

Notes of Meeting: South East South London Headteacher Board

Date of Meeting: 15/11/18

Attendance*

RSC, Chair	Dominic Herrington (RSC)
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Paula Farrow Mark Ducker Justin Smith Stephen Carey Alison Beane Nikki King
DfE Senior Civil Servants	Maria Dawes (Deputy Director) Jonathan Duff (Deputy Director) Representative from ESFA
Guests	Colin Powell – Host (SDBE MAT)
Apologies**	Jon Chaloner Sir Andrew Carter

*Attendance data is published annually on gov.uk

**Members of the board who apologised 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).

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
Saffron Valley Collegiate to join Alternative Learning Trust, Croydon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB members requested more information about how school improvement work would be undertaken between The Alternative Learning Trust/Limes College and the Saffron Valley Collegiate; and whether/how the Beckmead School would remain involved now that it has decided not to join the trust. • The trust board should be strengthened by appointing a trustee with financial expertise, to ensure external financial challenge. • HTB members requested confirmation that members and trustees who have links to organisations that could potentially provide services to the trust have declared any such transactions, in line with the requirements of the Academies Financial Handbook. 	Deferred until December 13 th HTB.	None
Further Actions Required	RSC Team to collate further information on the following and bring to the next HTB meeting on December 13 th : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School improvement plans and arrangements between Alternative Learning Trust and Saffron Valley Collegiate • Further due diligence on Members and Trustees with links to outside organisations that could potentially provide services to the trust • Result of discussions with trust about bringing a trustee with financial expertise onto the board of trustees 		

Castilion Primary School, Bexley and St Paul's Cray CE Primary School, Bromley to join Amadeus Primary Academies Trust, Bexley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School improvement capacity of the trust has improved since the proposal first went before HTB in the previous academic year. • Trust responded well to previous requests made to them by HTB, including providing substantial School Improvement Plans. • Following a recent trust review with the RSC Team, the RSC team is of the view that trust has capacity to take on new schools. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Academy Orders to be sent to Chairs of Governors, and trust to be informed of decision.		

Anney Catholic Primary to join Bosco Education Trust, East Sussex.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request for detailed information on the trustees and members was made. • HTB asked whether the CEO needs a mentor. RSC assured that CEO has a lot of support from Catholic Diocese and from another MAT CEO through an informal relationship. • Trust is supportive of the development of two Catholic trusts in the region, which is in line with the wish to provide choice to parents. • Trust have previously delayed proposing the transfer of this school as they were focussed on supporting another school. The trust feel they now have capacity to take on this school. • RSC is supportive of further growth of this trust, and discussions between trust and RSC have been positive. • Trust has a good relationship with Catholic Diocese. • There is strong collaboration between the Catholic schools in the area and the Diocese. 	Approved providing RSC identifies no issues with trustees and Equalities impact that he feels requires HTB advice.	None
Further Actions Required	RSC Office to provide RSC with details on trustees and members, before RSC confirms approval.		

Stamshaw Infant School, Portsmouth to join University of Chichester (MAT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important that the Infant joins the Junior school to reduce transition issues, which the proposal would ensure. • University fully supportive of the MAT. • Chair of trust considered particularly strong. High confidence in her ability to hold CEO to account. • A sponsored school under the trust recently received a Good Ofsted report. • ESFA has provided assurance on material controlled weaknesses. 	<p>Approved</p>	<p>None</p>
Further Actions Required	<p>Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.</p>		

Significant Change

Project	HTB advice / comments:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<p>Phoenix Junior Academy, Medway. Lowering age range.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal previously declined in November 2017 due to low KS2 performance, uncertainty about the need for pupil places in the local area, and the potential for Greenvale (a local Infant on adjacent land, which is a feeder school) to join together in the future. • The proposal is being resubmitted, noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Based on provisional data, KS2 performance has improved. ○ The trust, Fort Pitt Thomas Aveling Academies (FPTA), had a positive trust review this term ○ Greenvale has been consulted and has determined to remain a local authority maintained school for the immediate future. ○ The local authority can see the benefits of creating flexibility in the system through the creation of these 15 extra places. It believes any impact on places at nearby schools can be managed. • Any change must be coherent with a local authority proposal to transition Greenvale to an all through primary. • Changes in FPTA trust governance are being made, so that there is a clear separation of duties between trustees and Local Governing Bodies (LGBs). • Greenvale will not benefit from the economies of scale joining a MAT would afford them as a standalone school. • ESFA reported that identified control weaknesses from the trust's most recent audit have been properly addressed. 	<p>Approved with conditions on trust governance, coherent timing and that the placement of pupil with EHC Plan is resolved satisfactorily.</p>	<p>None</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school is in discussion with the local authority around the placement of a pupil with an Education, Health and Care Plan. This should be resolved satisfactorily as a condition of approval. 		
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of decision.		
The Laurels Primary School, Worthing. Nursery Closure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no pupils in the nursery. West Sussex LA support the closure as there is sufficient high quality nursery provision in the immediate locality. The Laurels is receiving significant support from the trust (Durrington MAT), and without the nursery the school/trust would be able to refocus support on KS1/2. Trust finances were discussed, with input from ESFA, with reference to CEO salary and the trust surplus. The surplus is to reduce over the coming years. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	School and trust to be informed.		
Brantridge School, West Sussex. Removal of Boarding Provision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are only two pupils in boarding provision – this leads the provision to be financially unviable. One pupil already has an alternative place, the other has yet to decide on their alternative options Parents of both understand the reasoning behind the proposed closure, and unviability of the boarding provision. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	School and trust to be informed.		

Decisions escalated to Systems Minister

Project	HTB advice / comments	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Chamberlayne College for the Arts, Southampton. dAO Revocation.	<p>As a novel and/or contentious case this paper is for discussion before being escalated to the minister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school was judged by Ofsted as Requires Improvement in June 18 with good for Leadership and Management. However, Year 11 outcomes were still below government floor standards in summer 2018. Ofsted identified strong leadership from the current headteacher. • The school is only at 46% capacity and there has been significant discussion about closing the school. However, the LA are certain that school places will be needed in the next few years due to increased number of housing developments across Southampton and Hampshire. • Due to viability issues, it is unlikely that the original sponsor, Oasis Community Learning, would wish to continue as the named sponsor. The governing body and LA are concerned about Oasis as the sponsor due to the potential monopoly of Oasis schools in the area. The LA and governing body would potentially support an alternative sponsor. • Other trusts in the area have been considered and have begun due diligence. 	<p>Escalated due to novel and contentious nature.</p>	<p>None</p>
Further Actions Required	<p>Explore alternative sponsor options for the school.</p>		

<p>Ark William Parker, East Sussex. Physical Expansion and change in Gender Composition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARK is proposing to amalgamate ARK Helenswood and ARK William Parker. The new school will be a co-educational, CofE school with Year 7 & 8 on the Helenswood site and Year 9 – 13 on the current William Parker site. • The current schools are currently under 50% capacity and are running at a deficit. • The proposal is educationally sound. Amalgamating the schools would open up opportunities for both boys and girls that were otherwise unavailable to them as Helenswood has performing arts specialism and William Parker has sports specialism. In addition, Ark proposes to strengthen the transition between KS2 and 3 by developing an enhanced KS3 curriculum and provision. • Consideration of Ark’s consultation responses was made. • During the consultation, the issue of the girls moving from non-faith ARK Helenswood to a faith school was not raised. • The LA, MP, Hastings Opportunity Area Board, and other trusts in the area are supportive of the move. • ARK have informed RSC Office that they have addressed concerns brought to them by the William Parker Foundation. • ARK have strong plans in place for supporting the amalgamation and for future school improvement. 	<p>Escalate to minister, with recommendation to approve.</p>	<p>Jon Chaloner was not present at the meeting and did not receive the paper.</p>
<p>Further Actions Required</p>	<p>Trust to be informed of progress. Case and recommendation for approval to be sent to minister.</p>		