



Department
for Education

Note of Decisions: South East Advisory Board

16 January 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)

- Dame Kate Dethridge

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Sarah Bennett
- Sarah Brown
- Sir Andrew Carter
- Stuart Gardner
- Paul James
- Claire Lowe
- Sue Samson MBE

Decisions

Coastal sub-region

Sponsored academy orders

Project: Grove Park School, East Sussex, to be sponsored by London South East Academy Trust

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- The quality of the trust and its track record in improving schools was noted. Board members noted the knowledge and skills of trustees and members.
- School improvement capability and experience of London South East Academy Trust was considered a strength in the application.
- The significant recent growth in in the trust was noted by the board members.
- Finance – overall stable and not considered a risk.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required:

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

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: Burfield Academy and Phoenix Academy, STEP Academy Trust, East Sussex, to amalgamate 2 or more academies.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

- The board noted the complexities about the Burfield site, specifically the parking and planning issues, and the concerns of parents.
- The decision will be referred to Ministers for their views.

Decision: N/A. Subject to ministerial review.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- For ministerial decision.
- 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: Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School, West Sussex, to convert and join South Downs Education Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Trust Changes

Project: Southwater Junior Academy, West Sussex, to voluntarily transfer to South Downs Education Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Trust Changes

Project: Southwater Infant Academy, West Sussex, to voluntarily transfer to South Downs Education Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Aylesham Primary School, EKC Schools Trust Limited, Kent.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: Edward Feild Primary School, River Learning Trust, Oxfordshire.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: Ightham Primary School, The Pioneer Academy, Kent.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: Kings International College, Bourne Education Trust, Surrey.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: Shoreham Village School, The Pioneer Academy, Kent.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: The Hawthorns Primary School, Bicester, The Circle Trust, Wokingham.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.

Project: Woodlea Primary School, University Of Chichester (Multi) Academy Trust, Hampshire.

Points raised in discussion: None.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: None.