



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

24 September 2020

Attendance

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

HTB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where available, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional school commissioner (RSC) chair

- Carol Gray

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Andrew Child
- Inderjit Sandhu
- Paul West
- Peter Bell
- Anne Martin
- Paul Stone

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives
- Rizwana Parveen
- Kelly Hughes

General discussion points

N/A

Converter academy orders

Project: St Augustine's School, Nottinghamshire, to join The Forge Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good October 2016.

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is below local authority and national average.

Trust already assisting school with phonics and reading, and could drive further improvements across other areas.

Governors believe the trust is a good strategic fit and that the school will benefit from the trust's expertise and support.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: John Clifford Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join White Hills Park Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good February 2020.

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is below local authority and national average.

Board supportive of school joining trust, due to its ability to drive improvement, provide support and share resources.

Board considers trust to be a good strategic match for school.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Springbank Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join White Hills Park Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good November 2018 (short inspection).

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is above local authority and national average.

School sees benefits of academisation.

Board supportive of school joining trust, due to its ability to drive improvement, provide support and share resources.

Board considers trust to be a good strategic match for school.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were considered.

Deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Spalding Primary School, Lincolnshire, to join Infinity Academies Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good April 2018 (short inspection).

Voluntary conversion.

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is at national average. Trust has capacity for school to join and will be able to support improvement. Board recommends school focuses on school improvement strategy.

School part of Welland Primary Schools Federation

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: The Pinchbeck East Church of England, Lincolnshire, to join Infinity Academies Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Requires Improvement May 2019.

Voluntary conversion.

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is below national average. Trust has capacity for school to join and will be able to provide support required. Board recommends school focuses on school improvement strategy.

School part of Welland Primary Schools Federation

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: Wrawby St Mary's CoE Primary School, North Lincolnshire, to join Lincoln Anglican Academy

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding November 2011.

Voluntary conversion.

Outcomes and progress scores in reading writing and maths are above national average.

School and trust have existing working relationship.

Trust has capacity for school to join and school will benefit from being in a trust.

Board recommended that trust set up centralised support and school improvement functions.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: St Ann's Junior School & Infant School, Rotherham to join James Montgomery Academy Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/10/2020

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change

Project: Birkett House School, Leicestershire- creation of a 10 place SEND satellite site at Thistly Meadow Primary School

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding November 2019.

Proposed satellite unit is part of Leicestershire local authority SEND strategy to support the increasing need in provision for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) across the county.

Pupils will have access to all the benefits a mainstream school can offer in conjunction with a specialist approach to some areas of their learning as identified in their EHCP plans.

The school is experienced in providing education across different sites.

Alternative options reviewed, which would involve out of county/ private provision, which would have a large financial impact on the local authority.

Effective date of proposed change is January 2021

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: The Cedars Academy, Leicestershire, should be allowed to add a 10 place SEMH unit

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good January 2018.

Proposal requested by local authority in response to a need for additional specialist Social Emotional and Mental Health places and is also part of the Leicestershire SEND strategy.

Unit will be located in un-used building on the academy site which requires some renovation work.

Effective date of proposed change is September 2021

School will open unit on a phased basis with a specific focus on KS3 initially and plan to be at full capacity by September 2022.

Full consultation undertaken with relevant stakeholders who are supportive.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health was considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Trust change

Project: South Wigston High School, Leicestershire- discuss sponsor match options

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Requires Improvement April 2019.

School converted to become a standalone academy in 2012.

Learning without Limits Academy Trust currently working with the school on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding.

Both parties wish to formalise relationship.

Trust has developed credible school improvement plans to support the academy and other schools in the trust. Board asked that officials closely monitor the implementation of the plan.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: Transfer of Swinford Church of England Primary School, Leicestershire from the Rise Multi Academy Trust to Embrace Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good January 2020 (short inspection).

Rise Multi Academy Trust implementing a strategy to rationalise its geographical footprint .

Embrace MAT operates in the geographical area in which the school is located.

Embrace MAT has proven track record of delivering school improvement.

Board raised concerns regarding long term sustainability of the school. Embrace MAT needs to address future efficiencies.

This change will be effective from January 2021.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: Limehurst Academy, Leicestershire- Transfer To East Midlands Education Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good March 2017 (short inspection).

Proposal is for the voluntary transfer of Limehurst Academy, a SAT, to East Midlands Education Trust (EMET)

Following their financial recovery plans, the deployment of an SRMA and the recruitment of an external accounting company, the school no longer presents financial concerns.

EMET has a well-developed school improvement strategy that tailors support according to the needs of each school.

EMET is an experienced and strong performing trust that will be able to support school in balancing their budget through financial and operational efficiencies .

School able to bring leadership capacity to trust.

Proposal to be effective from January 2021.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health of this school joining it was considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: Sentamu Academy Learning Trust merging with Hope Learning Trust

HTB discussion:

Proposal for Sentamu Academy Learning Trust to transfer all five of its schools to Hope Learning Trust. The amalgamated trust would then be renamed The Hope Sentamu Learning Trust.

Hope Learning Trust believe that there will be benefits for merging, including having increased capacity within the new trust to improve pupil outcomes. They have a plan in place to make the transition as smooth as possible.

The new trust plans to develop their school improvement offer through a dedicated school improvement team working across all schools and strengthen the central operations team through shared expertise.

Board raised concerns regarding timescales for the merger and thought further investigation and planning was required.

The proposed financial operating model, financial plans and future financial health and governance of the merged trust was considered.

RSC decision: Deferred

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trusts of decision

Project: Landau Forte Academy Moorhead, Derby - discuss sponsor match options

HTB discussion:

A termination warning notice was issued in June 2018.

Landau Forte provided a response setting out actions they were taking to improve performance at the school.

Following a full inspection in March 2019, Ofsted judged the academy Inadequate (special measures).

The interim RSC issued a Termination Notice on 14 September 2020.

The school is currently receiving Covid-related school improvement support from a local National Leader of Education.

Transform Trust was approached with a view to supporting the school.

Transform Trust has a proven track record of delivering school improvement and has plans in place to support the school as part of a local hub.

The financial health of the school; strength of financial management and governance at the trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health were considered.

Supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) to Transform Trust was recommended.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school and trusts of decision

To note: Next steps with Landau Forte Academy Moorhead are currently on hold.

Free school presumption - sponsor approval

Project: Castleward Primary School, Derby- discussion to consider sponsor options

HTB discussion:

Derby City Council is seeking to establish a one form entry primary school (210 pupils), including provision for a 26 place early years provision.

Local authority anticipates increased demand due to significant housing development in the area.

The school is currently undergoing construction and on track to be completed for September 2021.

The local authority has secured Section 106 funding to cover the cost of the proposed new school.

The local authority's preferred sponsor is The Spencer Academies Trust. It has strong leadership and capacity to drive outstanding school improvement.

The trust has strong project management expertise to open a new school.

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust, the trust's experience of managing the financial challenges of opening a new free school and the impact on the future financial health of the trust in managing potential financial risks was considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Paul West did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trust of decision

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

List of projects that were on the published agenda but not discussed at the meeting.

- Item 2A- whether to approve Highfields School, **Derbyshire**, to convert and join East Midlands Education Trust - necessary papers were not ready
- Item 4B- discuss whether to remove the boarding provision at Ashby School, **Leicestershire** - necessary papers were not ready