



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Education and Skills Funding Agency
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT
Tel: 0370 000 2288
www.education.gov.uk/efa-enquiry-form

23 May 2023

Mr David Land
Chair of Trustees
The Durham UTC Limited
Long Tens Way
Aycliffe Business Park
Newton Aycliffe DL5 6AP

Dear Mr Land

The Durham UTC Limited – Notice to Improve

On 17 January 2022, I wrote to you in your capacity as the Chair of Trustees at UTC South Durham to serve notice that The Durham UTC Limited ('the trust') was required to improve the weak financial position and financial management at the trust.

This was as a consequence of the trust failing to meet the requirements of the Academy Trust Handbook to set a balanced budget and manage its cash flow robustly which led to the UTC requiring financial support to cover operational costs. The Notice to Improve (Ntl) set out the actions that were needed to be taken by the trust to make sure necessary improvements were made.

We have closely monitored the trust's progress against the conditions set out in the notice, which included:

- the trust must consider joining a strong Multi-Academy Trust (MAT).
- the trust must agree to the deployment of an SRMA and submit a three-year financial plan showing a balanced budget and including a debt repayment plan.
- the trust must increase the regularity of trust board meetings and finance committee meetings to 6 times a year until further notice and provide a copy of the approved minutes along with associated reports to the ESFA no later than 5 working days after approved.

I am pleased to inform you that I am satisfied that the Ntl conditions have been met. As a result, the Ntl will be lifted with effect from the date of this letter.

It is also encouraging to hear that you are in discussions to join a multi-academy trust and I would ask that you continue to keep colleagues informed of progress.

This letter will be published on the GOV.UK website. I am copying this letter to Tom Dower, Accounting Officer of the trust and Katherine Cowell, Regional Director for the North of England region.

It is important that the trust continues to exercise strong financial oversight. I would like to thank you for your contribution in ensuring the trust has reached this position.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Sharp', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Warwick Sharp
Director – Schools Financial Support and Oversight

Cc: Tom Dower, Accounting Officer of the trust
Katherine Cowell, Regional Director for the North of England