



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: North West Advisory Board

03 April 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)

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle
- Karen Burns
- Shane Ireston
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Helen O'Neill

Decisions

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

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from St George's Primary School (104995), Wirral, to convert and become an academy and join Peninsula Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- Members commented on the need for the trust to review their governance structure to ensure they have the appropriate roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise.
- The board recommended that the trust's Executive Lead considers undertaking an accredited leadership programme.
- The board commented that a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment may also support as the trust grows.

Decision: Approve with 1 condition:

1. Trust should agree to a supportive SRMA deployment.

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from Liscard Primary School (104994), Wirral, to convert and become an academy and join Peninsula Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board supported the project recommendation.
- Members commented on the need for the trust to review their governance structure to ensure they have the appropriate roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise.
- The board recommended that the trust's Executive Lead considers undertaking an accredited leadership programme.
- The board commented that a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment may also support as the trust grows.

Decision: Approve with 1 condition:

1. Trust should agree to a supportive SRMA deployment.

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from St Philip (Westbrook) CofE Aided Primary School (111385), Warrington, to convert and become an academy and join Liverpool Diocesan Schools Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board were in support of the project from an educational perspective.
- There were financial concerns raised at trust level and it was recommended for a supportive SRMA deployment to be agreed.
- The decision was made to approve the project as the necessary financial assurances have been provided by the trust.

Decision: Approve with 1 condition:

1. Trust should agree to a supportive School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment.

Conflicts: None

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

Sponsored academy orders

Project: A proposal for The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust to sponsor Millom Infant School (112159), Cumberland.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board members had a mixed view of this project, acknowledging the vulnerability of the school and financial challenges.
- The regional director commented that the whilst the steps The Good Shepherd MAT has taken at another school sound sensible, clarity is required on their strategy at a trust level (in view of the needs for this school and their other vulnerable school).
- The regional director also asked the project lead to clarify the support that is currently in place at Millom Infant School.

Decision: Approve with 1 condition:

1. Trust should agree to a supportive School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) deployment.

Conflicts: George Beveridge did not receive any papers and did not provide advice on this project due to a conflict of interest, as the Chair and Trustee of Cumbria Education Trust.

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

Greater Manchester

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Parrenthorn High School (105358), Bury, to convert and become an academy and join Vision Multi Academy Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board supported the project recommendation that will create a mixed phase trust with a strong secondary school.
- The board recommended that a supportive SRMA deployment is offered to the trust to ensure financial stability.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: An application from Sale High School (106375), Trafford, to convert and become an academy and join United Learning Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB advice:

- The board fully supported the project recommendation.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

Significant changes

Project: Gorton Primary School, Manchester, for the expansion and addition of a resource provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Little Heaton CE Primary School, Rochdale, change of age range.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Knowsley Lane Primary School, Liverpool, physical expansion to 2 forms of entry.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St Kentigern's RC Primary School, Manchester, removal of 2-year-old nursery provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Admission variations

Project: Alderman Bolton Primary School, Warrington, Admission Variation - PAN reduction from 45-30.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Beamont Primary School, Warrington, Admission Variation - PAN reduction from 60-30.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Ditton Primary School, Halton, Admission Variation - PAN reduction from 60-30.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.