



## Notes of Meeting: East of England

**24 October 2024**

### Attendance

#### Regional Director (RD) chair

- Jonathan Duff, Regional Director East of England

#### 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

- SFSO Representatives

### Apologies

- None

### DfE senior civil servants

- Emily Williams, Deputy Director East of England

### 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.

## **Representations received**

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

## Bedfordshire

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Lakeview School, The Pioneer Learning Trust, Bedfordshire.

**AB discussion:**

- The board discussed the school's performance.
- The board considered the leadership and school improvement capacity of Pioneer.
- The board heard about the finances and governance of Pioneer.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Central Bedfordshire

### Trust Changes

**Project:** Beecroft Academy (SAT), Central Bedfordshire, to join The Pyramid Schools Trust.

**Project:** Brooklands Middle School (SAT), Central Bedfordshire, to join The Pyramid Schools Trust.

**AB discussion:**

- The board discussed the performance and most recent Ofsted reports for both schools.
- The board considered the leadership and school improvement capacity of Pyramid.
- The Board heard that Pyramid has experience of schools changing their age range as part of a move from a three-tier to a two-tier school system.
- The board heard how Pyramid is already supporting Beecroft Academy.
- The board discussed Pyramid's governance.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions.

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to schools/trust setting out the conditions.

- Strengthen the trust board to include greater diversity and expertise.
- Improve external scrutiny and challenge to enhance standards.

## Essex

### Trust Changes:

Project: Southend High School for Girls, Southend (SAT) to transfer to Alpha Trust.

#### AB discussion:

- The board discussed the finances of the school and the trust.
- The board heard about the performance outcomes of the school and the trust and considered how they align.
- The board discussed the vision and values of the trust and how they could support the school.

**Conflicts:** None

**RD decision:** Approve

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Suffolk

### Sponsored academy orders:

Project: Cavendish CofE VC Primary School, Suffolk to be sponsored by The Tilian Partnership.

#### AB discussion:

- The board discussed the pupil numbers and performance outcomes at the school.
- The board heard about the school improvement record of the trust.
- The board discussed the finances of the school.

**Conflicts:** None

**RD decision:** Approve

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

### Bedfordshire

### Significant changes to an open academy

**Project:** Marston Vale Middle School, Chiltern Learning Trust, Bedford to become a primary school as part of a wider restructure to a two-tier system in the locality.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Essex

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Langham Primary School, Canonium Learning Trust, Essex

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** St Peters CofE VA Primary School, Canonium Learning Trust, Essex

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** Woodham Walter CofE VC Primary School, Canonium Learning Trust, Essex

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** East Hanningfield CofE Primary School, Canonium Learning Trust, Essex

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Hertfordshire

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** St Paul's Catholic Primary School, St Francis of Assisi Catholic Academy Trust, Hertfordshire

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** Holywell Primary School, Inclusive Multi Academy Trust, Hertfordshire

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** St Dominic Catholic Primary School, All Saints Catholic Academy Trust, Hertfordshire

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** The Holy Family Catholic Primary School, The Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust, Hertfordshire

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Norfolk

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Overstrand, The Belfry, CofE VA Primary School, The Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust, Norfolk

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** Pulham CofE Primary School, The Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust, Norfolk

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** Worstead CofE Primary School, The Diocese of Norwich St Benet's Multi-Academy Trust, Norfolk

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Southend

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Eastwood Primary School and Nursery, Eastwood Park Academy Trust, Southend

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Suffolk

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Bawdsey CofE VC Primary School, The Tilian Partnership, Suffolk

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Trust Changes

**Project:** Stour Valley Community School, Suffolk and Clare Community Primary School, Suffolk to transfer from Stour Valley Education Trust to Anglian Learning.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

**Project:** Debenham High School, Suffolk (SAT), Creeting St Mary CofE VA Primary School, Suffolk (LA maintained) and Worlingworth CofE VC Primary School (LA maintained) to form Heart of Suffolk Education trust.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

## Cases referred to ministers for a decision

List of decisions that have been made by the Director General of Regions Group and/or ministers.

### Essex

#### Trust Changes

**Project:** Stewards Academy (SAT), Essex to transfer to The Passmores Co-operative Learning Community.

**Minister Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** None

#### Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

**Project:** Whether to approve the sponsor match for a free school on the Wolsey Park development in Rochford, and existing Chetwood site in South Woodham Ferrers, Essex.

**Minister Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** None

### Norfolk

#### Significant changes to an open academy

**Project:** Tuckswood Academy and Nursery, Broad Horizons Education Trust, Norfolk to change its age range from 3-11 years to 4-11 years, closing its nursery provision.

**Minister Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None



**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to the school/trust.

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

**Project:** Watling Lower School, Scholar's Education Trust, Central Bedfordshire

**Type of project:** Converter academy order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Rescheduled for an AB meeting later in the year.

**Project:** Attleborough Primary School, Sapientia Education Trust, Norfolk

**Type of project:** Converter academy order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Rescheduled for an AB meeting later in the year.

**Project:** Rosecroft Primary School, Sapientia Education Trust, Norfolk

**Type of project:** Converter academy order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Rescheduled for an AB meeting later in the year.



Department  
for Education

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