

Notes of Meeting: [South East & South London] Headteacher Board

13 September 2018



General discussion points

Item	Discussion Point
RSC Update	General update on various DfE policy.

Discussion of projects, including decisions made by RSC with advice from HTB:

All decisions are made in reference to relevant legislation and the published criteria.

Converter Academy Orders

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
All Souls' CofE Primary School, Kent to join Aquila (Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust)	<p>Provisional KS2 data was consulted.</p> <p>Trust capacity for further growth discussed, given challenge of existing member schools: acknowledgment that as a church school, there are few alternative options in the local area.</p> <p>School improvement model is still based on using consultants – there was a question about the capacity for the trust to create their own school improvement plan that offers a significant difference from the LA's.</p> <p>The decrease in the trust's surplus, requested details on cause of this.</p>	Deferred until after trust review, and submission and evaluation of school improvement plan.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		

Project	HTB advice / Comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Kensington Avenue Primary School, Croydon to Join Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College for Girls as part of NMBEC SAT to MAT approval	<p>A request to ask for changes to the governance structure was made, as current arrangements do not reflect 'best-practice' as set out in the Governance Handbook and competency framework.</p> <p>Close geographical location of the school makes the match suitable.</p> <p>Strong educational performance was noted.</p>	<p>Approve as part of NMBEC Trust</p> <p>Change SAT to MAT paper – see also below.</p>	<p>None</p>
Further Actions Required	<p>Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.</p>		

Sponsored Route

Project	HTB advice / Comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Oakfield Primary School, Hampshire.	<p>Two sponsor options were provided: A local secondary school, and an approved MAT Sponsor</p> <p>Questions regarding the capacity of the MAT following their recent merger.</p> <p>Provisional KS2 data was consulted.</p> <p>More information requested on the secondary school.</p> <p>The secondary school would have to become a sponsor first.</p> <p>Not enough information on the secondary school's ability to provide primary expertise to Oakfield or at least support to the primary. But the close geographical proximity is a potential advantage.</p> <p>The MATs governance structure was compliant but did not always reflect 'best-practice'.</p> <p>Converting the secondary school SAT to MAT would improve sponsor capacity in the area.</p>	Deferred with intention that a decision to be made before the next HTB meeting due to the time sensitivities for the school.	None
Further Actions Required	Potential sponsors and school to be informed.		

Significant Change

Project	HTB advice / Comments	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Kemnal Technology College, Bromley – Change in Gender Composition	The move to co-ed would benefit pupils and provide more choice for parents in the area. Supported by LA from place planning perspective Information requested on the school's plan for introducing a single year of girls into the previously all-boys school.	Approve – but HTB requested integration and plan to increase pupil numbers from the school.	None
Further Actions Required	Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision		
Project	HTB advice / Comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Upper Shirley High, Southampton – Capacity Increase	Approval sensible, as extra capacity was needed in the local area.	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		

Trust Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise College for Girls, Croydon SAT to MAT	<p>Requested changes to the governance structure, as did not currently reflect 'best-practice' as set out in the Governance handbook and competency framework.</p> <p>Close geographical location of the school makes the match suitable.</p> <p>Strong educational performance was noted.</p>	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.		
Project	HTB advice / Comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Wandle Valley, Sutton to join Parallel Learning Trust – SAT to MAT Transfer	<p>Detailed discussion on the governance composition of the trust. Compliant, but felt the trust needs to bring in more external challenge.</p> <p>Geographical spread of the trust over multiple LAs. ESFA provided details of a financial repayment plan and will provide assurances as a condition of the approval.</p>	Approved with Conditions: ESFA to confirm that they are happy with the trust's financial plan.	None
Further Actions Required	Letter to be sent to trust informing them of decision; ESFA to confirm receipt of suitable financial plan.		

Project	HTB advice / Comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Wandle Valley, Sutton to join Parallel Learning Trust – SAT to MAT Transfer	Detailed discussion on the governance composition of the trust. Compliant, but felt the trust needs to bring in more external challenge. Geographical spread of the trust over multiple LAs. ESFA provided details of a financial repayment plan and will provide assurances as a condition of the approval.	Approved with Conditions: ESFA to confirm that they are happy with the trust's financial plan.	None
Further Actions Required	Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.		

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

Project	Decision type	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Changes to Cowplain School's SEN Provision. Hampshire	Significant Change	Approved	None
Action required: Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.			
Shenstone School, Bexley – Capacity Increase	Significant Change	Approved	None
Action required: Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.			
St Thomas' preschool to merge with St Thomas' Catholic Primary School, Kent	Significant Change	Approved	None
Action required: Letter to be sent to the trust informing them of the decision.			