



Department
for Education

Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board

17th July 2025

Attendance

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge
- Annette Willams
- Shane Ireston
- Karen Burns
- Tania Lewyckyj

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Helen O'Neill
- Nic Brindle

DfE senior civil servants

- None

General discussion points

- A temperature check was completed for the region.

Greater Manchester

Project: The following schools to transfer from the Great Academies Education Trust and to join Dixons Academies Trust.

- Copley Academy (139294), Tameside local authority.
- Great Academy Ashton (135508), Tameside local authority.
- Middleton Technology School (143319), Rochdale local authority.
- Silver Springs Primary Academy (137951), Tameside local authority.

Trust change

Representations received: Yes

AB discussion:

- The board reviewed the representations that were submitted.
- The project lead gave a background update to the board.
- The board discussed the project and considered the benefits for all schools of moving forward with the transfer. It recognised some the issues raised in the representations regarding the primary school and felt that a meeting between Dixons, the Department for Education and Silver Springs would be beneficial at the earliest opportunity.

Decision: Approve with conditions.

- Approve the transfer of Copley Academy, Great Academy Ashton, Middleton Technology College and Silver Springs Primary Academy to Dixons Academy Trust. With the condition that Dixons continues to work with the schools on the concerns raised through the consultation.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

Greater Manchester

Converter academy orders

Project: An application from the following schools to convert and join the Bishop Fraser Trust, Walmsley Church of England Primary School, (105232) Bolton local authority and St Margaret's Church of England Primary School, (105815) Rochdale local authority.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant changes

Project: Peel Brow School (148867) of Bury local authority to make the following significant change - Adding a SEN unit or resourced provision (12 Place Unit for ASC/SLCN).

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Grange School (145845) of Manchester local authority to make the following significant change - Expansion of special school capacity by 30 and addition of satellite site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust

Project: The Gorsfield Primary School (141673) of Bury local authority to make the following significant change - extend age range to include 2 year olds (10 FT 2 year old places).

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St George's Church of England Primary School (150015) of Tameside local authority to make the following significant change - Adding a SEN unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Greenhill Primary School (148096) of Bury Local authority to make the following significant change - Change the age range at Greenhill to 2-11 years old with capacity for 10 FTE 2 Year olds and 26 FTE 3 Year olds.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St Chad's Church of England Primary School (140589) of Oldham local authority to make the following significant change - Change age range 2-11.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Newall Green Primary School (142437) of Manchester local authority to make the following significant change - Adding a SEN unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Greenfield Primary Academy (148132) of Tameside local authority to make the following significant change - Open 2 SEND units within the existing school.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Richmond Academy (139651) of Oldham local authority to make the following significant change - Adding 28 place SEN unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Northmoor Academy (142412) of Oldham local authority to make the following significant change - Expanding SEN unit by 20 places.

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 Lower Peover Church of England Primary School, (111337) Cheshire West and Chester local authority to convert and join Chester Diocesan Learning Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: An application from Turton and Edgworth Church of England/Methodist Controlled Primary School, (119408) Blackburn with Darwen local authority to convert and join Bishop Fraser Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: No conflicts.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Trust Change

Project: The following schools to transfer from The Samara Trust and join Chester Diocesan Academies Trust.

- **Clutton Church of England Primary School (145076), Cheshire West and Chester local authority**
- **Little Sutton Church of England Primary School (145075), Cheshire West and Chester local authority**
- **Upton Heath Church of England Primary School (145074), Cheshire West and Chester local authority**

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: No conflicts.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant Changes

Project: Our Lady of Pity Catholic Primary School (140458) of Wirral local authority to make the following significant change - Addition of nursery and age range change to 2-11.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Bruche Primary School Academy (143058) of Warrington local authority to make the following significant change - Become all-through school and add secondary provision

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions:

- The trust to receive a SRMA prior to the expansion.
- The Trust to add secondary and secondary finance expertise to their board of Trustees.
- The trust to share a revised staffing plan once initial appointments have been made.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St John Plessington Catholic College (139031) of Wirral local authority to make the following significant change - Adding 12 place resource provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School (151087) of Lancashire local authority to make the following significant change - change the age range from 4–11 years to 3–11 years, capacity for 13 nursery places for three-year-olds.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.