



Notes of Meeting: South West Headteacher Board

22 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

- Hannah Woodhouse (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Brian Hooper (HTB)
- Suzanne Flack (HTB)
- Sally Apps (HTB)
- Steve Savory (HTB)
- Paul Jones (HTB)
- Michael Larsen (HTB)
- Alun Williams (HTB)
- Joy Tubbs (HTB)

Guests

- Kate Detheridge (RSC for North-West London and South Central England)
- Nitesh Gor (Avanti Schools Trust)
- Carolyn Dickinson (Avanti Schools Trust)
- Mike Ion (Avanti Schools Trust)

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Gordon (Deputy Director)
- Matt Stevenson (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Avanti South West Hub update

Nitesh Gor, Mike Ion and Carolyn Dickinson updated Headteacher Board members on the Avanti South West Hub.

September schools re-opening update

The Regional School's Commissioner's team updated Headteacher Board members on the team's ongoing Covid-19 response work and September re-opening of schools.

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.

Trust change

Project: Whether to approve the academy transfer of Colebrook Infant Academy (SAT), **Swindon** into Blue Kite Trust

HTB discussion:

- Five schools have recently joined Blue Kite Trust (BKT) in 2019 and 2020
- BKT's strong outcomes and school improvement record
- The financial position of the trust, sustainability and future plans
- The trust's governance structures and current vacancies on the Board of Trustees
- Link up with another trust which has grown to share good practice around governance structures, growth and finance

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve the voluntary transfer of the following schools from Inspiring Schools Partnership, **Plymouth** to Greenshaw Learning Trust:

- Stoke Damerel Community College, **Plymouth**
- Scott Medical and Healthcare College, **Plymouth**
- Montpelier Primary School, **Plymouth**

HTB discussion:

- The proposal is to create a Plymouth hub within Greenshaw Learning Trust (GLT) by approving the voluntary merger of Inspiring Schools Partnership (ISP) into GLT
- ISP have already been working closely with GLT
- GLT's cross-regional expertise in school improvement
- GLT's outcomes and record of school improvement
- The capacity and sustainability of the trust in light of recent and rapid growth
- The consultation has been ongoing, no opposition flagged so far
- The need for ongoing collaboration with the Plymouth school sector
- To undertake an external review of growth capacity by September 2021

RSC decision: Approve with conditions:

- i. Greenshaw Learning Trust to produce a high level Trust Financial Plan, including a three-year forecast that demonstrates a trajectory to a balanced in-year budget independent of any further growth or one-off grant funding. To be completed by 18 December 2020 and submitted to the ESFA.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve the academy transfer of Queen Elizabeth's School, **Devon** into Ted Wragg Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- Queen Elizabeth's (QE) school is a secondary SAT in Devon with Ofsted rating RI
- Staff shortages at QE
- Pupil numbers and sixth form at QE and monitoring these risks
- Ted Wragg are currently providing school improvement support to QE
- Geographical proximity
- Ted Wragg's financial position and capacity
- Ted Wragg's school improvement model and record

RSC decision: Approve in principle with conditions:

- i. The trust use their best endeavours to complete the transfer of All Saints before or at the same time as the transfer of Queen Elizabeth's.
- ii. The trust provide a clear governance structure, including detail at a hub level, prior to the transfer of All Saints.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust of decision and conditions

Converter academy orders

Project: Whether to approve Sky College, **Somerset** converting to academy status and joining Learn@ Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 February 2021
- Sky College is a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) community special school in Taunton
- Improvements at the school since the new headteacher arrived in 2019 and ongoing improvement priorities
- Sky College's consideration of alternative MAT options and rationale for joining Learn@ based on the MAT's SEMH expertise and structures.
- Local authority is supportive
- The trust's capacity for SI and financial position

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve Chipping Sodbury School, **South Gloucestershire** converting to academy status and joining the Athelstan Trust

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 April 2021
- Athelstan's knowledge of the school and current support which has been having a positive impact
- The trust's outcomes and school improvement record
- The trust's financial position and risk

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Significant change

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for The Cotswold Academy Trust, **Gloucestershire** to increase capacity

HTB discussion:

- Application is to approve retrospective 11-16 capacity increase, retrospective sixth form expansion and further capacity increase of 1 form entry (30 pupils) from September 2021, increasing PAN from 220 to 250.
- Proposed changes from September 2021 are to meet the basic need to provide more secondary school places in the local area.
- Local Authority are supportive and the changes are aligned to Local Authority's pupil place planning
- The academy's Outstanding Ofsted judgement and strong academic performance
- The financial position of the academy, which is expected to be stable going forward

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for the de-amalgamation of Avonbourne Girls Academy, **Bournemouth** from United Learning Trust

HTB discussion:

- Application is to approve a de-amalgamation to split the existing co-educational all-through provision, into a mixed-sex primary school and a single-sex girls' secondary school (with a mixed-sex sixth form).
- No issues raised

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts:

Further actions required: None

Academy openers and transfers approved in principle

Project: Paulton Infant School, **BANES**

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Pamphill Voluntary Controlled Church of England First School, **Dorset**

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Uphill Primary School, **North Somerset**

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Orchid Vale Primary School. **Swindon**

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Amesbury Archer Primary School, **Wiltshire**

HTB discussion:

- Opening date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: St Buryan Primary School, **Cornwall**

HTB discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: St James Church of England Primary and Nursery School, **Devon**

HTB discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 October 2020
- No issues raised.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Decisions by exception

Project: Wansdyke School, **Wiltshire** significant change application to increase resource base capacity from 20 to 28

HTB discussion:

- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns with this project.
- There was a need to expand mainstream provision in Wiltshire
- The responses to the consultation were positive and in support
- SLT noted that Wansdyke's Ofsted 'good' rating is from 2016
- The plans for pupils with complex needs were discussed.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: The Avenue Primary School, **Wiltshire** significant change application to increase resource base capacity from 18 to 28

HTB discussion:

- This project was discussed in conjunction with Wansdyke school, Wiltshire
- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns with this project.
- There was a need to expand mainstream provision in Wiltshire
- The responses to the consultation were positive and in support
- The plans for pupils with complex needs were discussed.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Venturers' Academy, **Bristol** significant change application to increase capacity

HTB discussion:

- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns.
- This project is part of Bristol LA's short term strategy to meet the demand for SEN places
- Additional reassurance was sought regarding safeguarding, a risk assessment has been provided and HTB are suitably assured.
- The group discussed governance and leadership including a proposal for one of the RSC office to spend some time at their Board meetings.
- The group discussed the confidence in SEND leadership.
- Any future growth should be done in close collaboration with the RSC office.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Longspee School, **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole** significant change application to increase special school capacity by 14 via a satellite site

HTB discussion:

- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns.
- Consultation responses were discussed, these were largely positive.
- The 'outstanding' Ofsted rating was discussed.
- Concerns that if this project isn't approved the provision will not be in place for September.
- RSC was satisfied, and the LA support was noted.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Manorside Academy , **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole** significant change application to approve the addition of a resource base for 10 pupils

HTB discussion:

- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns.
- Consultation responses were discussed, all were positive.
- LA support was noted.
- RSC content to approve.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Broadstone Middle School, **Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole** significant change application to approve the addition of a resource base for 15 pupils.

HTB discussion:

- HTB were consulted on this project via correspondence and did not raise any concerns.
- LA support was discussed and noted
- The consultation responses were discussed. There was a very engaged community response with some concerns raised.

- The concerns were that the resource base would divert attention from mainstream learners, stakeholders have been reassured as the resource base will be fully resourced by dedicated staff.
- RSC commented that more detail was needed about staffing, leadership and governance at the resource base and asked for further information in order to provide reassurance.

RSC decision: Approved with conditions via RSC meeting on 17 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

Conditions:

- i. Provide to the RSC office further details about the staffing, leadership and governance of the resource base
- ii. Undertake an external review of the resource base provision and arrangements for its leadership, support and challenge, and governance by December 2020.

Decisions made between HTB meetings

Project: Balcarras School, **Gloucestershire** retrospective significant change application to increase capacity

- Approval to increase capacity

RSC decision: Approved via RSC correspondence log on 13 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: SAND Academies Trust, **Gloucestershire** seeking approval for full sponsored funding and Environmental Improvement Grant for Tuffley Primary School.

- Approval for full sponsored funding and Environmental Improvement Grant

RSC decision: Approved via RSC correspondence log on 13 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: St Mark's Church of England School, **Bath and North East Somerset** significant change application to approve the addition of a resource base

- Approval for the addition of a resource base

RSC decision: Approved via RSC correspondence log on 18 August 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Somerset Road Education Trust, **Wiltshire** retrospective significant change application to increase capacity at Exeter House Special School from 134 to 152 pupils and adaption of the sixth form centre

- Approval to increase capacity and adaption of the sixth form centre

RSC decision: Approved via RSC correspondence log on 14 September 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Project: Marling School, **Gloucestershire** retrospective significant change application to increase capacity

- Approval to increase capacity

RSC decision: Approved via RSC correspondence log on 13 October 2020

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: None

Projects listed on the published draft agenda but were removed before the meeting

Project: Approval for the voluntary academy transfer of Plympton Academy (SAT), **Plymouth** to Greenshaw Learning Trust

Plympton Academy withdrew their application before the meeting.

RSC decision: N/A

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: N/A