



Notes of Meeting: South West

24 April 2023

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
- Jackie Smith
- Ben Antell

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Rachel Howie

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings
- Matthew Stevenson

Representations received

- Three representations were received for Tor Bridge High (SAT), **Plymouth** transferring to The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (TWMAT).

General Discussion Points

Regional Director Update

- AB members shared local intelligence and provided insight on the challenges of Ofsted and the inspection framework.
- Ofsted inspection outcomes from the start of this academic year were shared after the meeting.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Whether to approve Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire** converting to academy status and joining Severn Federation Academy Trust.

Points raised in Discussion: The board members considered the case and did not raise any concerns with the proposal.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Rachel Howie 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 Tortworth VC Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** converting to academy status and joining Castle School Education Trust (CSET).

Points raised in Discussion: The board members considered the case and did not raise any concerns with the proposal.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Whether to approve the conversion of the following three schools converting to academy status and joining Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust (BWMAT).

- Norton-sub-Hamdon Church of England Primary School, **Somerset**
- Abbas and Templecombe Church of England Primary School, **Somerset**
- St Aldhelm's Church of England Primary School, **Somerset**

Points raised in Discussion:

Strategy:

- BWMAT present a strong sponsor option to bring improvements to these schools and ensure financial stability. The trust has seen improvements in Ofsted outcomes over the last few years and has local leadership capacity that can be deployed into the schools.

- In Somerset whilst BWMAT is considered as an option for all church schools there are other mixed MATs that form part of the wider strategy. It was confirmed that future growth would be subject to regular updates with the trust and the Regions Group team.

School Improvement:

- The Trust's SI strategy comprises a regular and systematic programme of challenge, monitoring, and accountability, along with a programme of support based on a strong model of system leadership and collaboration.

Finance:

- West Chinnock and Norton-sub-Hamdon are small with low pupil numbers and finances. Joining a strong local trust with the capacity to support and long-term financial security is a positive outcome.

Other:

- The strategy and growth of this trust was commented on and that there are learnings from their approach and experience to share more widely.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

** This project discussion includes the West Chinnock Church of England Primary School sponsor option and joining Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust.

Sponsored Route:

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

Project: Whether to approve West Chinnock Church of England Primary School, Somerset joining Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust.

Points raised in Discussion: The board members considered the case and did not raise any concerns with the proposal.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

** This project was discussed together with the academy conversion of the three schools joining Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Whether to approve the following four academies from Endeavour Academy Trust, **Bristol** transferring to Trust In Learning (Academies).

- Little Mead Primary Academy, **Bristol**
- Henbury Court Primary Academy, **Bristol**
- Fonthill Primary Academy, **Bristol**
- Charlton Wood Primary Academy, **South Gloucestershire**

Points raised in discussion:

Strategy:

- Members and Trustees of Endeavour Academy Trust agreed to pursue a merger to increase capacity and ensure succession planning. It was concluded that Trust In Learning (TiLA) was the preferred partner due to its similar geographical presence, shared core values and ambitions for the school communities. Both are familiar with supporting schools in communities with significant levels of disadvantage and have already established a strong collaboration on SI and the combining of support functions.

Governance:

- The proposed new board has a diverse set of skills and expertise, with an experienced chair.

School Improvement:

- The merged trusts are seeking to recruit a Director of Education (DoE) to bring in additional educational expertise within the leadership team. It was commented by AB members that the DoE needs to provide educational leadership capacity as soon as possible and must focus on the SI model and impact. The Regions Group team will seek to understand the SI model and capacity with the newly formed Trust as the merger progresses.

Finance

- Both trusts currently have good track records of financial management and delivering balanced budgets.

Other:

- The support for the CEO of the newly merged trust was discussed. Both a coach and mentor are in place, one being the current CEO and the Regions Group team will discuss this support with the trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Whether to approve Tor Bridge High (SAT), **Plymouth** transferring to The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust (TWMAT).

Points raised in discussion:

The representations received were acknowledged.

School Improvement:

- TWMAT is currently working with Tor Bridge High on their school improvement model, and this will continue up to the point of transfer. When approved the school will transition into the Trust's universal school improvement offer with further additional targeted support in areas of need. There is confidence in the track record of TWMAT for improving standards.

Governance:

- A review of the leadership structure is in progress. The collaboration with TWMAT is supporting the need to ensure there is clarity and accountability within the senior leadership to deliver the improvement priorities of the school.

Strategy:

- The capacity of the trust to take on further schools was discussed. It was confirmed that future growth would be subject to regular updates with the trust and the Regions Group team.

Other:

- The engagement and response of TWMAT to the concerns of parents and other parties was discussed. There is confidence that the Trust is listening and taking steps to provide assurances. The local website that has been set up was acknowledged.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant change.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change for the transfer of the Rush Hill satellite site from Lansdown Park Academy, **Bristol** (Learn@ MAT) to St Matthias Academy, Bristol (Learn@ MAT).

Points raised in discussion:

Strategy:

- Learn@ MAT is in the process of closing and transferring all its academies to other academy trusts. Lansdown Park Academy currently consists of two sites, a

secondary and primary provision in Bristol, places are commissioned by both Bristol and Bath and North East Somerset (BANES) authorities and a secondary provision at Rush Hill where places are commissioned by BANES.

- The planned provider of Alternative Provision (AP) for BANES Local Authority is Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership (MNSP).
- The transfer and closing of schools in Learn@ MAT is on a phased approach, the transfer of St Matthias Academy to MNSP is proposed for discussion at the Advisory Board of 22 May – this is published on the draft agenda for May.
- The capacity and experience of MNSP to deliver AP was discussed. This is an area that the trust has been looking to grow into, the trust has a member of staff seconded to Learn@ currently and are recruiting capacity with experience of specialist provision. Regions Group will work closely with the senior leadership of the Trust on the growth strategy and their plans for the longer term.

Other:

- The need for MNSP to be visible and provide assurance to the staff, parents and community of Rush Hill was raised. The trust CEO has met with the staff and the importance of continued engagement as the transfer progresses will be discussed by the Regions Group team.

RD decision: Approve.

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.

Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to sponsor application.

Project: Whether to approve an application for Enable Trust, South Gloucestershire to become an approved sponsor.

Points raised in discussion:

School Improvement:

- The Trust has a well-designed curriculum and strong track record of SI delivering personalised pedagogy to meet pupils' specific needs.
- They have undertaken peer and governance reviews with other specialist trusts to provide additional evaluation of their school improvement model.
- The Trust's leadership capacity is enhanced by having specialist leaders of education, Lead Practitioners (SEND) and subject specialists (SEND) who deliver ongoing training and support within the Trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Project: Whether to approve an application for Equa Multi Academy Trust, **Wiltshire** to become an approved sponsor.

Points raised in discussion:

Service Improvement:

- Recognising progress data, but the trust currently has limited Ofsted data to support the impact they have had in their schools, only 1 school had been inspected whilst part of the trust.
- It may be beneficial for an appropriate colleague in the South West to conduct a trust level, readiness for growth review.
- Sponsorship support is subject to results from the summer and further information and inspections to assure of impact of their activity.

RD decision: Defer – until further information received from the trust.

Conflicts: Steve Savory was not present and did not receive the papers for this project.

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

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

To confirm that these projects have gone through previous Advisory Board meetings for consideration and discussion. These projects are checked for any legal inconsistencies to ensure they are in line with departmental requirements and that all conditions are met.

Project: Leighterton Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (The Athelstan Trust).

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

Opening date 1 May 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Port Isaac Community Primary School, **Cornwall** (Cornwall Education Learning Trust).

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

Opening date 1 May 2023.

Conflicts: None.

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 Nancealverne School, Cornwall (Special Partnership Trust) to establish a 25 place SEMH satellite provision.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the AB meeting.

None

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