



Notes of Meeting: East of England

Date of meeting – 21/05/2024

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

- Jonathan Duff (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Al Kingsley (AB)
- Mark Farmer (AB)
- Clare Flintoff (AB)
- Lawrence Chapman (AB)
- Sarah Skinner (AB)
- Adrian Rogers (AB)
- Josephine Valentine (AB)
- Tim Coulson (AB)

Guests

- ESFA Representative

Apologies

- None

Representations received

- Four received about the project; ‘To discuss Moulsham Junior School (single-academy trust), Moulsham Infant School (single-academy trust), Writtle Junior School (local authority maintained), Writtle Infant School (local authority maintained) and Highwood Primary School (local authority maintained), **Essex**, forming the HIVE Family of Schools (multi-academy trust), **Essex**.’
- Three received about the project; ‘To discuss Mount Grace School (single academy trust), **Hertfordshire**, transferring to Future Academies Trust (multi-academy trust consisting of ten academies; Pimlico Academy, Future Academies Watford, Millbank Academy, Pimlico Primary, Churchill Gardens Primary Academy, Trinity Academy, Phoenix Academy, Barclay Academy, Laureate Academy, and The Grange Academy).’
- These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

- The RD gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board considered Ofsted judgement outcomes for the previous month.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss Dunstable Icknield Lower School, Bedford, converting and becoming an academy and joining Scholars Education Trust, Hertfordshire.

AB discussion:

- The board heard that Dunstable Icknield Lower School received a 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted judgement in November 2023.
- The board considered the governance structure, the financial context and school improvement offer of Scholars Education Trust.
- The board heard about the capacity that Scholars Education Trust could offer the school if it is approved as the sponsor multi-academy trust.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision.

Trust Change

Project: To discuss Mount Grace School (single academy trust), Hertfordshire, transferring to Future Academies Trust (multi-academy trust consisting of ten academies; Pimlico Academy, Future Academies Watford, Millbank Academy, Pimlico Primary, Churchill Gardens Primary Academy, Trinity Academy, Phoenix Academy, Barclay Academy, Laureate Academy, and The Grange Academy).

AB discussion:

- The board heard the proposal for Mount Grace School to transfer and join Future Academies.
- The board heard the school has received two consecutive 'Requires Improvement' Ofsted judgements.
- The board heard about the finances and pupil numbers of the school.
- The board discussed the school improvement capacity of the trust.
- The representations received were discussed.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss Sacred Heart Primary School, Luton, converting and becoming an academy and joining St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust, Luton.

AB discussion:

- The board heard this is a voluntary transfer for Sacred Heart Primary School to join St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust. Sacred Heart currently provides for pupils aged 4-11 and has an Ofsted 'Good' rating.
- The board discussed the benefits to Sacred Heart of joining the trust including its school improvement offer.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school, the trust and the local authority of the decision.

Trust Change

Project: To discuss Mistley Norman Church of England Primary School, Essex, transferring from The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust, Essex, to Canonium Learning Trust, Essex.

Project: To discuss Two Village Church of England Primary School, Essex, transferring from The Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust, Essex, to Canonium Learning Trust, Essex.

AB discussion:

- The board heard about the finances and pupil numbers at both schools.
- The board discussed the needs of the children and support from the LA and Diocese.
- The board considered the leadership and school improvement capacity of Canonium.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the schools and trusts.

Trust Change

Project: To discuss Moulsham Junior School (single-academy trust), Moulsham Infant School (single-academy trust), Writtle Junior School (local authority maintained), Writtle Infant School (local authority maintained) and Highwood Primary School (local authority maintained), Essex, forming the HIVE Family of Schools (multi-academy trust), Essex.

AB discussion:

- The board heard the proposal for the creation of a new multi-academy trust.
- The proposed trust would bring together two existing single academy trusts and three local authority maintained schools into one trust. It would also ensure that two pairs of infant and junior schools remained together.
- The board considered the representations received.
- The board considered the Ofsted judgements and performance of all the schools.
- The board discussed the governance of the MAT.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Farmer, Bridge Academy Trust and Sarah Skinner, Penrose Learning Trust were not present for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the schools and local authority of the decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss Reedham Primary School, Norfolk, converting and becoming an academy and joining Consortium Trust, Suffolk.

AB discussion:

- The board heard about pupil numbers and performance measures for the school.
- The board discussed the challenges of small, rural schools.
- The board heard about the finances of the trust and a recent SRMA deployment.
- The board discussed the school improvement capacity of the trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision.

Decisions taken between meetings

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Cromwell Academy (ACES Academies Trust), Cambridge, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 2-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns were raised.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Converter Academy Order

Project: To discuss Castle Newnham School, Bedford, converting and becoming an academy and joining Bedfordshire Schools Trust Ltd, Bedfordshire.

AB discussion:

- No concerns were raised.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the schools, trust, and local authority of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Wootton Upper School (Wootton Academy Trust), Bedford, adding years 7 and 8 to form a secondary school.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Shackleton Primary School (Heart Academies Trust), Bedford, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 2-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Warren Dell Primary School (Agora Learning Partnership), Hertfordshire, opening a specialist resource base.

AB discussion:

- Further information required from the trust.

RD decision: Deferred

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school and trust of the decision and obtain further information about the proposal.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Caston CofE Primary Academy (The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust), Norfolk, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Parker's CofE Primary Academy (The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust), Norfolk, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Costessey Primary School (Evolution Academy Trust), Norfolk, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 3-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Winterton Primary School and Nursery (Consortium Trust), Norfolk, adding a Specialist Resource Base.

AB discussion:

- The RD considered the Ofsted judgement and alignment with Norfolk's local strategy.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss Charsfield CofE Primary School (All Saints Schools Trust), Suffolk, lowering its age range from 4-11 to 2-11.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.

Significant Change

Project: To discuss the transfer to a new site of Ravensmere Infant School (The Active Learning Trust Ltd), Suffolk, to the Albert Pye Community Primary School site (The Active Learning Trust Ltd), Suffolk.

AB discussion:

- No concerns raised.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision.