

***Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Education - Thursday,  
15 December 2016***

***Statement of Decision***

**Present:**

Councillor Steve Harrod, Cabinet Member for Education

Officers: Kevin Griffiths (Children, Education & Families) Deborah Miller  
(Law & Governance).

**Space Standards for New Primary Schools in Oxfordshire -  
Proposed Changes (Early Years and SEN Provision)**

**Documentation considered:**

Report Space Standards for New Primary Schools in  
Oxfordshire - Proposed Changes (Early Years and  
SEN Provision)

*A copy is attached to the signed copy of this decision.*

**Questions from County Councillors**

Councillor Harrod received the following Question with Notice from Councillor Howson:

Do the standards apply to schools being built under the DfE Wave programme and if not, can developers challenge Oxfordshire standards that are in excess of government requirements even where we believe our standards deliver a better learning environment for children in the primary and early years sector?

Answer:

The Oxfordshire space standards for Primary and Secondary Schools only apply to those schools procured by the County Council; this will include presumption free schools funded by developer contributions. The standards will not apply to schools procured directly by the Department for Education, for example wave Free Schools, UTC's and Studio Schools.

The area recommended in the Oxfordshire standards for new school buildings is within the range of areas contained in the Department for Education guidance for new schools (known as Building Bulletins) and in many cases the Oxfordshire standards are towards the lower end of the range.

Developers can, and do, challenge the amount of contributions that the council seeks to secure towards building new schools, usually citing the viability of their developments as a reason why they should pay less. To date though the council has generally been successful in defending the amounts it has required and the adoption of the revised standards will further support the council's position.

He then received the following Supplementary Question:

Are the Standards used by the DfE for free schools and other schools such as University Technical Colleges and Studio Schools procured by the DfE more or less generous than the Standards used by Oxfordshire County Council?

Answer

In general the DfE Standards would be less generous than Oxfordshire County Council Standards, although this varied from project to project.

**Cabinet Member's Comments**

I note the revisions to the current space standards and welcome the recommendations.

**Decision**

Having regard to the arguments and options set out in the documentation before me, the representations made to me and the further considerations set out above, I confirm my decisions on this matter as follows:

to approve on behalf of Cabinet:

- (a) adoption of the revised space standards for new Primary and Secondary Schools in Oxfordshire with increased provision for early years and SEN as shown in the following Annexes:

- Annex A: OCC Building and Site Area Guidelines for Primary School
- Annex B: OCC Building and Site Area Guidelines for Secondary Schools
- Annex C: OCC Model Primary School Schedules of Accommodation.

- (b) Delegation of approval of further amendments to these standards on an exceptions basis to the Director Environment and Economy in consultation with the Director Children, Education & Families.

Signed .....  
Cabinet Member for Education

Date .....2017