



Department  
for Education

## **Note of decisions: South East Advisory Board**

20 March 2025

### **Advice**

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence. The views of members that sent in advice are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

### **Regional Director (RD)**

- Kate Dethridge

### **Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice**

- Sue Samson
- Sarah Brown
- Sarah Bennett
- Paul James
- Claire Lowe

## West

### Trust Changes

**Project: Oakbank, Anthem Schools Trust, Wokingham, to join Greenshaw Learning Trust.**

#### **Representations received:**

- 3 representations were received for this project
- When received in time, representations are shared in advance with the RD and the AB members, who considered them when providing advice to RDs.

#### **AB advice:**

- Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) has a proven track record and the school is in urgent need of support.
- GLT has a strong track record of secondary school performance turnaround.
- Concerns over the school's viability. There are clear risks, both financial and educational.
- The board noted the concerns about exclusions rates at some of GLT's schools.

#### **Decision:** Approve with conditions:

- GLT has a communications plan in place and engages with key stakeholders
- Exclusion rates at Oakbank to be monitored post transfer

#### **Conflicts:** None

#### **Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: Great Marlow School, Buckinghamshire, to join Marlow Education Trust (SAT to MAT).**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were received for this item.

#### **AB advice:**

- There is already an existing relationship between Great Marlow School and Marlow Education Trust. This would be further solidified with any transfer.
- The trust has a limited track record of school improvement. Further growth should be met with evidence of a clear school improvement strategy.
- Performance progress of Beechview is a concern.
- Adding a strong primary school into the trust will allow capacity to be built and support further growth.
- The trust's new CEO and Chair of Trustees provide opportunities and confidence that performance and growth can be successful.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the school/trust and local authority.

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

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

### **Converter Academy Order**

**Project:** Lane End Primary School, Buckinghamshire, to convert and join Chiltern Way Academy Trust.

**Decision:** Defer.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

### **Converter Academy Order**

**Project:** Southfield Park Primary School, Surrey, to convert and join Lumen Learning Trust.

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

### **Converter Academy Order**

**Project:** Chandlers Field Primary School, Surrey, to convert and join LEO Academy Trust.

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

## **Significant Change**

**Project:** St. Anthony's Catholic Primary School, St Benedict Catholic Academy Trust, Slough. Change of age range (including adding or removing a nursery or sixth form provision).

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

## **Significant Change**

**Project:** The Kingsbrook School, Insignis Academy Trust, Buckinghamshire. Expansion (increasing physical capacity).

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

## **Significant Change**

**Project:** Portswood Primary School, HISP Multi Academy Trust, Southampton. Change of age range (including adding or removing a nursery or sixth form provision).

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

## **Trust Changes**

**Project:** The Priory Primary School, Hampshire, to transfer to South Farnham Education Trust.

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform 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.

**Project:** Burfield Academy and Phoenix Academy, East Sussex, Significant Change – merger/demerger. To amalgamate two primary schools.

**Minister Decision:** Approve.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

## **Academy opening approved in principle**

List of academies approved to open the following month.

**Project: Highwood Primary School, Orchard Learning Alliance, Berkshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: Hillside Primary School, Orchard Learning Alliance, Berkshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: North Downs Primary School, Everychild Partnership Trust, Surrey.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: St Bartholomew's Catholic Primary School, Swanley, Kent Catholic Schools' Partnership, Kent.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: West Witney Primary School & Nursery, Eynsham Partnership Academy, Oxfordshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: Willow Bank Infant School, Orchard Learning Alliance, Berkshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: Willow Bank Junior School, Orchard Learning Alliance, Berkshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

**Project: Wooden Hill Primary and Nursery School, Greenshaw Learning Trust, Berkshire.**

**Points raised:** N/A.

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further action required:** Inform the school/trust and local authority.

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