

# Notes of Meeting: South East South London Headteacher Board

18/10/18

Hosted by Hayes Primary School, Spring Partnership Trust

## Attendance\*

RSC, Chair	Dominic Herrington RSC	Guests	Jo Brinkley (Host - Spring Partnership Trust CEO)
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Jon Chaloner (HTB) Mark Ducker (HTB) Nikki King (HTB) Paula Farrow (HTB) Justin Smith (HTB)	Apologies**	Stephen Carey (HTB)  Sir Andrew Carter (HTB)  Alison Beane (HTB)
DfE Senior Civil Servants	Maria Dawes (Deputy Director)  Jonathan Duff (Deputy Director)  ESFA representative	<p>*Attendance data is published annually on gov.uk</p> <p>**Members of the board who sent apologies have been consulted on all projects, where available, prior to the meeting (excluding items where there were conflicts). Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate).</p>	

## 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
<b>Warren Mead Infant School to Join The Oaks Academy, Surrey.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School improvement and other services are delivered by another, larger local trust. Questions arose about the Oaks' capacity to develop independently without the other trust if support wasn't continued.</li><li>• A recent Ofsted inspection of one the Oaks' academies commented positively on the support provided by the larger trust.</li><li>• Infant and Junior schools should be part of the same trust.</li><li>• Current leadership of trust is strong but there was a discussion over their future capacity, and their potential future plans.</li></ul>	AO approved with condition that school makes decision about future soon.	Jon Chaloner left the room and was not involved in the discussion.
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Academy Order issued.		

<b>Walton Oak Primary School to join Lumen Learning Trust, Surrey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trust's finances are in a strong position.</li> <li>• The trust has a strong record of school improvement.</li> <li>• The trust has a good track record with previously weak schools.</li> </ul>	Approved	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Academy order issued; trust to be informed.		
<b>Halling Primary School to join Cliffe Woods Academy Trust, Medway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agreed with conditions relating to recruiting trustees with the requisite skills in line with Governance Competency Framework, and providing clear financial planning strategy.</li> <li>• The chosen trust is further away than other trusts in the area, but there is a long-standing working relationship between trust and school.</li> <li>• The trust has a cautious approach to growth and are open to discussions with the department about this.</li> <li>• Suggestion that for smaller trusts of one or two schools, that Executive Headteacher is more suitable a title than CEO.</li> </ul>	Approve with conditions that trust continues to recruit appropriate trustees to its board, and provides a clear financial planning strategy.	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Academy order issued; trust to be informed.		

## Sponsored Route

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<b>Oakfield Primary School, Sponsor Match, Hampshire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two sponsor options were considered after a third withdrew before the meeting. The Romsey School Academy (The Gateway MAT) and Sponsor Option B.</li> <li>• The Romsey School Academy is viewed as financially stable.</li> <li>• The Romsey School Academy have improved their governance structure as per a previous request.</li> <li>• The Romsey School Academy is not LA's favoured option</li> <li>• Consideration was taken about the impact of choosing the Romsey School Academy on the pupil numbers of the local secondary. However, this was considered to be minimal.</li> <li>• Suggestion that Sponsor Option B joins Romsey, however idea already presented to school and rejected.</li> <li>• Sponsor Option B's finances viewed as significantly less strong than The Romsey School Academy's.</li> <li>• The school improvement plan for Oakfield that was submitted by The Romsey School Academy was evaluated as strong, drawing on support from a local primary teaching school</li> <li>• The school improvement plan supplied by Sponsor Option B was viewed as lacking sufficient detail.</li> </ul>	<p>The Romsey School Approved as chosen sponsor.</p>	<p>None</p>
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	<p>Sponsor to be informed; unsuccessful sponsor option to be given feedback.</p>		

<b>Twydall Primary School and Nursery Sponsor Options, Medway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential academy transfer options were considered following Ofsted inadequate judgement earlier this year.</li> <li>• However, it was taken into account that the school's KS2 results have improved under the current trust, albeit slower than originally hoped.</li> <li>• The Ofsted report concludes that the trust is putting improvement strategies in place and has brokered support from a wide range of sources.</li> <li>• Conclusion that academy transfer would halt current momentum and that a warning notice should be issued to the trust instead.</li> </ul>	Warning notice to be issued.	Mark Ducker and Justin Smith both left the room and were not involved in the discussion.
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Warning Notice to be sent to trust.		
<b>Green Oak CofE Primary School and Nursery, Sponsor Funding Route, Surrey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full Sponsorship is a considerable amount of money for a small school, however Green Oak has significant educational, leadership and contextual issues.</li> <li>• The selected sponsor is in strong financial position, but worries exist over forecasted budget positions over next three years. It is also about to sponsor another inadequate school.</li> <li>• There is an executive head in place to support Green Oak.</li> <li>• Questions were raised about the viability of the school given its endemic history of failure. However, there is no additional capacity in the town and a potential new housing development is planned within its catchment area.</li> </ul>	Approved Full Sponsorship funding route.	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Trust to be informed		

## Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<b>New Secondary School in Ebbsfleet to be sponsored by Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust, Kent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The trust is viewed as strong.</li> <li>• The proposed free school provides a faith option to the area, although it will cater for pupils of all faiths and none and won't have a faith based selection policy.</li> <li>• Agreement in principle with Kent LA recommendation of Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust.</li> <li>• More Free School Presumptions are planned in area – noted that not all new schools can be under the same trust.</li> </ul>	Approved, following receiving detailed information from Kent LA about their own rationale and assessment process.	Stephen Carey was not present at HTB meeting and was not involved in this discussion.
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Request rationale from Kent LA and send approval letters once decision is confirmed.		

# Significant Change

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<b>Sandringham School Age Range Change, Surrey</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The proposal has LA support, and no objections were made.</li></ul>	Approved	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Trust to be informed.		

## Trust Change

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<b>The Leigh Academy Trust, The Williamson Trust Merger, Medway</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The merger supports the aim of trust consolidation in Medway.</li> <li>• The merger would create a Medway hub for The Leigh Academy Trust, which already operates a secondary academy in the area.</li> <li>• Queried the capacity of Leigh to support several new schools joining their trust simultaneously, however none are failing and many are Ofsted Good.</li> <li>• RSC office has had discussions with Leigh Academies Trust about adapting and strengthening their governance as part of this merger.</li> </ul>	Approve with condition that The Leigh Academy Trust will not grow further this academic year, other than for schools already identified.	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Trusts to be informed.		

## Decisions taken by Exception

Project	Decision type	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<b>Carew Academy, Capacity Expansion, Sutton</b>	<b>Significant Change</b> To formalise the increase in capacity from 202 to 230 and the addition of temporary accommodation in response to increased demand for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) provision in Sutton.	Approved	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Trust to be informed.		
<b>Holy Innocents Catholic Primary School, to lower age limit, Bromley</b>	<b>Significant Change</b> A retrospective request to expand the age range of the academy from 5-11 to 3-11, effective as of 1 September 2018 to allow for the provision of a new nursery.	Approved	None
<b>Further Actions Required</b>	Trust to be informed.		