

By: Director - Operations

To: School Organisation Advisory Board – 14 November 2007

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) 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) Currently there are 57 foundation schools in Kent (13 primary and 44 Secondary) and 91 Aided schools (73 primary and 13 Secondary) – a total of 148.

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

Consultations

3. The LA was informed on 2 November 2007 that **King Ethelbert's School, Birchington**, has begun a consultation on Foundation status, running from 1 November to 10 December 2007. The Cabinet Member, Mr Dance, and the local Member, Mr Hibberd have been informed (on 2 November 2007) with a view that we should not oppose.

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 Status; SOAB, 17 October 2007