



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

17 June 2021

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

HTB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair

- Carol Gray

Headteacher Board (HTB) members

- Andrew Child
- Inderjit Sandhu
- Paul West
- Peter Bell
- Anne Martin

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Paul Stone

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives

Representations Received

- 1 - Hull Trinity House Academy, Kingston-Upon-Hull, Significant Change
This representation was shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside the relevant item.

General Discussion Points

- Introductions/RSC Update

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Sale and Davys Church of England Primary School, Derbyshire, to join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted outstanding October 2018.

The performance of the school was discussed. In 2019, 94% of the pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths, which is an increase from 76% in 2017.

As a faith school they already have a working relationship with the Diocese and the trust.

The board considered the trust to be a good match for school and were supportive of the proposal.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the Derby Diocesan Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Anne Martin did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to the school's Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: All Saints Church of England Primary School, Leicestershire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to increase the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Unit from 10 places to 20 places

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good February 2016.

The unit will provide support for primary aged children who have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Condition and function at a mainstream level. The provision is already oversubscribed with 12 pupils on roll.

All capital funding will be met by Leicestershire County Council and the work is planned to take place over the summer holiday to ensure minimal disruption for pupils.

The unit will continue to run with existing staff members and additional support staff will be recruited as pupil numbers increase.

The performance of the school was discussed. The majority of performance metrics were noted as being below both the local and national average.

The board raised no objections to the proposal. The strength of financial management and governance at the trust, funding plans for the unit and impact on the school and trust's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Inderjit Sandhu did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

Project: Skegness Grammar School, Lincolnshire, to discuss whether to approve the closure of the boarding provision.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted requires improvement September 2017.

The school has boarding provision for up to 55 pupils. Only 5 pupils currently access the provision, all of whom are in exam years, and have plans to attend a different provision in 2021/22.

The school currently has no applications from pupils to attend the boarding provision in 2021/22 and it wishes to close the provision from 1 September 2021.

The school considers the boarding provision to be no longer financially viable. The

impact of Covid-19 and of exiting European Union has affected the demand for places. The local authority has no objections to the proposal.

A full consultation has been undertaken and no objections were received to the proposal.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact of the significant change on the trust's future financial health was considered.

The board raised no objections to the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

Project: Thomas Rotherham College, Rotherham, to discuss whether it should be allowed to add a 33 place Flexible Resource Centre

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good October 2019.

The proposal is to initially create a 20 place Flexible Resource Centre (FRC) for 16-19 year olds. This will increase to 33 places over a 5 year period.

The centre will cater for students with a high functioning medical and mental health support needs and those in the autism spectrum. There is currently no similar resource in the locality for students.

The FRC which will be located in a separate building, connected by an atrium. It will have six classrooms over two floors to provide an inclusive environment that will support academic and personal development.

The local authority will contribute capital funding through the Special Educational Needs Strategic Funding and the trust has committed to contribute additional funding from their reserves for building/re-purposing work.

The centre will be led and managed by an experienced Head of Faculty and will be supported by a qualified and experienced core team.

A full consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and no objections were received to the proposal.

Effective date of proposal is 1st September 2021.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust, funding plans for the FRC, and the impact on the school and trust's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead was considered.

The board raised no objections to the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the school and trust of the decision.

Project: Hull Trinity House Academy, Kingston-Upon-Hull, to discuss whether it should be allowed to increase capacity from 600 to 1200, move from their current school site at Charlotte Street Mews to the Endeavour building on Beverley Road, and become co-educational.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good February 2020 (short inspection).

The proposed increase in capacity is part of the local authority's strategy to meet pressure in the city for secondary school places. A number of expansions at other academies within the city have already been delivered to meet increased demand for places. The proposal is supported by the local authority.

The proposed change involves a land swap with a site that is currently occupied by the Hull Training and Adult Education.

The school's current site at Charlotte Street Mews is a multi-storey former college which was not built as a school. There are no playing fields and no room for expansion. Currently, students have to travel to access sports facilities and the limited space also has an impact on the curriculum.

The proposed new site is a purpose built school, which will be able to offer larger classroom sizes and broader facilities.

The school has only admitted boys since it was first established in 1787. The proposed change to admit girls would be gradually introduced starting with Year 7 in September 2022.

The change to become co-educational will have an impact on admissions, therefore the RSC also considered and approved a change to admissions arrangements to allow girls to attend the school from September 2022.

The trust has extensive experience to assist with the proposal and mitigate risks.

Effective date of proposal is 1st September 2022.

Representations received were brought to the attention of the board and were considered.

The academic performance of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust, financial planning for the proposed changes and the impact on the school and trust's future financial health if the proposals go ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Paul West did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the trust of the decision.