

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 5 November 2008

Subject: SCHOOLS APPLYING FOR FOUNDATION/TRUST STATUS

Classification: Unrestricted

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

FOR INFORMATION

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) 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 has been one new determination reported to the local authority. In August it was agreed that **Axton Chase School, Longfield** should be discontinued, and replaced, with effect from 1 September 2008 with **The Longfield Academy** which has now opened.

Consultations

3. Since the last report the governing bodies of five schools have notified us of their intention to consult on changing their status. **Anthony Roper Primary School, Eynesford, Oakwood Park Grammar School, Maidstone, and Valley Park School,**

Maidstone have all begun discussions on becoming Foundation schools. The Federation governing body of **Holmesdale School, Snodland** and **The Malling School** have begun formal consideration of moving to Trust status. In all instances local Members and both Cabinet Members for CFE were consulted before letters were sent indicating that the local authority would not oppose these moves.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to note the report.

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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 2008/7 February 2008/2 April 2008/
7 May 2008/17 July 2008