

Notes of Meeting: South East South London Headteacher Board

23 May 2019

Attendance*

Chair	Jonathan Duff (Acting Director) Dominic Herrington was unable to attend this meeting. Advice from the Headteacher board was given to him after the meeting to inform his decisions about the items discussed.	Guests	David Boyle (CEO Dunraven Educational Trust)
Headteacher Board (HTB) Members	Stephen Carey Alison Beane Jon Chaloner Mark Ducker Paula Farrow Nikki King	Apologies**	Sir Andrew Carter Dominic Herrington RSC

DfE Senior Civil Servants 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
Knapp Hill Lower School and Knapp Hill School, to join The Goldsworth Trust, Surrey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB highlighted as a good match. The trust has previous success of taking on a sponsored academy, achieving a Good Ofsted at first inspection. Recommendations to improve governance have been provided. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust and schools to be informed and academy orders to be sent.		

Sponsored Route

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
The Park School, Surrey – Sponsor options paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB agreed that Weyden MAT is a strong trust and suitable sponsor for The Park School, and that fast track funding is appropriate in this case. HTB discussed the improvements to governance being made with some key appointments to the board. 	Approve Weydon MAT as sponsor. Fast track funding agreed.	None
Further Actions Required	Inform the trust of the decision.		

Stanley Park High School, Sutton – Academy transfer sponsor match	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three potential sponsors were discussed, all were seen as strong and viable options that offered something different for the school. • HTB recommended Cheam Academies Network as the preferred sponsor. • Cheam is a local Outstanding school, an approved sponsor with capacity and has an existing relationship with the school. • HTB offered support for Cheam in their work with Stanley Park and suggested a HTB member peer review their improvement plan. 	Cheam Academies Network approved – Action plan to be reviewed by a HTB member.	Jon Chaloner did receive the papers, but left the room for the discussion and did not contribute his views.
Further Actions Required	Trusts to be informed of the decision.		
North West Kent Alternative Provision Service, Kent – Sponsor options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB agreed that Alternative Learning Trust was a strong sponsor option for NWKAP. • HTB are confident in the trust’s capacity and expertise, however questioned the trust’s finances – particularly in light of the fluctuating levels of funding given to APs and the fact that KCC is currently reviewing their AP model. 	Approve Alternative Learning Trust as sponsor.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust and informed of decision.		

Wainscott Primary School, Medway – Sponsor options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Primary First Trust was chosen based on strong performance at KS2, their proximity to the school, and that this completes a hub for the trust in Medway. 	The Primary First Trust recommended as sponsor.	Mark Ducker did not receive the papers and left the room for the discussion.
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed.		
Hawksmoor School, Greenwich - Sponsor options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB agree Endeavour is an appropriate match. Endeavour has experience working with the school and in the local borough. HTB highlighted Endeavour’s close proximity to Hawksmoor as a significant advantage. HTB requested changes to be made to Endeavour’s governance as part of approval. 	Endeavour recommended as sponsor.	Mark Ducker did not receive the papers and left the room for the discussion.
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of decision and formally approved as a sponsor.		

Sponsor Application

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Partners in Learning, Sussex – Sponsor assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB questioned whether the educational performance of the trust was strong enough to warrant sponsor status. • HTB believe that the trust could benefit from more educational challenge on the board. • HTB recommended to defer decision until next set of results are available to scrutinise. 	Defer until another set of results are available.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed.		
The Kite Academy Trust, Surrey and Hampshire – Application for sponsor funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB agreed arguments are finely balanced. • Sponsor funding would support the schools, and would change the dynamic for the schools, emphasising the need to improve. • However, the trust has reserves that could be deployed. • HTB note the argument against due to the trust reserves, but the majority agree in principle with additional sponsor funding. 	Approved with the following conditions: Costed school improvement plan. Independent Trust board established.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed of discussion and final decision to seek additional funding to be taken by RSC.		

Alternative Learning Trust – Sponsor Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreed as part of North West Alternative Provision Service sponsor options paper. 	Approved	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed.		

Significant Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
St Dominic's School, Surrey – Removal of boarding provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB agreed with the school's decision without further comment. 	Approve	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed.		
Bletchingley Village Primary School, Tandridge Learning Trust, Surrey – Age range change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB suggested the need for the trust to bring someone with nursery expertise onto the board HTB highlighted a potential issue with trust governance around local authority membership – this point needs to be clarified. HTB concerned about declining financial position and suggested it would be useful for an SRMA to visit. 	Approve with conditions: Schools Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) to work with the trust.	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed. RSC team to consider issue around trust governance and follow up with the trust. Arrange for SRMA visit.		

<p>Brantridge School, Orchard Hill Academy Trust, West Sussex – Expand capacity and change of gender composition (to co-ed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust has good Ofsted track record, including two Outstanding judgments in the last year. • HTB unclear on rationale for change to gender mix and highlighted lack of firm commitment from the local authority. • HTB need more evidence of need and a stronger argument for the proposal on educational grounds. • HTB would also like an implementation plan to scrutinise. 	<p>Defer</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Further Actions Required</p>	<p>Request for more information from the trust on the rationale for the proposal and seek firmer commitment from the local authority in respect of places.</p>		
<p>Portslade Aldridge Community Academy, Aldridge Education Trust, Brighton and Hove – Temporary closure of sixth form</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB agree that the proposal is necessary. • The local authority is supportive. • HTB however, want assurances on the quality of education for the remaining pupils until the sixth form's closure. • HTB would like to see revised financial data on the basis of no sixth form provision. 	<p>Approve</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Further Actions Required</p>	<p>Trust to be informed, and revised financial data requested.</p>		
<p>Inspire Special Free School, Medway – Capacity and provision expansion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB agreed that the proposal has pragmatic merit. • HTB discussed the trust's financial position. This has improved over the last 16 months, and ESFA 	<p>Approved in principle, with conditions:</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>stated the trust's position is stable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for places in the region • HTB agreed that the provision would provide value for money for all involved. • HTB believe it is a large undertaking for the trust, so would like an action plan developed and close scrutiny as this project advances. 	<p>Capital approval for new build.</p> <p>Detailed implementation plan for expansion provided to HTB.</p>	
<p>Further Actions Required</p>	<p>Trust to be informed, and action plan requested.</p>		

Trust Change

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Charles Darwin Academy Trust, Bromley, to join Impact Academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB agree and fully endorse the proposal. • HTB queried the finances of the schools given their relative success – agreed it would be an ideal opportunity to involve an SRMA. • HTB would also like to use this as an opportunity to request improvements to governance. 	Approve	Jon Chaloner highlighted a historical short-term relationship as a trustee with one of the trusts. But this was not a current existing conflict of interest so he remained in the room.
Further Actions Required	Trusts to be informed.		
The Crescent Primary School, Croydon, to join The Pioneer Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HTB discussed the speed of growth of the trust, and suggested further discussions with the trust about their back-office functions. • It was confirmed that The Crescent Primary School, as a Good school, is able to make its own choice about joining a multi-academy trust. • HTB acknowledge the recent additions of two trustees improving the trust’s financial expertise. 	Approve with recommendations: Clarify that one trustee is not providing services to the Trust.	Jon Chaloner did receive the papers, but left the room for the discussion and did not contribute his views.
Further Actions Required	Trust and school to be informed. Seek clarification that the trustee is not supplying services to the trust.		

Decisions taken on behalf of another RSC

Project	HTB discussed:	RSC Decision	Conflicts
Princetown Community Primary School, Devon to join An Daras Multi-academy Trust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HTB agree with proposal subject to changes to governance structure. 	Approve with conditions to be negotiated.	None
Further Actions Required	Negotiate with trust changes to governance structure within a certain timeframe as a condition of approval.		

Decisions taken between meetings

Victor Seymour Infants' School, Sutton – Age range change		Approve	None
Further Actions Required	Trust to be informed.		

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

Project	Reason taken off the agenda:
Trafalgar Community Infant School, West Sussex to join Castle Academy Trust, Medway	Deferred until later HTB date.