

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN FOUNDATION PROPOSALS

*Insert the information asked for in the expandable box below each section.*

### **1. All proposals must include the following information—**

#### **(a) School Details**

The name, address and category of the school for which the governing body are publishing the proposals;

Holly Lodge High School College of Science (Community School)  
Holly Lane  
Smethwick  
B67 7JG

#### **(b) Dates**

The proposed implementation date (“implementation date”);

1<sup>st</sup> May 2008

#### **(c) Objections and comments**

A statement explaining the procedure for making representations, including—

- (i) the date (4 weeks from the publication date) by which objections or comments should be sent to the governing body; and
- (ii) the address to which objections or comments should be sent;

Representations should be sent to the Chair of Governors, Holly Lodge High School College of Science, Holly Lane, Smethwick B67 7JG by 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

#### **(d) Consultation**

Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (i) a list of persons who were consulted;
- (ii) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (iii) the views of the persons consulted;
- (iv) a statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements in relation to the proposal to consult were complied with; and
- (v) copies of all consultation documents and a statement on how these documents were made available;

#### **i) List of people/organisations to whom consultation letter was sent**

Sandwell Local Authority

Birmingham Local Authority

All parents/families of pupils at the school

All teaching and support staff

All Sandwell schools – Chair of Governors and Head Teacher

Parents of Year 5 and 6 pupils at George Betts, Devonshire, Albion and Rood End Schools

Unions: NASUWT, NUT, ATL, GMB, UNISON

Black Country Learning and Skills Council

Members of Parliament: John Spellar (Warley), Sylvia Heal (Halesowen and Rowley Regis), Tom Watson (West Bromwich East), Adrian Bailey (West Bromwich West)

Bangladeshi Cultural Association

Hindu Cultural Resource Centre

Smethwick Bangladeshi Youth Forum

5K Foundation

Guru Nanak Gurdwara

PC Pete Baggott (School Based Police Officer)

Oldbury Road Mosque

Bangaldeshi Islamic Centre

Race Equality Sandwell

St Albans Community Centre

St Albans Road

ACCESS

Sandwell Multi-Faith Network

Community Action Partnership

Sandwell Irish Community Association

## **ii) Minutes of public consultation meeting**

### **MINUTES OF A SPECIAL GOVERNORS OPEN MEETING - HOLLY LODGE HIGH SCHOOL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE WEDNESDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2007**

**PRESENT** Mrs Billington, Miss Rutherford, Messrs Mander, Chatwin,,  
Murray, Mwanza, Souter and Cllr Josan - Governors  
Nav Johal – Policy Officer for Education and Youth  
Cheryl Richards – Extended Services Manager

**IN ATTENDANCE Mr Pointon - Clerk to the Governors.**

The Chairman introduced the meeting and then invited the Head Teacher to speak

Mr Souter informed the meeting that letters had been sent to all parents, the Unions, parents of year 5 and 6 pupils in four local primary schools, the Learning Skills Council, the LEA, local councilors and MPs and B'ham Authority.

Foundation schools have formal ownership of its assets, the governing body is the

direct employer of the staff and is the admissions authority. Mr Souter continued by stressing that the school would be able to work more closely and develop better links with the community and in addition would provide excellence for both young people and staff. Step 1 would be Foundation Status leading in due course to Trust Status.

Mr Murray informed those present that the five Unions, both teaching and non-teaching, had met yesterday.

With regard to the Unions, Mr Souter informed the meeting that he had agreed to a two week extension to the consultation period to allow them to carry out their own consultative process.

Mr Mander was concerned that parents were not present at the meeting but Nav Johal felt that the whole issue was complicated and the information difficult to absorb. She also added that she was aware of some schools going down this road and then distancing themselves from the community, but she was confident that in this case relationships will be strengthened. Mrs Billington added that complacency may have had an effect on the lack of interest and Cllr Josan suggested that lack of parental interest may be a sign of agreement, although it was agreed that this could be a dangerous interpretation.

It was noted that if a decision was taken to go to the statutory period, parents would have another opportunity to attend a further meeting. In the general discussion that ensued regarding getting people to attend such meetings, change of venue, working though parents evening and meeting local community groups were all thought to be worth trying.

Mr Murray felt that people in the community did not see this as a big issue and Cheryl Richards expressed concern that parents tended to take a step back once their child entered secondary school.

In conclusion Mr Souter informed the meeting that a decision will be made at the full Governors meeting next week. With regard to the consultation, there was nothing at the moment to suggest the school should not move forward.

### **iii) Views of the persons consulted**

Four letters were received.

- 1) Sandwell Local Authority supported the proposal while making a number of points about Trust status, welcoming the governing body's commitment to continuing to work within the local 14-19 consortium and the Hard to Place protocols and offering advice about the legal process surrounding the transfer of staff and land.
- 2) Birmingham Local Authority commented that they would review/object to any proposals that governors might make to reduce the school's admissions number as a foundation school.
- 3) John Spellar, MP supported the proposal.
- 4) The NUT were opposed to the proposal. The union sees foundation schools as a step in the dismantling of the state education system. It believes that economies of scale will be lost and that lay governors will potentially be placed in difficult circumstances, having to take on responsibilities and duties previously undertaken by Local Authorities. It sees foundation schools as "an

untested and unproven form of provision”. The union urges Holly Lodge governors to continue the formal consultation on Foundation and Trust status together. It welcomes oral reassurances given to staff that there will be no change to their employment and conditions, but questions whether this will remain the same under a changed governing body (particularly if a Trust is formed). Sandwell’s arrangements for redundancy payments for teachers are currently better than statutory minimums. The union is concerned that these arrangements may not be sustainable, particularly as the staffing implications of BSF are yet to be considered and there are “looming financial pressures on school budgets eg Equal Value Pay Claims”. Finally the union believes that the move to foundation status in preparation for a trust is unnecessary as the perceived advantages of the Trust can be realised using current arrangements. It urges governors not to enter into the formal consultation stage but rather to look for partnerships within existing arrangements.

Staff raised the following questions and issues at a Staff Meeting held at the school on 23<sup>rd</sup> January:

- the benefits of Foundation and Foundation Trust Status
- the knowledge and experience of governors and safeguards regarding Trust Governors and their influence on the school
- safeguards for pay and conditions of teaching staff in the future (including possible uses of the Power to Innovate)
- benefits for Trust partners of joining a Trust
- changes to the school curriculum
- union opposition to Foundation and Foundation Trust Status.

**iv) All statutory requirements in relation to the proposal to consult have been complied with**

**v) Consultation letter that was sent to those listed under i) above**

### **Change of status to a foundation school**

The governing body of Holly Lodge High School College of Science is considering a change of status to become a foundation school. This is in line with the Government’s plans for a reformed system of strong, autonomous schools and a modernised role for local authorities. The governing body also sees this as the first step towards Holly Lodge becoming a Trust School which will also be the subject of formal consultation in due course.

A foundation school has formal ownership of its assets (land and buildings); the governing body is the direct employer of the school’s staff and is the admission authority and has the power to publish statutory proposals for other changes.

Our school and governing body are committed to exercising this autonomy within the framework of fair funding and fair admissions. Our relationship and collaborative working with our feeder primary schools and other partnerships will continue in the same way. We believe that we have the experience and expertise to use the additional autonomies of foundation status to continue the development of the school and raise standards. Governors believe that the school will be able to work more closely and develop better links with the local community and to use the additional freedoms to

provide excellence for our young people and staff.

There is an expectation from government that schools will take a lead in delivering the Every Child Matters agenda and the vision of Extended Schools. The additional freedoms open to us as a foundation school and our commitment to co-operation with other agencies will we believe, be an important component in our school's development of these initiatives.

This letter is part of our informal consultation. The next step will be a meeting of the governing body on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October to consider any responses to this letter and make a decision about continuing with the process.

We welcome any comments you might wish to make in writing or by email using the address at the top of this letter. Please let us have your comments by Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like to find out more about what it means to become a foundation school, the governors will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October from 6 to 7 pm when any representations you might want to make in person will be welcome. Please do let us know if you would like to attend this meeting by phone or e-mail or, if you are a parent of a child at the school, by returning the slip at the bottom of this letter to your child's form tutor.

We will tell you about the formal consultation process when we have considered all the responses to this letter and made our decision about whether or not to continue.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Souter  
Head Teacher

Pritam Singh Mander  
Chair of Governors

**(e) Alteration description**

A statement of which one of, or combinations of, the alterations prescribed in regulation 3 of the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 comprise the proposals.

These proposals comprise a change of category from a community school to a foundation school.

**2. Where the prescribed alteration is a change of category to foundation, the proposals must contain the following information—**

- (a) the rationale for the proposals;

The proposal is in line with the Government's plans for a reformed system of strong, autonomous schools and a modernised role for local authorities. The governing body also sees this as the first step towards Holly Lodge becoming a Trust School which

will also be the subject of formal consultation in due course.

The school and governing body are committed to exercising this autonomy within the framework of fair funding and fair admissions. The school's relationship and collaborative working with feeder primary schools and other partnerships will continue in the same way. Governors believe that they have the experience and expertise to use the additional autonomies of foundation status to continue the development of the school and raise standards. Governors believe that the school will be able to work more closely and develop better links with the local community and to use the additional freedoms to provide excellence for young people and staff.

There is an expectation from government that schools will take a lead in delivering the Every Child Matters agenda and the vision of Extended Schools. The additional freedoms open to Holly Lodge as a foundation school and the school's commitment to co-operation with other agencies will, governors believe, be an important component in the school's development of these initiatives.

- (b) a statement that the school will—
- (i) have a foundation established otherwise than under SSFA 1998; or
  - (ii) belong to a group of schools for which a foundation body acts; or
  - (iii) be a foundation school not falling within either of sub-paragraphs (i) or (ii);

Under these proposals the school will be a foundation school without a foundation.

- (c) where it is a change of category to foundation from a voluntary aided school or voluntary controlled school, a statement that in accordance with section 20 of the EIA 2006, the consent of the trustees and the persons by whom the foundation governors are appointed has been obtained.

N/A