



## Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

Thursday 30 March 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

- Sarah Bennett
- Sarah Brown
- Sir Andrew Carter
- Paul James
- Claire Lowe
- Sue Samson MBE
- Stuart Gardner

### DfE senior civil servants

- Paul Schofield – Deputy Director, South East Regions Group
- Helen Brayley-Morris - Deputy Director, South East Regions Group

### Apologies

- Dame Yasmin Bevan

### Representations received

- No representations were received for items discussed at this meeting.

## General Discussion Points

- Conflict of interest noted for Sir Andrew Carter due to personal link with Bramley CofE Infant School. Sir Andrew was not present for this item.
- AB members confirmed they were happy with the minutes of the February Advisory Board.

## Medway, Kent and Surrey

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider the applications from Four Elms Primary School, Seal CofE Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Maypole Primary School (The Inspire Federation), **Kent**, to convert and establish their own, mixed articles MAT.

#### **AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the governance structure and leadership of the proposed MAT to be called Inspire Academy Movement Trust.
- AB members sought clarification on whether there is financial expertise on the trust board.
- AB members took into consideration the statements and letters of support from the local authority and Diocese of Rochester.
- AB members discussed the proposed financial accounts provided from The Inspire Federation.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Converter Academy Orders

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from St John's Catholic Comprehensive, **Kent**, to join Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership.

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from St Benedict's Catholic Primary School, **Medway**, to join Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership.

### **AB discussion of both items above:**

- AB members discussed Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership's future growth plans, including the two previously approved projects (currently on hold).
- AB members discussed the trust board, noting the need for educational expertise (primary phase) on the trust board.
- AB members discussed the trust's school improvement strategy and governance structure, including how the sub-committees fit into that structure.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions.

1. RD requested a copy of Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership's school improvement plan, including information about the value of the school improvement strategy for new schools joining the trust.
2. Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership to appoint an external member with primary expertise to its trust board.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from Bramley CofE Infant School, **Surrey**, to join The Good Shepherd Trust.

### **AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the size and PAN of Bramley CofE Infant School, noting the improvement in number of children joining.
- AB members discussed the finances of The Good Shepherd Trust.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** Sir Andrew Carter.

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

## Sponsored Route

**Project:** To discuss and consider The Good Shepherd Trust (GST) as the sponsor for Cranleigh CofE Primary School, **Surrey**.

### **AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed The GST's school improvement strategy and their capacity to take this forward.
- AB members commented on the need for more clarity on the trust's school improvement plan.
- AB members discussed the finances and the governance structure of GST.
- AB members discussed the need for primary expertise on the trust board.
- AB members discussed the need for the trust to ensure they are monitoring the school improvement plan for Cranleigh.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Coastal

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from Tollgate Community Junior School Little Common School, St Andrew's Church of England Infants', **East Sussex**, to join the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT).

### **AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the capacity of Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT) to take on the proposed three schools.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from West Blatchington Primary and Nursery School, **Brighton and Hove**, to join The Pioneer Academy Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the governance structure of The Pioneer Academy Trust.
- AB members discussed educational outcomes across the trust, the finances of the trust, and the trust's growth strategy.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application from Ifield Community College, **West Sussex**, to join The Collegiate Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed the governance structure of The Collegiate Trust.
- AB members discussed the trust's school improvement strategy for the school.
- AB members discussed educational outcomes across the trust.
- AB members noted this was a returning paper and were happy that the requested clarifications had been made.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## West

### Converter Academy Order

**Project:** To discuss and consider whether to issue an academy order to Radstock Primary School, **Wokingham**, to join Orchard Learning Alliance.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members discussed this project considering the 7 other schools approved at the February Advisory Board to convert into Orchard Learning Alliance.
- AB members expressed concern regarding the speed of conversions joining this trust.
- AB members discussed what support and challenge the trust will have in relation to the rapid growth.
- AB members discussed different phasing options for the schools into the trust, noting a preference for one year gap between the first two phases.
- AB members discussed the possibility of support from another trust, and the need for review points in order to evaluate progress.
- AB members discussed the financial restructure plan by the trust.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions.

1. Schools are to join in phases with a checkpoint to evaluate progress.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### Significant Change

**Project:** To discuss and consider the application to change the age range from 11-19 to 11-16 at Sir Herbert Leon Academy, **Milton Keynes**.

**AB discussion:**

- AB members had no specific comments on this project.

**RD decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

**Decision type:** Converter Academy Order.

**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 in April 2023.

- Crofton School, Hampshire, to join HISP Multi Academy Trust Ltd.
- Epsom Primary and Nursery School, Surrey, to join Bourne Education Trust.
- John Mayne Church of England Primary School, Biddenden, Kent, to join Tenterden Schools Trust.
- St Michael's Catholic School, Buckinghamshire, to join St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust.
- The Royal Harbour Academy, Kent, to join Coastal Academies Trust.
- West Ashtead Primary School, Surrey, to join Leo Academy Trust.
- Portsmouth Special School, Portsmouth, to join The Delta Education Trust.

© Crown copyright 2023