

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, EDUCATION & FAMILIES

14 July 2014

New primary school for Banbury at Longford Park: Report on consultation and approval for specification of a new primary school

Annex 1: specification

Oxfordshire County Council

New school for Banbury

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

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1. Background

Why a new school is needed in Banbury

A new housing development of 1,070 homes is now being built in Banbury near Bankside. The site is located to the south east of Banbury on the Oxford Road (A4260), with the Oxford Canal running along part of the site's eastern boundary.

In 2009 Cherwell District Council approved outline planning permission (Ref 05/01337/OUT) for the site, which is now referred to as Longford Park. A 1.5 form entry primary school will form part of the development, to serve the new community.

Existing educational provision in this area

The town of Banbury has 15 existing primary schools. There are currently 3 secondary schools, and a special school. A new school, The Space Studio, with a 14-19 age range, is due to open in the town in September 2014.

Further detail on the town's schools is available in the Oxfordshire Pupil Place Plan, available from the OCC website.

Consultation

Local consultation was undertaken by the county council from 23 April 2014 – 15 June 2014:

- To gather local community views to help shape the specification of the school and choice of sponsor.
- To invite organisations and individuals with specialist knowledge to provide evidence on local need.
- To act as pre-notification to potential sponsors of the future bidding rounds.

The consultation resulted in 25 responses.

On the basis of this consultation, the following are features which would be sought for the new school:

- It will form close working relationships with existing local schools;
- It will provide extended services such as wraparound care and childcare;
- It will act as a community focus;
- It will encourage sustainable travel to school for pupils and staff to minimise local traffic impacts.

The consultation results have informed this specification, which was approved by the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families on

14 July 2014.

2. Details of the new school covered by this specification

Type of school

This school will be:

- A 1.5 form entry school in the first instance, with potential to grow to 2 form entry if required by local population growth.
- Age range: 2-11.
- Admission number: 45
- Total places provided for Reception to Year 6: 315 places.
- Nursery places provided: 39 full-time equivalent places for 2- and 3-year-olds.
- Inclusive of 6 places reserved for specialist resourced provision (refer to section below on 'Supporting vulnerable learners and those with special educational needs').

Location

A site has been secured for the school in the new development, which lies to the southern edge of Banbury.

Timescale

The new school's buildings are currently planned for completion in 2016. There is sufficient primary school capacity in the town for families moving in to Banbury before that date.

Size and growth of schools

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.

While pupil numbers are growing, the school will have surplus accommodation, and it is expected that the academy provider will work constructively with the county and district council, and other groups, to identify ways in which this can be used to support the local community.

Design of school and capital funding

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 primary school site is 2.2ha (combined school and accessible community land). The site 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 new building will be designed in accordance with the county council's approved space standards including provision of extended school facilities for community use outside school hours (as set out in the Cabinet report of September 2013, available from www.oxfordshire.gov.uk).

3. Service requirements

Our vision is for Oxfordshire to be a dynamic and forward looking place for education and learning, providing the best quality experiences for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.

An academy sponsor is sought who is committed to providing a high quality educational experience, focusing on the environment as inspiration and context for the whole curriculum, and also to ensure the school plays a key role in building a strong and sustainable community.

Delivering excellence in education

Every child and young person in Oxfordshire should be able to attend a good or outstanding school or setting, access the best teaching, achieve well and as they become an adult, have opportunities for an independent economic and social life. Through providing the best start in life, whatever their background, children should be able to thrive at school. Education and skills provision also needs to be shaped around the needs of the Oxfordshire economy, alongside ensuring that good quality services are available for the vulnerable.

Sponsors will be expected to:

- Provide a sustainably good or outstanding school 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.
- Implement rigorous processes of self-evaluation and continual improvement, including recognising the importance of Pupil Voice in these processes.
- Secure 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.
- Provide evidence of robust and effective financial management.

Supporting vulnerable learners and those with special educational needs

The needs of vulnerable children and young people should be met locally wherever possible. The new 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.

Resourced provision is part of the continuum of support available to children with special educational needs in local areas. The reserved places for specialist resourced provision will primarily be for children with communication and interaction needs, physical or sensory needs. In accordance with funding arrangements for high needs children, the school will receive an allocation, currently set at £10,000 per place.

Sponsors will be expected to:

- 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.

Working in partnership

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.

Sponsors will be expected to:

- Ensure the school is outward facing, playing a key role within its immediate community and the wider local economy.
- Engage parents/carers in supporting and encouraging their children's learning.
- Work in partnership with the county council and other educational providers to contribute towards meeting a collective responsibility to secure the best for all Oxfordshire's learners, including participating in school-to-school support, and cooperating with Fair Access protocols.
- Develop strategic alliances, partnerships and networks to better meet the needs of children and families in Banbury.
- 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.

Building stronger communities

Under Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006, the county council has a duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents; the involvement of the school in meeting the childcare needs of the local community is sought. The county council would also welcome the involvement of the school in providing community access to appropriate facilities.

Sponsors will be expected to:

- Contribute towards ensuring a sufficiency of early years education places in the area by providing nursery education for 2- and 3-year olds in line with local needs.
- Contribute towards meeting local needs for wraparound care and childcare.
- 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.
- Provide children and young people with the skills they will need to play an active part in their local community and economy.
- Play a key role in the development of the new community, for example through opening up facilities to the community, and participating in community activities.

4. How to apply

The county council must receive outline Expressions of Interest by 2 October 2014 and requires one hard copy and one electronic copy of all documentation.

In the first instance, Expressions of Interest should be submitted using the Oxfordshire County Council New School Expressions of Interest Form. The Application Form and this Specification Document are available to download from www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/newschoolproposals

Further information is available from, and Expressions of Interest should be sent to:
Barbara Chillman, Service Manager – Pupil Place Planning
Children, Education & Families
Oxfordshire County Council
County Hall
New Road
Oxford OX1 1ND
Tel: 01865 816459
academies@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Expressions of Interest will be assessed against their ability to meet the following broad criteria:

- the quality of the places being added into the system, based on the proposer's vision and educational plan;
- the capability and capacity of the proposer to deliver their proposal to time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience.

The county council will short-list proposers on the basis of the Expressions of Interest received, and by 5 November 2014 will invite the short-listed proposers to submit a more detailed application by 17 December 2014

The short-listed proposers will also be invited to deliver a presentation of their proposals, with a provisional date of 29 January 2015.

The county council Cabinet Member for Children, Education & Families will be asked to identify the preferred proposers at their March 2015 meeting, so that recommendations can be submitted to the DfE for final approval. It is hoped the decision would be available from the DfE by May 2015.