



Notes of Meeting: South-East England and South London

15 July 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

- Jon Chaloner
- Stephen Carey
- Andrew Carter
- Mark Ducker
- Paula Farrow

Guests

- None

Apologies

- David Boyle
- Alison Beane

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.
- Ofsted monitoring visits generally well received in the region, so optimistic regarding data in September reports.
- Discussion on operational challenges across the region as more schools isolating.
- Claire thanked members for their dedication and role as advisors to the RSC.

HTB member reflections

- On Teaching Hubs members discussed challenges in delivering the CPD aspect of the teaching school hubs offer.
- Question on rebranding HTB.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: The Will Adams Centre, Medway, to join Alternative Learning Trust

HTB discussion: Request for Will Adams to convert. School is looking for support to improve performance further.

Alternative Learning Trust is an established AP focused MAT with a growing role in developing a national AP strategy. ALT is also the AP behaviour hub for south east.

The trust currently has four members and six trustees.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Recommendation to bring governance in line with DfE best practice model.

Project: Thames Ditton Junior School – Academy Conversion

HTB discussion:

Discussion around trust growth – position of local schools. Trust should consider being more transparent/clearer with prospective schools about the top slice/charging structure.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Ducker was not present for this item.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Fern Hill Primary School, Kingston – Academy Conversion

HTB discussion: Fern Hill Primary School wants to convert to an academy and join Kingston Educational Trust (KET). The school is rated outstanding and is at 99% capacity. The school has made a strong relationship with the KET.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

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

HTB discussion: two primary school converters. Peacehaven is rated RI by Ofsted and Telscombe is rated Ofsted good. Both schools are currently under LA intervention and have interim headteachers in place. STEP Teaching School Alliance (TSA) has been providing support via a Memorandum of Understanding.

Both schools are PFI.

Agreed that Peacehaven Heights and Telscombe Cliffs will be sponsored by STEP. Noted that IEBs and ESCC have agreed this. It was also noted that both schools are required to undertake a stakeholder consultation prior to conversion.

Recommendation that both schools work towards the same conversion date.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Ducker was not present for this item and did not receive the paper.

Further actions required: No action required

Trust change

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

Project: Kingston Educational Trust, Kingston – transfer from SAT into a MAT

HTB discussion: KET are a SAT applying to become MAT. They established Kingston Academy, a new Free School which was judged outstanding in all categories.

They are committed to growing. Headteacher who is an Ofsted inspector is keen to provide support.

Question on plans for utilising their surplus.

Question on their strategy for the top slice.

On governance there are 15 trustees. Once they become a MAT they will bring it down to the recommended 10.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant change:

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

Project: The Rowans AP Academy, Medway, age range changes

HTB discussion: Request for a temporary change to age range.

LA confirm the need for primary support and have agreed to funding.

Question on transition of children.

Question on the option for The Beeches AP Free School to be opened early in temporary accommodation. That option was explored with FSC.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Nightingale Community Academy, Wandsworth - capacity expansion - OHCAT

HTB discussion: Nightingale Community Academy is a special school for boys that wants to increase its capacity by 27 places from the current 93, giving them a new capacity of 120 places.

Discussed what other options are available.

Question on trust SI plan.

RSC decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: The trust refines its SIP to specifically address issues identified by Ofsted.

The trust limits any further growth until its current schools secure improved Ofsted grades.

Project: Flying Bull Academy, Portsmouth – expansion of special needs provision

HTB discussion: The proposal is to increase the current places at the Inclusion Centre for pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs from sixteen to thirty-two places.

Portsmouth City Council has a strategic plan and will fully fund the project.

No financial concerns.

RSC decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

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