



Stafford
Sports College

and

The Stafford Community Learning Trust

(a mutual schools co-operative membership trust)

STATUTORY PROPOSALS

Introductory Information

School Details

This is a proposal to join a partnership of schools by acquiring The Stafford Community Learning Trust. The school in the partnership is **Stafford Sports College**, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford ST17 9DJ (tel: 01785 258383; e-mail: governors@staffordsportscollege.staffs.sch.uk) which is a foundation school.

Proposed Implementation Date

1st May 2015.

Prescribed Alteration

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(3) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of **Stafford Sports College** intends to make a prescribed alteration to **Stafford Sports College** namely, together with the proposed partner to acquire a trust established otherwise than under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

Name of the Trust

The name of the trust that the Governors intend to acquire from May 1st 2015 is the "Stafford Community Learning Trust".

Consultation

The consultation documents were distributed to stakeholders between February 25th and 27th 2015. These included an information leaflet which set out briefly the implications of the proposed change of category and the proposal to acquire (join) a local mutual co-operative school trust, as well as the reasons why the Governing Body and the Headteacher are proposing it. They also sought to

answer some of the more common questions. The leaflet also included dates, times and venues of separate consultation meetings for parents/carers, staff, and other stake-holders.

Learners will be consulted via Student Voice / Student Council, assemblies and a range of other internal school mechanisms.

An accompanying letter referred stakeholders to a much more comprehensive and in-depth consultation document (known as 'Booklet One') This can be obtained from the school via our website – www.staffordsportscollege.com or in paper copy from the school office. Similarly available is a detailed Questions and Answers document ('Booklet Two'.)

A key part of the initial consultation process involves gathering stakeholder views and feedback. Also included with the documentation sent out was a consultation questionnaire. This can be completed online the school website or completed in hard copy and returned to the school office.

Changes made in response to the initial 'information and awareness raising' phase.

To date written responses have been low in number. This is common in this sort of exercise as responses do not really start to be returned in significant numbers until after the consultation meetings which, in this case, take place on Wednesday March 18th.

Objections or comments

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals - **by noon on April 2nd 2015** - any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by writing to the school at the address above or by e-mail to governors@staffordsportscollege.staffs.sch.uk.

Acquiring a Trust.

The Governing Body of the school as well as the founding partner, the Co-operative Movement, currently represented by the Co-operative College, believe that the school's acquisition of the trust as its legal foundation, will provide opportunities to improve learning in our community. The trust will enhance this model of lifelong learning and offer additional contacts, ideas, research possibilities, and professional consultancy, to improve educational provision across all ages and within our communities.

Stafford Sports College will have a foundation established otherwise than under the SSFA 1998.

The school is not proposing a change of category to foundation from a voluntary aided school so no consent is required.

The Trust does not already act as a foundation for any foundation or voluntary school. The Trust previously acted as the legal foundation for the Grove Primary School which subsequently left the Trust in 2014 to become a sponsored academy.

Vision and Values

The "Stafford Community Learning Trust" partner organisations plan to work in partnership and collaboration with local schools. Joining the Trust body will help to formalise existing local working relationships and ensures that relationships survive changes of personnel for the benefit of all schools in the local area who may be acquiring the same Trust in the future.

The rationale for acquiring the foundation and the ethos that it will bring to the school can be summarised as a means of developing improving engagement with parents and enabling members of the community to have a greater share in the future of their school.

The main aims of the Trust will be to:

- Further improve outcomes for all our learners in all our local schools with a strengthened
- focus on school-to-school self-improvement; Support each school to become - and then remain - 'Outstanding';
- Strengthen our ability to work collaboratively and co-operatively to enable our schools to grow, develop and improve together;
- Formalise and further develop arrangements already in place for joint working;
- Develop further the skills and expertise of staff across the school and other local schools;
- Further share resources and skills across the schools;
- Further increase levels of aspiration across our school communities thereby impacting positively upon standards.

Our vision is to use the strength of the Trust to build on and strengthen what our informal partnership working with local schools has already achieved and to create a learning community which seeks further to improve teaching and learning, to raise enjoyment, achievement and aspirations for all and to ensure children and their families are supported.

Becoming legally a shared Trust will help us to clarify our vision and aims, continue to raise expectations and standards across our area, and make our existing collaboration and associated school improvement strategies more sustainable. We believe that to meet the needs of our communities we need to work together as a community. We know that we can achieve more by working together than we can by working alone. A shared Trust would help to make that belief a reality.

As a co-operative trust, the Trust has adopted the values and principles of the Co-operative Movement. Co-operatives are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The values of the Trust are underpinned by the principles of equality, inclusion and commitment to support the well-being of every child and their family in our schools. In the tradition of their founders, co-operative members believe in the values of honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

We have considered a variety of school structures, including academies, but feel that this model best meets our context, needs and values.

Trust Structure

The proposed member of the trust, nominating two trustees, is Stafford Sports College; and the partner, nominating one trustee is The Co-operative Movement, initially represented by the Co-operative College.

(In the case of the two trustees which Stafford Sports college shall each appoint to the Trust Board, these shall be the Head Teacher and Chair of Governors – or the Chair's nominee.)

It is proposed that the Trust would perform in the most effective and democratic manner if it were to be established and operate in accordance with the co-operative values of self help, self responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity. The co-operative model provides a level of community engagement and participation that is essential if the adoption of trust school status is going to achieve the school's vision for education in the community; it will assist in the promotion of community cohesion.

All parents/carers and learners attending a Trust school are eligible to become members of the Trust. This is also true of all members of staff employed by Trust schools and members of a range of community organisations supporting the work of the Trust. Family members of our pupils and past pupils as well as individuals living or working locally who identify with what the trust is seeking to achieve, can also join the Trust.

It is proposed to establish a Trust Forum whose members, including parents, staff, learners and representatives of the community – both organisations and individuals - are elected from the respective membership constituency. The purpose of the Trust Forum will be to hold the Trust to account, to help shape policies and to appoint a minority of trustees. The Trust Forum will discuss issues affecting the Trust, make recommendations to the Trustees, and appoint Trustees.

Accordingly, membership of the Trust would be open to anyone approved by the Trustees who is willing to be bound by the provisions of the Trust's constitution and who is eligible for membership of any one of the following five membership constituencies:

- learners attending the School
- parents and carers of those attending the School
- staff working at the School
- members of the local School community, including the families of pupils.
- local community organisations as appropriate to the School.

There is also an option whereby the Trust can have an additional membership constituency, namely an *alumni* constituency, being drawn from past pupils.

The first members of the Trust Forum will be appointed by the Trustees. This is because it is very difficult to get the trust Forum into place until after the Trust is properly up and running. At the Trust's first AGM, the Trustee-appointed members of the Trust Forum step down and are replaced with members elected by the Trust's members if a wider membership has been developed.

The involvement of the partner in this project in no way prejudices its relationships with other education providers.

The Trust will appoint a minority of governors (namely two) to the Governing

Body of the School as defined in Appendix 1 which also shows the proposed constitution.

Each partner will appoint trustees as shown above. The Trust Forum will appoint two or three Trustees.

The Trust's charitable objectives will be to advance the education of the learners in The Stafford Community Learning Trust with a remit to advance the education of other members of the community and otherwise to benefit the community - it being acknowledged that in carrying out the objects the Trust must (where applicable) have regard to its obligation to promote community cohesion under the Education Acts.

The proposed Trust does not act as a Foundation for any other school at present.

The Trust will meet the requirements on Trusts as detailed in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England) Regulations 2007.

The Trust will influence the future of the school and any other local schools joining the Trust in the future by developing membership of the Trust which will make a difference to learners, staff, the schools themselves and to the local community. It is expected that Trust membership will increase in future years and that the benefits will become available to a larger number of participants.

By developing an ethos of co-operation and local democracy, the proposed Trust is inclusive, community focused and centred on working with its partners and other organisations to raise levels of achievement and aspiration for all learners and their families.

The Trust will promote the well-being, care and education of the Trust's learners by developing sustainable, successful partnerships throughout the Trust in a wide range of activities designed and tailored to raise aspirations and make meaningful contributions to every learner's development including the school improvement process.

The Trust will seek to further raise achievement and aspirations by developing throughout the Trust a strong, collaborative approach including opportunities for joint training, CPD, cross curriculum projects, shared resources, shared coaching, mentoring and evaluation.

The Trust will promote high quality learning for all by working with Trust partners and with all in the Trust to enhance and secure a wide range of opportunities for children, young people and their families both in and out of school hours. Our Trust partners will work with us to provide enhanced family learning and enable us to access resources and expertise which can make these activities sustainable.

The Trust will enable everyone to work together to best provide an improved level of support for families and to enable all our children and young people to play a full part in developing activities within the community. By drawing together planned, coherent and sustainable, and equitably shared development, it will utilise all of the many elements of community to the advantage of all.

The Trust will promote innovation and improvement by collaborating with others to commission services for the benefit of Trust members, and by being commissioned to deliver programmes and promote new approaches to improving school performance.

The Trust will contribute to the advancement of education and raise standards through the creation of a platform for on-going improvement. The resources and expertise brought to the Trust by the partners will strengthen strategic leadership, increase support, and challenge and consolidate effective monitoring, thereby bringing about rapid improvement in outcomes for students.

The school acquiring the Trust, namely Stafford Sports College, already works with other local schools. This work will continue so that the entire Trust area, and not just the schools acquiring the Trust, will offer community cohesion and development for our local communities and will contribute to the diversity of educational provision in the area.

Decision as to Implementation

After carefully considering all responses to these proposals, the Governing Body will decide whether it wishes to acquire the Trust.



Trish Rowlands

Chair of Governors

Dated 5th March 2015

APPENDIX ONE.

DRAFT INSTRUMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Staffordshire Local Authority

Instrument of Government

1. The name of the school is Stafford Sports College.
2. The school is a foundation trust school.
3. The name of the Governing Body is "The Governing Body of Stafford Sports College".
4. The governing body shall consist of:
 - a) Two parent governors
 - b) One local authority governor
 - c) One staff governor
 - d) The Headteacher*
 - e) Six co-opted governors
 - f) Three partnership governors
 - g) Two foundation trust governors
5. Total number of governors is 16 *except at any time when the Headteacher has given notice that she/he chooses not to be a governor when the total number of governors shall be 15.
6. The name of the body entitled to appoint foundation governors is "Stafford Community Learning Trust" ("SCLT").
7. This instrument of government comes into effect on 1 May 2015
8. This Instrument was made by order of Staffordshire Local Authority on2015.

A copy of the instrument must be supplied to every member of the governing body (and the headteacher if not a governor), any trustees and to the appropriate religious body.