

Delegated Decisions by Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Transformation

4 September 2026

Funding Agreement with Cambrian Learning Trust for Faringdon Community College

Report by: Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer)

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member is **RECOMMENDED** to:
 - a) **Approve the entering into a Funding Agreement with Cambrian Learning Trust with a maximum funding contribution of £7.00m to enable the Trust to procure the construction of new teaching accommodation at Faringdon Community College.**

Executive Summary

2. Faringdon Community College is a secondary school academy managed by Cambrian Learning Trust (CLT).
3. In 2024, a significant sum of unspent S106 funding was identified, which could only be spent at the school. Childrens Services agreed with CLT to use the funding to replace 4 temporary buildings with permanent accommodation.
4. CLT agreed to self-deliver this project using funding provided by the council through a Funding Agreement.
5. The project budget approved in the Full Business Case in August 2026 is £7.362m. See Section 12 for the funding details.
6. Once the Funding Agreement is completed, CLT can enter into contract for construction.

Background and Proposal

7. Faringdon Community College expanded in 2018 with the delivery of a 14-class block. The funding for that expansion project was unable to meet the cost of replacing 4 temporary buildings (8 classrooms) which were in poor condition.
8. Since the 2018 expansion project, several s106 financial contributions have been received that are ring-fenced for secondary education in Faringdon. This funding is now being used to replace the temporary buildings that are not fit for purpose with permanent teaching accommodation.
9. The proposal/solution is for 2 separate teaching blocks and external works:
 - (a) A two-storey teaching block with seven classrooms, three group rooms, offices and associated accommodation.
 - (b) A student centre with secure student reception, five work rooms, three staff meeting rooms, offices and toilets.
 - (c) External works including a new parking layout, landscaping and circulation.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. This proposed course of action supports the council's statutory duty to provide suitable and sufficient pupil places.

Financial Implications

11. This expansion project has obtained Capital Governance approval as below:
 - Initial Business Case, approved April 2024
 - Outline Business Case, approved January 2025 (£6.100m)
 - Full Business Case approved August 2026 (£7.362m)
12. The amount of funding to be made available to the Trust through the Funding Agreement is initially £6.318m, calculated as below:

• £7.362m	approved budget
• £0.410m	less funding already paid to the Trust
• <u>£0.634m</u>	OCC retained costs
£6.318m	Balance to go into the Funding Agreement

13. Of the £0.634m of retained funding, £0.609m is client contingency which will be made available once further s106 contributions have been received.
14. The project is being fully funded from S106 contributions. To date, £5.857m has been received and there is a further £1.301m secured, of which £0.686m is expected to be received by the end of 2026.
15. There are no revenue implications for the council as Faringdon Community College is an academy, under the management of CLT.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

16. 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 sufficient school places for children within the County. This Funding Agreement with CLT will enable the Council to fulfil its statutory function.
17. 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 CLT, this being a mere pass-through arrangement. Therefore, there are no Subsidy law implications of transferring this funding to CLT.
18. Under the terms of the Funding Agreement, in selecting contractors and consultants for the building works, CLT are required to go through a procurement process which is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 ("PA 2023"). This ensures that the works contracts represent value and comply with the Council's obligations under PA 2023, under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. CLT will also be required to comply with all applicable legislation in carrying out the building project.

Comments checked by:

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Staff Implications

19. 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.

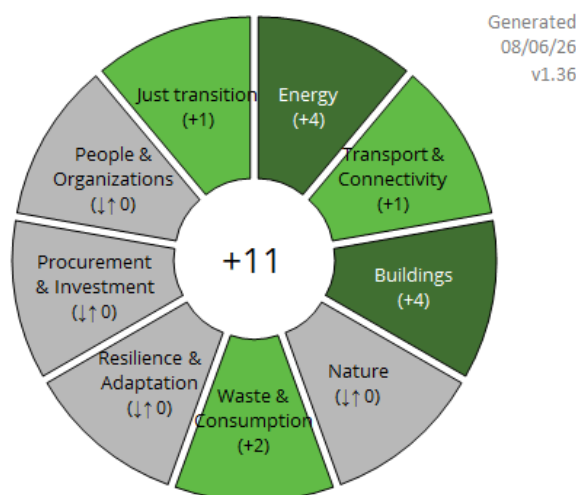
Equality & Inclusion Implications

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

Sustainability Implications

21. Following passive design enhancements to the building fabric and form, the mechanical and electrical building services have been designed to minimise energy consumption and generate heating and hot water in the most efficient way possible.
22. Air source heat pumps will be used as the primary heat source, coupled with low temperature heat distribution to maximise efficiency. PVs will provide energy and at times of low demand and high yield, it will be exported to the National Grid.
23. EV charging points will be included in the new car park layout.

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



Oxfordshire Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (8 years and 0 months away).

Consultations

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

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Annex: Annex 1 Approved Full Business Case
[APPROVED Faringdon Community College \(G2\) FBC.pdf](#)

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