



## Notes of meeting: South West

**Date of meeting – 16 December 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
- Mark Ducker
- Jackie Fieldwick
- Margaret Simmons-Bird
- Rachel Howie

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Jennifer Blunden

### DfE senior civil servants

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

### General discussion points

- The team presented to AB members on the progress and planning of the RISE team for South West.
- AB members shared local intelligence from the sector on RISE and provided insight on the challenges being faced.

## Converter academy orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: An application from Marazion School, Cornwall to convert and become an academy and join Crofty Education Trust.**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**Points raised in 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: An application from All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Dorset to convert and become an academy and join Pickwick Academy Trust.**

**Project: An application from Princecroft Primary School, Wiltshire to convert and become an academy and join Pickwick Academy Trust.**

**Project: An application from Winterbourne Earls Church of England Primary School, Wiltshire to convert and become an academy and join Pickwick Academy Trust.**

**Project: An application from Gomeldon Primary School, Wiltshire to convert and become an academy and join Pickwick Academy Trust.**

**Project: An application from St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Laverstock, Wiltshire to convert and become an academy and join Pickwick Academy Trust.**

**Representations received:** \*\* all projects for Pickwick Academy Trust (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).

## Trust Changes

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

### **Project: A proposal for Woodford Valley Church of England Aided School to transfer from Woodford Valley Church of England Primary Academy (SAT), Wiltshire to Pickwick Academy Trust**

**Representations received:** \*\* all projects for Pickwick Academy Trust (academy conversion and trust change) were discussed together.

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **Points raised in Discussion:**

- This is a voluntary conversion of five schools - Princecroft Primary School, Winterbourne Earls Church of England Primary School, St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Laverstock, All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School and Gomeldon Primary School. All schools were rated Ofsted Good at their last inspections.
- Woodford Valley Church of England Aided School (SAT) was rated as Requires Improvement at their last Ofsted inspection, Nov 2022. Pickwick has proven experience of working with schools to improve outcomes, the school is looking for the support and backing of a strong trust.
- Pickwick is already providing support to all schools and building strong relationships based on an approach of challenge and support. The joining schools will grow current hubs.
- The effectiveness of the School Improvement model of the trust and challenge from the trust board was discussed. Regions Group provided assurances regarding these areas, and these will be discussed at the regular trust review meetings.
- The growth strategy of the trust was discussed, and it was agreed that Regions Group will make future growth decisions based on the High-Quality Trust Framework and will consider a period of consolidation.
- The governance structure was discussed, and assurances were provided that the trust will ensure that the trust board is diverse and will follow recommendations from the external review.

**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.

*All of the projects have gone through previous Advisory Board meetings for consideration and discussion. These projects are checked for any legal inconsistencies to ensure they are in line with departmental requirements and that all conditions are met.*

**Project: Barnwood Park School, Gloucestershire (Greenshaw Learning Trust).**

**Points raised in discussion:** No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project: Down Ampney Church of England Primary School, Gloucestershire (Corinium Education Trust).**

**Points raised in discussion:** No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project: St Bonaventure's Catholic Primary School, Bristol City of (The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust).**

**Points raised in discussion:** No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, North Somerset (The Cardinal Newman Catholic Educational Trust).**

**Points raised in discussion:** No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

**Project: St Mary's CofE VC First School, Charminster, Dorset (Initio Learning Trust).**

**Points raised in discussion:** No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 January 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** No action required.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

### Significant changes to an open academy

#### **Project: Archbishop Wake Church of England Primary School (Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 4 -11 to 0 - 11 years to incorporate nursery provision

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

#### **Project: Brixington Primary Academy (The First Federation Trust) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 3-11 to 2-11 years

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

#### **Project: Curnow School (Special Partnership Trust) to make the following change:**

- To acquire an additional satellite site of Curnow School to provide 9 SEN places

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

#### **Project: Honiton Community College (The Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 11-18 to 11-16 years removing the sixth form provision.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

## **Project: Robert Blake School to make the following change:**

- To convert to academy status and join United Learning Trust (ULT). Robert Blake was approved to join ULT at the Advisory Board - March 2024 under a sponsored route. The directive academy order was revoked in September 2024, under policy guidance, the school has requested to continue to convert and join ULT. This has been approved by the Regional Director.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

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

- None

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