



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting, East of England and North East London headteacher board

19 November 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

- Sue Baldwin (RSC)

Headteacher board (HTB) members

- Tom Canning (HTB)
- Caroline Derbyshire (HTB)
- Diane Rochford (HTB)
- Al Kingsley (HTB)
- Karen Kerridge (HTB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (HTB)
- Duncan Ramsey (HTB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative
- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

Apologies

- Brian Conway (HTB)

General discussion points

Points discussed in the meeting.

RSC update

- The Note of Meeting for the October HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- No representations have been received for any projects on this meeting's agenda.
- The Board heard a presentation on challenges faced in 2020 with regards to SEND education and how schools overcame and adapted from one of the HTB members, Diane Rochford. The RSC and Board also took time to share their experiences of managing instances of positive Covid cases in their respective schools and the wider implications.

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

Project: The Icknield Primary School, **Cambridge, Cambridgeshire** – to convert and join Anglian Learning Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard about the background of the voluntary application including the primary school already being a feeder school for one of the trust's existing schools, close collaborative working and support the trust has given the school during the pandemic.
- The Board expressed concerns with the low PAN but were assured that this was projected to rise with local demand increasing due to a housing development in the area.
- The Board noted that the trust is growing in a quick succession and have taken on a couple of challenging schools. The RSC was confident following a recent conversation with the CEO that the trust had the structured due diligence and strategic thinking to help support all schools.
- HTB supported RSC's decision to approve this application.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Project: Rushmere Hall Primary School, **Ipswich, Suffolk** – to convert and join EKO Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard about the strong collaborative working and shared ethos between the trust and the school.
- The Board agreed with the assessment that the school joining the trust would be mutually beneficial due to the strengths each side brings. Including increased capacity, shared expertise and leadership, and holistic pastoral offers.
- No concerns were expressed and the HTB fully endorsed the RSC's decision to approve the union.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Significant Changes

Project: Cambridge Primary Education Trust to transfer Histon and Impington Infant School, **Cambridge, Cambridgeshire**, to another site.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Cambridge Primary Education Trust's proposal to relocate the school to a larger site nearby, which is being fully funded by Cambridgeshire County Council.
- The HTB noted that housing developments in the school's catchment area has caused an increased demand of pupil places and resulted in the school being oversubscribed for a number of years.
- The HTB agreed with the assessment that this would resolve capacity issues, expressed no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Project: Evolution Academy Trust to add a SEN provision to Wensum Junior School, **Norwich, Norfolk.**

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Evolution Academy Trust's application to establish a Specialist Resource Base (SRB) unit provision for children with social, emotional and mental health difficulties within Wensum Junior School. This aimed to fill the gap in Norfolk's local offer to children with these particular special educational needs.
- The Board heard that this project had a thorough consultation, been endorsed and will be funded by Norfolk County Council and that the LA are working on providing support to improve standards in SRB units.
- The HTB supported with the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.

Project: South Quay College Trust to close the sixth form provision, change the age range and change the establishment's name of South Quay College, **Tower Hamlets.**

HTB discussion:

- The HTB discussed the retrospective request to remove the post-16 provision at South Quay College, to change the age range and to consider the change of name.
- Following discussions with the LA and college, the Board heard that the sixth form was closed due to low pupil numbers at post-16 which made the provision unviable. The senior leadership team within South Quay College Trust is also working on partnering with another trust with the potential aim to open up opportunities for post-16 students in the future.
- The RSC decided to retrospectively approve as long as on-going dialogue between South Quay and the LA is encouraged going forward.
- The HTB supported the RSC's decision to approve the retrospective proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Trust to be informed of RSC's decision.