

Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

31 January 2019

Attendance*

RSC, Chair	John Edwards	Guests
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Andrew Burns Andrew Child Anne Martin Inderjit Sandhu Paul Stone Roisin Paul	Apologies** Peter Bell
DfE Senior Civil Servants	Carol Gray ESfA representative	*Attendance data is published annually on gov.uk

General Discussion Points

Item	Discussion Point
HTB Membership	John welcomed the HTB members and introduced the newly appointed member Inderjit Sandhu, Executive Headteacher of Scholars Academy Trust to the Board.

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
The Skegness Seathorne Primary School, Lincolnshire to join Greenwood Academies Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School and trust already working together. Clear plans in place to strengthen its deployment and support to the school• Trust has capacity and expertise at primary level• The school will join the trust's cluster already established in Skegness – four good rated Ofsted primary schools within the immediate area• Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust. Governance has recently been strengthened and is now robust. The impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting Skegness Seathorne's pupil number projections and finances.	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Abbey Primary Community School, Leicester to join The Mead	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial assessment of school taken into consideration and the impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting Abbey's pupil number projections and finances.• Trust has a good track record and has improved performance of schools already in the trust. It has capacity to support this school.	Approve	

Educational Trust			
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Woodthorpe Church of England Primary School, Derbyshire to join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust has a strong track record in school improvement Woodthorpe's pupil number projections and finances noted, strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered Whilst this is a small school – capacity 119. 130 on roll, it was noted that it can add capacity to the trust given the good Ofsted rating (2014) and strong 2018 KS2 results – above national average. 	Approve	Anne Martin was not present for this item and did not receive papers
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Walton Holymoorside Primary and Nursery School, Derbyshire to join Learner's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSC team are reassured capacity and systems in place to support transition of the five schools into the trust Governance arrangements and financial management in place at the trust was considered. Noted Walton's pupil number projections, impact on finances and the trust's future financial health if they take on this school 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		

Old Hall Junior School, Derbyshire to join Learner's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC team are reassured capacity and systems in place to support transition of the five schools into the trust. • Governance arrangements and financial management in place at the trust was considered. Noted Old Hall's pupil number projections, impact on finances and the trust's future financial health if they take on this school 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Westfield Infant School, Derbyshire to join Learner's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC team are reassured capacity and systems in place to support transition of the five schools into the trust • Governance arrangements and financial management in place at the trust was considered. Noted Westfield's pupil number projections, impact on finances and the trust's future financial health if they take on this school 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Ashgate Croft School, Derbyshire to join Learner's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RSC team are reassured capacity and systems in place to support transition of the 5 schools into the trust • Noted that the special school wished to join a trust offering mainstream provision • Governance arrangements and financial management in place at the trust was considered. Noted Ashgate's pupil number projections, impact on finances and the trust's future financial health if they take on this school 	Approve	
Further Actions	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		

Required			
Hodthorpe Primary School, Derbyshire to join Learner's Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RSC team are reassured capacity and systems in place to support transition of the five schools into the trust Governance arrangements and financial management in place at the trust was considered. Noted Hodthorpe's pupil number projections, impact on finances and the trust's future financial health if they take on this school. The HTB advised the RSC the school should join the trust as a converter . 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		
Brooklands Primary School, Derbyshire to join The Flying High Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust has strong track record at primary level. Has improved performance of schools already in the trust. Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust was discussed. The impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting Brooklands's pupil number projections and finances. Trust using Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning to make efficiencies. Trust has capacity to take on this school. Governance has recently been strengthened and to prepare for further growth the trust will need to expand number and expertise of trustees. 	Approve	Paul Stone was not present for this item and did not receive the papers
Further Actions Required	Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.		

Sponsored Route

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
The Green Infant School, Derbyshire to be sponsored by The Flying High Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ofsted Inadequate February 2018 Trust has strong track record at primary level. Has improved performance of schools already in the trust. Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust was discussed. The impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting Brooklands's pupil number projections and finances. Trust using Integrated Curriculum Financial Planning to make efficiencies. Trust has capacity to take on this school. Governance has recently been strengthened and to prepare for further growth the trust will need to expand number and expertise of trustees. 	Approve	Paul Stone was not present for this item and did not receive the papers
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision		

Free School Presumption – Sponsor Approval

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Sharphill Primary School Presumption Project, Nottinghamshire to join Spencer Academies Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority recommended that the school is sponsored by Spencer Academies Trust and board agreed with recommendation Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust was considered Noted that the phased openings of Spencer's portfolio of free schools will assist Trust in managing their capacity 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Free Schools Group to confirm with the local authority that the RSC is content with their recommendation		
Hackwood Farm Primary School presumption project, Derby to join The Harmony Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The local authority recommended that for the school is sponsored by The Harmony Trust Strength of financial management and governance arrangements considered. Further information is required on the trust's finances and growth plan 	Defer with intention to discuss at a future HTB meeting	
Further Actions Required	Free Schools team to collate further detail relating to the trust's growth plan and long-term financial plan and bring to a future HTB meeting.		

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
The Dearne Advanced Learning Centre, Barnsley to join Astrea Academy Trust	Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2019 No issues were raised	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	No action required		
Askern Moss Road Infant School, Doncaster to join Leger Education Trust	Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2019 No issues were raised	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	No action required		
Littlemoor Children's Centre and School, Doncaster to	Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2019 No issues were raised	Approve	None

join Leger Education Trust			
Further Actions Required	No action required		
Arboretum Primary School, Derby to join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust	<p>Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2019</p> <p>No issues were raised</p>	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	No action required		

Significant Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Burton Green Primary School (Hope Learning Trust), York to lower the age range limit from 3-11 to 2-11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong local demand noted • Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health considered. • Further information required on the trust's financial model, in particular to understand the plans around admissions relating to this school 	Approve with conditions – further information required relating to trust's financial model	None
Further Actions Required	Project lead to inform trust/school of the decision		

Trust Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
West Grantham Academy St John's, Lincolnshire to join The Archway Learning Trust MAT to MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust has systems and expertise to deploy and support school improvement Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting St John's pupil number projections and finances. Opportunity to grow the trust in this part of the region where there are relatively few trusts with capacity to take on challenging schools. 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision		
West Grantham Academy St Hugh's, Lincolnshire to join The Archway Learning Trust MAT to MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust has systems and expertise to deploy and support school improvement Strength of financial management and governance arrangements in place at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting St Hugh's pupil number projections and finances. Opportunity to grow the trust in this part of the region where there are relatively few trusts with capacity to take on challenging schools. 	Approve	

Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision		
Snaith School, East Riding of Yorkshire, to join The Education Alliance Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust has a strong track record in school improvement and has improved performance of schools already in the trust. • School and trust already working together • The strength of trust's financial management and governance arrangements in place and the impact on the trust's future financial health if they take on this school was considered, noting Snaith's pupil number projections and finances. • Trust governance structure considered. Need to ensure a strong scheme of delegation is in place at trust and school level. 	Approve	
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of the decision		

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

Project	Reason taken off the agenda:
Askern Spa Junior School, Doncaster confirmation of sponsorship funding route	HTB advice not required