



Notes of Meeting: South East Advisory Board

Date of meeting – 17 January 2024

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

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

- No general discussion.

Sponsored Route:

Project: To discuss the sponsor options for King's Furlong Infant School and Nursery, Hampshire.

AB discussion:

- The board discussed pros and cons for the recommended sponsors.
- The finances of the trusts were also discussed.
- The board discussed the sponsors' capacity to take on this school.
- The strengths of each trust were discussed.

RD decision: Approve, South Farnham Educational Trust.

Conflicts: Claire Lowe, CEO of Inspire Learning Trust, and Sir Andrew Carter, CEO of South Farnham Education Trust. These members were not sent the papers for this item and were not present for the discussion.

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

Significant Change

Project: To discuss the application to expand the existing SEN unit at St Mary's and All Saints Church of England Primary School, Reading, White Horse Federation.

AB discussion:

- The Board discussed the actions taken by the trust and LA regarding the late application.
- The board discussed the leadership and management capacity to run the two units.
- The board considered the trust's SEND strategy and whether there was a SEND specialist at board level.

RD decision: Deferred until further information is provided.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: A letter to be issued to White Horse Federation to request further information.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application for Uplands Primary School and Nursery, Bracknell Forest, to convert and join The Keys Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- Board discussed the trust's plans to support other schools.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application for Yattendon School, Surrey, to convert and join Greensand Multi Academy Trust.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss the application for Horley Infant School, Surrey, to convert and join Greensand Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Board discussed the strength of the application from Greensand Multi Academy Trust.
- Board queried capacity of the trust as several schools are joining at the same time (four).
- Board discussed the trust's finances.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Inform the schools, the trust and the local authority.

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.

Project: To discuss the application for Riverview CofE Primary and Nursery School VA, Surrey, to convert and join Enlighten Learning Trust.

Type of decision: Converter Academy Order

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Trust requested postponement of application.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: Wildern School, Hampshire, Wildern Academy Trust.

Decision type: Significant change – request to reduce the PAN of the school to 300 (from 360) in September 2024.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: None.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open on 1 February 2024

Project: Hannah Ball School, Buckinghamshire, The Park Federation Academy Trust

AB discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Project: Hawthorns Primary School, Durrington, West Sussex, Schoolworks Academy Trust

AB discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Project: Test Valley School, Hampshire, HISP Multi Academy Trust Ltd

AB discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Project: The Bulmershe School, Wokingham, The Corvus Learning Trust

AB discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

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