



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting, East of England and North East London headteacher board

24 September 2020

Attendance

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

HTB members who apologised have been consulted on all projects, where available, before the meeting. This excludes items where there were conflicts. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate).

Regional school commissioner (RSC) chair

- Sue Baldwin (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Tom Canning (HTB)
- Brian Conway (HTB)
- Caroline Derbyshire (HTB)
- Diane Rochford (HTB)
- Al Kingsley (HTB)
- Karen Kerridge (HTB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (HTB)
- Duncan Ramsey (HTB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative

Apologies

- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC update

- The Note of Meeting for the July HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- No representations have been received for any projects on this meeting's agenda. The Board heard a presentation on mental health and wellbeing strategies told from 3 different perspectives. This included recovery response by the Mental Health Support Team from one of the department's mental health regional leads, pupil wellbeing support measures from the headteacher of Henley Primary School, and staff wellbeing measures from one of the HTB members, Karen Kerridge. The RSC and Board also took time to reflect on the opening weeks of the new term.

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: Hawkswood Primary PRU, Hawkswood Secondary PRU and Burnside Secondary PRU, Chingford, **Waltham Forest** – to convert and join Olive Academies Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the voluntary conversion application to transfer the three alternative provision (AP) LA-maintained schools (the Hawkswood Group) to Olive Academies Trust. They spoke about how the trust would be the best match for the schools due to their long-established AP specialism and expertise to support pupils' individual needs.
- The Board shared concerns with regards to the financial deficits and the projected pupil numbers within the schools. The ESFA noted the financial position of the trust and that it would not have the capacity to take on the cumulative deficits of the 3 schools or, going forward, absorb the in-year deficits indicated.
- The RSC decided that while the trust would be the best fit for the schools, further discussion was needed with the LA to understand the position of the pupil admissions and the schools' finances. Until further information was received the RSC decided to decline this project at this stage.

RSC decision: Decline.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust and schools to be informed of RSC decision. RSC will inform the LA of decision and request further information and discussion.

Project: Hardwick Primary School, Bury St Edmunds, **Suffolk** – to convert and join All Saints Schools Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB discussed the background to the voluntary converter application for Hardwick Primary School to convert and join All Saints Schools Trust. They spoke about how the trust's school improvement plans would match the school's needs and similarly the school's governance would bring capacity to the trust.
- The Board also spoke about the trust's plan to create a hub of support within Hardwick and agreed with the proposal.
- There was a concern with the school's financial viability with falling pupil admission number forecasted and suggested that joining the trust would secure the school's future viability.
- The RSC decided that this would be a mutually beneficial match and approved this project. The HTB supported this decision.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC decision, academy order to be sent.

Significant Changes

Project: Diocese of Ely Multi-Academy Trust to lower the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 in Swaffham Prior Church of England Primary Academy, Cambridge, **Cambridgeshire**, to include a nursery provision.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB discussed the background to the application for the school to reduce the lower-age limit from 4 years to 3 years of age to incorporate a nursery provision. They heard about the consultation process which showed the local need for a nursery in the catchment area and the trust's belief that the provision will enhance future pupil recruitment.
- The Board noted the improvement underway at the primary school and supported this application. The RSC decided to approve this proposal.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of the RSC's decision.

Project: Keys Co-Operative Academy Trust to add a sixth form provision in The Endeavour Co-Operative Academy, Brentwood, **Essex**.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB and RSC acknowledged the background to the Keys Co-Operative Academy Trust's application and had no concerns with the request to add a sixth form provision to the Endeavour Co-Operative Academy, a special school.
- The RSC approved the application and the HTB supported this decision.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.