

# **Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation**

**3 July 2026**

## **Grove CE Primary School – Funding Agreement with Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust**

**Report by: Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)**

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to

- a) Approve the completion of the Funding Agreement with Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST) which will release funding greater than £2m to ODST to enable them to enter into contract for the construction of a new teaching block at Grove CE Primary School.**

### **Executive Summary**

1. Grove CE Primary School is an academy managed by Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust (ODST).
2. Due to local housing growth, there is a pupil-place pressure in the north of Grove. The council agreed with ODST that they would expand the admission number at Grove CE Primary School by 105 places (from 1 form entry to 1.5 form entry) and with an additional 39 place Nursery, using funding provided by the council.
3. The expansion will be achieved by constructing a new teaching block, adapting the existing building and external works. ODST have tendered the project and the tender sum for construction forms part of the project budget.
4. The budget for this project is £9.494m, approved in the Outline Business Case in June 2025. The Full Business Case (FBC) will be submitted for approval in August or September 2026 at the same budget.
5. Once the FBC has been approved, the Funding Agreement with ODST can be completed, enabling them to enter into contract for construction.

### **Corporate Policies and Priorities**

6. This proposed course of action supports the council's statutory duty to provide pupil places.

## Financial Implications

7. This expansion project has obtained Capital Governance approval as below:
  - Initial Business Case, approved 2015
  - Out of Tolerance, approved June 2024
  - Outline Business Case, approved June 2025 (£9.494m)
  - Full Business Case to be submitted for approval at Property Programme Board in August/September 2026
8. The project is being funded from S106 contributions (£8.297m) with the balance of £1.197m met from Corporate Resources.
9. There are no revenue implications for the council as Grove CE Primary School is an academy, under the management of ODST.

Comments checked by:

Drew Hodgson,  
Strategic Finance Business Partner  
Email: [drew.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:drew.hodgson@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## Legal Implications

10. The council has a statutory duty including under section 14(1) of the Education Act 1996 and all other relevant Acts of Parliament, regulations to secure additional school places for children within the County. This Funding arrangement with ODST will enable the council to fulfil its statutory function.
11. As the funding under the Funding Agreement will be passed directly to works contractors to cover the building and other professional costs, there is no benefit to ODST, this being a mere pass-through arrangement. Therefore, there are no Subsidy law implications of transferring this funding to ODST.
12. Under the terms of the Funding Agreement, in selecting contractors and consultants for the building works, ODST were required to go through a procurement process which would be compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 ("PCR 2015"). This ensures that the works contracts represent value and comply with the council's obligations under PCR 2015, under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and under the council's Contract

Procedure Rules. ODST will also be required to comply with all applicable legislation in carrying out the building project.

Comments checked by:

Jonathan Pool  
Solicitor  
Email: [jonathan.pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jonathan.pool@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Staff Implications**

13. The course of action will result in further staff costs for OCC Property and Legal which will be recharged against the project budget, as previous staff costs have been.

## **Equality & Inclusion Implications**

14. The project does not have any equality and inclusion implications with no change to current operations.

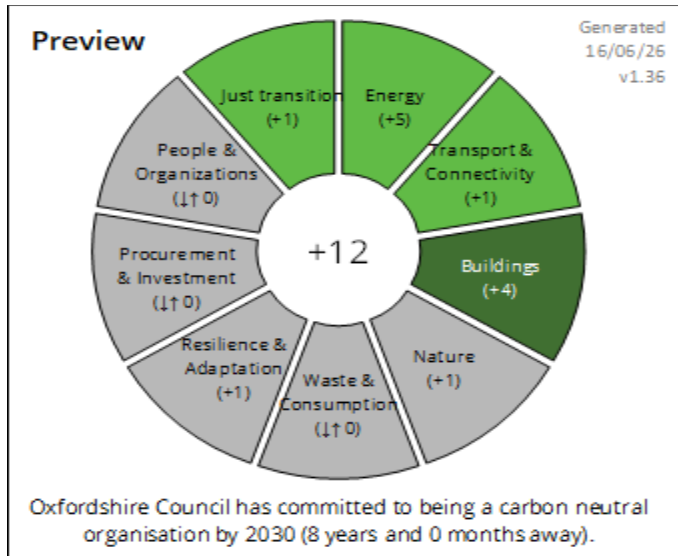
## **Sustainability Implications**

15. The scheme has been designed to meet very high standards of sustainable design. Working with the DfE Output Specification as a starting point, this sets a target of Net Zero Carbon in Operation. The scheme has been future proofed to be able to achieve this.

The new building will be heated by air source heat pumps, meaning that there will be no reliance on gas.

The heat pumps will create maximum efficiency and lead to a significant overall improvement in the school's energy performance.

A Climate Impact Assessment has been carried out, with the results below:



## Consultations

16. This expansion project has gone through the planning approval process with VOWHDC which included a full consultation period.

Lorna Baxter,  
Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer  
[Lorna.baxter@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lorna.baxter@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Annex: Annex 1 Approved Outline Business Case  
[APPROVED Grove CE Expansion \(G1\) OBC.pdf](#)

Contact Officer: Nick Tomkins, Strategic Liaison Manager  
[nick.tomkins@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:nick.tomkins@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Vic Kurzeja, Director of Property & Assets  
[vic.kurzeja@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:vic.kurzeja@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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