

Notes of Meeting: South East South London Headteacher Board

25 April 2019

Attendance*

RSC, Chair	Dominic Herrington RSC	Guests	None
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Alison Beane Stephen Carey Sir Andrew Carter Mark Ducker Paula Farrow Nikki King	Apologies** Jon Chaloner	
DfE Senior Civil Servants	Jonathan Duff (Acting Director) Deonne Rowland (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
Robin Hood Primary School, Kingston Upon Thames to join Coombe Academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB supportive of conversion and choice of MAT. 	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision Issue Academy Order.		
St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Surrey to join Xavier Catholic Education Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choice is limited when a Catholic school decides to convert in the area. However, conversion in this case makes educational sense. That governance of the trust could be strengthened by creating greater separation between trustees and chairs / members of local governing bodies. The trust could benefit from the recruitment of an independent trustee. 	Approved	

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Further Actions Required	<p>Strong recommendation that trust adds more independent challenge to its trustee board. RSC office to follow this up with the trust.</p> <p>RSC office to discuss future plans with the diocese particularly on the issue of creating more trust choice and diversity in Surrey.</p> <p>Inform trust of decision.</p> <p>Issue Academy Order.</p>		
Hinchley Wood Primary School, Surrey to join Hinchley Wood Learning Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB content that trust has taken on board RSC steers about governance made at January HTB. • RSC office highlighted that intention is for Lumen Learning Trust to carry on providing support to the trust. 	Approved	
Further Actions Required	<p>Inform trust of decision.</p> <p>Issue Academy Order.</p>		

Sponsored Route

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Stanley Park High School Sutton – Re-brokerage Sponsor Options for discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB clear that school would benefit from the support of a MAT. There are several strong options for a sponsor which should be considered. 	Bring back to the next HTB a full sponsor options paper highlighting three potential options.	Mark Ducker declared an interest prior to the meeting and left the room
Further Actions Required			
Dartford Bridge Community Primary School, Kent- Sponsor Options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing school improvement relationship with Cygnus Academies Trust is working well and this should carry on. There are multiple strong sponsor options, but, given the support that Cygnus is already providing, it is sensible to formalise this arrangement. Site issues will be challenging in terms of pace of conversion. 	Approved Cygnus Academies Trust as sponsor	Paula Farrow left the room and did not receive the paper prior to the meeting
Further Actions Required	No growth and period of consolidation for one year for Cygnus Academies Trust. Inform trust of decision.		

Significant Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Teddington School, Richmond to join Bourne Education Trust (BET)– Rebrokerage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for strong financial management and governance leadership which BET can provide. 	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision.		
The Brent Primary School, Kent to join Cygnus Academies Trust - SAT to MAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two strong, experienced leaders joining together with skills that complement each other well. 	Approved	Paula Farrow left the room and did not receive the paper prior to the meeting
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision.		
Cliffdale Primary School, Solent Academies Trust, Portsmouth - Age range and capacity change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The local authority is very supportive of this change. • Concerns over financial projections for Solent Academies Trust. An SRMA (School Resource Management Adviser) will be deployed to provide advice on improving trust finances. • The trust needs to consider succession planning for current CEO. 	Approved	Alison Beane left the room and did not receive the paper prior to the meeting.

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision and arrange for SRMA to be deployed to Solent Academies Trust.		
St. Columba Church of England Primary School, Portsmouth and Winchester Diocesan Academies Trust, Hampshire - to discuss rebrokerage options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future of the trust will need to be considered in light of proposed re-brokerage decision on St. Columba. • RSC office highlighted limited sponsor options in Hampshire. 	RSC Office to explore sponsor options.	
Further Actions Required	RSC Office to explore sponsor options.		
Oaks Academy Trust, Surrey to join GLF Schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB noted that Oaks Academy Trust works very closely with GLF currently. • RSC office highlighted that Oaks has now agreed to join GLF which will grow the trust by 4 schools. • RSC office has agreed with GLF that trust will now have a consolidated period of growth in both SE and South London and NW London and South Central regions. 	Approved	Jon Chaloner did not attend and did not receive the paper prior to the meeting.

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision. RSC office to agree in writing with GLF that the trust should now have a period of consolidation.		

Decisions taken on behalf of another RSC

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
<p>South West RSC Papers 3.1.A (i) Atlantic Centre of Excellence (ACE) MAT, Cornwall to join The Learning Academy Trust, Cornwall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB questioned decision to appoint a CEO in principle before decision on merger made. • HTB highlighted the leadership challenge of increasing from 10 schools to 18 and asked what support would be available to the CEO. • Concern over one of ACEs school moving from Ofsted Outstanding to RI, but RSC office confident of capacity to support this school and others. • HTB questioned the financial plans, specifically restructuring costs and combined forecasting. No modelling yet of extra cost savings but an SRMA has been commissioned to carry out a review. 	<p>Approved with condition that:</p> <p>SRMA (School Resources Management Adviser) carry out a review of the trusts financial position.</p>	<p>South-West RSC, Lisa Mannall had a conflict of interest and so the paper was heard by the South-East and South London RSC.</p>
<p>Further Actions Required</p>	<p>Strong recommendation that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential CEO is supported and mentored by experienced executive leader who has undertaken similar merger. This can be a trust in a different region. - RSC office work closely with the trust during this merger process, specifically by holding termly catch-ups. <p>Inform trust of decision</p>		

Decisions taken between meetings

Project	Decision type	RSC decision	Conflicts
The Norton Knatchbull School, Kent	Physical expansion	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School, The Tenax Schools Trust, Kent	Physical expansion	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		
Hersden Village Primary School, The Stour Academy Trust, Kent	Physical expansion	Approved	

Project	Decision type	RSC decision	Conflicts
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		
Adisham CofE Primary School, The Stour Academy Trust, Kent	Capacity reduction	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		
Lansdowne Primary School, The Stour Academy Trust, Kent	Physical expansion (updating funding agreement)	Approved	
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		
Richmond Academy, The Stour Academy Trust, Kent	Age range change (updating funding agreement)	Approved	

Project	Decision type	RSC decision	Conflicts
Further Actions Required	Inform trust of decision		

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

Project	Reason taken off the agenda:
Victor Seymour Infants' School, Greenshaw Learning Trust, Sutton- Age range change	Paper has been deferred to the following meeting on 23 May.
Harris Academy, Merton- Expansion (retrospective requests)	Paper has been deferred to the following meeting on 23 May.