



**Handsworth Primary School
Future Options Working group
Friday 9th November 2018**

Governors present:

Jill Augustin (HT)

Liz Winder

Mary Wilson

Katherine Bromley

Gabriel Gottlieb

Jennifer Smith

Apologies: Simon Jarvis

1. JS and LW introduced a document, which provided an analysis of the options considered by the working party to frame the discussion. Governors noted that the document is a working document and will be added to after each working party meeting
2. Governors discussed each option in turn. It was acknowledged that each option was discussed with full consideration of whether long-term benefits would be realised for the school.
3. **Option 1** (remain maintained) - Governors stated that this was the current situation, and various ways in which to generate or maximise income were being explored. JA has started working to support an out of borough school, which has brought in additional funds. The Handsworth SENDCO is also working to support St Mary's school as an Inclusion lead. The National Leader of Governance continues to generate an annual grant to the school. It was noted in the current 3 year business plan (to 2020) for the school, we are projecting budget deficits for each of the 3 years, and the sum total of these 3 deficits equates to over £100k – more than the reserves the school currently holds. The governors recognise that income generation is likely to have to go hand in hand with a review of costs in order to balance the budget each year and maintain a prudent level of reserves.
4. **Option 2** (join a local small academy) - Governors will explore whether joining Yardley Primary/ Roger Ascham is viable. This was discounted a number of years ago, however, under new leadership, a preliminary discussion could take place. Risks were identified- Roger Ascham is no longer rated as outstanding, Yardley has not been subject to an Ofsted inspection within a ten-year period, therefore a robust measure of current performance may be difficult. Governors noted that the trust has retained a separate governing body from the trustees. Defined and profitable economies of scale would need to be evident.
5. Highams Park was discounted previously. JA has recently met with new head teacher to discuss working together over modern foreign languages, higher



maths provision and IT functions-only. However, Governors had concerns about whether sufficient expertise or advantages would be gained from joining a secondary school, noted the increasing financial constraints on secondary schools and agreed that their focus should remain on sharing best practice between primary schools. To be considered further if other benefits arise.

6. Governors had an informal discussion with Longshaw Primary school around the possibility of partnership. Governors noted that Longshaw has been re-brokered to the United Learning Trust, and the Regional Schools Commissioner had refused to allow a partnership with a maintained school.
7. Whitehall - the current HT is due to retire, this could provide opportunity for new partnership - to be considered
8. **Option 3** (join a larger MAT) - Governors agreed that this would only be considered for the future if financially viable for the school
9. **Option 4** (join a soft federation) - Governors noted that economies of scale might exist. Henry Maynard/Edinburgh/ Greenleaf/ Southgrove is a federation worth considering. They have an umbrella governing body and the risk might be that we lose control of governance. The benefit is that they are local schools and might be more acceptable to stakeholders. Governors noted that Oakhill had been approached but partnership was rejected by them.
10. Governors discussed the possibility of exploring the Redbridge Education Partnership, as Woodford Green Primary scheme had initially done, despite being a LBWF school. Woodford Green are now academising with Arbor Academy Trust. Action: KB to contact Redbridge Education Partnership.