

Staff and Pensions Committee

9 December 2019

Pension Fund Admissions - Academies

Recommendation

That the Staff and Pensions Committee delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Resources to approve applications from the listed schools converting to academy status, subject to the applications meeting the criteria:

- Meon Vale (Tudor Grange Academy Trust; 1 September 2019)
- Henley High School (Arden Multiple Academy Trust; 1 September 2019).
- Lower Farm Academy (REAch2 Academy Trust; 1 September 2019)

1.0 Background

- 1.1 An updated Admissions and Terminations Policy was approved by the Staff and Pensions Committee in June 2017, this includes a requirement for admissions and terminations to be approved by the Committee.
- 1.2 A number of pending applications to join the scheme have been recently identified driven by planned academy conversions. This report summarises the schools intending to convert to academy status in the near future or have recently converted.

2.0 Options and Proposal

- 2.1 An academy is automatically a Scheme Employer on the basis that it meets the criteria of paragraph 20 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations 2013 i.e. it is a 'scheduled body'.
- 2.2 When submitting an application for membership each academy will be required to confirm:
 - That it has internal authority to be admitted to the Pension Fund.
 - The number of members to join the Pension Fund.
 - That the academy will comply with the relevant LGPS Regulations.

3.0 Academy Conversions

- 3.1 The Pension Fund has contacted the following schools regarding conversion to academy status:

- Meon Vale (Tudor Grange Academy Trust; 1 September 2019).
- Lower Farm (REAch2 Academy Trust; 1 September 2019)

3.2 The Pension Fund has received notification that Henley High Academy is joining the Arden Multiple Academy Trust. The transfer took place on 1 September 2019. Although the Arden MAT is based in the West Midlands, Henley High will continue to be a member of the Warwickshire Pension Fund.

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 The Pension Fund must accept applications from scheduled bodies where the requirements of the regulations are met.

4.2 The Committee is asked to delegate responsibility for dealing with applications from the academies listed above.

4.3 The actual date of conversion to academy status is outside of the control of the Pension Fund. If the conversion of a school does not happen within a reasonable timescale – by the end of March 2020, then a revised application will be brought to the Committee.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 New entrants to the scheme will be required to cover their own costs and the actuarial process will ensure that employer contributions are appropriate to ensure this is the case.

6.0 Environmental Implications

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications resulting from this proposal.

Background papers

None

Supporting paper

Pension Fund Admissions and Termination Policy approved by Staff and Pensions Committee 12 June 2017.

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The report was not circulated to members prior to publication: