



Department
for Education

Note of meeting: North West Advisory Board.

23 October 2025

Attendance

Regional Director (RD)

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members

- George Beveridge
- Shane Ireston
- Helen O'Neill

Apologies

- Annette Williams
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Nic Brindle
- Karen Burns

DfE senior civil servants

- Mark Taylor Deputy Director North West Regions Group

General discussion points

- A temperature check was completed for the region.

Greater Manchester

Trust Changes

Project: A discussion for the options for transferring Reddish Vale High School (145133) of Achieve and Learn Trust of Stockport local authority

AB discussion:

- A discussion took place over how best to align the strategic needs of the school, the academy trusts and the local area with trust quality factors in relation to the transfer of Reddish Vale High School out of the Achieve and Learn Trust.
- The Regional Director advised that a further discussion would take place following today's meeting and a decision will be made outside of Advisory Board.

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 the following schools to voluntary convert and join the Cheshire Academies Trust.

- **Tattenhall Park Primary School (111108) of Cheshire West and Chester local authority.**
- **Pinehurst Primary School (134471) of Liverpool local authority.**
- **Brookhurst Primary School (105018) of Wirral local authority.**

AB discussion:

- Members discussed the project and discussed the representations that were submitted.
- Members agreed that the 3 schools transferring and joining Cheshire Academies Trust was a positive move, with benefits for all of the schools concerned.

Decision: Approve.

Conditions: None.

Conflicts: None

Representations: Yes

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

Greater Manchester

Converter academy orders

Project: Applications from the following schools to voluntary convert and join the Oak Learning Partnership Trust.

- **Fairfield Community Primary School (105287) of Bury local authority**
- **Holcombe Brook Primary School (105311) of Bury local authority**

Decision: Approve.

Condition: None

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Applications from the following schools to voluntary convert and join the Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.

- **SS Aidan and Oswald's Roman Catholic Primary School (105721) of Oldham local authority.**
- **St. Theresa's RC Primary School (136825) of Oldham local authority.**
- **St John's RC Primary School (105546) of Manchester local authority.**

Decision: Approve.

Condition: None

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant Changes

Project: Broadoak School (138124) of Trafford local authority to make the following change - Adding a SEN unit/Resourced provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: New Bridge School (138697) of Oldham local authority to make the following change - Adding a satellite site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: The Springboard Project (145922) of Oldham local authority to make the following change - Adding a satellite site.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: The Newall Green Primary Academy (142437) of Manchester local authority to make the following change - Retrospective adding of a Resourced Provision and reduction of PAN.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Conditions:

- The trust arranges an external review of its governance
- The DfE link the trust up with a trust with strong SEN and Resourced Provision to ensure that their units are in line with best practice.

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 St Vincent De Paul Catholic Primary School (111358) of Cheshire East local authority, to voluntary convert and join Our Lady of Christians Catholic Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve.

Conditions: None.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant changes

Project: Tytherington School (140791) of Cheshire East local authority to make the following change - Phase 2 of physical expansion

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Hallwood Park Primary School & Nursery (150963) of Halton local authority to make the following change - Age range change to introduce 2 year old provision

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Warmingham CofE Primary School (143872) of Cheshire East local authority to make the following change - Change of age range including adding a nursery.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Queen's Park High School (143817) of Cheshire West and Chester local authority to make the following change - Adding of a SEN Unit/RP to a mainstream academy.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: The Oak View Academy (140664) of Cheshire West and Chester local authority to make the following change - Adding of a SEN Unit/RP to a mainstream academy.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

Greater Manchester

Converter academy orders

An application from St Stephen's Church of England Primary School (106246), Tameside Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions: The outstanding SRMA deployment must be completed prior to conversion.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

An application from Christ Church Ainsworth Church of England Primary School (105324), Bury Local Authority to convert and become an academy and join the Sycamore Church of England Trust Limited.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: All Saints Catholic College (139735) of Tameside local authority to make the following significant change - Adding a SEN Unit.

Decision: Defer – Awaiting further information from the Trust.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Copley Academy (139294) and Silver Springs Primary Academy (137951) both of Tameside local authority to add a resourced provision.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions: The trust must work closely with Dixons Academies Trust on the establishment of both Resourced Provisions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Linden Road Academy and Hearing-Impaired Base (141408) of Tameside local authority to close the schools SEN Hearing impaired base.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Oakwood Academy (138130) of Salford local authority to make a temporary change of acquiring an additional (satellite) site.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions: The trust is to provide confirmation of the risks and mitigations should it fail to secure the new permanent provision in time for September 2026.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Hollinwood Academy (140388) of Oldham local authority to increasing the number of pupils within an existing SEN unit or resourced provision by more than 20 pupils or more than 20% of the overall school capacity (whichever is smaller).

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St John Fisher RC Primary School (151824) of Tameside local authority to remove a resources provision.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Lever Edge Primary Academy (136395) of Bolton local authority to add a SEN unit.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions:

- The trust receives a supportive School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) deployment.
- The trust updates its Funding Agreement to the latest model.

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.

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: Hilbre High School (138355) of Wirral local authority to add a resourced provision.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Black Firs Primary School (140981) of Cheshire East local authority to lower the age range of the school from 3–11 years to 2–11 years.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Hebden Green Community School (111505) of Cheshire West and Chester local authority to remove residential provision

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Alsager Highfields Community Primary School (148136) of Cheshire East local authority to add a nursery provision by increasing the age range from 4 - 11 years to 3 - 11 years.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: St Paul's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy (141831) of Cheshire East local authority to add a nursery provision by increasing the age range from 4 - 11 years to 2 - 11 years.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Warmingham CofE Primary School (143872) of Cheshire local authority to add a nursery provision by increasing the age range from 4 - 11 years to 3 - 11 years.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

Project: Everton Free School and Football College (138379) of Liverpool local authority to move the Sixth form college from 3 sites to two sites which will include the new site at Goodison Park. This will increase the Sixth form capacity to 30 and will enable the college to take advantage of their link with Everton in the community.

Decision: Approve, no conditions.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Feedback decision to school/trust.

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