

Outcomes of the MAT consultation process May 2016

(extracts from the business case)

Evidence to demonstrate that a fair and open local consultation has been undertaken, including: the dates the consultation opened and closed; which groups/stakeholders were consulted; how the engagement was undertaken e.g. meetings/leaflets etc:

Consultation documents were prepared detailing proposed changes, including leadership & governance.

This information was circulated to stakeholders on 25 April 2016. The consultation closed on 23rd May 2016.

Public meetings were held on 12th May; one during the day, the other in the evening.

Stakeholders:

- Parents
- Staff
- LA
- Neighbouring authorities
- All Local Schools, including Special schools

Local charities

A summary of the responses to the consultation, including: the number of responses; the number and percentage in favour of the change; and if there were any objections, how the issues raised will be (or have been) managed:

17 written responses received and our public consultation meetings were attended by total of 30 people.

Attendees and the written responses reflect a broad cross section of our extended school communities including parents, staff, other professionals and LA representatives.

Of the written responses only one disagreed with the proposed MAT raising the question "why change something that is working well & isn't broken?" In terms of provision this actually reflects our approach; formation of the MAT will strengthen our ability to maintain the character of our schools and improve quality of delivery for the future.

Our LA partners are supportive of formation of the proposed MAT, "... council is a strong advocate of new models of leadership ... supports ... value of formal partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people..."

One parent, responding in support of the proposed MAT, queried the timescale for consultation - requesting "more time for parents to decide". The consultation was held over the (term time) dates indicated in line with DfE guidance and was supported by detailed consultation documents with supporting "accessible" summaries.

The tone of the meetings was that of constructive debate. The nature of the queries raised were broadly supportive of the proposed MAT, most relating to process and timescale issues. No objections to the proposed MAT were raised either direct or implicit.

A strong theme that did emerge from the meetings was that of parental representation on the Trust board; parental voice being of particular relevance for our specialist provisions. In response to this we taken steps to strengthen parental representation within the Trustee and Member groups and this is reflected in the articles submitted to accompany the application.