



Notes of Meeting: North

Thursday 12 November 2020

Attendance

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

HTB members who sent apologies 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

- Katherine Cowell (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Zoe Carr (HTB)
- George Beveridge (HTB)
- Lesley Powell (HTB)
- Nick Hurn (HTB)
- Elizabeth Horne (HTB)
- Andy Bayston (HTB)
- Chris Clarke (HTB)
- Sir Michael Wilkins (HTB)

Guests

- none

Apologies

- none

DfE senior civil servants

- none

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC Update

RSC welcomed board members to the meeting. RSC carried out a Covid 19 temperature check, inviting members to share some of their key concerns.

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

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for St Patrick's RC VA Primary School Ryhope to convert and join Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- St Patrick's RC VA Primary School was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' in November 2015, a short inspection was carried out in June 2019 and a 'Good' judgement was retained
- This proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education
- The board was advised that St Patrick's secondary feeders are already part of the trust, this proposal will formalise links that have already been formed
- Performance at St Patrick's is in line with national average
- The board was informed that there are no concerns with regards to the financial health of the school
- Trust governance structure is in line with DfE guidelines, and includes a good mix of skills
- The board was advised that the DfE will continue to monitor trust progress to anticipate any possible risks as more schools join Bishop Chadwick CET
- The board was informed that as a result of a previous RSC decision a formal condition was approved to deploy a SRMA into the trust, this deployment is due to take place in 2021
- The board supported this proposal

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Project: This is a proposal for St Mary's RC VA Primary School Blackhill, St Joseph's RC VA Primary School Stanley, St Oswald's RC VA Primary School Wrekenton, St Alban's RC VA Primary School Pelaw to convert and join Bishop Wilkinson Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that this proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education
- The four primary schools converting are rated Ofsted 'Good'

- The primary schools are generally performing well, there has been a dip in reading progress at St Oswald's, however the trust is aware and has sufficient hub capacity at primary level to provide the necessary support
- The board was advised that Bishop Wilkinson CET is a high performing trust with a strong trustee board and financial expertise
- The board was advised that the trust is working with DfE colleagues to demonstrate a clear plan to stabilise finances at school level
- The board supported this proposal

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: Nick Hurn was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Sponsored route

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Rye Hills Academy to be sponsored by North East Learning Trust (NELT)

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that Rye Hills is an Opportunity North East ONE Vision school and started to receive funding through the programme for school improvement support in November 2019
- Rye Hills was judged by Ofsted to be 'Inadequate' in January 2020
- The board was advised that the RSC had informed Nunthorpe MAT that they would be terminating the funding agreement for Rye Hills. Having considered Nunthorpe MAT's representations in response to the earlier Termination Warning Notice, the RSC concluded that it is in the best interests of its pupils to transfer Rye Hills to another trust that has capacity to ensure rapid and sustained improvement
- The board recognised that NELT is a strong trust with a proven track record of school improvement
- NELT comprises 9 academies across Sunderland, County Durham, and Northumberland
- The board was advised that NELT's school improvement plan is comprehensive and based on strong internal capacity and school to school support.
- The board was informed that NELT has developed a strong working relationship with Rye Hills as it is currently providing support via Opportunity North East
- The board recognised that a number of strong trusts operate in Redcar & Cleveland and that these were considered but on balance NELT was judged to be the most suitable sponsor
- The board supported this proposal

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: Lesley Powell was not present and did not receive papers for this item

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: Our Lady and St Anne's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: Sacred Heart RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Aloysius RC Voluntary Aided Infant School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Aloysius' RC Voluntary Aided Junior School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Bede's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Bega's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Chad's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Cuthbert's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Joseph's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Joseph's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Middle School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Lawrence's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Leonard's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Mary's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Mary's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided First School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/12/2020

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

Project: Weaverthorpe CofE Primary School – preferred sponsor approved in principle.

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision

