



Department
for Education

Note of decisions: East Midlands Advisory Board

28 January 2026.

Advice

No meeting was held. AB advice was sought by correspondence. The views of members that sent in advice are reflected in the AB discussion sections below, unless the AB member(s) declared a conflict of interest.

Regional Director (RD)

- No Regional Director present. Decision-maker: Kelly Hughes, Deputy Director, East Midlands Regions Group.

Advisory Board (AB) members that provided advice

- Sian Hampton.
- Paul Heery.
- Ash Rahman.
- Mark Thomas.

Decisions

Derbyshire

Significant changes to an open academy

Project: 1A - An application for Esteem North Academy (146057), Esteem Multi-Academy Trust, Derbyshire, to make the following change: Open a satellite site at Hunloke Adult Education Centre to increase available pupil places by 100.

Representations received:

- Three 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:

Esteem North Academy is an alternative provision academy operating across Derbyshire and part of Esteem Multi-academy Trust.

The academy was judged good across all areas at its most recent Ofsted inspection in February 2024.

The school is seeking to expand provision by opening an additional site at The Hunloke Centre to meet rising demand for places for permanently excluded pupils and those at risk of exclusion.

Derbyshire County Council has secured the necessary capital funding, and Esteem has the capacity and experience to operate the new site effectively within its existing multi-site AP framework.

Additional information is to be sought before a decision is taken.

Decision: Defer.

Conflicts: Julian Scholefield, former Chief Executive Officer of Esteem Multi-Academy Trust, was neither in receipt of associated project papers nor did he offer advice in relation to this project.

Further actions required: Feedback decision to the school/trust and Derbyshire County Council.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

Project: Newark Orchard School (URN:130996).

Key Points: Proposed school opening date – 1 February 2026.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Decisions taken outside of AB meeting

Project: A retrospective application for Springfield Primary School (URN:146839), Odyssey Collaborative Trust, Derby, to make the following change: An increase in the capacity of the existing Enhanced Resourced Base, comprising a retrospective increase of 20 places and a non-retrospective increase of a further 25 places, resulting in a total increase of 45 places.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Hallam Fields, Birstall (URN:144749), Lionheart Educational Trust, Leicestershire, to make the following change: An increase in capacity from 210 to 420 pupil places.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Little Harrowden Community Primary School (URN:146528), INMAT, North Northamptonshire, to make the following change: To add a Nursery Provision (age 3 pupils) of 8 full-time places from September 2026.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Langar CofE Primary School (URN:150129), Aspire Multi-Academy Trust, Nottinghamshire, to make the following change: To change the age range from 5 - 11 to 4 – 11.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Denewood Academy (URN:144022), Raleigh Education Trust, Nottingham, to make the following change: To retrospectively increase the planned number of pupils from 53 to 70 from September 2024.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Woodlands Academy (URN:144321), Raleigh Education Trust, Nottingham, to make the following change: To retrospectively increase the planned number of pupils from 65 to 97 from September 2024.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Project: An application for Westbury Academy (URN:144320), Raleigh Education Trust, Nottingham, to make the following change: To retrospectively increase the planned number of pupils from 67 to 120 from September 2025.

Representations received: None.

Decision: Defer.

Conflicts: None.

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