



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

10 December 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

- Lesley Gwinnett, CEO, Endeavour Learning Trust

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives
- Rizwana Parveen
- Kelly Hughes

General discussion points

N/A

Converter academy orders

Project: Town Field Primary School, The Rose Learning Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted requires improvement October 2018.

Outcomes and progress scores improved significantly between 2017-2019 in reading, writing and maths at the school.

School and trust have existing working relationship. Trust has been providing support during Covid-19.

Trust has strategy in place to address issues in Ofsted report.

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.

The RSC noted that the trust does not have the capacity to support another RI school at this current time.

RSC decision: Declined

Conflicts: N/A

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

Project: St George's Church of England School, Derbyshire, to join Embark Federation

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good December 2017 (short inspection).

Voluntary conversion. Diocese of Derby provided consent to proposal.

Pupils meeting expected standard in reading, writing and maths is above Derbyshire and national averages. Performance is on an upwards trajectory.

Trust shares same ethos and values as school.

Trust offers good professional development for staff.

School and trust have existing working relationship.

Trust has proven track record of driving school improvement.

Board believes trust is a good fit 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: N/A

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: The Bluecoat School, Lincolnshire to join Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/01/2021

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change

Project: Manor Lodge Community Primary and Nursery School, Sheffield – discuss the creation of a 16 place Special Educational Needs and Disabilities unit

HTB discussion:

Project presented for discussion only.

Ofsted Good November 2019.

Eight places to be offered to pupils aged between 4 to 11 years old, who will be on roll at school.

Local authority in support of proposal and it is in line with their strategic plans for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Proposal due to insufficient places in local area.

Places created will be through an extension to an unused area of school building, which will be funded by trust and local authority.

Planning permission currently being sought.

Discussed performance of mainstream education.

Consultation on-going and decision by RSC to be made once concluded.

The financial modelling for the proposed new unit, 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: Discussion only

Conflicts: Andy Child was not present for this item and did not receive the papers

Further actions required: N/A

Project: Kingsway Primary School, Leicester – whether to allow the creation of a 10 place Special Educational Needs and Disabilities unit at The Winstanley School

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good May 2014 (prior to joining LiFE MAT).

Unit to be built in a bungalow situated on The Winstanley School site, which is immediately next to Kingsway Primary School. Both schools are part of same trust.

Proposal to meet demand for special school places in local area.

Local authority in support of proposal and it is in line with their strategic plans for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

Places to be allocated by local authority and all pupils will have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Planning permission has been sought.

Alternative option to continue travelling out of county would have a large financial impact on the local authority.

Effective date of proposed change is January 2021.

Board raised no objections.

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 significant change were considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: N/A

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

Trust change

Project: Transfer of St Michael & All Angels Church of England Primary School (Single Academy Trust), Leicestershire to Rise Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding November 2008.

Voluntary conversion.

School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) deployed in 2019 and recommended school joining a Multi Academy Trust. Diocese of Derby is agreement with proposal.

School to join trust's central hub and will benefit from shared resources and operational efficiencies.

Trust has plan in place to provide support, reduce running costs and provide financial security.

Trust has proven track record of driving school improvement.

Trust is a good strategic fit for school.

Board in agreement with proposal that school needs to join a Multi Academy Trust.

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

Effective date of proposal is April 2021.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trusts of decision.

Project: Transfer of Kibworth School (Single Academy Trust), Leicestershire to The Mead Educational Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Requires Improvement June 2018.

School accepts that it will benefit from joining Multi Academy Trust, as it will drive further improvement.

School and trust have existing working relationship.

Trust has proven track record of driving school improvement.

Board highlighted that transfer is positive move for school.

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

Effective date of proposal is April 2021.

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 trusts of decision.

Project: Chellaston Academy, Derby – Discuss Sponsor Match Options

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Inadequate July 2019.

Termination Warning Notice July 2020.

CEO from QEGS Multi Academy Trust appointed as interim CEO by Peak MAT board September 2020.

Representations received were presented to board and discussed.

Number of trusts expressed interest but QEGS Multi Academy Trust considered most suitable match.

Trust has existing working relationship with school.

Trust has track record of driving school improvement.

Trust has identified school's areas for improvement and has plan in place to address them.

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

Effective date of proposal is April 2021.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Anne Martin and Paul West were not present for this item and did not receive the papers

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trusts of decision.

Project: Transfer of Homefields Primary School, Chellaston Infant School and Chellaston Junior School from PEAK Multi Academy Trust to East Midlands Education Trust

HTB discussion:

This project was not considered in detail, in light of the decision on the previous project.

RSC decision: Deferred

Conflicts: Anne Martin and Paul West were not present for this item and did not receive the papers

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform trusts of decision.