



Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board

Date of meeting – 21 November 2024

Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but sent in their comments on agenda items, are listed under the apologies section. These members' views are reflected in the discussions below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle
- Karen Burns
- Shane Ierston
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Helen O'Neill
- Annette Williams

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Jon Howlin, Deputy Director, North West Region
- Mark Taylor, Deputy Director, North West Region

General discussion points

A temperature check was completed for the region.

Liverpool City Region, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester and Blackburn with Darwen and Blackpool and Lancashire and Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness.

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from the following schools to convert and become academies and join Mater Ecclesiae Catholic Multi Academy Trust.

- St Mary and St Andrew's Catholic Primary School
- St Ignatius' Catholic Primary School
- St Mary and Michael Catholic Primary School

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board noted that a SRMA visit was conducted earlier this year and the report published. The trust is currently working through the recommendations.
- The board supported the project recommendation with the condition that the trust should accelerate the SRMA recommendations and provide updated financial projections.

RD decision: Approve with 1 condition - The trust should accelerate the SRMA recommendations and provide updated financial projections.

Conflicts: Helen O'Neill did not receive any papers and did not participate in discussions or provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, which is CEO Blessed Edward Bamber Catholic MAT (Diocese of Lancaster).

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust setting out the conditions.

Project: An application from Daisyfield Primary School, Blackburn Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join Achievement Through Collaboration Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- This project was brought to the board for discussion only.
- The board reflected on the financial experience on the board and advised that the trust should continue to build capacity in this area.

RD decision: N/A Project was brought for discussion only

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback discussion to school/trust. Project to be brought back to AB at later date.

Sponsored academy orders

Project: A proposal for Co-op Academies Trust to sponsor Ernest Cookson School, Liverpool Local Authority.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: An application for UTC Warrington, University Technical College Warrington Single Academy Trust, Warrington local authority, to make the following changes:

- Change of age range from 14-19 years to 13-19 years.
- Reducing the Published Admission Number from 130 to 90.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board discussed that UTC Warrington is in the process of joining Aldridge Education Trust. The trust has experience of similar UTC changes.
- The Baker Dearing Trust are supportive in general of a change in age range.

- The board supported the increase in age range but felt the reduction in PAN was not reflective of the LA's secondary sufficiency needs. The board supported the project recommendations to approve the age range change but not the reduced PAN.

RD decision: Approve the increase in age range

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Trust changes

Project: A request for St Michael's Church of England High School, Sefton Local Authority to transfer from Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust and join Liverpool Joint Catholic and Church of England Academies Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the trust's growth plan and how this project contributes to that.
- The board supported the project recommendation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Tania Lewyckj did not receive any papers and did not participate in discussions or provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, which is being a board member of Liverpool Joint Catholic and Church of England Academies Trust.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Project: A request for Stramongate Primary School and Castle Park High School, Westmorland & Furness Local Authority to transfer from single academy trusts and join Cumbria Education Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with the condition that Cumbria Education Trust have a SRMA deployment.

RD decision: Approve with 1 condition - Cumbria Education Trust to have a SRMA deployment.

Conflicts: George Beveridge. did not receive any papers and did not participate in discussions or provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, which is being Chair of Cumbria Education Trust.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust setting out the conditions.

Greater Manchester.

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from the following schools, to convert and become academies and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust.

- St Vincent's Roman Catholic Primary School, Rochdale
- St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Littleborough
- Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Primary School Rochdale
- Holy Family Roman Catholic Primary School, Rochdale

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Sponsored academy orders

Project: A proposal for The Harmony Trust Ltd to sponsor Spotland Primary School, Rochdale Local Authority.

Representations received:

- No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board supported the project recommendation with one condition that The Harmony Trust Ltd to agree to a SRMA deployment

RD decision: Approve with 1 condition - The Harmony Trust Ltd to agree to a SRMA deployment.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust setting out the conditions.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss an application from The Deans Primary School, Salford to convert and become an academy and join Kings Academy Trust.

- This project was deferred at the North West Advisory Board on 17 October 2024.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: To discuss for The Springboard Project, (New Bridge Multi Academy Trust, Oldham Local Authority) to add a satellite site.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust.

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