



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board

15th May 2025

Attendance

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge
- Annette Willams
- Karen Burns
- Shane Ireston
- Helen O'Neill

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Nic Brindle
- Tania Lewyckyj

DfE senior civil servants

- None

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 sub-region

Sponsored academy orders

Project: A proposal for The Good Shepherd Multi Academy Trust to sponsor All Saints' CofE School, 112272, Cumberland.

Representations received: No representations were made.

AB discussion:

- The board discussed and supported the project recommendation for the trust to sponsor the school.
- The board discussed whether there would be any capacity concerns.
- The board reflected on the need for the school to have support from the trust.

Decision: Approve with conditions

- SMRA Deployment (This has been arranged for 16th September)
- Expectation of an External Review of Governance
- School Improvement strategy to be evolved to reflect maturity of trust

Conflicts: None

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

Project: A proposal for Pope Francis Catholic Multi Academy Trust to sponsor Our Lady Queen of Peace Engineering College, 119782, Lancashire.

Representations received: Yes

AB discussion:

- The board reviewed the representations submitted by the school Headteacher, IEB Vice Chair and the Acting Chair of Governors and acknowledged the request to revoke the academy order. In considering the representations, the Board emphasised the need for clear assurances regarding how the trust intends to sustain and enhance the current trajectory of school improvement.
- The board noted that joining a trust may be essential to maintaining the school's progress. The Board also reflected on the ongoing challenges faced by the school, with particular attention to its financial constraints.
- The Board highlighted the importance of receiving assurance on the updated strategy from the archdiocese, as this will be a key factor in informing future decision-making.

- The board were in support of deferring the decision (which may be made between meetings)

Decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust detailing further information required with a follow up discussion with the archdiocese.

Project: A proposal for The Sea View Trust to sponsor Applebee Wood Community Specialist School, 119880, Lancashire.

Representations received: No

AB Discussion:

- The board discussed and supported the project recommendation for the trust to sponsor the school.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from Holy Trinity CofE Dobcross Primary School (105691) Oldham, to convert and join Crompton House Church of England multi academy trust.

Decision: Approve with 1 condition.

Condition: To ensure there is school improvement capacity within the executive team in line with their growth plan.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: An application from The Derby High School (105355) Bury, to convert and join Prestolee Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conditions: To ensure improved financially qualified expertise in line with their growth strategy as part of the trust team and to secure secondary improvement capacity in line with their growth plan prior to/at point of conversion.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: An application from Johnson Fold Primary School (105157) Bolton, to convert and join Base Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

Conditions: SMRA Deployment and for the Trust to appoint a CFO.

Conflicts: No conflicts.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: An application from Alderley Edge Community Primary School (111008) Cheshire East, to convert and join Halliard Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: An application from Merefield Special School (104979) Sefton, to convert and join Southport Learning Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant changes

Project: Egremont Primary School (143502), Wirral, Changing the age range of the school to accept children from 9 months old.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Hambleton Primary Academy (136365) Lancashire, increasing the age range to include 2 year old provision - funded by the Local Authority.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust

Project: Bedford Primary School (149829) Sefton, adding an SEN base to Bedford Primary School in Sefton, which will be funded by the LA.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Ellesmere Park High School (144200) Salford, Boosting capacity from 750 to 900 over 5 years. A bulge of 30 places will be accepted in September 2025 with an additional 30 places per year over the next 5 years

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Manor Green Primary Academy (142286) Tameside, Add a 12 place Resource Provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Other decisions

Project: Locking Stumps Community Primary School (151051) Warrington, Admissions Variation for a PAN reduction.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further action required: Feedback decision to school/trust

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