



# **New school for Southam Road, Banbury**

## **School specification document for potential sponsors of a new primary school in Banbury, Oxfordshire**

### **Section 1: Introduction and context**

Oxfordshire County Council has identified the need to establish a new primary school in Banbury to open in September 2019. Under section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (the 'free school presumption') where a local authority identifies the need to establish a new school it must, in the first instance, seek proposals to establish an academy.

The new school will chiefly serve a permitted new housing development of 600 homes in north Banbury, construction of which is underway. This school forms part of the strategic planning for additional school capacity to meet the expected growth in pupil numbers arising from housing growth included in the Cherwell Local Plan for Banbury.

**The authority is therefore seeking proposals from appropriate providers to sponsor this new school. The new school would be deemed a free school. Section 9 sets out how potential sponsors can apply.**

#### **1.1 Planned housing growth in Banbury**

The adopted Local Plan includes at least 7319 new homes in Banbury between 2011 and 2031, which have been assessed as being expected to generate over 1600 more Banbury primary pupils (equivalent to nearly 8 forms of entry in school capacity).

The Cherwell District Council Annual Monitoring Report for 2016 notes that during the first five years of the Local Plan Period (2011-2016) 893 new homes were completed in Banbury, and as of 31/03/16 the stock of planning permissions in Banbury totalled 3439 homes. The speed of housing delivery has increased sharply in recent years:

## CMDDED4

<b>Year</b>	<b>Completions (net)</b>
2011/12	136
2012/13	42
2013/14	34
2014/15	328
2015/16	353

Housing delivery is expected to increase significantly over the coming years:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Projected completions (net)</b>
2016/17	386
2017/18	648
2018/19	1062
2019/20	1096
2020/21	987

The Southam Road development has already commenced, with 25 occupations as of January 2017.

### **1.2 School capacity planning for Banbury**

Oxfordshire County Council is planning school capacity strategically across Banbury to meet the needs of the recent and planned housing growth, as well as the existing population growth.

The first phase of primary school capacity growth has been implemented through expansions of existing schools:

- Dashwood Banbury Academy – from 1 form entry to 2 form entry
- Queensway Primary School – from 1 form entry to 2 form entry
- Hill View Primary School – from 2.5 form entry to 3 form entry
- Hanwell Fields Primary School – from 1.5 form entry to 2 form entry

These expansions were primarily to address existing pressure on school places in Banbury, but will also contribute towards meeting the needs arising from housing growth.

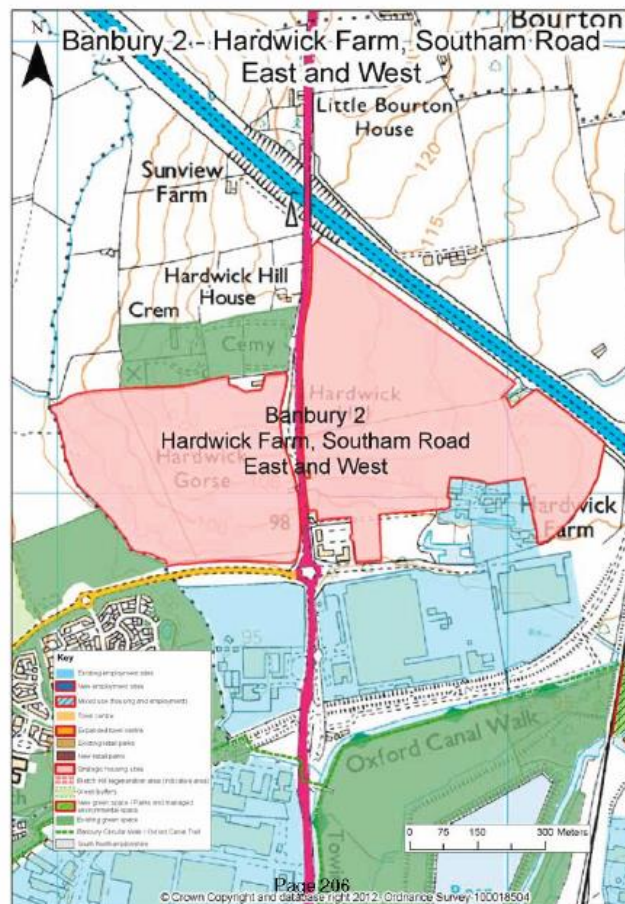
The second phase of primary school capacity growth is now underway, through the establishment of new schools:

- Longford Park Primary School – opening September 2017; 1.5 form entry with potential to grow to 2 form entry
- Southam Road – covered by this specification; 1 form entry
- South of Salt Way – timescale to be confirmed subject to the progress of housing development; expected to be at least 2 form entry.

As housing proposals develop, it may become necessary to plan for further school capacity growth.

## Section 2: The Southam Road development and school

In 2013 Cherwell District Council approved outline planning permission (Ref 13/00158/OUT and 13/00159/OUT) for housing development at this site, which was subsequently incorporated into the [Cherwell Local Plan](#) as Strategic Development Banbury 2 - Hardwick Farm, Southam Road (East and West).



## CMDED4

The Cherwell Local Plan policy Banbury 2 requires that the development includes an on-site primary school. A site has been secured for the school in the new development. (The nearest postcode to this location at the current time is OX16 2DA.) The school site is within the west of Southam Road development:



A capital project has commenced to design and build the school, with an expected completion date of June 2019 and the school is currently anticipated to open in September 2019. This timescale may be amended to September 2020 subject to the continued speed of delivery of housing on this development. There is sufficient primary school capacity in the town for families moving in to Banbury before that date, as a result of the previous school expansions.

To inform the selection of a sponsor, Oxfordshire County Council conducted a public consultation on this educational specification for the new school from 20 February 2017 – 28 March 2017. The consultation resulted in one response.

The consultation has informed this specification, which was approved by the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Education in April 2017.

### Section 3: Size and type of school

This school will be:

- A 1 form entry school. (The site secured is sufficient to allow the school to be expanded if necessary, but current indications of local population growth do not indicate a need for the school to be larger.)
- Age range: 3-11.
- Admission number: 30
- Total places provided for Reception to Year 6: 210 places.
- Nursery places provided: 26 full-time equivalent nursery places.
- Co-educational.

The school will also be expected to contribute towards meeting local needs for wraparound care and childcare.

The school's capacity is inclusive of 6 places reserved for specialist resourced provision for children with communication and interaction needs (autism and speech and language difficulties), physical or sensory needs.

The school's catchment is expected to be primarily the Southam Road strategic development area, but will draw from a wider area to meet population pressures in the north of Banbury.

The new school will be included within the county council's coordinated admission scheme, but the successful sponsor will be responsible for consulting on, and publishing, its specific admissions policy.

Information about Oxfordshire's school admissions and home-to-school transport is available at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/school-admission-rules-and-policies](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/school-admission-rules-and-policies).

The school will need to be flexible in how it organises classes to respond to the growth in local school-age population, including children who move to the development after the normal age of starting school. Proposers will be expected to demonstrate how they will ensure the needs of new residents of the development are met without promoting or encouraging a large scale relocation of existing pupils from other schools.

## Section 4: Educational Vision

Oxfordshire County Council's vision is for an autonomous and self-improving education system; we are committed to enabling schools and settings to promote excellence and lead their own improvement. This is set within the context of a well-planned continuum of provision from birth to 25 that meets the needs of children and young people in Oxfordshire. Our ultimate purpose is to improve attainment, achievement and well-being, including the progression into employment for young people, by developing collective capacity in the county.

An academy sponsor is sought to work with the county council to achieve this vision. In particular, prospective sponsors will need to demonstrate how they will help meet the following outcomes.

### 4.1 High Educational Quality and Standards

The school should:

- Provide sustainably good or outstanding education with an exciting and inspiring broad and balanced curriculum.
- Rigorously focus on educational standards to ensure that every child achieves their potential, and goals and national expectations are met or exceeded.
- Ensure an inclusive learning environment in which all pupils, including those with special or additional educational needs and those with disabilities, are supported and enabled to make appropriate progress.
- Develop a strong moral and caring ethos, ensuring care and support for the whole child.
- Seek out and share best practice within and beyond the school, promoting innovation and creativity in learning and teaching.
- Maintain outstanding and dynamic leadership, management and governance.
- Attract, retain and develop the highest quality teachers and support staff to ensure good or better teaching and learning, and effective and motivated workforces.

### 4.2 Support for Vulnerable Learners and Children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

The school's capacity is inclusive of 6 places reserved for specialist resourced provision for children with communication and interaction needs (autism and speech and language difficulties), physical or sensory needs. The sponsor will need to work closely with outside agencies including speech and language therapists, learning

mentors, social workers, educational psychologists, and the mental health service (CAMHS).

The resourced provision is part of the continuum of support available to children with special educational needs in local areas. In accordance with funding arrangements for high needs children, the school will receive an allocation, currently set at £10,000 per place.

The school should:

- Promote inclusive opportunities for the most vulnerable children and have a strong focus on equalities, early intervention, and supporting the needs of the local community.
- Provide specialist support to address each learner's specific needs and to improve their progress.
- Provide a learning environment for learners to benefit from specialist small group teaching and interventions as part of a personalised learning programme.
- Ensure suitably qualified and trained staff to advise and support the local workforce to deliver quality teaching and learning experiences for children with special educational needs, and support for their families.

### **4.3 Safeguarding, Well-being and Community Development**

A key component of selection will be the proposers' willingness to work in collaboration with other providers and local partners to develop services which meet the needs of local children, young people and families in a coordinated way.

The school should:

- Work in partnership with the county council and other educational providers to contribute towards meeting the collective responsibility to secure the best for all Oxfordshire's learners, including participating in school-to-school support, and a commitment to cooperating with Fair Access protocols.
- Implement strategies to ensure that attendance of children matches the attendance rates of the highest performing authorities.
- Support the strategic responsibilities of the county council to ensure sufficiency of high quality school places and improved educational outcomes through agreed sharing of data and information.
- Engage parents/carers in supporting and encouraging their children's learning.
- Support the county council in delivering effective early intervention services, ensuring school readiness and supporting our most vulnerable learners and families.

- Work in partnership with wider services such as social care services, health and police to keep children safe, support families and build stronger communities.
- Be outward facing, playing a key role within its immediate community and the wider local economy, for example through opening up facilities to the community, and participating in community activities.
- Develop strategic alliances, partnerships and networks to better meet the needs of children and families in Banbury.

## Section 5: Education Plan

Prospective sponsors should submit details of:

- An ambitious, broad and balanced, deliverable curriculum plan which is consistent with the vision and pupil intake.
- A staffing structure that will deliver the planned curriculum within the expected income levels, with a focus on outstanding teaching (including strategies for recruitment, retention and effective performance management).
- Strategies for measuring pupil performance effectively and setting challenging targets.
- Rigorous processes of self-evaluation and continual improvement, including recognising the importance of Pupil Voice in these processes.
- Strategies for ensuring that the needs of all children are fully provided for, and that the school will be fully inclusive.
- How additional support will be provided through the resourced provision included at the school.
- Strategies for ensuring safeguarding and well-being responsibilities are met.
- How the new school will support the collective responsibility to educate Oxfordshire's children and young people.
- How the school will seek out and share best practice within and beyond the school.
- Enrichment and extended services, for example, breakfast clubs, sports clubs, homework clubs and music/art clubs.
- The school's approach to: PHSE; the Prevent Duty; safeguarding and welfare; and promoting fundamental British values (democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs).
- Groups and organisations seen as being key partners, and plans for engagement and joint-working with those partners both during the pre-opening period and after opening.



## Section 6: Capacity and Capability

Prospective sponsors should demonstrate:

- Their prior experience of successfully providing the nature of education required in this specification.
- The resources available to support the development of the new school by the opening date.
- Clear evidence of the skills and abilities necessary to set up and then run a school effectively, including: managing school finances; leadership; project management; marketing; human resources; safeguarding; and health and safety.
- How the school would be organised and what the governance arrangements would look like, including a diagram of the proposed structures.

## Section 7: Funding and Cost

Under Section 106 of the Town and County Planning Act, 1990, the county council has negotiated a site and capital funding for the school. The signed section 106 agreement for this site secures a 1.83ha site for the school, adjacent to a 0.39ha site for a community multi-use-games area (MUGA) which the school will have the option of using. In addition, the section 106 agreement secures capital funding for the delivery of the school equivalent to £6.1m at 1Q18 values.

The school site will be owned by Oxfordshire County Council, and is expected to be made available to the academy on a 125 year lease, with the usual terms pursuant to the 2010 Academies Act.

The MUGA will be under the freehold ownership of Cherwell District Council, who will be responsible for maintenance of the MUGA. The section 106 agreement includes provision for the academy provider to enter into a joint use agreement with the district council to the intent of ensuring that the MUGA is available for exclusive use by the school between 8am and 5:30pm on all days when the school is in session.

School start-up costs will be provided by the county council to the total of £66,000 for pre-opening costs and £150,000 for post-opening costs, the phasing of these payments being agreed through negotiation between the county council and the successful sponsor. The Department for Education will provide a one-off grant payment of £25,000 to the successful sponsor to cover the legal costs incurred in establishing the new free school.

## Section 8: Impact and Equalities Assessments

As prescribed by section 9 of the Academies Act 2010 and section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the local authority must assess the potential impact of any new school on existing educational provision in the area. The local authority must also consider whether the new school would impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

The provision of a new school at Southam Road is necessary as the scale of growth is expected to generate more pupils than could be accommodated through expansion of existing nearby schools, and a new school in the heart of significant new housing developments is considered to be an important element of community building.

Taking into account the high level of housing growth in Banbury and the forecast sustained increase in pupil numbers, the impact of the proposed new primary school is not likely to be significant in the medium to long term. In the short-term, there may be some turbulence in pupil numbers at local schools, as patterns of parental preference shift in reaction to the new provision. However, it is not considered that this would be sufficient to threaten the viability of any existing schools.

The county council has sought to minimise any risks to the existing schools by writing into the school specification that the eventual sponsors will manage school growth in such a way as to not adversely affect existing schools, and will work closely with the existing partnership of schools.

The new school is not expected to have an adverse impact on any groups with protected characteristics.

The new school is expected to have a positive impact on two specific groups with protected characteristics:

- Children and young people: the new school will help to minimise travel distances to school, and increase choice. If sufficient primary school places are not available within the heart of the community this can affect access to out of school activities, social contact with peers, travel patterns and community cohesion.
- Children with special educational needs: the school's specialist resourced provision for children with communication and interaction needs (autism and speech and language difficulties), physical or sensory needs will increase provision in the local area.

## Section 9: How to Apply to Sponsor this New School

Oxfordshire runs a two-stage application process, first inviting outline expressions of interest from potential sponsors, and then shortlisting up to three applicants to submit a detailed proposal.

### **Key Dates (subject to change):**

- 28 April – 26 May 2017: Expressions of Interest (EoI) invited from potential sponsors.
- June 2017: Shortlisting of EoI received, with reference to how well they meet the specification for the school.
- July / August 2017: Shortlisted potential sponsors develop detailed bids for submission by midday on Monday 4 September.
- 2 October 2017: Interviews and presentations by shortlisted bidders.
- 28 November 2017: OCC Member for Education formally approves the county council's choice of preferred sponsor. This is communicated to the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).
- December 2017 / January 2018: RSC makes the final decision on the sponsor for the new school.
- September 2019 or 2020: New school opens.