



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

15 October 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

- Bob Sawyer - Update on Hallam Schools Partnership Academy Trust presented to the board- presentation postponed.

Converter academy orders

Project: St James' Church of England Aided Junior School, Derby, to join Derby Diocesan Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Requires Improvement November 2019 (short inspection).

Voluntary conversion.

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

School and trust have existing working relationship.

Trust is a strong Multi Academy Trust with established school improvement strategy .

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

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

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

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Anne Martin was not present for this item and did not receive the papers

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

Project: The Bluecoat, Stamford, Lincolnshire, to join Cambridge Meridian Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding December 2015.

School sees benefits of joining a trust which will strengthen the school.

Trust has proven track record and history of school improvement.

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 impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were 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.

Project: Abbey Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join Believe Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good November 2018 (short inspection).

Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is above 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.

School will add capacity to the trust.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the trust and impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins 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.

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: Abbey Road Primary School, Nottinghamshire to join Equals Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/11/2020

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Hague Bar Primary School, Derbyshire to join The True Learning Partnership Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/11/2020

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Thurcroft Infant School, Rotherham to join James Montgomery Academy Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/11/2020

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Winthorpe Primary School, Nottinghamshire to join Aspire Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/11/2020

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change

Project: The Laurel Academy, Doncaster- closure of sixth form provision

HTB discussion:

Trust received no objections to closure from pupils or parents. Local authority also supportive of closure and have not received any objections.

Proposal is in line with recommendations of Doncaster's Post 16 Review in 2018 to consolidate sixth form provision across the Local Authority.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Paul West was not present for this item and did not receive the papers

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: The Giles Academy, Lincolnshire - closure of sixth form provision

HTB discussion:

Low pupil numbers have resulted in provision not being financially viable.

Trust advised closure will not have detrimental impact on viability of school.

Trust wishes to focus on improving 11-16 year olds provision.

Range of alternative post 16 provision available in locality.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: Whether Quarrydale Academy, Nottinghamshire, should be allowed to add a new block of 16 classrooms, build new tennis courts, create a parent drop off and parking area, increase capacity from 968 to 1550, and increase PAN from 180 to 240

HTB discussion:

Expansion required due to capacity deficit - the school is currently oversubscribed and there will be future demand for places in the area due to housing development. Local authority is supportive of the proposal.

Proposals will use unspent capital reserves rather than revenue.

Board raised concerns regarding performance and governance at the school.

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

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Project: **St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary, Sheffield – to increase to capacity from 83 to 100**

HTB discussion:

Proposed expansion from September 2021 due to city wide demand for Catholic faith based places and school currently being oversubscribed.

Proposal will require physical expansion of school, involving building a new floor of classrooms above pre-existing building. Board raised concerns regarding site currently being compressed.

Board considered impact proposal would have on viability of non-faith schools in surrounding area.

Lack of evidence of demand in local area and no real strategic need due to there being a surplus of places in other Catholic faith based schools in the local authority.

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

RSC decision: Declined

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Sponsored route

Project: **Fosse Primary School, Leicester, discussion to consider sponsor options**

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Inadequate November 2019.

School issued with Directive Academy Order in February 2020.

Number of trusts expressed interest and considered by Board. The Mead Educational Trust considered most suitable match.

Performance across trust was considered, with all primaries judged Ofsted good or better.

Trust has track record of driving school improvement and strong schools in the area to provide 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 of this school joining it was considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Paul Stone was not present for this item and did not receive the papers

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

Project: Highgate Community Primary School, Leicestershire, discussion to consider sponsor options

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Inadequate September 2019.

School issued with Directive Academy Order in January 2020.

Number of trusts expressed interest and considered by Board. Bradgate Education considered most suitable match.

Performance across trust was considered, with all primaries judged Ofsted good or better.

Trust has track record of driving school improvement and has strong schools in the area to provide 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 of this school joining it was considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Inderjit Sandhu and Paul Stone were not present for this item and did not receive the papers

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

Project: Fountaindale School, Nottinghamshire, discussion to consider sponsor options

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Inadequate February 2020.

School issued with Directive Academy Order in July 2020.

Number of trusts expressed interest and considered by Board. The Evolve Trust considered most suitable match.

Trust has track record of driving school improvement and has strong governance in place.

Trust has experience of working with special schools and is currently operating in Nottinghamshire with established relationships with the local authority.

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 if this school joins were considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

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

Sponsor Application

Project: Attenborough Learning Trust, Leicester - discuss becoming a sponsor

HTB discussion:

Trust is a four school primary phase trust. Performance across trust was considered, with all being judged Ofsted good or better.

Trust has capacity to grow and wishes to become a sponsor in order to do so.

Trust has plans in place for schools requiring additional support.

The financial health and strength of financial management and governance in place at the trust was considered.

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

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Paul Stone was not present for this item and did not receive the papers

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trust of decision

Trust change

Project: National Church of England Academy, Nottinghamshire - discuss sponsor match options

HTB discussion:

Voluntary transfer.

Ofsted Good March 2018 (short inspection).

Number of trusts considered, but Minster Trust for Education deemed most suitable match.

Trust has a well-developed school improvement strategy which school will benefit from.

Diocesan Board of Education consent to transfer.

Proposal to be effective from February 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 if this school joins were considered.

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

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school and trusts 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.

- 1B Whether to approve Highfields School, **Derbyshire**, to convert and join East Midlands Education Trust - necessary papers were not ready
- 3D Discuss whether to close and remove the boarding provision at Ashby School, **Leicestershire** - necessary papers were not ready