



Notes of Meeting: North

Thursday 10 December 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

- Kim Mitchell (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC Update

RSC welcomed board members to the meeting. RSC discussed the impact COVID is having on the sector and the allocation of devices to 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.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: This is a proposal for St Bede's RC Primary School, St Mark's RC Primary School, St George's RC Primary School, English Martyrs' RC Primary School, St Alban's RC Primary School, St Paul's RC VA Primary School, St Aidan's RC VA Primary School, St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, St Joseph's RC Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School & Star of the Sea RC VA Primary School to convert and join Bishop Bewick Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- This proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education
- The eleven primary schools were judged by Ofsted to be 'Good'
- Trust governance structure is in line with DfE guidelines, however, currently the trust board has a vacancy. The trust advised they will be appointing a finance expert to this post. The board agreed that additional finance expertise was needed to carry out the necessary financial scrutiny and challenge as the trust continues to grow
- Trust finances remain strong; however, the board supported the recommendation that the trust should accept a voluntary SRMA deployment
- 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 Bede's RC VA Primary School South Shields to convert and join Bishop Chadwick Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- St Bede's RC VA Primary School, was judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding' in March 2013
- This proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education
- The board was advised that KS2 performance at St Bede's is strong, routinely achieving above national average
- The board was advised that St Bede's secondary feeders are already part of the trust

supporting transition, this proposal will strengthen links that have already been formed

- 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 Our Lady and St Thomas Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary, St Charles Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School and St Joseph's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided Primary School to convert and join Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- This proposal is in line with the Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle Diocese's vision on Catholic education
- St Charles and Our Lady and St Thomas primary schools were judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' or 'Outstanding' and St Joseph's was judged to be 'Requires Improvement'
- KS2 performance outcomes are average or above average across all schools
- The board was advised that pupil numbers are stable across all three schools
- Trust governance structure is in line with DfE guidelines, and includes a good mix of skills
- 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 Preston Primary School to convert and join Lingfield Education Trust

HTB discussion:

- Preston Primary School was judged by Ofsted to be 'Good' with Outstanding features in June 2017
- The trust has a number of vacancies on their trustee board which are being advertised with Academy Ambassadors. The trust intends to recruit trustees with legal, business, and marketing/PR experience
- This proposal will formalise links that have already been formed, Preston Primary School has been working with the trust for the last 12 months, receiving school improvement and financial support
- The board supported this proposal

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

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

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to approving significant changes to academies.

Project: Harry Watts Academy (HWA) - physical expansion to a satellite site

HTB discussion:

- The board was advised that Harry Watts Academy (HWA) is a new free school that opened in September 2020 in temporary accommodation
- Sunderland City Council has approached the trust due to an increase in demand of autism places across the city, as a result HWA would like to request an additional 64 secondary places at the current temporary site, which would become a permanent part of HWA
- The board was informed that consultation has been carried out and feedback has been supportive
- The board was advised that HWA has not yet received an Ofsted inspection therefore remains ungraded
- The board did not understand the urgency surrounding this request, and questioned whether it was a necessary proposal. To increase capacity at this stage is not feasible given the lack of performance data and Ofsted involvement
- The board suggested that further discussions with the trust and LA were necessary to help establish the urgency of this request and any associated risks

RSC decision: defer

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project Lead to inform school/trust of decision and seek additional information

Project: Roseberry Academy – change in age range

HTB discussion:

- This is a proposal to change age range from 4-11 to 2-11 by adding a 30 FTE place nursery from January 2021. The board was advised that a private nursery provider is currently providing nursery provision in the school. The owner has been offered the opportunity to become part of the school provision but they have declined
- The board was advised that this proposal is part of the trusts strategy to provide continuity at the school site for parents who choose to place their children in the new trust nursery
- Formal consultation has been carried out and there were no objections to the proposal raised, a formal objection has since been received which was considered at the meeting
- The board was informed that Roseberry Academy was judged Ofsted 'Good' in November 2017. The Early Years setting was inspected in January 2020 which was also judged to be 'Good'
- The board was advised that the LA has confirmed that the demand in the area appears to be met by existing providers; however, the LA acknowledges that the needs of working parents change, therefore the demand may change

- The board took the concerns of the private nursery provider into account but overall supported this proposal; however, they recommended further discussions take place with the trust to discuss the timing and finance implications of this additional provision

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

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

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to a new trust.

Project: Sunnyside Academy - voluntary transfer to join Legacy Learning Trust

HTB discussion:

- This is a proposal for Sunnyside Academy to join The Legacy Learning Trust
- The board was informed that Sunnyside Academy received an Ofsted rated 'Requires Improvement' in November 2019
- The DfE has continued to encourage Sunnyside to join a Multi Academy Trust to help achieve greater sustainability and to drive improvement. Following the recent Ofsted judgement the school has agreed to join a trust
- The board was advised that Legacy Learning Trust has capacity and a sustained track record to support Sunnyside Academy, geographically both the trust and school are close enough to work together effectively
- The trust agreed to have an SRMA deployment as a condition of an HTB decision in January 2020. The SRMA deployment concluded in June 2020, recommendations are expected to have a positive impact
- The board supported this proposal on confirmation of the trust's financial plan against the SRMA recommendations. The board would like the trust to provide further information prior to the signing of the funding agreement, which clarifies how they will retain the expertise that is necessary to successfully operate Sunnyside Academy

RSC decision: approve with condition

Conflicts: none

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

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: Carlton-in-Snaith Community Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: Esh CofE (Aided) Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: Huntcliff School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: Lamplugh CofE School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: Saltburn Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Bede's Catholic Comprehensive School and Byron College

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

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

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required

Project: St Catherine's RC Primary School

HTB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/01/2021

RSC decision: approve

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No further action required