

Notes of Meeting: South East South London Headteacher Board

13 December 2018

Attendance*

RSC, Chair	Dominic Herrington RSC	Guests	None
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Alison Beane Stephen Carey Jon Chaloner Mark Ducker Paula Farrow Nikki King Justin Smith	Apologies**	Sir Andrew Carter
DfE Senior Civil Servants	Maria Dawes (Deputy Director) Jonathan Duff (Deputy Director) ESFA Representative	*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 discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Maybury Primary School, Surrey to join Engage Enrich Excel Academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viewed as a suitable and strong match, as the school and trust were working together before the decision to convert was formalised. Governing board provides effective challenge to trust leaders. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be issued, and trust to be informed.		
Belmont and Woodside School, Bexley to join London South East Academies Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that the current school improvement plans include the use of external education consultants. Board requested more detail on the trust's school improvement strategy once it has been further developed. 	Approved subject to condition.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to provide their school improvement strategy for review once it is developed. Academy Orders to be issued.		

All Souls' CofE Primary School, Kent to join Aquila (Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that current school improvement strategy is not leading to uniformly good results. Advised that trust evolve its strategy to build stronger in-house school improvement capacity to secure good results across all schools in the trust. Noted that this issue had also been raised with the trust at their recent review meeting. The school is Ofsted Good and viewed as stable and a capacity giver to the trust. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be issued.		
The Limes College, Croydon to convert to Alternative Learning Trust and Saffron Valley Collegiate, Croydon to join Alternative Learning Trust.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed trust board could be strengthened with additional financial expertise. Extra information had been provided about the financial experience of one trustee, but the board felt an additional trustee with a financial background would ensure sufficient external challenge on financial issues. The proposal is approved subject to a member with financial expertise being appointed to the board. SVC approved to join ALT subject to them successfully converting to a MAT. 	Approved subject to condition.	Jon Challoner declared a member of the trust is headteacher of a GLF school and did not contribute to the discussion.
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of the need to appoint a trustee on the board with a financial background. Academy order issued.		

Sponsored Route

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Coppice Spring Special Academy, Hampshire to join Catch22 MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The trust has a longstanding charitable status and is viewed as a good organisation that would be committed to the school. Catch22 already has one academy and one Free School due to open near to Coppice Spring. The creation of a small hub of schools will allow Catch22 to make financial efficiencies in addition to strengthening school improvement. 	Approved subject to condition.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to increase the number of members from 3 to 5 before the transfer takes place and MAT executive Principal to cease to be a trustee.		

Sponsor Application

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Beckmead Family of Schools, Bexley to convert to The Beckmead Trust as a Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB was supportive of these special and Alternative Provision schools looking to come together to support each other, but there was some concern over distance between existing schools in the proposed trust and potential new provision. • The trust has also applied to sponsor a Free School outside of the region, which would result in a large trust footprint. • The proposed executive headteacher is highly rated. • HTB queried the rationale of the trust's proposed top slice, which is lower than is standard. • HTB would have liked a more detailed school improvement plan from the trust. 	Approved with conditions.	None
Further Actions Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust to provide a 2 year growth plan. • Trust to attend a trust review meeting in January with Jonathan Duff. • Jonathan Duff to provide the board with an update following the review in January. 		

Significant Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Churchwood Primary School, UBAT, East Sussex – Addition of a SEN Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust should show no material weaknesses in 17/18 audit report as a condition of decision. • HTB queried whether the board had suitable representation to ensure trust accountability for the proposed provision. The RSC office will discuss this with the trust to ensure a solution is in place. • Clarity was requested on the exact amount of funding being allocated for each student in the new facility. 	Approved subject to condition that no material weaknesses are present on 17/18 audit letter.	None
Further Actions Required	Inform trust and school of the decision.		
Oakwood Primary School, Aurora, East Sussex – Change to lower age limit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no changes to buildings or staffing as part of proposal. • No objections were made during the consultation. • HTB were not presented with the trust's full governance structure as this was being discussed in the imminent trust review. 	Approved subject to RSC being satisfied with current governance structure.	None
Further Actions Required	RSC to be satisfied with governance structure before approving.		

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School, Kent – To add a specialist resources provision (SRP) for children with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for ASD provision in Kent is increasing. • The board were supportive and had no further comments. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust and school to be informed.		

Decisions taken on behalf of another RSC

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Heartlands High School, Haringey – Addition of a sixth form provision.	<p style="text-align: center;">Significant Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a novel and/or contentious proposal, the decision will be escalated to the minister. • Proposal needs to evaluate the impact of approval on surrounding sixth forms and colleges. • It was not clear what percentage of year 11s in the school will be retained in the proposed sixth form. • The proposal is reliant on CIF Funding. • LA is neutral about the proposal. • The consultation is out of date and will need to be re-run. <p>This decision was taken on behalf of RSC EENEL due to a conflict.</p>	Escalate to Schools Minister	Jonathan Duff declared a conflict, as a former governor at a Haringey school, and was not present for the discussion.
Further Actions Required	RSC EENEL Office to inform trust of discussion and request information and consultation be run before escalating to minister.		

Decisions by Exception

Project	Decision type	RSC Decision	Conflicts
The John Wallis Church of England Academy, Kent.	Significant Change To lower age range from 3-19 to 2-19 to allow the academy to admit the 2 year olds from a local nursery that is due to close on 31 December.	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		
St Antony's Catholic Primary School, Bromley.	Significant Change A retrospective request to expand the age range of the academy from 4-11 to 2-11 effective as of 10 September to allow for the provision of a pre-school facility.	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, Medway	Significant Change Application to physically expand the school premises to accommodate an increased PAN.	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		
Holcombe Grammar School, Medway.	Significant Change Application to physically expand the school premises to accommodate an increased PAN.	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision.		

Decisions taken between meetings

Wey House School, Surrey – IEB Approval	This decision was taken after this meeting and before the 29 January meeting in response to an urgent request from the Local Authority. HTB Members were sighted on this decision and made no objections.	Approved	None
--	--	----------	------

Decisions escalated to the Systems Minister

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Heartlands High School, Haringey – Addition of a sixth form provision.	Please see above for full details of this paper under Decisions taken on behalf of another RSC.		
Further Actions Required			

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

Project	Reason taken off the agenda:
Hackbridge Primary School	Necessary papers not ready.