

Reverent Louise Ellis (Chair) & Paul Howieson (CEO)
Coastal Learning Partnership
Heathlands Primary Academy
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Springwater Road
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BH11 8HB

25th January 2023

Dear Louise and Paul

Trust options for Purbeck LA maintained primary schools

We are grateful for all the work of the trust to date in considering the four LA maintained primary schools in Purbeck (Swanage, Stoborough, St George's and Lulworth and Winfrith), joining Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP). Thank you also for updating us on the trust board's decision to approve progressing an application to the February 2023 Advisory Board, in respect of Stoborough and Swanage.

However, we are concerned that if we approved the two schools joining your trust, this will leave St George's and Lulworth and Winfrith isolated and potentially vulnerable. Our strong preference is to secure an area-based solution for all 4 schools, and our view is that CLP would be a good fit for this, particularly given your existing footprint in the area and your strong track record of school improvement.

We appreciate that the trust has not definitively decided against St George's and Lulworth and Winfrith potentially joining the trust at some point. However, given our concerns about the potential risk to these schools, we would like more formal assurance on this from the trust before we progress the applications for Stoborough and Swanage schools.

Our request to the trust board is therefore ideally to reconsider taking all 4 schools forward in one proposal; or to provide firm assurances that the trust is committed to all 4 schools joining CLP including timescales for AB and what conditions need to be met.

We think this will ensure the long-term viability of these schools and help to shape a cohesive local trust landscape, so that none of the LA maintained primary schools in Purbeck are left in isolation, without the benefits that a strong MAT can offer them.

We have also discussed possible sponsor options for best supporting all the 4 schools with the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education. The Diocesan Board of

Education wish to emphasise through this letter the esteem in which they hold your trust, and they acknowledge and appreciate the work of the trust to date, including in respect of the application from these 4 schools to become part of your MAT family. In writing to you we can confirm that, if possible, the preference of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education is also that all these schools can join a single MAT, at the same point, so that none are left isolated within Purbeck.

Yours sincerely



Canon Joy Tubbs MBE



*Matt Stevenson,
Deputy Director, South West Regions Group*