



Notes of Meeting: East of England

Date of Meeting – 27 February 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

- Lawrence Chapman
- Tim Coulson
- Mark Farmer
- Al Kingsley
- Adrian Rogers
- Josephine Valentine

Guests

- Mike Sheridan (Ofsted)

Apologies

- Clare Flintoff
- Sarah Skinner

DfE senior civil servants

- Emily Williams (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

- The RD gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board heard about Ofsted's consultation to improve the way it inspects education settings.
- The board heard updates on the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) teams.
- The board considered Ofsted judgement outcomes for the previous month.

Cambridgeshire

Trust changes

Project: An application for Soham Village College [URN: 136610], Kennett Primary School [URN: 139088], The Shade Primary School [URN: 139555] and The Weatheralls Primary School [URN: 143941], Cambridgeshire to transfer from Staploe Education Trust to Anglian Learning.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB Discussion:

- The board heard about the voluntary application to close Staploe Education Trust and transfer all its academies to Anglian Learning.
- The board heard about the shared ethos and values between both trusts and their existing professional working relationship.
- The board heard that Anglian has increased its central team capacity by appointing Directors of Primary and Secondary and increased SEND capacity to improve its overall school improvement offer.
- The board heard Anglian is currently onboarding two academies into the trust. If the Staploe transfer is approved, Anglian would increase in size from 16 to 22 academies in under a year. If the project is approved, Anglian would not look to onboard any further academies until the existing ones were embedded.
- The board heard about the financial position of Staploe and that Anglian will complete further due diligence checks and financial modelling to manage the financial risk.
- The board discussed the finances, capacity and timing of the expansion. The Regional Director asked his team to secure some further information on Anglian Learning Trust's plans for enhancing its capacity in line with this level of growth. This information has been secured, and the Regional Director gave his approval to the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Decisions taken between AB meetings.

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings

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.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Adrian Rogers

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: A retrospective application for Stratton School [URN: 137886], Meridian Trust, Central Bedfordshire to make the following change: adding a 20-place SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision Type: Significant Change

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: An application from Dr Walker's Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Fyfield [URN: 115125], Essex to convert and become an academy and join Life Education Trust.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: An application from Eastwood Primary School [URN: 134860], Essex, to convert and become an academy and join Eastwood Park Academy Trust.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: An application for Waltham Holy Cross Primary Academy [URN: 147265], NET Academies Trust, Essex, to make the following change: adding a 7-place SEN

unit or resourced provision

Decision Type: Significant Change

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: Applications for: Pope Paul Catholic Primary School [URN: 117496], Hertfordshire, St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery [URN: 117491], Hertfordshire, St Catherine's RC School [URN: 101333], Barnet, to convert and become academies and join All Saints Catholic Academy Trust.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: An application for The Marlborough Science Academy [URN: 138042], The Marlborough Science Academy Limited, Hertfordshire, to make the following change: expansion (increasing physical capacity) by 200 places

Decision Type: Significant Change

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: An application for Stanground Academy [URN: 137880], Greenwood Academies Trust, Peterborough to make the following change: adding an 8-place SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision Type: Significant Change

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

Project: Applications for: St Mark's Catholic Primary School [URN: 124786], Suffolk, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School [URN: 124763], Suffolk, St Edmund's Catholic Primary School [URN: 124764], Suffolk, to convert and become academies and join Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

Decision Type: Converter academy orders

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Feedback decision to school / trust.

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

Project: An application from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School [URN: 109635], Luton to convert and become an academy and join St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust.

Type of project: Converter academy orders

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further information requested to make an informed decision.