



## Notes of meeting: East of England

### Date of meeting – 23 January 2025

#### 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

#### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Tim Coulson (AB)
- Mark Farmer (AB)
- Clare Flintoff (AB)
- Adrian Rogers (AB)
- Sarah Skinner (AB)

#### Guests

- None

#### Apologies

- Lawrence Chapman (AB)
- Al Kingsley (AB)
- Josephine Valentine (AB)

## DfE senior civil servants

- Emily Williams (Deputy Director)

## General discussion points

- The Regional Director gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board heard updates on the establishment of the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) teams.
- The Regional Director informed the board about the region's upcoming attendance conference.
- The board considered Ofsted judgements outcomes for the previous month.

## Cambridgeshire

### Converter academy orders

**Project: An application from Hills Road Sixth Form College [URN: 130615], Cambridgeshire, to convert and become an academy and form Hills Education Trust.**

#### Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

#### AB discussion:

- Hills Road Sixth Form College is a well-established 16 to 19 further education provider in Cambridge. The sixth form was rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all areas in February 2022.
- The board considered the further education college's strong educational outcomes and financial position.
- The board heard about the proposed governance structure of the trust.
- The board heard the proposed multi academy trust's strategic aims to formalise existing partnerships and to collaborate locally and regionally with other schools and colleges.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the college, trust and LA of the decision.

## Essex

### Trust changes

**Project:** An application for Fawbert and Barnard's Primary School [URN: 144663], Harlowbury Primary School [URN: 144664] and Tany's Dell Primary School and Nursery [URN: 144665], Essex, to transfer from Templefields Multi-Academy Trust to NET Academies Trust.

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board heard the voluntary application to close Templefields Multi-Academy Trust and transfer all its academies to NET Academies Trust.
- The board heard about the school improvement capacity at NET Academies Trust.
- The board heard the proposed changes to the trust board structure at NET and that the frequency of meetings would increase from 4 to 6 times per year.
- The board heard about the financial position of NET Academies Trust and the planned deployment of a school resource management advisor (SRMA).

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the schools and trusts of the decision.

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

### Central Bedfordshire

**Project:** An application from St Leonards, Heath and Reach, Voluntary Aided Lower School [URN:109618], Central Bedfordshire, to convert and become an academy and join Diocese of St Albans Multi Academy Trust (DSAMAT).

**Type of project:** Converter academy orders

**Reason for removal:** Further information requested to make an informed decision.

## Cases referred to ministers for a decision

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

**Project: An application from Warden Hill Infant School [URN: 109570], Luton, to convert and become an academy and join Pioneer Learning Trust.**

**Decision type:** Converter Academy Orders

**Minister's decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the school and the trust of the decision. Academy Order to be issued and LA to be informed of the decision.

## **Decisions taken between AB meetings**

### **List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings**

**Project: A proposal for a sponsor match for Henley Gate Primary School development in Ipswich, Suffolk.**

**Decision type:** Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to inform the local authority and the Paradigm Trust of the decision.