



Notes of meeting: North West Advisory Board

17 December 2025

Attendance

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting but sent in their comments on agenda items, are listed under the apologies section. These members' views are reflected in the discussions below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Helen O'Neill
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Karen Burns
- Annette Williams
- Nic Brindle

Guests

- None

Apologies

- George Beveridge
- Shane Ireston

DfE senior civil servants

- None

Decisions

Greater Manchester

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss Queensgate Primary School, Stockport local authority and Rose Hill Primary School, Stockport local authority to convert and join Greater Manchester Education Trust.

Representations received:

- Representations were received for this project
- When received in time, representations are shared in advance with the RD and the AB members, who considered them when providing advice to RDs.

AB Discussion:

- The board discussed the project and discussed the representations that were submitted.
- The board discussed Rose Hill Primary School applying to join the Greater Manchester Education Trust, focusing on parental representations relating to the consultation, admissions, and executive pay, and agreed to defer a final decision to allow the local governing body and trust to respond to the representations and in particular to address some misconceptions that were evident in the representations.

Decision: Approve Queensgate Primary School conversion, defer Rose Hill Primary School until the trust has provided an update on their engagement regarding the representations.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Liverpool City Region, Warrington, Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness.

Trust Changes

Project: A discussion regarding the options for LIPA Sixth Form College, The LIPA Multi Academy Trust, Liverpool local authority.

Representations received:

- Representations were received for this project
- When received in time, representations are shared in advance with the RD and the AB members, who considered them when providing advice to RDs.

AB Discussion:

- The board discussed the project and discussed the representations that were submitted.
- The board reviewed the long-standing governance and financial issues at LIPA Multi Academy Trust, the future of the sixth form, and agreed to defer a decision pending clarification between the Trust Board and HEI on the representations received from the HEI.

Decision: Defer

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Trust Changes

Project: The Oldershaw School, Wirral local authority, The Oldershaw School SAT to join The Co-operative Academies Trust.

Representations received:

- No representations were received for this project

AB Discussion:

- The board discussed and supported the project of The Oldershaw School moving to The Co-operative Academies Trust.

Decision: Approve

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

List of decisions taken outside of AB meetings.

Converter Academy Orders

Project: Green Lane Community Special School, Warrington local authority to convert and join Kings Academy Trust.

Decision: Approve with conditions

Conditions: The trust arranges independent external assurance in relation to their mainstream primary school improvement capacity.

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: Hindley Junior and Infant School, Wigan local authority to convert and join Achievement Through Collaboration Trust.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Significant Changes

Project: Bolton St Catherine's Academy, Bolton local authority to make the following change - Change in age range to add 10 2 year old places at existing early years provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: Leigh Westleigh Methodist Primary School, Wigan local authority to make the following change - Add an 8 place SEND unit.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: The Deans Primary, Salford local authority to make the following change - Adding a SEN unit or resource base.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: Middlewich High School, Cheshire East local authority to make the following change - Removal of 5 Hearing Impairment places from the resourced provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

Project: St Mary's Catholic College, Wirral local authority to make the following change - to add a 24 place resource based provision.

Decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

Converter academy orders

Project: Redgate Community Primary School, Sefton local authority to convert and join Lydiate Learning Trust.

Reason for removal: Deferred to February Advisory Board.

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