



## Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

**Wednesday 25 January 2023**

### 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

- Dame Yasmin Bevan
- Sarah Brown
- Sir Andrew Carter
- Claire Lowe
- Sue Samson MBE
- Stuart Gardner

### Apologies

- Sarah Bennett
- Paul James

### 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 conflicts for Sir Andrew Carter and Stuart Gardner.

- It was requested to note the following for the meeting note of December 2022 regarding the Lakeside Nursery and Primary Academy significant change, namely to add the following comment:
  - AB members were concerned of the potential challenge regarding capital investment if the school were to stay on the site in an old building.

## West sub-region

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider Emmbrook Infant School, **Wokingham**, to convert and join The Circle Trust.

**Project:** To discuss and consider Emmbrook Junior School, **Wokingham**, to convert and join The Circle Trust.

#### AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the school improvement strategy of separating the hubs of infant and junior.
- AB members discussed the finances and financial expertise at The Circle Trust.
- AB members discussed the performance of Emmbrook Junior School.

**RD decision** - Emmbrook Infant School: Approve.

**RD decision** - Emmbrook Junior School: Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### Sponsor Application

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from The Grand Union Partnership, **Milton Keynes**, to become a sponsor.

#### AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance structure if the trust were to become a sponsor.
- AB members discussed the trust's potential and capacity for growth.
- AB members discussed the possibility of a mentor trust for the future.
- AB members discussed the trust's finances.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the trust of the RD decision.

## Significant Change

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from Waterside Primary Academy, **Buckinghamshire**, to change age range from 3-11 to 2-11.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members were in support of the project to be approved and had no specific comments to be noted.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school of the RD decision.

## Coastal

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider Brighton Hill Community School, **Hampshire**, to convert and join South Farnham Educational Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the finances and governance structure of the trust.
- AB members discussed the consultancy work given by the trustee.
- AB members discussed the school improvement strategy for the school.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions.

1. Trust board appoints additional primary and secondary expertise on the trust board.
2. Trust completes its due diligence and puts in place a robust financial plan to show this growth works for the trust.

**Conflicts:** Sir Andrew Carter.

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

## Trust Change

**Project:** To discuss and consider Dove House School Academy Trust (SAT), **Hampshire**, to join Solent Academies Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the need for additional SEND experience on Solent Academies Trust's board.
- AB members discussed the finances of Solent Academies Trust.
- AB members discussed the trust's growth plans for the future.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions:

1. Trust to seek additional trustee with SEND experience to the trust board.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Medway, Kent and Surrey

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider Hurst Green Infant School, **Surrey**, to convert and join Tandridge Learning Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the performance of the school.
- AB members expressed concern for splitting Hurst Green Infant and the feeder junior school who are currently within another local trust.

**RD decision:** Defer.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school and trust of the RD decision. DfE team is to discuss the application further with the school.

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider Philip Southcote School, **Surrey**, to convert and join Bourne Education Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the expertise of education and SEND on the current trust board.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions:

1. Trust to appoint primary & secondary educational expertise on the board.
2. Trust to appoint SEND expertise on the board.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Trust Change

**Project:** To discuss and consider Dover Christ Church Academy, **Kent**, to join Turner Schools.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the performance of the schools currently within Turner Schools.
- AB members discussed the finances of the trust.
- AB members discussed the plans in place to tackle attendance at the school.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Stuart Gardner

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

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open on 1 February 2023.

- Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp Church of England Primary School, **Oxfordshire**, Faringdon Learning Trust.