



## Notes of Meeting: South West 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

- 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)

### Guests

- Paul Howieson, CEO Coastal Learning Partnership

### Apologies

- Joy Tubbs (HTB member)

### DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings, Deputy Director
- Matthew Stevenson, Deputy Director

## **Representations received**

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

## **General Discussion Points**

### **Update from Paul Howieson, CEO Coastal Learning Partnership**

- Paul Howieson CEO of Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP) provided an update about their three-way merger to and now have 16 schools, 5500 students and 900 staff.
- Paul discussed the lessons learned from bringing together the three trusts including creating a governance leadership group, determining a single executive lead quickly, a central operating structure, an HR provision, build extra capacity early in the process, keep the pace of change manageable and school leaders to work together from the outset with the focus on school improvement.  
HTB members would like to encourage Paul to share this presentation with wider groups of trusts and thanked him for sharing his experiences with the HTB members.

Paul Howieson left the meeting.

### **Local Update**

- Hannah Woodhouse (RSC) provided a strategic update to the HTB members.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

**Project:** Wimborne First School (Hamwic Education Trust)

RSC discussion:

- Opening date 1 May
- No issues raised

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No action required.

**Project:** St James' Church of England Primary Academy (Diocese of Chichester Academy Trust)

RSC discussion:

- Opening date 1 May
- No issues raised

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: No action required.

## Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Venturers' Academy, **Bristol** (Venturers Trust), to increase pupil capacity and change the school's age range to add post-16 provision.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members noted that the proposal will see the increase in the school's capacity from 166 to 216 and the age range increased to add a post-16 provision, for this this all through specialist school.
- The proposal is in response to the wider need in Bristol for specialist places.
- HTB members were advised that the age range increase is for students with specialist needs who would benefit from remaining in the specialist school setting for post-16.
- HTB members noted the trust has previously worked with an Education Expert and has undertaken an SRMA. The trust is now in a new position, with a new CEO, wider leadership team, strengthened governance and strong financial management.

- HTB members supported this application, this specialism is needed in Bristol and the special school has very strong leadership.
- HTB members are keen to see wider trust outcomes when available and are reassured by ongoing monitoring by RDD.

RSC decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

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

## Trust Change

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

**Project:** Whether to approve the transfer of Bristol Technology and Engineering Academy (BTEA), **Bristol** to join Olympus Academy Trust.

HTB discussion:

- HTB members had a full discussion and concluded that transfer to Olympus Academy Trust (OAT) was a positive way forward.
- HTB members raised questions about transfer funding.
- HTB members recognised the challenges in supporting BTEA but recognised the trust was doing the right thing for students and that pausing admissions will give time to look at restructuring and the curriculum offer.
- The ESFA are continuing to work with OAT around their ability to absorb any future deficits and will ensure the package offers the best value for money before the recommendation is submitted for Ministerial approval.
- HTB members noted that this is a pragmatic decision with risks attached and very much centred around the right way forward for the students.

RSC decision: Approved pending ministerial approval.

Conflicts: Alun Williams was not present for the discussion.

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

**Project:** Whether to approve St Werburgh's Primary School, **Bristol** converting to academy status and joining Cathedral Schools Trust (CST)

HTB discussion:

- HTB members noted that Governors have met and have decided CST would be the best fit for them. Officials are working towards a proposed transfer date of either 1 August or 1 September 2021.
- HTB members noted St Werburgh's strong disadvantaged outcomes.
- HTB members discussed trust governance noting an even number of Members but also the history with regard to both Diocese and Cathedral.
- HTB members noted that CST may have capacity to consider more vulnerable and challenging schools in the future using their School Improvement (SI) strategy.

RSC decision: approve.

Conditions: none.

Conflicts: none.

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

## Decisions taken between HTB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RSC outside of HTB meetings.

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application for Kingsleigh Primary School, **BCP**, to close their school resource base.

HTB discussion: none

RSC decision: approved via the correspondence log on Monday 26 April.

Conflicts: None

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

**Project:** Whether to approve a significant change application to increase the capacity at Churchdown School, **Gloucestershire** from 1322 to 1405

HTB discussion

- This will reflect a PAN of 235 (11-16 year olds) and 230 pupil places in the sixth form.

RSC decision: approved via the correspondence log on 22 April 2021.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform school and trust. Following conditions to be met which correspond to points 1.3 and 1.5 of the Academies Financial Handbook by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021:

1. Recruitment of an additional member to the trust board.
2. Ensure clear separation on the board between members and trustees.