



Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

Date of meeting – 21 September 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
- Dame Yasmin Bevan
- Sarah Brown
- Sir Andrew Carter
- Stuart Gardner
- Paul James
- Claire Lowe
- Sue Samson MBE

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

- Conflicts of interest were confirmed for Sue Samson. These are indicated against the projects to which they relate. This member was not present for the item when discussed and were not sent the papers for this item.

Coastal Sub-Region

Sponsored Route

Project: To discuss the funding route for Mayfield School, Portsmouth.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the capital funding requirements of the school, expressing concern on the issues identified by The Salterns Academy Trust.
- AB members discussed the governance structure and current leadership at Mayfield School.
- AB members discussed the finances of Mayfield School.
- The AB discussed possible support for the CEO of Salterns Academy Trust, suggesting a discussion with an AB member to understand and learn from experience of overseeing an all-through school.
- The RD agreed that full sponsored funding was needed for this project.

RD decision: Approve full sponsorship.

Conflicts: None.

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

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application from Newick CofE Primary School, East Sussex, to convert and join the Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust (DCAT).

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the distance between Newick CofE Primary School and DCAT.
- AB members discussed DCAT's growth strategy.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school, local authority, diocese and trust of the RD decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application from St Robert Southwell Catholic Primary School, Horsham, West Sussex, to convert and join Bosco Catholic Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the performance data of the schools currently within Bosco Catholic Education Trust.
- AB members discussed the governance structure of the trust, recommending they appoint some trustees with independent primary educational expertise.
- AB members discussed the trust and diocesan growth strategy.
- The RD requested that an AB member review the trust's school improvement strategy.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the school, local authority, diocese and trust of the RD decision.

Sponsored Route:

Project: To discuss Billingshurst Primary School, West Sussex, joining Sussex Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the governance structure of Sussex Learning Trust, recommending they appoint trustee(s) with mainstream primary educational expertise on the trust board within the next year.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Sue Samson MBE. Governor at Billingshurst Primary School. This member was not present for the item when discussed and were not sent the papers for this item.

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

Kent, Medway and Surrey Sub-Region

Sponsored Route

Project: To discuss sponsor options for Hugh Christie School, Kent.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the sponsor options for Hugh Christie School.
- AB members discussed the school improvement track record of the trust options and their capacity to deliver improved outcomes for the school.
- AB members discussed the performance of the trusts and how Hugh Christie might fit with their existing footprints.
- AB members discussed the governance structures of the trusts.

RD decision: Approve Leigh Academies Trust.

Conflicts: None.

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

Sponsored Route:

Project: To discuss sponsor options for Hever Church of England Primary School, Kent.

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed a number of potential sponsor options for Hever Church of England Primary School.
- AB members discussed recent performance, school improvement capacity and the level of specificity in each of the proposed school improvement plans for each of the potential sponsor considered.
- The RD considered the feedback and whilst a potential sponsor was identified, further consultation is required before the RD takes a final decision.

RD decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: To undertake further consultation on the potential sponsor identified. Final sponsor match decision to be agreed by the RD at a future AB.

West Sub-Region

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application from Kennel Lane School, Bracknell Forest, to convert to and join The Corvus Learning Trust (CLT).

AB discussion:

- AB members discussed the finances and governance structure at Corvus Learning Trust (CLT) and whether it covers a broad range of skills.
- The RD recommended CLT appoint a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA).
- AB members discussed the special educational needs experience on the board at CLT, recommending the need for independent SEND experience.

RD decision: Approve with conditions:

- Trust to appoint a SRMA.
- Independent special educational expertise on the board.

Conflicts: None.

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

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings.

Project: The Heights Primary School (SAT), Reading, to join Bellevue Place Education Trust.

Decision type: Trust Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Project: Barton Farm Primary Academy, Hampshire, University of Winchester Academy Trust, to change the age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to include a nursery/pre-school.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

Project: Iver Village Infant Academy, Buckinghamshire, The Park Federation Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Proposed school opening date – 1 October 2023.
- No issues were raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Tillingbourne Junior School, Surrey, Learning Partners Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Proposed school opening date – 1 October 2023.
- No issues were raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Little Common School, East Sussex, Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Proposed school opening date – 1 October 2023.
- No issues were raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Andrew's Church of England Infants School, East Sussex, Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Proposed school opening date – 1 October 2023.
- No issues were raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Tollgate Community Junior School, East Sussex, Diocese of Chichester Academy

AB discussion:

- Proposed school opening date – 1 October 2023.
- No issues were raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Further actions required: No action required.

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