



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

8 July 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
- Paul Stone

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Anne Martin
- Andrew Child

DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes
- ESFA Representative

Representations received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

General Discussion Points

- Introductions/RSC Update

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Malin Bridge Primary School, Sheffield, to join Chorus Education Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted outstanding October 2017.

The school would bring primary capacity to the academy trust.

The school and trust have an existing working relationship developed through the Sheffield Teaching School Alliance.

The school will become the foundation of a new primary hub within the trust.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Scawthorpe Castle Hills Primary School, Doncaster, to join Leger Education Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good October 2016.

The school considered a number of trusts, however they were of the opinion that Leger Education Trust was the most suitable match.

The school and trust have an existing positive relationship.

The trust has the capacity for the school to join.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Saint Barnabas Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, York, to join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted requires improvement February 2019.

The school and trust have an existing working relationship. The trust has been providing support to the school since September 2020. As a result, the trust has a good understanding of the needs of the school and can allocate appropriate resources for improvement.

The performance of the school was discussed.

Numbers on roll at the school are comparatively low with capacity at 65%. The trust will develop a strategy to improve the quality of education and performance, in order to attract more pupils.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

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: Forest Way School, Leicestershire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to expand the school's capacity by a further 30 pupils increasing the school's capacity from 220 pupils to 250, this includes an increase in capacity from 7 places to 12 places within the Communications and Interactions Unit.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted outstanding May 2016 (short inspection).

The local authority is seeking to develop more special educational needs provision, due to the increased demand in Leicestershire. The proposal forms part of Leicestershire's special educational needs and disability strategy.

No capital works are required.

The number of teachers and support staff employed will be adapted to reflect the needs of the pupils.

A full consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and no objections were received to the proposal. The LA is supportive of the proposal.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Orchard Mead Academy, Leicester, to discuss whether it should be allowed retrospective approval to create a 5 place Social Emotional and Mental Health Unit and expand the number of pupils in the unit to 12.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted inadequate October 2016.

The proposal forms part of Leicester's special educational needs and disability strategy.

The unit is already providing for 5 pupils and is looking to expand further. The unit will cater for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils and will provide specialist equipment to ensure their needs are met. Pupils will also have access to the mainstream provision.

The unit will be led by an experienced social emotional and mental health assistant principal and will be supported by a specialist teacher and two Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

All capital costs will be met by the local authority.

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

The RSC raised concerns regarding the difficulties of operating a larger unit in conjunction with the school improvement challenges at the school. Further dialogue with the school is needed to assess improvement at the school before an increase in capacity is considered for the unit.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

The financial modelling for the unit, financial health of the school, the strength of financial management and governance at The Mead Educational Trust and the impact of the significant change on the trust's future financial health were considered.

RSC decision: Gave retrospective approval for a unit for 5 pupils and defer the decision to increase the capacity of the unit to 12 pupils.

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Willowbrook Mead Primary Academy, Leicester, to discuss whether it should be allowed to create a 10 place Social Emotional and Mental Health Unit.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted outstanding March 2011.

The proposal forms part of Leicester's special educational needs and disability strategy.

The unit will have a specialist teacher and two Higher Level Teaching Assistants.

The unit will be a specially adapted building environment with one classroom, an intervention space and access to a communal social area.

The unit is expected to open within the school's current site for 4 pupils in September 2021. It will then increase capacity throughout the year once the unit's permanent accommodation is complete in October.

All capital costs will be met by the local authority.

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

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

The financial modelling for the proposed new unit, the financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at The Mead Educational Trust and the impact of the significant change on the trust's future financial health were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Kestrel Mead Primary Academy, Leicester, to discuss whether it should be allowed to create an 8 place Autism Spectrum Disorder Unit.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good March 2017.

The proposal forms part of Leicester's special educational needs and disability strategy.

The unit will cater for Early Years Foundation Stage pupils and Key Stage 1 pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder and co-occurring needs (hearing impairment, visual impairment, medical or physical needs).

The unit will be staffed by a specialist teacher, Higher Level Teaching Assistants and a Child Centred Teaching Assistant.

The unit will be housed in a separate building and will be linked to the mainstream nursery outdoor learning area allowing for integration.

All capital costs will be met by the local authority.

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

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

The financial modelling for the proposed new unit, the financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at The Mead Educational Trust and the impact of the significant change on the trust's future financial health were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: The Thomas Cowley High School, Lincolnshire, to discuss whether to retrospectively approve the removal of the ECLIPS Speech and Language Outreach Service.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good May 2017 (short inspection).

The local authority has closed their enhanced units and now deliver ECLIPS support in mainstream settings. This allows pupils to stay in their communities and access any support through their local school. The school is able to continue to access speech and language support directly from the local authority.

The strength of financial management and governance at The Thomas Cowley High School trust and the impact of the significant change on the school's future financial health were considered.

RSC decision: Gave retrospective approval

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Stone Soup Academy, Nottingham, to discuss whether it should be allowed a physical expansion to a satellite site, increasing the school's capacity to 110 to enable them to develop short term Key Stage 3 provision.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted outstanding March 2019 (short inspection).

The academy proposes to expand their provision to Key Stage 3 pupils by introducing a model of provision that works directly with schools to offer a project-based programme, with the aim of reducing exclusions in mainstream schools.

Pupils will join the academy on a short-term placement of between 1 to 3 months. The aim is to provide KS3 students who are struggling to thrive in mainstream education, opportunities to succeed and reintegrate back into mainstream schools.

The academy proposes to acquire premises close by, in order to share resources and maintain the provision as a single academy.

The trust proposes to fund the new provision from reserves.

Nottingham local authority are supportive of the proposal, as there is a need for this provision in the city.

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

The strength of financial management and governance at the Stone Soup Learns trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approve – subject to the trust finding suitable building space and approval from the department's land transaction team

Conflicts: None

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

Project: The Brunts Academy, Nottinghamshire, to discuss whether it should be allowed to acquire the lease to the adjoining building on site and create a 10 place Special Education Needs Unit.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good April 2017 (short inspection).

The proposal forms part of the local authority's special education needs and disability strategy.

The unit will be located in the caretaker's vacant bungalow, which is on site at the school.

All capital costs will be funded by the local authority.

The trust has experience in supporting children with similar needs to those being supported through the Unit.

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

The strength of financial management and governance at The Evolve Trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes ahead were considered.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Don Valley Academy, Doncaster, to discuss whether to approve the closure of the sixth form provision.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted good April 2019.

Proposal is in line with the recommendations of Doncaster's Post-16 Review in 2018 to consolidate sixth form provision across the local authority.

Low pupil numbers have resulted in the provision not being financially viable.

The closure will not have detrimental impact on the viability of school and there is a range of alternative post-16 provision available in the locality.

The strength of financial management and governance at Delta Academies Trust and the impact on the school's future financial health if the proposal goes 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 school and trust of the decision.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

Project: Harrowby National Academies Trust (Multi-Academy Trust), Lincolnshire, to transfer to Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust (Multi-Academy Trust), Lincolnshire.

HTB discussion:

The Harrowby National Academies Trust comprises of 2 schools: The Harrowby Church of England Infant School and The National Church of England Junior School.

The schools would benefit from joining a larger established multi-academy trust. Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust has a well-developed primary arm and would be well placed to support the incoming schools. The Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust has a proven track record of driving improvement at smaller schools.

The financial health of both trusts; strength of financial management and governance at The Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this transfer is approved were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the trusts of the decision

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the HTB meeting.

Project: 2D- Whether West Grantham Church of England Primary Academy, **Lincolnshire**, should be allowed to close a site and reduce capacity from 420 places to 315 places

Type of decision: Significant Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Project withdrawn

Project: 2E Whether Spalding Academy, **Lincolnshire**, should be allowed a physical expansion of premise to increase mainstream capacity from 1622 places to 1772 places

Type of decision: Significant Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Significant change request was eligible for fast track consideration by the RSC and there was no need to be presented to the board.

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