learning Academy Partnership (South West).

Points raised in discussion: None.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve St Nicholas Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Child Okeford, **Dorset** converting to academy status and joining Sherborne Area Schools' Trust.

AB discussion:

- Documented under Sturminster Newton High School project.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

** This project was discussed together with Sturminster Newton High School. Minutes are documented on the latter.

Project: Whether to approve Sturminster Newton High School, **Dorset** converting to academy status and joining Sherborne Area Schools' Trust.

Points raised in discussion:

School Improvement:

- The Trust outlined their plans for the specific support both schools will receive.

Finances:

- The level of reserves was discussed, and assurances were provided.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Ann Cam Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire** converting to academy status and joining Primary Quest Multi-Academy Trust.

Points raised in discussion: None.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Whiteleigh Community Primary School, **Plymouth** converting to academy status and joining Greenshaw Learning Trust .

Points raised in discussion: None.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Dinton CofE Primary School, **Wiltshire** converting to academy status and joining Acorn Education Trust.

Points raised in discussion: None.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Sponsored Route:

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

Project: Whether to approve Port Isaac Community Primary School, Cornwall joining Cornwall Education Learning Trust (CELT).

Points raised in Discussion:

Governance:

- The diversity of the Trust Board and the need to strengthen its education expertise at primary was discussed.
- This will be raised with the Trust and their plans to mitigate this through future recruitment.

Strategy:

- AB members questioned the distance of Port Isaac from the current schools within CELT.
- Assurances were given that CELT has taken this into consideration and agreed support for Port Isaac from another trust (Kernow Learning).
- CELT has a longer-term growth plan to establish a hub in this area to ensure small rural schools are not isolated.

Other:

- The improvement in the performance of schools within the Trust was positively referenced.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Whether to approve the following five academies from the Gatehouse Green Learning Trust, **Bristol** transferring to Excalibur Academies Trust.

- Redland Green School, **Bristol**
- Compass Point Primary School, **Bristol**
- Ashton Vale Primary School, **Bristol**
- Ashton Park School, **Bristol**
- Luckwell Primary School, **Bristol**

Points raised in discussion:

Governance:

- The structure of the Trust Board and Members was commented on, and the overlap of governance tiers across trustees, members, and local governing bodies. This will be a condition of approval.

School Improvement:

- The school improvement plan for the merged Trusts and how this will develop and operate was discussed.
- The plan is based on every school having a specific action plan with overall accountability retained by the Trust CEO and Governors.
- It was confirmed that this would be subject to regular update with the Trust and the Regions Group team.
- The central team will see expansion under this merger and recruitment is already progressing with a primary academy improvement lead appointed. External consultants are currently engaged, and this will continue where there is a need identified.

Other:

- It was referenced that there will be increased demand on the CEO and they would benefit from a recommended mentor to support as the Trust expands.

RD decision: Approve with conditions.

Conditions:

- There should be no overlap between governance tiers in the new Trust, particularly:
 - Between local governing bodies and trustees
 - Between trustees and members

Conflicts: Margaret Simmons-Bird was not present and did not receive the papers for this project.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve Avanti Hall School, **Devon** transferring to Reach South Academy Trust.

Points raised in discussion:

Finance:

- An ESFA official provided assurances on the reserve position of Reach South. There is confidence in the financial control that the Trust has, and they have commissioned an SRMA to provide additional support. This will be subject to regular review with the ESFA.

School Improvement:

- The track record of school improvement across the Trust was discussed and the capacity to deliver by taking an additional school.

Strategy:

- The future growth strategy of Reach South was discussed. The Trust board has a clear vision and growth plan. This will be subject to review with the Trust and the Regions Group team to ensure growth is manageable.

Other:

- Questions were raised about the delivery of the school's ethos and characteristics, having previously been a Steiner school.
- It was confirmed that there has been a review of the curriculum by the current trust (Avanti). This is more aligned to the national curriculum than previously, but there are differences in line with the Avanti trust ethos.
- There was a discussion on the free school due to open in Exeter September 2023, and the impact, but the forecast for pupil places over the coming years shows there will be the demand for secondary places. Avanti Hall has had increasing first choice applications in recent years and provides additional choice for parents.
- It was confirmed that the incoming trust will actively engage with the school community in advance of transfer.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Burrington Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, **North Somerset** (Lighthouse Schools Partnership).

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Christ Church CofE First School, **Somerset** (The Bath and Wells Diocesan Academies Trust).

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Mark's CofE Primary School, Morwenstow, **Cornwall** (Learning Academy Partnership (South West)).

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Thomas à Becket Church of England Aided Primary School, **Wiltshire** (Equa Multi Academy Trust).

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Wrington Church of England Primary School, **North Somerset** (Lighthouse Schools Partnership).

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2023.

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: Whether to approve a significant change application for South Marston Church of England Primary School, **Swindon** (Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust) to increase capacity by 210 places. This will be an incremental increase over a six-year timeframe complete by Sept 2029.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Morley Meadow Primary School, **Plymouth** (West Country Schools Trust) to change the age range from 5 -11 years to 3 -11 years to incorporate nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Braunton Academy, **Devon** (Braunton School and Community College Academy Trust) to increase capacity by

90 places including a capital build of 6 new classrooms. The proposed capacity increase would take place by September 2023, with building work continuing into 2024.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

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