



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

21 January 2021

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

Converter academy orders

Project: Hollingwood Primary School, Derbyshire, to join The Flying High Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good March 2018 (short inspection).

Pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths at the school dipped to 62% in 2019.

The school believes the trust is a good match due to its track record of delivering improvement.

The board considered the trust's governance arrangements and central school improvement capacity.

A School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) has already been deployed.

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

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Paul Stone 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: Hawthorne Primary and Nursery School, Nottinghamshire, to join The Flying High Trust

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good January 2019 (short inspection).

Voluntary conversion.

The school and the trust have an existing working relationship. The Headteacher believes that the trust has been supportive in driving the school forward.

The board considered the trust's governance arrangements and central school improvement capacity.

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

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Paul Stone 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.

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: Hasland Hall Community School, Derbyshire to join Outwood Grange Academies Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2021

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: The Woodlands Primary School, Doncaster to join Outwood Grange Academies Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2021

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

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

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/02/2021

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 an Integrated Resource (IR) Unit

HTB discussion:

The school has proposed to create an IR Unit with eight places, for pupils aged from 4 to 11 years old. These pupils will be on roll at the school.

The local authority is in support of the proposal and it is in line with their strategic plans to further develop SEND provision in Sheffield.

The IR Unit is needed due to insufficient specialist SEND places in the school locality currently, with demand forecast to increase further in coming years. This IR Unit should reduce the need to displace pupils to provision across the city by providing a more local resource. Sheffield local authority will commission and fund all 8 places in the IR Unit.

The space for the IR Unit will be created through an extension to an unused area of school building. The IR Unit will have its own outdoor space.

Ofsted outcomes at schools in the trust demonstrate capacity for school improvement, with their work with, and support for, SEND pupils commented on positively in several reports.

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 also considered. A School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) has already been deployed to the trust and the report is pending.

The RSC advised for further discussions to take place between the local authority and the school to clarify the SEND designation of the IR Unit and the pupils to be placed there. Otherwise the RSC was content to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approved

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

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

Project: Ashby School, Leicestershire – whether to allow lowering the age range from 14 - 18 year olds to 11 - 18 year olds

The school is a Standalone Academy Trust.

Ofsted rated Inadequate October 2019.

The performance of the school was discussed and in 2018/19 its Attainment 8 scores were above the national average.

The proposal will assist the local area in the move from three tier to two tier provision.

The proposal is planned to take effect from September 2022.

The local authority is supportive of the proposal.

The school is due to transfer to LiFe Multi Academy Trust in March 2021.

The trust has experience of age range changes and will provide support for the change to be

implemented. The local authority is also currently working alongside the trust.

The school can collaborate with other schools undertaking age-range change and bring it into alignment with other schools in Leicestershire.

The strength of financial management and governance at LiFE Multi-Academy Trust and impact on the school and the trust's future financial health if the age range change is approved were considered.

The deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended to LiFe Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approved by NSC

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Ivanhoe College, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire – whether to allow increasing the age range from 11 - 14 year olds to 11 - 16 year olds

The school is a Standalone Academy Trust.

Ofsted rated Good October 2018 (short inspection).

The proposal will assist the local area in the move from three tier to two tier provision. The proposal is planned to take effect from September 2022.

The local authority is supportive of proposal.

The school is due to transfer to LiFe Multi Academy Trust in June 2021.

The trust has experience of age range changes and will provide support for the change to be implemented. The local authority is also currently working alongside the trust.

The school can collaborate with other schools undertaking age-range change and bring it into alignment with other schools in Leicestershire.

The strength of financial management and governance at LiFE Multi Academy Trust and impact on the school and the trust's future financial health if the age range change is approved were considered.

The deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended to LiFe Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approved by NSC

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Ibstock Community College, Leicestershire – whether to allow increasing the age range from 11 - 14 year olds to 11 - 16 year olds

The school is a Standalone Academy Trust.

Ofsted rated Good December 2017 (short inspection).

The proposal will assist the local area in the move from three tier to two tier provision. The proposal is planned to take effect from September 2022.

The local authority is supportive of proposal.

The school is due to transfer to LiFe Multi Academy Trust in June 2021.

The trust has experience of age range changes and will provide support for the change to be implemented. The local authority is also currently working alongside the trust.

The school can collaborate with other schools undertaking age-range change and bring it into alignment with other schools in Leicestershire.

The strength of financial management and governance at LiFE Multi-Academy Trust and impact on the school and the trust's future financial health if the age range change is approved were considered.

The deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended to LiFe Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approved by NSC

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform school of decision

Sponsor Application

Project: The White Hills Park Federation Trust, Nottinghamshire - discuss becoming a sponsor

HTB discussion:

The trust is a three school Multi Academy Trust with one primary and two secondary academies (one with a sixth form). Performance of the trust was considered, with all schools being judged Ofsted good.

The trust has capacity to grow and wishes to become a sponsor in order to do so. It is currently looking to expand its trustee board.

The board advised the trust should continue to develop its school improvement model and central services capacity.

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

The trust requested deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA), however this has been delayed due to Covid-19.

DfE agreed to identify Chair and CEO mentors for the Trust.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the Trust of the decision

Trust change

Project: Transfer of Ivanhoe College, Ashby de la Zouch, Leicestershire (Single Academy Trust), Leicestershire to LiFE Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

The school is due to transfer to LiFe Multi Academy Trust in June 2021.

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

The deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended to LiFe Multi Academy Trust.

The Board was in agreement with the proposal.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Transfer of Ibstock Community College, Leicestershire (Single Academy Trust), Leicestershire to LiFE Multi Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

The school is due to transfer to LiFe Multi Academy Trust in June 2021.

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

The deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended to LiFe Multi Academy Trust.

The board was in agreement with proposal.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the trusts of the 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:

The board of trustees at PEAK Multi Academy Trust conducted their own process of due diligence and found East Midlands Education Trust to be the most suitable match.

The proposal has full support of the primary headteachers and the local governing body members.

Representations received were presented to the Board.

The trust has a number of strong schools, with eleven out of thirteen being judged Ofsted good or better.

The trust has curriculum experts in reading, writing and maths, who can provide support to drive further improvement in the schools.

The financial health of the schools, strength of financial management and governance at East Midlands Education Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if these schools join were considered.

RSC decision: Approved

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

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

Free school presumption - sponsor approval

Project: Ashby de la Zouch Free School, Leicestershire - discussion to consider sponsor options

HTB discussion:

The proposal supports Leicestershire County Council's strategy to meet the demand for primary places arising in the area due to new housing developments and increased birth rates.

Provision to cater for 210 pupils aged 4 to 11 years old.

Schools in the area have limited or no spare capacity and the local authority has advised that there is significant interest in the new school.

The school is currently undergoing construction and is on track to be completed for September 2021.

School proposing to open in September 2021.

As a presumption free school, the local authority will provide funding to cover the cost of opening the proposed new school.

The local authority's preferred sponsor is Symphony Learning Trust.

The performance of the trust was considered.

The trust has schools in the vicinity to provide local support.

The board considered the trust to be a good match for school.

The strength of financial management and governance at Symphony Learning Trust, the trust's financial health and its ability to manage potential financial risks associated with opening a new school were considered.

RSC decision: Approved

Conflicts: Inderjit Sandhu, Paul Stone and Paul West did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Delivery Lead to inform the trust and local authority of decision