



Department
for Education

Notes of Meeting: East of England and North East London Headteacher Board

22 April 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 are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Schools 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)
- Duncan Ramsey (HTB)
- Andrew Aalders-Dunthorne (HTB)
- Brian Conway (HTB)

DfE senior civil servants

- ESFA representative
- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- Representations were received for the significant change project - The Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust to amalgamate Wormegay Church of England Primary School, King's Lynn with Runcton Holme Church of England Primary School, King's Lynn, Norfolk.
- These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

General Discussion Points

RSC update and HTB member reflections

- The Note of Meeting for the March HTB meeting were discussed and agreed.
- The RSC and Board took time for reflections on the latest government announcements.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Great Dunham Primary School, **King's Lynn, Norfolk** – to convert and join Unity Education Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard about the background of the voluntary conversion application including that the school receiving an Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement in January 2019 and has been careful in the selection of multi-academy trust to join.
- The Board also noted that the school and trust have an existing working relationship, both were located in West Norfolk area, had an aligned ethos and values and had the capacity to provide the necessary improvements.
- The RSC decided to approve this match and the HTB fully supported this decision.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: RSC office to send out Academy order to governing body, Director of Children's Services and Director of Education. Project Lead to inform trust of RSC's decision.

Project: Snape Community Primary School, **Saxmundham, Suffolk** – to convert and join Waveney Valley Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard about the background of the voluntary conversion application including that the school is a small rural establishment, and that the LA has expressed concerns with their pupils' educational performance.
- The HTB noted that the trust is aware of the issues facing the school and had the capacity and expertise to make the necessary improvements in a small school.
- The Board also acknowledged that the governance structure had overlap between trustees and members which may need to be addressed.
- The RSC decided to approve this match and the HTB fully supported this decision.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: RSC office to send out Academy order to governing body, Director of Children's Services and Director of Education. Project lead to inform trust of RSC's decision and address governance structure.

Trust Change

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

Project: King Edward VII Academy, **King's Lynn, Norfolk**, to transfer from Eastern Multi Academy Trust to Inspiration Trust.

HTB discussion:

- The HTB heard the background of the voluntary transfer application, including that the RSC had issued a Termination Warning Notice following the school's inadequate Ofsted judgement in September 2019.
- It was explained that, following several monitoring meetings further to the Inadequate judgement, Eastern MAT concluded that they did not have the resources to drive rapid and sustained improvement at the academy, and that a voluntary transfer to a different trust was in the best interests of all concerned.
- Inspiration trust was proposed as the preferred sponsor due to its successful secondary school improvement track record.
- The HTB agreed that, in particular, King Edward VII would benefit from the school improvement expertise at Inspiration Trust's recently approved Teaching School Hub.
- The Board was content with this approach and had no objections. The RSC approved this application.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Duncan Ramsey and Brian Conway did not receive the papers and were not part of this discussion.

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

Significant Changes

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application.

Project: Learning in Harmony Multi-Academy Trust to open annexe of John F Kennedy Special School, **Stratford, Newham** on Lister Community School site, **Plaistow, Newham**. This is for secondary aged learners with an Education, Health and Care Plan, who have an autistic syndrome condition.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to the proposal to open a specialist provision annex for John F Kennedy onto the site of Lister Community School.
- The HTB acknowledged that there is a demand for an increase in SEN provision at secondary level in the area.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and considered this to be an innovative approach to meet complexity of demand. The RSC approved this novel application and the HTB fully supported this decision.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Diane Rochford did not receive the papers and was not part of this discussion.

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

Project: Canonium Learning Trust to lower the age limit by 2 years to accommodate a nursery in Finchingfield St John's Church of England Primary Academy, **Braintree, Essex**.

HTB discussion:

- **All content.**
- The Board discussed the background to Canonium Learning Trust's proposal to lower the age limit by 2 years to accommodate a nursery in Finchingfield St John's Church of England Primary Academy.
- The HTB acknowledged that this will meet the demand and create an improved offer for children in the area.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and 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: Academies Enterprise Trust to expand by 2 forms of entry to meet local demand in New Rickstones Academy, **Witham, Essex**.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Academies Enterprise Trust's proposal to expand New Rickstones Academy by 2 forms of entry.
- The HTB acknowledged that this will include an increase of 300 places to meet the demand from new housing developments and primary schools in the area.
- The Board also noted that there were objections received as part of the consultation from three sources but believed that the trust and LA had set out a good case as to why the increase should happen at the Academy.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and supported the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Caroline Derbyshire did not receive the papers and was not part of this discussion..

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

Project: KWEST Multi Academy Trust to move the SEN sixth form in Churchill Park Complex Needs School, **King's Lynn, Norfolk**, to a new site.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to KWEST Multi Academy Trust's proposal to move the SEN sixth form in Churchill Park Complex Needs School to Fairstead community centre.
- The HTB acknowledged that while the school is in the process of being transferred to Unity Education Trust, both trusts supported this application. The Board also noted that the geographical proximity was ideal, LA was fully supportive of the application and while there were initially a few objections these were addressed by the trust which eased concerns.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and supported with the RSC's decision to approve the proposal.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Al Kingsley did not receive the papers and was not part of this discussion..

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

Project: Evolution Academy Trust to add a nursery provision in Filby Primary School, **Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.**

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Evolution Academy Trust's proposal for Filby Primary School to take ownership of a nursery provision from the LA.
- The HTB acknowledged that the school is a small, Ofsted judged 'Good' school which relies on the feed in from the nursery.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and 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: Seckford Education Trust to add a SEN unit in Set Saxmundham School, **Saxmundham, Suffolk**, and Set Beccles School, **Saxmundham, Suffolk.**

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Seckford Education Trust's proposal to add communication and interaction specialist units in the schools.
- The HTB acknowledged that this was part of the LA's SEND Sufficiency planning and that the trust would have capacity and governance to take these units on . As multiple similar applications have been previously approved the Board recommended it would be interesting to know the impact the LA's sufficiency planning has had to date.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and 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. RSC office to request a review from the LA of the difference the previously approved SEN projects has had on pupils and community in the area.

Project: Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust to add a SEN unit in Copleston High School, Ipswich, Suffolk.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Gippeswyk Community Educational Trust's proposal to add a specialist unit for Key Stage 3 and 4 children who require additional support with cognition and learning at Copleston High School.
- The HTB acknowledged that this was part of the LA's SEND Sufficiency planning, that all capital costs will be covered by the LA and the RSC office were confident in the expertise and capacity of the trust.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and 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: Gateway Learning Community to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 to accommodate a nursery provision in The Gateway Primary Free School, Grays, Thurrock.

HTB discussion:

- The Board discussed the background to Gateway Learning Community's proposal to change the age range from 4-11 to 3-11 to accommodate a nursery provision.
- The HTB noted that there were no issues to capacity and the trust will be able to cover costs and are planning to bring in expertise from another one of their schools to help with delivery.
- The HTB expressed no concerns and 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.

Decisions escalated to the NSC/Minister

List of decisions that have been escalated to the Minister.

Project: The Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust to amalgamate Wormegay Church of England Primary School, King's Lynn with Runcton Holme Church of England Primary School, **King's Lynn, Norfolk.**

HTB advised on:

- The Board discussed the background to The Diocese of Ely Multi Academy Trust's proposal to amalgamate two of their schools, which will result in the closure of Wormegay.
- The HTB noted that while this proposal was brought to the meeting for recommendation it was to be sent forward for ministerial decision.
- Representations were also received and considered as part of the discussion, which were related to the impact of the closure and layout of the consultation.
- The Board noted that the Ofsted recommendations of both schools were similar and had similar viability issues so made logical sense to merge the two.
- The RSC and HTB agreed with the proposal as regrettably saw no other option. They advised that the trust needed to send on their school improvement strategy and recommended the trust to be informed of department's school improvement offer, with key focus on bolstering curriculum from NLE expertise.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: RSC office will forward that the HTB and RSC agree with proposal to ministers for final decision, ask for school improvement strategy from trust and recommend school improvement offer to the trust.

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

Project: Academy Transformation Trust to increase age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to accommodate a nursery provision in Kingsmoor Academy, **Harlow, Essex**.

Update:

- Trust sent in a retrospective significant change application to change the age range of Kingsmoor Academy from 4-11 to 2-11 as they have added a nursery provision.
- The RSC heard that the nursery opened in September 2017 with building work completed by the LA and was driven by the LA's growth plan. The reason for delay in submitting the application was acquiring lease agreements from the LA.
- The RSC also heard that the consultation responses showed that the majority was in support of the change.
- The ESFA commented that the nursery was financially viable and expressed no concerns.
- Following receipt of the background to the project, assurances on finances and positive consultation outcomes the RSC decided to approve this project.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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