



Notes of Meeting: South-East England and South London

24 June 2021

Attendance

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

HTB members who send their apologies for the meeting are, where possible, 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

- Claire Burton

Headteacher Board (HTB) members

- Alison Beane
- Stephen Carey
- Andrew Carter
- Mark Ducker
- Paula Farrow
- David Boyle

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Jon Chaloner

DfE senior civil servants

- Paul Schofield

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

RSC update

- Minutes from previous meeting agreed.
- The board reflected on a request from the free school policy team for views to inform free school development in the future.
- The board discussed the impact of the latest government announcements in the region.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Bandon Hill Primary, Sutton, conversion to join Greenshaw Learning Trust

HTB discussion: Bandon Hill Primary School is a large maintained school on a split site and is over subscribed. Over the last three years the school has found itself in financial difficulty. The school has established a good relationship with Greenshaw Learning Trust and now wishes to formally join.

Members appreciated the trust putting its reserves towards a school that is struggling. A question was raised around capacity, given that the trust has taken on five schools over the last year and is growing in both the SW and SESL regions. HTB members suggested this would be an appropriate time for a discussion with the trust about its consolidation and growth strategy.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jon Chaloner was not present for this item and did not receive the paper.

Further actions required: Conversation regarding consolidation and growth.

Project: Tanners Brook Primary School, Southampton, closing of an SEN provision

HTB discussion: The proposal is to close a resource base for hearing impaired children at Tanners Brook Primary School, run by HISP Multi Academy Trust, and open a new increased provision at the LA maintained Newlands Primary School.

Noted that Newlon Primary School is LA maintained so the LA is managing the development programme.

Question on Newlon's future plans with regards to academisation.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change:

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

Project: Bromley Beacon Academy, Bromley, additional SEN provision

HTB discussion: The proposal is to increase SEMH provision by 20 places. The LA has approached LSEAT to carry out the work due. Consultation has been completed and no issues were raised. The LA has agreed to provide place led funding for the first year.

Noted that this proposal is in line with the LA's strategic plan for bringing more provision in borough.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Beckmead School, Croydon, de-amalgamation

HTB discussion: Application to de-amalgamate one school that spans seven sites into three separate schools. The trust plans to create a Croydon hub through this de-amalgamation.

The HTB reflected on whether the trust governance is operating as a MAT to reflect the new structure and on the rationale of creating three schools.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Trust change

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

Project: Wallace Fields Infant School to join South Farnham Educational Trust

HTB discussion: The trust had originally taken a strategic view to grow slowly but is now keen to grow and share its capacity to support other schools. Its existing schools, South Farnham, Highfield and the Raleigh are all Outstanding. As a Teaching School, South Farnham has a good track record of supporting schools with an improvement team of NLEs and SLEs.

The HTB noted that two of the trustees are also chairs of local governing body. Clarification was provided that the trust has increased the number of members to 5 and trustees to 9 creating appropriate separation.

The HTB was supportive of the Trust using its solid base to help schools that are in real difficulty and noted that the trust is currently supporting an RI school in Surrey.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andrew Carter was not present for this item and did not receive the paper.

Further actions required: No action required

Decisions taken between HTB meetings

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

Project: Willow Dene, Greenwich - Temporary Age Range Change

Decision type: Significant change

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the HTB meeting.

Project: Nightingale Community Academy, capacity expansion

Type of decision: Significant change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Awaiting further information needed for the paper.

Project: Peacehaven Heights Primary School and Telscombe Cliffs Primary School, East Sussex to join STEP Academy Trust

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Awaiting further information needed for the paper.