



Notes of Meeting: East Midlands and Humber Headteacher Board

11 March 2021

Attendance

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

HTB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views were 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

- Peter Bell

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA Representatives
- Kelly Hughes

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: Woodthorpe Primary School, Sheffield, to join Minerva Learning Trust

HTB discussion:

The performance of the school was discussed and the majority of performance metrics were noted as being above both the local and national average. The school's most recent Ofsted inspection in November 2018 was also noted, where it continued to be rated as Good.

The school's governing body had considered a number of academy trusts but believed that Minerva Learning Trust was the most appropriate option, based on a shared ethos and operational benefits.

The board agreed that the school would benefit from the support provided by joining an academy trust and acknowledged the trust's plans to ensure the smooth integration of a primary school into their portfolio.

The financial health of the school, strength of financial management and governance at the Minerva Learning Trust and the impact on the trust's future financial health if this school joins were considered. No significant concerns were raised.

RSC decision: Approve

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

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Project: New Pasture Primary School, Doncaster, to join Venn Academy Trust

HTB discussion:

Voluntary conversion.

Ofsted Requires Improvement October 2018.

Venn Academy Trust currently has two academies in Doncaster and New Pastures would join the trust to build their hub in South Yorkshire.

The school and trust have an existing working relationship, and believe that by formalising this it could drive the school's improvements further. The school has seen the benefits of joining an academy trust and believe that Venn Academy Trust is a good option due to their shared ethos and values.

The trust has recently updated its school improvement model.

The board discussed the number of Requires Improvement schools the trust has within its portfolio and whether it has capacity for a further school to join.

The board agreed that the school would benefit from the support provided by joining an academy

trust.

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

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Converter Academy Order to be sent to Chair of Governors. Trust and DCS to be informed of decision.

Academy opening approved in principle

Project: Brackensdale Primary School, Derbyshire to join The Spencer Academies Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Brook House Junior School, Sheffield to join Steel City Schools Partnership

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Fountaindale School, Nottinghamshire to join The Evolve Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Lowe's Wong Infant School, Nottinghamshire, to join Minster Trust for Education

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Oakwood Junior School, Derby, to join Odyssey Collaborative Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Springbank Primary School, Nottinghamshire, to join The White Hills Park Federation Trust

HTB discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01/04/2021

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change

Project: Malet Lambert, Kingston upon Hull, to discuss if it should be allowed a physical expansion of premises, in order to increase capacity from 1,600 to 1,750

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Good April 2018 (short inspection).

The proposal is part of the local authority's strategy to meet pressure in the city for secondary school places. A number of expansions at other academies within the city have already been delivered to meet increased demand for places.

The proposed works consist of a new extension block containing five classrooms and a multi-function space within the existing school boundaries. Discussions regarding final plans between the local authority and trust are on-going.

The school can admit thirty additional pupils in September 2021 without any physical expansion, however the building works are necessary to accommodate future year groups of this size. The effective date of the physical expansion is September 2022.

Planning permission for building works is expected to be received in summer 2021. The local authority is funding the costs of expansion from its basic need budget with a contribution being provided by the trust.

The strength of financial management and governance at The Education Alliance and impact on the school and the trust's future financial health if the expansion goes ahead were considered.

The supportive deployment of a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) was recommended.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: The Boulevard Academy, Kingston upon Hull, to discuss if it should be allowed a physical expansion of premises, in order to increase capacity from 660 to 900

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Requires Improvement November 2018.

The proposal is part of the local authority's strategy to meet pressure in the city for secondary school places. A number of expansions at other academies within the city have already been delivered to meet increased demand for places.

The proposed works involve an additional block. The school developed and agreed the plan with Hull City Council, prior to being judged Ofsted Requires Improvement.

The local authority have only considered the expansion of an Ofsted Requires Improvement school due to there being no other feasible options in the right location to meet the growing demand of secondary places in the west and north of the city.

A monitoring inspection in January 2020 confirmed that the senior leaders and trustees were taking action to drive improvement.

The board are in agreement with the proposal and recognised the benefit to the school, pupils and the community due the school being able to offer an expanded curriculum.

Support for the school has been put into place to mitigate against any negative impact the expansion may have on the school improvement journey.

Planning permission for building work has been received. The local authority is funding the costs of expansion from its basic need budget

The strength of financial management and governance at the trust and impact on the school's future financial health if the expansion goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Lutterworth High School, Leicestershire, to discuss if it should be allowed a physical expansion of premises, in order to increase capacity from 750 to 875.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding January 2012.

The school had an age range change in 2014 to become an 11-16 school. The school is currently oversubscribed due to a high demand for places.. The school has voluntarily been admitting above

its existing PAN however, the school has still had to decline places to a significant number of families within its catchment area.

A full consultation was conducted with all stakeholders and no negative responses were received.

Pre-planning permission has been granted and the local authority are supportive of the proposal. They have suggested that they are anticipating a local housing expansion in the future.

The proposal is for a physical expansion and is tied to the trust's Condition Improvement Fund bid to fund the necessary building works which consists of four classrooms, a dance studio and changing rooms housed together in a new block.

The board were supportive of the proposal given that no objections had been received via the consultation process and if Condition Improvement Funding is secured to fund the costs of expansion. The effective date of the proposal is the September 2021.

The strength of financial management and governance at the school and impact on the school's future financial health if the expansion goes ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Approve on the condition that the Condition Improvement Fund is successful and formalising admission and PAN numbers

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Casterton College Rutland, to discuss if it should be allowed a physical expansion of premises, in order to increase capacity from 900 to 1,200.

HTB discussion:

The proposal is for a physical expansion consisting of a two storey standalone teaching block on its current site in order to accommodate an increase in pupil numbers, enhance the curriculum, and modernise the current provision. It is tied into the trust's Conditional Improvement Fund bid to fund the building works.

Over the last two years the college has been oversubscribed and has voluntarily been admitting above its existing PAN.

A full consultation was conducted with stakeholders and a number of concerns were raised about the proposal including the lack of need for additional places in the area, and the negative impact this could have on the viability and quality of provision at other local schools.

The expansion would create a surplus of places in the local area and could therefore have a detrimental impact on other schools in the locality. Basic need data does not currently support the future need for any more capacity at the school.

The board suggested that the trust could instead bid for Condition Improvement Funding to modernise the school given that the extra places are not currently required. The board also suggested the school considers joining a strong academy trust.

The strength of financial management and governance at the college, and impact on the school's future financial health if the expansion went ahead were considered.

RSC decision: Decline

Conflicts: None

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

Project: St Mary's Catholic High School, Derbyshire, discuss if it should be allowed a physical expansion of premises, in order to increase capacity from 1,260 to 1,415.

HTB discussion:

Ofsted Outstanding December 2012.

The proposal is the creation of a new block to accommodate a PAN increase, due to the school currently operating over capacity as a result of its popularity.

The proposed expansion would provide up to 15 additional places per year group and increase Sixth Form places by 80 places.

The school has submitted a Condition Improvement Fund for the proposed expansion and have estimated a completion of construction works by January 2022.

There is a potential housing development in the local area, which could result in a demand for places but which is still awaiting planning permission.

Pupil place planning data provided by the local authority indicates a surplus in the local area, due to a number of schools operating below capacity.

The strength of financial management and governance at the school and impact on the school's future financial health if the expansion goes ahead were considered.

The board is of the opinion that expansion is not currently required due to the high level of surplus capacity locally and also the detrimental affect it may have on other schools in the locality. Furthermore, there are no timescales for the housing development.

RSC decision: Decline

Conflicts: None

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