



Department  
for Education

## Notes of meeting: East of England

18 December 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

- Jonathan Duff

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Lawrence Chapman
- Mark Farmer
- Al Kingsley
- Adrian Rogers
- Sarah Skinner
- Josephine Valentine

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Clare Flintoff

### 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.

## Decisions

### Cambridgeshire

#### Trust Changes

**Project:** An application for Abbey College, Ramsey, Cambridgeshire, to transfer from Abbey College, Ramsey SAT to Meridian Trust.

#### Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

#### AB discussion:

- The Board heard a voluntary application from Abbey College, Ramsey, to transfer to Meridian Trust.
- The Board members considered the details of the project and did not raise any concerns in relation to the proposal.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** There were no conflicts of interest.

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

### Central Bedfordshire

#### Trust Changes

**Project:** An application for Gilbert Inglefield Academy, Central Bedfordshire, to transfer from Gilbert Inglefield Academy Trust to Chiltern Learning Trust.

#### Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

#### AB discussion:

- The Regional Director informed AB members that the Chiltern Learning Trust had been approved in principle, outside of the AB meeting, as the proposed sponsor for Gilbert Inglefield Academy. This decision was based on advice provided by Board members at the meeting on 25 April 2024. No further representations were received.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Adrian Rogers, but no discussion took place.

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

## Luton

### Converter academy orders

**Project:** An application from Luton Sixth Form College, Luton, to convert and become an academy and form a new trust called Luton Sixth Form Academy Trust (LSFAT).

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**AB discussion:**

- The Board heard a voluntary application from Luton Sixth Form College, Luton, to convert and become an academy.
- The Board discussed whether other schools would join the proposed trust as the sixth form college was applying to form a trust by itself.
- Members discussed the proposed governance arrangements of the trust.
- The Board members considered the details of the project and declined the proposal.

**Decision:** Declined

**Conflicts:** There were no conflicts of interest.

**Further actions required:** Delivery officer to feed back the decision to the sixth form college.

## Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

### Converter Academy Orders

**Project:** An application from Ghyllgrove Primary School [URN: 114914] to convert and become an academy and join CRESCO MAT.

**Decision:** Decline

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feed back decision to the school/trust.

## Significant changes to an open academy

**Project:** An application for Castledon School [URN:141765], Zenith Multi Academy Trust, Essex, to add a satellite, increase the planned number of pupils in a special or alternative provision academy and change the type of SEN provision from ASD/MLD to ASD/MLD/SLD.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feed back decision to the school/trust.

## Significant changes to an open academy

**Project:** An application for Benyon Primary School [URN:139382], Catalyst Trust, Thurrock, to change its nursery provision and age range from 3-11 to 2-11.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feed back decision to the school/trust.

## Significant changes to an open academy

**Project:** An application for Brimsdown Primary School [URN:143202], Ivy Learning Trust, Hertfordshire, to change its nursery provision and age range from 3-11 to 2-11.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feed back decision to the school/trust.

## Significant changes to an open academy

**Project** An application for Bungay High School [URN: 136998], East Anglian Schools Trust Ltd, Suffolk, to close the sixth form.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feed back decision to the school/trust.

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