



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: North East Advisory Board

Date of planned meeting: 20 February 2025

Advice

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence. The views of members that sent in advice are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD)

- Katherine Cowell

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Dame Nicola Stephenson
- Colin Lofthouse

Decisions

Stockton on Tees

Converter academy orders

Project: Tilery Primary School, Stockton on Tees to convert and become an academy to join Northern Lights Learning Trust (NLLT)

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Both Tilery Primary School and Sunningdale School would be valuable additions to Northern Lights, with potential to not only strengthen the trust but also provide the necessary support for the schools to continue thriving.
- NLLT will need to plan for the anticipated decrease in pupil numbers over the coming years.
- The trust has recently expanded to 10 schools. Members recommend that a period of consolidation would be beneficial.
- The RD approved this decision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jo Heaton, Dame Maura Regan, Jason Brine, Anita Bath, and Christina Jones did not receive any papers or offer any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest. Jo Heaton is the CEO of the trust, while the other colleagues are currently serving as trustees/members of the Northern Lights Learning Trust.

Jane Wilson did not receive any papers or offer any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest. Jo Heaton, the CEO of The Northern Lights Learning Trust, previously served as a trustee for the Northern Education Trust.

Further actions required:

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

Sunderland

Converter academy orders

Project: Sunningdale School, Sunderland to convert and become an academy to join Northern Lights Learning Trust (NLLT)

Representations received:

- No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- Both Tilery Primary School and Sunningdale School would be valuable additions to Northern Lights, with potential to not only strengthen the trust but also provide the necessary support for the schools to continue thriving.
- The trust has recently expanded to 10 schools. Members recommend that a period of consolidation would be beneficial.
- The RD approved this decision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: Jo Heaton, Dame Maura Regan, Jason Brine, Anita Bath, and Christina Jones did not receive any papers or offer any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest. Jo Heaton is the CEO of the trust, while the other colleagues are currently serving as trustees/members of the Northern Lights Learning Trust.

Jane Wilson did not receive any papers or offer any advice on this project due to a conflict of interest. Jo Heaton, the CEO of The Northern Lights Learning Trust, previously served as a trustee for the Northern Education Trust.

Further actions required:

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

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: Beaumont Hill Academy, The Education Village Academy Trust, Darlington. Significant change application to increase capacity and relocate the existing post-16 provision to a new site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Converter academy orders

Project: Wingate Primary School, County Durham to convert and become an academy to join New College Durham Academies Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

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