



Notes of meeting: North East

22 January 2025

The meeting was held via correspondence only.

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

- Katherine Cowell (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Dame Maura Regan (AB)
- Jo Heaton (AB)
- Colin Lofthouse (AB)
- Dame Nicola Stephenson (AB)
- Jason Brine (AB)
- Anita Bath (AB)
- Jane Wilson (AB)
- Christina Jones (AB)

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- None

Stockton on Tees

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss Oxbridge Lane Primary School, Stockton on Tees, to convert and become an academy and join Prince Regent Street Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

AB Discussion:

- This is a proposal for Oxbridge Lane Primary School to convert and join Prince Regent Street Trust.
- The board was advised that from September 2026, Oxbridge will operate a 1-form-entry.
- The board agreed that the school and trust are a strong match.
- The board was informed of a recent SRMA deployment received by the trust. The trust is currently in the process of reviewing the recommendations.
- The board supported the recommendation for the CFO to receive mentoring, drawing on the experience of colleagues from a similar educational and demographic context.
- The trust is actively seeking to recruit a member and a trustee whose skills will complement those of the existing board members.
- The RD approved this decision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the RD decision.

Middlesbrough

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss Beverley School, Middlesbrough, to convert and become an academy and join The Legacy Learning Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

AB Discussion:

- This is a proposal for Beverley School to convert and join The Legacy Learning Trust.
- Beverley School is a 3-19 community special school for pupils with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).
- The Legacy Learning Trust (TLLT) is a trust comprising of seven schools (six primary and one secondary).
- The trust currently has 5 members and 8 trustees, there is a vacancy, which they intend to fill in the near future.
- The RD approved this decision with condition that the trust will need to provide a 5-year financial plan by the 31 January 2025.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jo Heaton, Dame Maura Regan and Jason Brine did not receive any papers or provide any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest. The CEO of The Legacy Learning Trust previously served as a trustee for the Northern Lights Learning Trust.

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the RD decision.

Hartlepool / Stockton on Tees

Converter academy order

Project: An application from the following schools, to convert and become an academy and join Lingfield Education Trust.

- Lynnfield Primary School – Hartlepool
- Golden Flatts Primary School – Hartlepool
- Mandale Mill Primary School – Stockton on Tees

Representations received:

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

AB Discussion:

- This is a proposal for Lynnfield Primary School, Golden Flatts Primary School and Mandale Mill Primary School to convert and join Lingfield Education Trust (LET).
- Lynnfield and Golden Flatts (federated maintained schools) and Mandale Mill have been exploring trust options for some time. All three schools would like to formalise working with LET, building on the positive working relationships that already exists.
- The trust has a strong track record of supporting challenging schools and improving outcomes and, to manage a period of rapid growth, has taken steps to build sufficient capacity.
- Lingfield Education Trust currently comprises 19 academies, operating as a geographical hub model across six local authority areas.
- LET has 9 trustees and 5 members, all with relevant experience and skills.
- The RD approved this decision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the RD decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings.

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings

Project: Battle Hill Primary School, Centurion Multi-Academy Trust, North Tyneside.

Decision Type: Admissions variation and significant change application to change the age range and add a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further Actions Required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the RD decision.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Dame Dorothy Primary School, Sunderland

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 February

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Hunwick Primary School, County Durham

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 February

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: Prince Bishops Community Primary School, County Durham

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 February

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

Project: The Meadows School, County Durham

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Proposed opening date 1 February

Conflicts: None

Further action required: No further action required.

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