

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 7 February 2008

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION/TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: To inform Members of SOAB of the current situation regarding Foundation/Trust proposals

## **FOR INFORMATION**

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### **Background**

1. (1) A paper was presented to SOAB on 17 October 2007 informing Members of the Government's encouragement of all schools to consider Foundation/Trust status, and of the 'fast track' procedures to achieve it. These procedures require a governing body to consult 'interested parties' (including the LA) over a minimum of a four week period, before determining themselves.

(2) Unless there are very good reasons not to do so, the change of status will be approved.

(3) At SOAB, it was agreed that as the consultation period will not normally allow the LA time to prepare paperwork for SOAB for a view, that:

(a) Unless there are very good reasons to the contrary the presumption will be that the LA will not oppose any governing body wishing to move to Foundation or Trust status;

(b) The Director (Operations) will consult with the Cabinet Member and local Member(s) before responding to a consultation on Foundation or Trust status;

(c) Responses will be reported to the next available SOAB.

### **Determinations**

2. (1) Since the last report to the Board there have been no determinations reported to the LA.

(2) There are now 58 Foundation schools in Kent (13 Primary, 44 Secondary and 1 Special) and 91 Aided schools (78 Primary and 13 Secondary) – a total of 149, and in addition, 7 Academies = 156.

(3) For the sake of simplicity, Aided schools should be considered as having the same status as Foundation/Trust schools.

### **Consultations**

3. (1) Since the last report two schools have begun formal consultations to change to Foundation Status. They are **Borden Grammar School** and **Highsted Grammar School, Sittingbourne**.

(2) The consultation for Borden finishes on 15 February, and for Highsted on 27 February 2008.

(3) The Cabinet Member, Mr Dance, and the local Members Mrs Simpson and Mr Truelove were informed (on 18 January 2008) with a view that we should not oppose.

### **Recommendations**

4. Members are asked to note the report.

Ian Craig  
Director (Operations)  
01622 694173  
ian.craig@kent.gov.uk

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#### *Background Documents:*

- School Standards and Framework Act; DFES 1998
- Education and Inspection Act; DFES 2006
- Changing Category to Foundation; DCSF 2007
- School Organisation; Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools in England Regulations; DCSF 2007
- Schools Applying for Foundation/Trust Status;  
SOAB - 17 October 2007/14 November 2007/10 January 2008