



Department  
for Education

## **Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board**

**26<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

### **Attendance**

#### **Regional Director (RD) chair**

- Vicky Beer

#### **Advisory Board (AB) members**

- George Beveridge
- Annette Willams
- Shane Ireston
- Helen O'Neill
- Tania Lewyckyj

### **Guests**

- None

### **Apologies**

- Nic Brindle
- Karen Burns

#### **DfE senior civil servants**

- None

### **General discussion points**

- A temperature check was completed for the region.

## Greater Manchester

### Sponsored academy orders

**Project:** A proposal for Forward As One Church of England Multi Academy Trust to sponsor Middleton Parish Church School (105821), Rochdale Local Authority.

**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 the fact that there are only 6 trustees with 16 schools and that more recruitment would need to take place as they could be stretched.
- The project lead advised that recruitment is currently ongoing.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

### Converter Academy Orders

**Project:** An application from Alexandra Park Primary School (135746) Stockport local authority, to convert and become an academy and join Greater Manchester Education Trust.

**Representations received:** No representations were made.

**AB discussion:**

- The board discussed and supported the conversion of the school to join the Trust.
- The board agreed that they are pleased to see the development and that the school would make a complimentary addition to the Trust.
- The board stated that there was a need for Primary and Secondary Leaders.
- The project lead advised that the Trust is developing Primary brigade to which the board approved of.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

## Trust Change

**Project:** A request for Werneth School (148327), Stockport Local Authority to transfer from Education Learning Trust and join Northern Education Trust.

**Representations received:** Yes

### **AB Discussion:**

- The board reviewed the representation that were submitted.
- The board discussed why local alternatives are not viable.
- The project lead advised that 2 other trusts were approached but withdrew due to capacity pressures and deemed the risk to be too high financially.
- The board discussed and supported the project recommendation for Northern Education Trust to sponsor the school. The Trust will use its reserves to support the school, as they have completed their due diligence and is currently performing well within the North West.
- The board feels that a conversation between the local authority and the trust is needed moving forward.

**Decision:** Approve – The Department for Education (DfE) has advised that the trust should work with its teams to develop an engagement strategy aimed at managing the risks highlighted by the local authority and trade unions in their representations. These concerns include, in particular, the potential exertion of undue pressure on the local authority's alternative provision services.

**Conflicts:** None

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

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

### Greater Manchester

#### Converter academy orders

**Project:** An application from Adswood Primary School, (106024), Stockport local authority to convert and join Victorious Academies Trust.

**Decision:** Approve.

**Condition:** None

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** An application from Markland Hill Primary School, (105159, Bolton local authority to convert and join Great Schools Trust.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

## **Significant changes**

**Project:** The Co-op Academy Medlock (150612), of The Co-operative Academies Trust, Manchester local authority to make the following significant change - to add a 12 place Resource Base.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** St David Haigh and Aspull CofE Primary School (146511) of The Learning Together Trust, Wigan local authority to make the following significant change - Age range change from 4-11 to 3-11

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** Feedback decision to school/trust

**Project:** The Star Academies Trust to make the following change affecting the following schools – Change the faith authority on schools from the Light Trust to Muslim Faith Education Service (MFES).

- Eden Boys' School, Bolton local authority
- Eden Boys' Leadership Academy, Manchester local authority
- Eden Boys' School, Preston local authority
- Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester local authority

- The Olive School, Bolton local authority
- The Olive School, Manchester local authority

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** Atherton High School, Wigan local authority of Education Partnership Trust to make the following significant change. - Removal of Faith Designation.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**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 Woodlea Junior School (119208) Lancashire local authority to convert and join Endeavour Learning Trust

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conditions:** None.

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** An application from Malbank School and Sixth Form College (111419) Cheshire East local authority to convert and join The Cornovii Trust.

**Decision:** Approve.

**Conditions:** None.

**Conflicts:** No conflicts.

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

**Project:** An application from Broughton Moor Primary School (112129) Cumberland local authority to convert and join Learning for Life Trust.

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

## **Significant Changes**

**Project:** The Star Academies Trust to make the following change affecting the following schools – Change the faith authority on schools from the Light Trust to Muslim Faith Education Service (MFES).

- The Olive School, Preston local authority
- The Olive School, Blackburn with Darwen local authority
- Tauheedul Islam Boys' High School, Blackburn with Darwen local authority
- Tauheedul Islam Girls' High School, Blackburn with Darwen local authority
- The Olive School, Blackburn with Darwen local authority
- Eden Boys' School, Preston local authority

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project:** Northbrook Primary Academy of Endeavour Learning Trust, Lancashire local authority to make the following significant change - Add a 16 pupil SEN unit for pupils with Communication and Interaction (C&I).

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Wellfield Academy of Endeavour Learning Trust, Lancashire local authority to make the following significant change - Add a 20 pupil SEN unit for pupils with Communication and Interaction (C&I).**

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: Burnley High School, Lancashire local authority of Education Partnership Trust to make the following significant change. - Removal of Faith Designation.**

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: The Wilmslow Academy and Hollinhey Primary School, Cheshire East local authority both of The Aspire Educational Trust to make the following significant change. - Add nursery provision and age range change.**

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

**Project: The Wensley Fold CofE Primary Academy of Wensley Fold Church Of England Academy Trust, Blackburn with Darwen Local authority to make the following significant change. - Change of age range (including adding or removing a nursery or sixth form provision).**

**Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

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