



## Notes of meeting: South West

Date of meeting: 28 April 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

- None

### 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 Blackdown Education Partnership to sponsor Tiverton High School (URN 113548), Devon**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **Points raised in discussion:**

- Tiverton High School (THS) is a 11-16 1,400 place secondary school, situated in Mid Devon and received an Inadequate Ofsted Judgement in October 2024 – previously Good in January 2019.
- Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP) have been supporting Tiverton from November 2024 through a management partnership and have added significant resource into the school.
- THS will benefit from the continuity of support from BEP and from the collaboration provided in a multi academy structure.
- BEP is a good trust, with a proven record of good outcomes, and of sustaining and improving Ofsted judgements across their schools.
- The School Improvement model of the trust was discussed; the Trust has a well-defined school improvement model and continues to invest in its development. Regions Group provided assurances, and this will be discussed at the trust review meetings.
- AB members questioned the building issues at THS that require investment. The responsibility to maintain Tiverton's existing buildings will be with BEP and the schools rebuilding programme are working closely with BEP. The Trust are also working with Devon local authority prior to transfer. Regions Group will continue to work closely with the Trust as plans progress.
- The growth strategy of the trust was discussed. Regions Group will discuss growth plans with the trust and make future growth decisions based on the High-Quality Trust Framework.

**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 the following five academies to transfer from Castleman Academy Trust to The Delta Education Trust:**

- Ferndown Middle School (URN 148163), Dorset
- Ferndown First School (URN 148161), Dorset
- Parley First School (URN 148162), Dorset
- Broadstone Middle School (URN 141184), Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Broadstone First School (141258), Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**Points raised in discussion:**

- Delta and Castleman have been working collaboratively for several years and are now voluntarily seeking to merge to form a new, Primary, SEN and AP phase trust of a larger and more sustainable size, containing 11 schools and circa. 3,511 pupils.
- The School Improvement model of the trust was discussed and AB members requested further information on how this would work in practice.
- Strong rationale for merger recognised but AB members also asked for more information about the vision, values, and ethos of the new trust.
- The structure of the trust board and experience was discussed and further information on the expertise of the new board was requested.

**RD decision:** Defer - to be brought back to Regional Director at later date once more information is provided about issues discussed.

**Conflicts:** Adele Haysom was not present for the discussion.

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

## Significant changes to an open academy

Points discussed in relation to significant changes to an open academy

**Project: An application for E-ACT the Dolphin School (URN 138377) and E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School (URN 140269), Bristol, City of (E-ACT) to make the following change:**

- To merge E-ACT The Dolphin School with E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School and form one entity on the site of E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**Points raised in discussion:**

- E-ACT is seeking approval to merge two nearby schools, The Dolphin School and Fairlawn Primary School, and to increase the published admission arrangements (PAN) at Fairlawn from 30 to 60 to accommodate the merger.
- The Dolphin School is a 4-11 primary academy located in Montpelier, Bristol and received a Requires Improvement Ofsted Judgement in March 2024.
- Fairlawn Primary School is a 4-11 primary school academy in Montpelier, Bristol. It is graded Ofsted Good, currently Fairlawn is at 59.5% capacity.
- E- ACT have said that the merger will ensure that all pupils benefit from high-quality teaching, well-resourced facilities and a stable and inspiring learning environment.
- The proposed change aims to enhance the leadership and governance by consolidating leadership structures within a single academy. Fairlawn's leadership team will oversee the merged school, providing continuity and stability.
- AB members asked about The Dolphin School site. The trust is considering repurposing the Dolphin site as the Sixth Form for E-ACT Montpelier High School, and this is currently being discussed with the Local Authority.

**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: Princecroft Primary School, Wiltshire (Pickwick Academy Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 May 2025

- Conflicts: None.
- Further actions required: No action required.

### **Project: St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Wiltshire (Pickwick Academy Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 May 2025

- Conflicts: None.
- Further actions required: No action required.

**Project: Winterbourne Earls Church of England Primary School, Wiltshire (Pickwick Academy Trust)**

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

Opening date 1 May 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: St Peter's Church of England First School, (Beacon Education MAT Ltd) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 5 - 9 to 2 – 9 years

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Musbury Primary School, (The First Federation Trust) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 5 -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: Swanage Primary School, (Coastal Learning Partnership) to make the following change:**

- To change the age range from 4 -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: Bridport, St Mary's Church of England Primary School, (Initio Learning Trust) to make the following change:**

- Retrospective change to add a 14 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).

## **Converter academy orders**

**Project: An application from Penpol School (URN 111849), Cornwall to convert and become an academy and join Crofty Education Trust.**

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: An application from Butleigh Church of England Primary School (URN 123745), Somerset to convert and become an academy and join Preston Primary Academy Trust.**

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: An application from Homelands Primary School (URN 113231), Torbay to convert and become an academy and join Education South West.**

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: An application from Iron Acton Church of England Primary School (URN 109162), South Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join Severn Federation Academies Trust.**

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** An application from Hawkesbury Church of England Primary School (URN 109161), South Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join Severn Federation Academies Trust.

**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

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** Baytree School (URN 109409), North Somerset to convert and become an academy and join Achieve MAT (currently Three Ways School, (SAT)).

**Type of project:** Converter Academy Order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Postponed.

**Project:** Westhaven School (URN109406), North Somerset to convert and become an academy and join Achieve MAT (currently Three Ways School, (SAT)).

**Type of project:** Converter Academy Order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** School withdrew application.

**Project:** Warmley Park School (URN 109403), South Gloucestershire to convert and become an academy and join Achieve MAT (currently Three Ways School, (SAT)).

**Type of project:** Converter Academy Order

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Postponed.

### Trust Changes

**Project:** Three Ways School (URN 140079), Bath and North East Somerset to transfer from Three Ways School, (SAT) and form Achieve MAT.

**Type of project:** Trust Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Postponed.