



## Notes of meeting: South West

Date of meeting: 24 March 2025

### 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
- Jennifer Blunden

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Stuart Ingram
- Rachel Howie

### DfE senior civil servants

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

## General discussion points

- Lucy Livings provided an update for AB members on the priorities for Regions Group.
- AB members shared local intelligence and provided insight on the challenges being faced by the sector.

## Decisions

### Sponsored academy orders

Points discussed in relation to school sponsorship

**Project: A proposal for The Leaf Trust to sponsor Willow Park CofE Primary School (URN 148841), Bristol, City of**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

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

- Willow Park CofE Primary School is a local authority maintained school in central Bristol and received an Inadequate Ofsted Judgement in March 2024.
- It is a School of Sanctuary, 65% of the pupils are refugees. Many of these students and their families have experienced trauma and need significant support to adjust to school and life in the UK. The school has a high pupil turnover, with over 300 children enrolling and leaving in the past 24 months, due to its location near accommodation for refugees and asylum seekers.
- The Leaf Trust has been providing support to Willow Park since June 2024, commissioned by Bristol City Council.
- Willow Park received an Ofsted monitoring visit in January 2025 and the monitoring report highlighted the impact of the support provided by Leaf.
- The school would be best supported by joining a trust.
- The Leaf Trust was established in September 2023 and as a new trust does not have a proven track record of performance. However, Regions Group recognised the experienced leadership in the trust.
- It was approved at the February Advisory Board for three schools to join the trust.
- The growth strategy of the trust was discussed with a period of consolidation recommended. Regions Group will continue to discuss growth plans with the trust and will continue to make future growth decisions based on the High-Quality Trust Framework.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Margaret Simmons-Bird and Mark Ducker were not present for the discussion and did not receive the project papers.

**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 Tredworth Infant and Nursery Academy (URN 140789), Gloucestershire to transfer from Tredworth Infant and Nursery Academy (SAT) to SAND Academies Trust**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

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

- Tredworth Infant and Nursery Academy is a 2-form entry Infant School and received a Good Ofsted judgement in March 2023.
- Given the pupil cohort Trustees want to work with trusts experienced in SEND. They agreed that SAND could support the SEND needs at Tredworth Infant. SAND has already provided SEND audits and extra training, support, and guidance for the team at Tredworth, where the number of pupils with SEND has increased over the past two years.
- The school is geographically close to Calton Primary School, which joined the trust in September 2024, and Willow Primary Academy. The headteachers at Calton and Willow are working with the head at Tredworth to find ways to benefit their shared communities.
- AB members discussed the School Improvement (SI) model, accountability, and its practical application for primary schools. Regions Group provided assurances that they will discuss the SI model with the trust and offer recommendations to help them develop this further. It was recommended for the trust to undertake an external review of mainstream school improvement systems within 18 months.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

### **Project: A proposal for Kingsmead Academy (URN 136639), Somerset to transfer from Kingsmead Academy (SAT) to Cabot Learning Federation.**

#### **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: A proposal for the following six academies to transfer from Leading Edge Academies Partnership to Truro & Penwith Academy Trust:**

- St Buryan Primary School (URN 136269), **Cornwall**
- Mounts Bay Academy (URN 136873), **Cornwall**
- St Hilary School (URN 136879), **Cornwall**
- Ludgvan School (URN 137466), **Cornwall**
- Fowey River Academy (URN 140836), **Cornwall**
- The Five Islands Academy (URN 144638), **Isles of Scilly**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**Points raised in Discussion:**

- This is a voluntary application from Leading Edge Academies Partnership (LEAP) to transfer into Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT).
- LEAP is a cross-phase multi academy trust made up of three primary schools, two secondary schools and one all through school with a footprint in the east and west of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.
- The Five Islands Academy, an all-through school on the Isles of Scilly, faces unique challenges related to boarding provision, SEND, and off-island satellite classrooms on the smaller islands around St Mary's.
- LEAP wants to join Truro and Penwith Academy Trust (TPAT) because they believe TPAT aligns with their values, vision, and ethos. TPAT can provide the necessary capacity for sustained school improvement. Additionally, TPAT's similar geography would help LEAP schools feel less isolated and integrate into TPAT's existing hubs for support.
- TPAT has a proven record of improving outcomes over a period of time and sustaining these improvements. They have extensive experience with rural schools in disadvantaged communities.
- Ofsted outcomes and reports have recognised the trust's positive impact on school improvement. The trust plans to expand its school improvement team starting in September 2025.
- TPAT plans to change its governance structure to adopt church articles and include the Diocese of Truro Education Board at both the member and trustee levels. These discussions are to be resolved ahead of the transfer.
- The growth strategy of the trust was discussed with a period of consolidation recommended until Regions Group have sight of the 2025/26 outcomes.
- It is recommended that the trust undergo an external review of school improvement (SI) within six months of the LEAP schools joining, focusing on the current SI model and the integration of LEAP schools.

**RD decision:** Approve with conditions

- The board at TPAT approves the adoption of church articles.

**Conflicts:** Jennifer Blunden was not present for the discussion and did not receive the project papers.

**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.

### **Project: All Saints Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Dorset (Pickwick Academy Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### **Project: Berrynarbor Church of England Primary School, Devon (The Harbour Schools Partnership)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### **Project: Gomeldon Primary School, Wiltshire (Pickwick Academy Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### **Project: Marazion School, Cornwall (Crofty Education Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

### **Project: Chapmanslade Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Wiltshire (Acorn Education Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project: South Molton Community Primary School, Devon (The Harbour Schools Partnership)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project: St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Gloucestershire (North Cotswold Schools Federation MAT)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project: St Cuthbert's CofE Junior School, Somerset (Wessex Learning Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

**Project: West Down School, Devon (The Harbour Schools Partnership)**

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

Opening date 1 April 2025

**Conflicts:** None.

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

## **Decisions taken outside of AB meeting**

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

## Significant changes to an open academy

**Project: Bearwood Primary and Nursery School, (Hamwic Education 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: The Wellington Academy, (Ascend Learning Trust) to make the following change:**

- To add a 30 place, SEND provision to the Wellington Academy

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: The Grove Primary School, (Equa Mead Learning Trust) to make the following change:**

- To add 20 place Resource Base for children with Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Drove Primary School, (The White Horse Federation) to make the following change:**

- Retrospective change to lower age range from 3-11 to 2-11

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Westlea Primary School, (Brunel Academies Trust) to make the following change:**

- To close the Special Resourced Provision for children with physical disabilities

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Exeter House Special School, (Brunel Academies Trust) to make the following change:**

- To add a 120-place satellite site at The Wellington Academy, Ludgershall for children with autism and specific learning disabilities

**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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