

Cooperative Trusts Briefing

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Where the Local Authority is

- We hold statutory responsibilities in relation to **all outcomes** for **all children** up to 19. The people of Hampshire look to us to discharge those responsibilities
- The ‘status’ of schools has been largely irrelevant to us: community, voluntary controlled, voluntary aided, foundation, trust and academy
- We seek **excellent** and **inclusive** education in schools that see the benefits of **interdependence** with each other and with other services, particularly in relation to our shared aims in terms of improving the achievement of **all children** including **those who are vulnerable**
- We want all schools to understand their role, including their leadership role, in fulfilling wider **social** and **economic** goals in their **own localities**
- We **trust** schools to get on with these jobs and concentrate most of our energy on schools that need it most.



Cooperative Trust status – why?

- Values underpinning the cooperative movement
- Legal framework around collaborative working will deepen partnerships
- Cooperative trust status offers some defensive structures from forced academisation
- Looking at trust status will isolate governors interested in academy status
- Cooperative trust status will preserve a strong Local Authority



What are cooperative trust schools?

- Made possible by 2006 Education & Inspections Act
- Maintained Primary, Secondary or Special schools
- Foundation school with a Trust – charitable company limited by guarantee
- Very different from an academy
- Does not take school out of local authority
- Provides model for collaboration, rather than competition, with other schools, FE/HE, businesses, charities etc
- Not privatisation but mutualisation



Cooperative Trusts - values and history



A globally shared set of values and commitment to education enshrined in our principles

A rich history of working with schools – and running schools as co-operatives

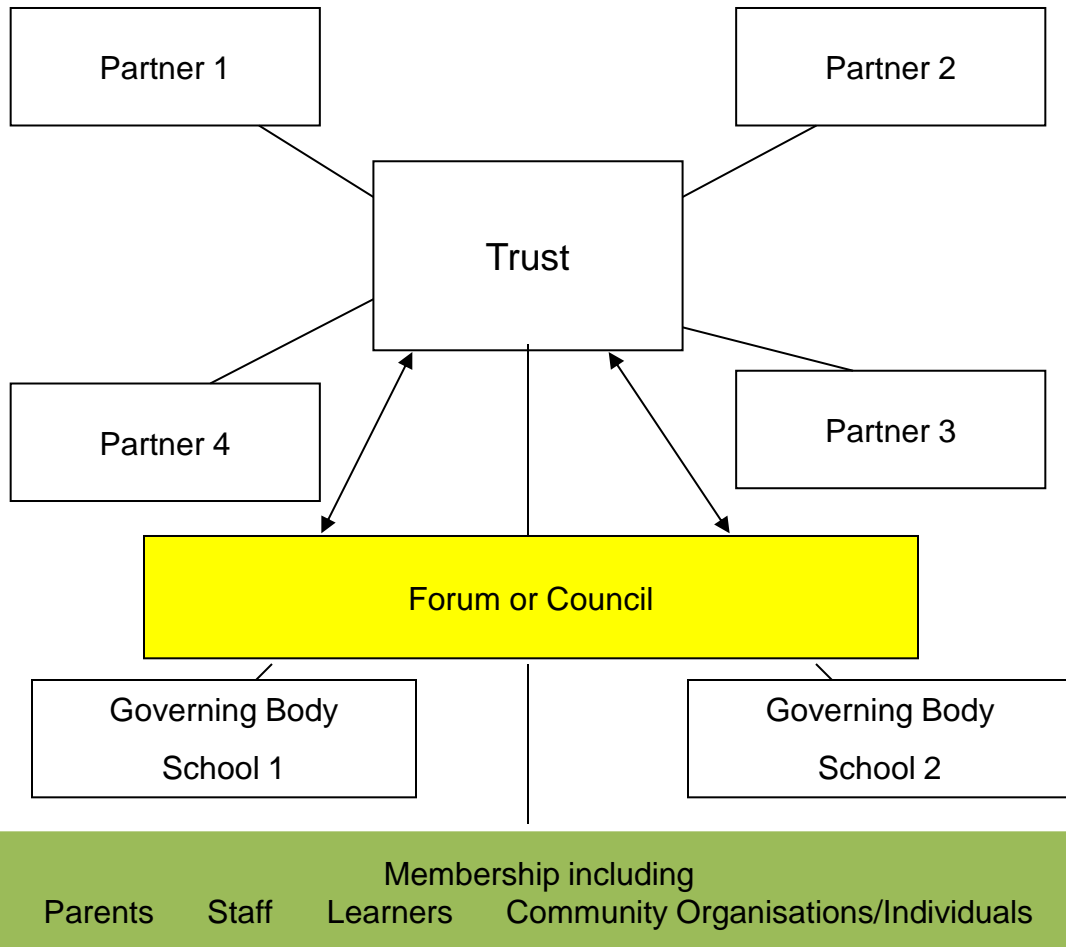
A shared commitment to raising expectations and achievement

A gateway to the global cooperative movement

Experience of democratic member engagement in governance

- Self help
- Self responsibility
- Democracy
- Equality
- Equity
- Solidarity
- Honesty
- Openness
- Social responsibility
- Caring for others

Co-operative trust model



- Engages key stakeholder groups through membership
- Forum/Council provides a vehicle for accountability and high level consultation

How does a Co-operative Trust support a school?

- Appoints some (a minority of) governors – usually 2.
- Holds land and buildings ‘in trust’ – mutually.
- Helps shape long term strategic vision and ethos
- Facilitates raising standards – brings together expertise
- Preserves good practice – maintains relationships

How does a Co-operative Trust support a school?

- Encourages innovation – through external partners
- Promotes ECM and addresses transition and continuity
- Promotes community cohesion and involvement
- GB continues to run the school via a delegated budget
- GB becomes admissions authority and legal employer



The process

- Identify trust partners, agree the model, agree to consult on proposals to become a Foundation School and/or join a trust
- Consult – then consider responses
- Publish a statutory notice
- Consider responses and determine the proposals
- Get involved in the national network – the Schools Co-operative Society



Co-operative trust schools



- 1st Co-op trust school: Mar 1st 2008
- 349 legal by Nov 2012
- 125/135 currently consulting
- **Doubling** annually thereafter?
- **Schools Co-operative Society (SCS)** – national network formed
- **Currently ...** Local mutual models developing, including co-operative clusters of schools in some areas that are commissioning services previously provided by the LA

Who said.....

“A co-op has a flexibility and dynamism that a central state agency lacks.

Like the Rochdale Pioneers, a co-op is part of the community it serves.

Its interests are their interests.

And it is able to respond to the needs of the community immediately and directly”.



Costs:

- Basic cost = £3,750 + VAT
- Each additional school = £625 + VAT
- Travel and subsistence charged at cost
- Legal costs vary, but assume £1,250 - £1,500 (Cobbetts)
- Statutory notice = approx £500
- Printing costs - variable
- Land and asset transfer to trust = up to £1,500 per school