

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Report**

Committee/Panel:	Education Advisory Panel
Date:	22 June 2011
Title:	Academies in Hampshire
Reference:	
Report From:	Director of Children's Services, Education & Inclusion

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1. Summary

1.1. The Department for Education describes Academies as "*publicly funded independent schools, free from Local Authority and National Government control*". This paper sets out the current picture regarding academies both nationally and within Hampshire, explains the difference between sponsored and converter academies, and describes the process which schools seeking to convert must follow.

2. Sponsored Academies

2.1. Sponsored academies were created by the previous government, generally set up to replace underperforming schools: typically low-performing secondary schools in terms of pupil outcomes at Key Stage 4.

2.2. Sponsors are from a wide range of backgrounds including successful schools, businesses, universities, charities and faith bodies. Sponsors are expected to bring added drive, expertise and capacity designed to improve outcomes for pupils.

2.3. Sponsors have considerably more control over their schools than local authorities have had over schools since the beginning of LMS (Local Management of Schools) in the early 1990s.

3. Converter Academies

3.1. Converter academies are a flagship policy of the present government, with a view expressed by the Secretary of State for Education that, in time, academies will become the norm.

3.2. In the first instance, governing bodies of schools that had been rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted, in their most recent judgement, could apply to

become academies. This was then extended to schools that had been assessed as “good”, with one or more outstanding features in their most recent Ofsted inspection. Now applications to convert are welcomed from all schools that are “well-performing” with each application being considered on a case-by-case basis.

4. Academies conversion process

4.1. Registration

Schools are required to complete and submit an on-line registration form.

4.2 Application to convert

Schools submit an “application to convert form”, including confirmation of the governing body resolution.

4.3 Approval in principle

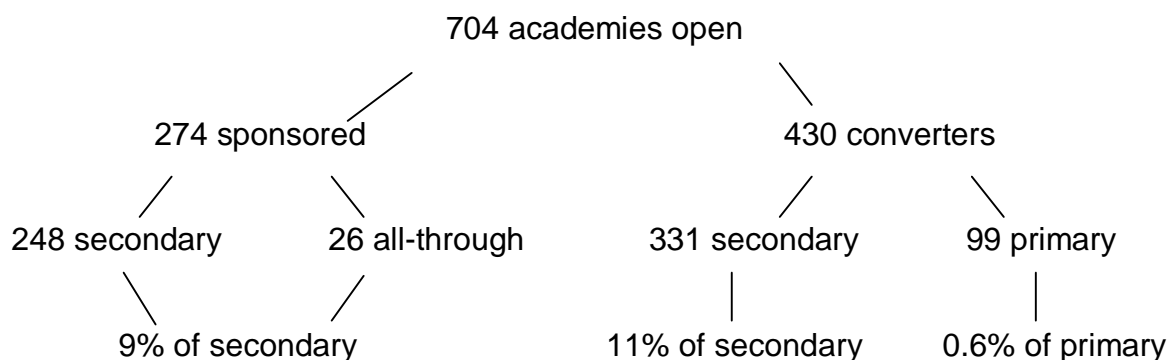
The Secretary of State considers the application and if content for the school to proceed to the next stage will make an Academy Order.

4.4 Funding agreement

Following completion of the legal documents relating to governance, land, property, staff transfer and company registration the formed Academy Trust and the Secretary of State sign the Funding Agreement.

5. Academies: national picture as at 1 June 2011

5.1. The table below provides a breakdown of the number of academies across the country:



5.2. The total number of submitted applications to convert stands at 1244 and, of these, 831 have received an Academy Order.

6. Academies: Hampshire picture as at 1 June 2011

6.1. Hampshire has one sponsored academy: Havant Academy (formerly Staunton Community Sports College) which opened in September 2010. The main sponsor of the academy is South Downs College and Hampshire County Council is a co-sponsor.

6.2. Everest Community College is seeking to become a sponsored academy with effect from 1 September 2011. Ministerial permission has been given to proceed with the application. The proposed sponsor is the Academies Enterprise Trust (AET). The AET is a multi-academy trust which presently sponsors seven academies, with a further three expected to open in September 2011, including Everest Community Academy.

6.3. There are 9 converter academies in Hampshire as listed below:

Priory Primary	Mountbatten Secondary
Arnewood Secondary	Bohunt Secondary
Wildern Secondary	Thornden Secondary
Ringwood Secondary	Burgate Secondary
Petersfield Secondary	

6.4. Twenty Hampshire schools have applied to convert as listed below. Those asterisked have received Academy Orders:

* Petersfield Secondary	Robert May's Secondary
* Priestlands Secondary	Testwood Secondary
* Romsey Secondary	*Amery Hill Secondary
* Fernhill Secondary	*Oaklands Secondary
* Hounslow Secondary	*St. Joseph's Primary
* Perins Secondary	*St. Anthony's Primary
Cowplain Secondary	Sun Hill Infant
* Noadswood Secondary	Dove House Special
Hardley Secondary	Cams Hill Secondary
Wyvern Secondary	Bransgore Primary

Academies – Hampshire context

6.5. Out of 71 Hampshire secondary schools, 23 have converted or applied to convert to academies (32%). Out of 426 Hampshire primary schools, 5 have converted or applied to convert (1%). Out of the 26 Hampshire special schools, 1 has applied to convert (4%).

7. The future position

7.1. Ensuring a significant growth in the number of academies across the country remains a key objective of the Secretary of State. While recent announcements as to funding have removed some of the financial incentives, it would be naïve to assume that there will not be more schools in Hampshire that seek to convert.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Corporate Strategy

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Reference</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equalities Impact Assessment:

1.1.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1.

3. Climate Change:

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?