



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: East of England

Date of meeting: 18 September 2025

Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but provided 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

- Jonathan Duff

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Lawrence Chapman
- Mark Farmer
- Clare Flintoff
- Adrian Rogers
- Sarah Skinner
- Josephine Valentine

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Al Kingsley

DfE senior civil servants

- Becky Taylor (acting Deputy Director)

General discussion points

- The Regional Director gave some general national and regional updates and invited feedback from the board.
- The board considered Ofsted judgement outcomes for the previous month.

Decisions

Hertfordshire

Trust Changes

Project: An application for The Thomas Alleyne Academy [URN: 140037] and Roebuck Academy [URN: 144419], Hertfordshire, to transfer from The Hart Schools Trust Ltd to Chiltern Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- The board heard a voluntary application from The Hart Schools Trust Ltd to merge with Chiltern Learning Trust.
- The board was informed that The Hart Schools Trust Ltd is made up of one primary school (Roebuck Academy) and one secondary school (The Thomas Alleyne Academy), both located in Stevenage, Hertfordshire.
- The board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Adrian Rogers did not receive any papers and did not provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, as he is the Chief Executive Officer for Chiltern Learning Trust.

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

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for North East Essex Co-operative Academy [URN: 143590], Keys Co-operative Academy Trust, Essex, to make the following change: increasing the planned number of pupils in a special or AP academy by 26 places

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Project: An application for Downham Market Academy [URN: 145196], Eastern Learning Alliance, Norfolk, to make the following change: adding a 20-place SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Project: An application for Bungay Primary School [URN: 144443], Asset Education, Suffolk, to make the following change: adding a 12-place SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Project: An application for Morland Church of England Primary School [URN: 145851], St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Multi-Academy Trust, Suffolk, to make the following change: adding an 18-place SEN unit or resourced provision

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Project: An application for Holywell School [URN: 138844], Holywell Church of England Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to change its age range from 9-13 to 11-16.

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust and request further financial information.

Project: An application for Wells Park School [URN: 148708], The Beckmead Trust, Essex, to make the following change: increasing the planned number of pupils in a special or AP academy by 14 places

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Project: An application for Larwood School [URN: 143604], Brighter Future Education Trust, Hertfordshire, to make the following change: acquiring an additional (satellite) site (50 places)

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school / trust.

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Colney Heath Junior Mixed Infant and Nursery School [URN: 117145], Hertfordshire, to convert and become an academy and join Spiral Partnership Trust.

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.

Project: An application from Carlton Colville Primary School [URN: 124574], Suffolk, to convert and become an academy and join Hartismere Family of Schools.

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.

Project: An application from Colneis Junior School [URN: 124624], Suffolk, to convert and become an academy and join Eko Trust.

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.

Project: An application from Fairfield Infant School [URN: 124582], Suffolk, to convert and become an academy and join Eko Trust.

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.

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