



Notes of meeting: South West

Date of meeting – 21 October 2024

Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but sent in their comments on agenda items, are listed under the apologies section. These members' views are reflected in the discussions below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Lucy Livings, Regional Director, South West Region

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Steve Savory
- Stuart Ingram
- Adele Hayson
- Jennifer Blunden
- Jackie Fieldwick
- Margaret Simmons-Bird

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Mark Ducker
- Rachel Howie

DfE senior civil servants

- Matthew Stevenson, Deputy Director, South West Region
- Jessica Trahar, Interim Deputy Director, South West Region

Representations received

- One representation was received for Barnwood Park School.
- Two representations were received for Tarka Learning Partnership and Ventrus Limited.

- Two representations were received for Exmouth Community College.

When received in time, representations are shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees, who considered them alongside the corresponding item.

General discussion points

- Lucy Livings, RD presented to the board on the Regions Group focus post-election and the new Government priorities.
- AB members shared local intelligence from the sector at this time and provided insight on the challenges being faced.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: An application from Marwood School, Devon to convert and become an academy and join Ventrus Limited.

Representations received: ** all projects for Ventrus Limited (academy conversion and trust change) were discussed together.

- No representations were made for this project.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: An application from Glenfall Community Primary School, Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join The Balcarras Trust.

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- Glenfall Community Primary School is a one form entry 4-11 primary school in the Charlton Kings area in the South East area of Cheltenham. This is a voluntary conversion, and the school was rated Good at the Ofsted inspection of July 2023.
- The Balcarras Trust was formed as a MAT in September 2021. This is the first primary school in the trust.
- Glenfall have worked closely with The Balcarras Trust as part of the maths hub and with the mathematics specialist having primary experience.
- The board discussed the wider engagement of the trust with the surrounding area and Regions Group will continue to engage with the trust on the strategy for Gloucestershire.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: An application from Barnwood Park School, Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join Greenshaw Learning Trust.

Representations received:

The representations received were discussed and assurances were given that Regions Group will continue to work closely with Greenshaw Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- Barnwood Park is an 11-16 school located in the East of Gloucester City. The school has the highest proportion of children and young people with an EHCP and/or requiring SEND support. The school was rated Good at the Ofsted inspection of July 2019.
- Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) was formed in 2011 and has 17 primary schools and 13 secondary schools in 9 different local authorities.
- The High-Quality Trust Framework shows that GLT has a proven track record of improving schools of a similar size and cohort to Barnwood Park.
- The board discussed the contribution of the trust to the wider school system in Gloucestershire. It was recommended that Regions Group will work directly with the Trust and LA to agree priority areas for focus

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: An application from St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join North Cotswold Schools Federation MAT

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Significant changes to an open academy

Points discussed in relation to significant changes

Project: An application for Berrow Primary Church Academy, Somerset (The Priory Learning Trust) to make the following change:

- change of age range from 4 – 11 to 2- 11 on a permanent basis.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Trust Changes

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: A proposal for the following two academies to transfer from Elmlea Schools' Trust (MAT) to Russell Education Trust:

- Elmlea Junior School, **Bristol**
- Elmlea Infant School, **Bristol**

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- This proposal was discussed at the South West Advisory Board of 18 March 2024, the notes of this meeting are published on the gov.uk website.
- The board considered the assurances provided and agreed that the trust had responded to all concerns.
- The growth strategy of Russell Education Trust (RET) was discussed, and Regions Group will continue to engage with the trust on the strategy for Bristol and the surrounding areas.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: A proposal for Exmouth Community College, Devon to transfer from Exmouth Community College (SAT) to The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received:

The representations received were discussed and assurances were given that Regions Group will continue to work closely The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: A proposal for the following eight academies from Tarka Learning Partnership (MAT) to merge with Ventrus Trust Limited and form a new trust, The Lighthouse Education Partnership:

- Newport Community School Primary Academy, **Devon**
- Landkey Community Primary Academy, **Devon**
- The Park Community School, **Devon**
- Sticklepath Community Primary Academy, **Devon**
- Eden Park Acaemy, **Devon**
- Roundswell Community Primary Academy, **Devon**
- Fremington Primary School, **Devon**
- North Molton Primary School, **Devon**

Representations received:

The representations received were discussed and assurances were given that Regions Group will continue to work closely with Tarka Learning Partnership and Ventrus Limited.

AB discussion:

- This is a voluntary application from two trusts to re-structure - Tarka Learning Partnership and Ventrus Limited to merge, bringing together the individual strengths of both trusts to form one MAT and improve the overall offer available to children. Both trusts are committed to a shared vision and alignment of values.
- All parties considered the adoption of a new name and re-branding as important in signifying the MAT as a new entity and realising the wider cultural benefits this will have for the new organisation as a combined stronger, sustainable structure.
- The proposed new trust name - The Lighthouse Education Partnership (TLEP), the board raised questions on the name and similarity to other trust names within the South West region, this has been subject to a representation. This has been raised with both trusts and Regions Group will discuss this further with Tarka Learning Partnership and Ventrus Limited.

- There are systems and processes evident in both trusts to deliver central services that will enable the focus to be on School Improvement (SI). The board questioned the structure of the central team and Regions Group will review this with the trust in terms of capacity, school improvement and safeguarding
- The effectiveness of the School Improvement model of the trust was discussed. Regions Group provided assurances, and this will be discussed at the regular trust review meetings.
- The growth strategy of the trust was discussed, and that Regions Group will make future growth decisions based on the High-Quality Trust Framework.
- The governance structure was discussed, assurances were provided that the new trust will ensure that the trust board is diverse, and the trust will follow best practice for recruitment.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: A proposal for Gretton Primary School, Gloucestershire to transfer from Gretton Primary School (SAT) to Primary Quest Multi-Academy Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: A proposal for Ansford Academy, Somerset to transfer from Ansford Academy (SAT) to Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: A proposal for Morgan's Vale and Woodfalls Church of England Primary School, Wiltshire to transfer from MVW Academy (SAT) to Magna Learning Partnership.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion: The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns/comments in relation to the recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

None

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: St Mark's CofE School, Bath and North East Somerset (Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership) to make the following change:

- the addition of a second 20 place resource base on the St Mark's site for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

Project: Penair School, Cornwall (Penair School SAT) to make the following change:

- Temporarily approve the expansion of physical capacity until August 2026, this is an extension of the temporary significant change agreed previously.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools, trust and Diocese (where relevant).

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