



# Stockton-on-Tees

BOROUGH COUNCIL

**DATED**

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**2023**

1. THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON-ON-TEES
2. NORTHERN EDUCATION TRUST

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**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

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Re: strategic partnership for the advancement of educational improvement in Stockton-on-Tees

Ged Morton  
Principal Solicitor  
Municipal Buildings  
Church Road  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS18 1LD



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



The Government Standard

**THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING** is made the.....day of.....2012

**BETWEEN:**

- (1) **THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON ON TEES** of P.O. Box 11, Municipal Buildings, Church Road, Stockton-on-Tees, TS18 1LD (“**the Council**”)
- (2) **NORTHERN EDUCATION TRUST** a company incorporated in England and Wales under company number 07189647 and whose registered office is at Cobalt Business Exchange, Cobalt Park Way, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE28 9NZ (“**Northern Education**”)

**BACKGROUND**

- A. The Council is committed to maintaining and developing the strong meaningful relationship with schools, colleges and other providers of education across the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees. The Council is committed to the Campus Stockton brand and philosophy and, therefore, to playing a full and active part in the Campus Stockton Collaborative Partnership. The Council will actively and tangibly demonstrate its commitment to the children and young people of the Borough through strong partnership working.
- B. The Council is committed to working with schools to ensure a sector-led whole system school improvement system in Stockton that secures the best outcomes for all children and young people of the Borough. The Council is also committed to working with provider partners to ensure an approach to structural change that enables schools, academies and colleges across Stockton to continue working in close collaboration to shared objectives on behalf of all of the children and young people of the Borough so that all achieve the best possible outcomes and that ‘No Child is Left Behind’.
- C. The Council is committed to working with other key stakeholders who share this ambition and these values, where it believes they can bring additional value and expertise and contribute to local solutions in relation to structural change.
- D. Northern Education is an approved Department for Education Academy Sponsor. It is a not-for-profit organisation committed to supporting academies and to helping them improve because of the belief that first class education gives young people life chances and choices. In the mission statement of the organisation it is the development and achievement of young people that is central to the vision. Northern Education Trust sets out a commitment to understand the community context within which any sponsored Academy operates and it will work to promote community cohesion and economic regeneration. Northern Education Trust is committed to

working in local authority areas where there are shared values and aspirations for young people.

- E. This Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish the parties' respective obligations and commitments to each other and the general principles that will underlie relations between them.
- F. This Memorandum of Understanding is not intended to be legally binding except as specifically set out below.

**THE UNDERSTANDING is as follows:-**

## **1. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES**

- 1.1 The relationship between the Council and Northern Education is based on mutual trust and respect.
- 1.2 Each party undertakes to the other to perform its obligations under this Memorandum of Understanding and co-operate, at its own expense, with the other Party in the fulfilment of the purposes of the intent of this Memorandum of Understanding.
- 1.3 The Council and Northern Education have agreed to cooperate with one another to ensure:
  - 1.3.1 a clarity of approach and purpose in relation to structural solutions for schools causing concern
  - 1.3.2 that they work jointly in raising levels of achievement
  - 1.3.3 a collaborative and challenging approach to quality assurance
  - 1.3.4 a shared commitment to action research and development
  - 1.3.5 a genuine collaboration with other key partners and stakeholders within the context of the Campus Stockton Collaborative Partnership
  - 1.3.6 that they utilise what is best of both organisations
- 1.4 Through this Memorandum of Understanding the Council and Northern Education will seek to build on the good working relationship that already exists between the parties in order to promote, encourage and develop:
  - 1.4.1 clarity of purpose, roles and responsibility
  - 1.4.2 trust and respect for all partners and stakeholders
  - 1.4.3 appropriate professional challenge and support for local authority and Northern Education colleagues
  - 1.4.4 a commitment to invest time to develop the partnership
  - 1.4.5 equal status for local authority and Northern Education Trust, in recognition of each others independence and value

1.4.6 a shared understanding of the strategic landscape so that opportunities for Stockton can be made the most of.

## **2 CONFIDENTIALITY**

2.1 This Memorandum of Understanding is confidential to the parties and their advisers. This paragraph is legally binding.

## **3 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION**

3.1 This Memorandum of Understanding shall be governed by and construed in all respects in accordance with the laws of England and Wales and the English courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this memorandum of understanding. This paragraph is legally binding.

## **4 COSTS AND EXPENSES**

4.1 Each party shall be responsible for paying its own costs and expenses incurred in connection with the negotiation, preparation and execution of this memorandum of understanding. This paragraph is legally binding.

## **5 NO PARTNERSHIP OR AGENCY**

5.1 Whilst the parties have agreed to work together and cooperate as partners, for the avoidance of doubt nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding shall be construed as creating a partnership.

5.2 No party shall be deemed to be an agent of any other party and no party shall hold itself out as having authority or power to bind any other party in any way.

5.3 This paragraph is legally binding.

Signed on behalf of The Council of the  
Borough of Stockton-on-Tees by:

Signed on behalf of Northern Education  
Trust by:

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Authorised Officer

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Authorised Representative