



Notes of Meeting: South West Headteacher Board

14 December 2020

Attendance

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

HTB members who apologised 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

- Hannah Woodhouse (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Brian Hooper (HTB)
- Suzanne Flack (HTB)
- Sally Apps (HTB)
- Steve Savory (HTB)
- Paul Jones (HTB)
- Michael Larsen (HTB)
- Alun Williams (HTB)
- Joy Tubbs (HTB)

Guests

- Clare Medland, Head of Commissioning for Learning at **Gloucestershire** County Council

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings (Deputy Director)
- Matt Stevenson (Deputy Director)

General discussion points

Clare Medland, Head of Commissioning for Learning at **Gloucestershire** County Council

- Clare Medland gave an update on pupil place planning work in Gloucestershire County Council.

The Regional Schools Commissioner gave a regional update on ongoing COVID-19 response work and the challenges and opportunities in the region.

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.

Trust change

Project: Whether to approve Nansloe Academy, **Cornwall** (SAT) joining Aspire Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- HTB members heard from officials that this project was part of ongoing plans to consolidate Single Academy Trusts (SATs) into Multi Academy Trusts (MATs)
- HTB members noted that it appeared like an appropriate match but queried the progress in Bugle School.
- HTB members also discussed trust governance and queried the composition of the board.

RSC decision: approve

- Condition to ensure that the trust board has two additional members by the spring term 2021.

Conflicts of interest: Michael Larsen left the meeting for this item and did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust and the school.

Converter academy orders

Project: Whether to approve an application for Dartington CofE Primary School, **Devon** to convert to academy status and join Learning Academy Partnership (South West)

HTB discussion:

- Officials updated HTB members on this proposal, including the steps taken by the Trust following an investigation for financial irregularities.
- HTB noted the excellent range of skills on the Board.
- HTB members noted that trusts need to evidence competence in both school improvement and trust administration (finances, governance etc), providing strong challenge to the trust's audit process.
- Officials expressed confidence in Learning Academy Partnership (South West). The trust has been working collaboratively with the Education and Funding Skills Agency (EFSA) and the RSC office.

RSC decision: Approve

- Condition to provide final evidence that Learning Academy Partnership (South West) is operating in line with the Academies Financial Handbook.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust and the school.

Project: Whether to approve an application for St Nicholas CofE Primary, **BANES** to convert to academy status and join Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

- HTB members discussed trust growth, and officials advised that the trust is currently agreeing its principles for growth.
- HTB members noted that this project presented as low risk but queried why the trust had declined an SRMA visit.
- HTB members recommended approval with a condition around SRMA visit.

RSC decision: Approve

- Condition for the trust to accept an SRMA visit.

Conflicts: Paul Jones left the meeting and did not receive the papers for this item.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust and the school.

Significant change

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Paignton Academy, **Devon** (Bay Education Trust) to increase capacity from 1590 to 1800 (increase of 210 pupils), including the building of five additional classes.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members were clear that the trust had failed to consult in a timely manner with the RSC's office, which should be involved earlier in proposals going forward.
- Members were made aware that there is no alternative option for these pupils in the Paignton area.
- HTB members highlighted the education performance and the financial position of the trust, which has recently had a FNTI removed.
- Discussions noted the need for places, but that the RSC would not support the expansion until there was clarity around the future financial and educational performance and long-term strategy of the trust.

RSC decision: Decline.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the trust and the school.

Decisions escalated to the systems minister

Project: Whether to approve a sponsor application for Special Partnership Trust, **Cornwall**

HTB discussion:

- This project relates to the in-principle decision for Orchard Manor to join Special Partnership Trust which was considered at November's HTB meeting.
- Officials reported that an extensive governance review supported the growth of the Trust.
- HTB discussed the composition of the trust board and advised that an additional member be recruited (plans for this are in place).
- HTB members discussed the trust's finances.
- The trust's original sponsor application which was submitted in January 2020 was discussed.
- HTB members discussed the trust's governance, finances and legal matters, and proposed conditions on governance and finances prior to approval.
- RSC was content to approve with conditions.

RSC decision: Approve with conditions

- The trust must update its Master Funding Agreement, and the Supplemental Funding Agreements of all of its schools, to [the latest model agreements](#); and
- The trust must recruit a fifth Member.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school and trust. This project will now proceed to the system minister for decision regarding the removal of the dAO

Decisions by exception

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Park Road Support Centre, Frome to join St Dunstan's School (Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership)

RSC decision: RSC approved this project via an internal meeting.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Ralph Allen School, BANES (Palladian Academy Trust) to increase capacity from 1110 to 1300. This change incorporates an increase in sixth form places from 230 to 250.

RSC decision: RSC approved this project via an internal meeting.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application from Chipping Camden School (SAT), Gloucestershire to increase their PAN and expand their sixth form provision.

RSC decision: RSC approved this project via an internal meeting.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application from Whitesheet Church of England Primary Academy, Wiltshire (Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust) to transfer all education from the Kilmington site to the Zeals site, on a permanent basis.

RSC decision: RSC approved this project via an internal meeting.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for King Ina Church of England Juniors and Infants, Somerset (King Ina CofE Academy) to merge, increase capacity and make change sites.

RSC decision: Approved via RSC log 21 January 2021

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Mendip Green (ELAN) application for Special Resource Base

Project: Whether to approve a significant change application for Mendip Green (ELAN) to add a Special resource Base

RSC decision: Approved via RSC log 21 January 2021

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform the school.

Academy openers and transfers approved in principle

Project: Ferndown First School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Ferndown Middle School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Parley First School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Cranborne Church of England First School and Nursery, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: St James' Church of England Voluntary Controlled First School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion: Trinity CofE VA First School, **Dorset**

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Wimborne St Giles Church of England First School and Nursery, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Bristol Gateway School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Woodstock School, **Dorset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Lyngford Park Primary School, **Somerset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Aylburton Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Lydney Church of England Community School, **Gloucestershire**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Neroche Primary School, **Somerset**

RSC discussion:

- Opening date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Academy transfers

Project: Nailsea School, **North Somerset**

RSC discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: All Saints Church of England Academy, **Plymouth**

RSC discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Stoke Damerel Community College, **Plymouth**

RSC discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Montpelier Primary School, **Plymouth**

RSC discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none

Project: Scott Medical and Healthcare College, **Plymouth**

RSC discussion:

- Transfer date: 1 January 2021
- No issues raised.

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: none