

WANDSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE –
20TH JUNE 2013

EXECUTIVE – 1ST JULY 2013

Report by the Director of Children's Services on the recommended preferred Academy provider
for the proposed Putney Primary School

SUMMARY

The Executive has previously decided (Paper No. 12-336) that the proposed Putney Primary School should be an Academy. Under Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council is required to undertake a process to canvass for bids from providers to run the new school. The Council recommends its preferred provider, although it is the DfE which makes the final decision.

On 3rd November 2012, the Council published Notices inviting Expressions of Interest from providers, with a closing date of 21st December 2012. Providers were given guidance on the Council's expectations (as agreed in Paper No. 11-658) and were required to write to a standard template to facilitate evaluation of the bids. Six bids were received by 21st December 2012. One further bid, received after the deadline and not in the required format, was discounted. The six accepted bids came from two large academy chains, two small, more recently established academy sponsors, a Wandsworth primary academy and a bi-lingual proposer. All six proposers met with officers and with the Council's Academies and Free Schools Commission as part of the evaluation process.

The six bids were initially evaluated by officers using a scoring system based on the agreed criteria. The Academies and Free Schools Commission then met on 10th January 2013 to evaluate the bids and to recommend a preferred provider to the Council. The Commission unanimously agreed that its recommended preferred provider was Oasis Community Learning, an established academy chain. The recommendation was subject to officers clarifying a number of points with Oasis. Officers wrote to and then met with Oasis and all the questions raised were answered to the officer's and Commission's satisfaction (paragraphs 15-16 below).

The Director of Finance has had the opportunity to make appropriate financial checks on Oasis as a provider and is satisfied that there are no issues with regard to its financial standing. The Council's financial commitment to the capital scheme at the former Putney Hospital site is limited to the £3.235m current provision in the Council's Approved Capital Programme.

A recent change in legislation means that from 2013/14 local authorities will have to fund Basic Need Academies or Free Schools for their start-up costs and diseconomy of scale costs. This will be funded by the Growth Fund in the Dedicated Schools Grant and will last for several years based on empty year groups. The Schools Forum has limited start-up costs to a one-off payment of £60,000, whilst diseconomy costs for a primary school are set at a maximum of £277,500 over six years.

The Executive is recommended to approve Oasis Community Learning as the Council's preferred sponsor to run the proposed Putney Primary Academy and to agree that officers submit this recommendation to the DfE.

GLOSSARY

DfE	-	Department for Education
EIA	-	Equality Impact Assessment
OSC	-	Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to support the recommendations in this report as set out in paragraph 2. If the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve any views, comments or additional recommendations on the report, these will be submitted to the Executive for consideration.
2. The Executive are recommended to approve Oasis Community Learning as the Council's preferred sponsor to run the proposed Putney Primary Academy. The Executive are recommended further to agree that officers submit this recommendation to the DfE, who take the final decision on the provider.

BACKGROUND

3. Under Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, all new schools have to be established as academies or free schools (unless no suitable promoter comes forward) and the Council is required to undertake a process to canvass bids from providers to run the school. It is, however, the DfE which takes the final decision on the successful bidder, taking into account the Local Authority's view. The Executive has already decided (Paper No. 12-336) that the proposed Putney Primary School should be an academy rather than a free school.
4. On 1st February 2012, Section 37 of the Education Act 2011 came into force, introducing Schedule 11 of the Act. This made changes to the Education and Inspections Act 2006 in relation to the process for establishing new schools. Specifically guidance was introduced which requires local authorities to assess the proposals they receive against the criteria

below, before forwarding all the proposals to the Secretary of State, who will take into consideration any preference that the Council indicates:

- (a) the quality of the places being added into the system, based on the proposer's vision and educational plan;
 - (b) the capability and capacity of the proposer to deliver their proposal to time and on budget, based on their expertise and experience; and
 - (c) value for money, confirming that the proposer considers that the costs of establishing the new academy can be met within the estimate of capital costs outlined by the local authority and, where they cannot be met within that estimate, an explanation of the reasons for the additional costs and how any shortfall will be met.
5. All potential providers were informed of these criteria and were asked to submit their bids using a template (Appendix 1) in order to facilitate evaluation.
 6. The detail of how to undertake the process of seeking and deciding upon potential proposers is left to the discretion of individual councils. The guidance states that groups or organisations that might be interested in establishing the new school should be made aware of the opportunity. This process is new and this was the first time it has been used by this Council to establish an Academy.
 7. The process adopted was for proposers first to meet with officers and then with the Academies and Free Schools Commission. Proposers then had to complete a written submission by 21st December 2012. The Commission met on 10th January 2013 to evaluate the bids and recommend a preferred provider.

Outcomes of the bidding process

8. Six bids were received by the deadline from the following organisations:
 - Belleville Primary School (a Wandsworth academy)
 - Chapel Street (a new academy chain with two schools but an established record of voluntary sector work in socially disadvantaged areas)
 - Harris Federation (an established academy chain with 20+ schools)
 - Marco Polo Group (a Mandarin bilingual school proposal)
 - Oasis Community Learning (established academy chain with 32 schools)
 - Schole (a new academy chain with an approach based on pupil-centred learning, backed by the established Barnfield Schools Federation).
9. One further bid from Phoenix Place (former proprietors of an independent prep school in Wandsworth), was received after the deadline and was not in the required format. The bid was therefore discounted.
10. The written bids were evaluated first by officers who worked independently – the Assistant Director (Standards and Schools); the Assistant Director (Planning and Resources) with the

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

Head of Financial Management Services; and the Primary School Improvement Manager. Bids were scored against a set of criteria as set out in Appendix 1. The detailed scoring is set out in Paper No. 13-391A which is elsewhere on this agenda.

11. The Academies and Free Schools Commission then met and reviewed the bids, taking into account the officers' feedback. It was agreed that four bids, those by Oasis, Belleville, Chapel Street and Harris, were sufficiently strong to run the proposed Putney Academy successfully. The Commission felt that the bids by Schole and Marco Polo did not give sufficient confidence to merit further consideration.
12. Following further discussion of the bids by Oasis, Belleville, Chapel Street and Harris, the Commission agreed that the proposal by Oasis was the strongest and the best matched to the needs of the Putney community. It was felt to be particularly well evidenced in terms of ensuring high academic standards combined with a strong ethos of working with the local community. The specific features of the Oasis proposal were as follows:
 - Oasis Community Learning was the most improved academy chain in 2011. By September 2013, Oasis will have 32 academies and is growing by 6-7 schools a year, spread geographically e.g. Bristol, Lincolnshire and Croydon.
 - Backed by the Oasis Group, which includes housing, training, youth work and employs 3,500 staff.
 - A significant strength is the offer of a wide range of community learning and extra curricular links e.g. parenting support, holiday club, debt advice. This gives access to youth workers, family support workers, health workers, etc.
 - Well researched examples of community links e.g. Wimbledon Theatre, Dean City Farm, Wetlands Centre and international links via Oasis' wider work.
 - High expectations for standards of achievement and pupil progress (100% Level 4 and above English and mathematics). Very clear curriculum model including 5 hours a week each in English and mathematics.
 - Good set of beliefs and values which are not just a stock list e.g. educational balance, fun, innovation enterprise, community. Clear that the school will promote a Christian ethos but will be inclusive and non denominational.
 - Strong leadership and back office capacity of the multi-academy Trust.
 - Comprehensive financial analysis and plan. Implies that Oasis will contribute resources in first few years. Costs realistic, non-pay costs slightly low.
13. The Commission noted that there were a small number of areas where Oasis' bid needed further clarification. Officers therefore wrote seeking:
 - (a) more detailed information on how Oasis will address the issue of transport to school (both staff and pupils) given the sensitive nature of this issue;
 - (b) clarification of targets at Key Stage 2;

- (c) confirmation of the extended hours that the school will be open; and
 - (d) clarification of the proposed admissions oversubscription criteria.
14. Oasis wrote back and met with officers on 30th January 2013. All the questions raised by the Commission were fully addressed to the officers' satisfaction. Oasis' letter is attached at Appendix 2.

DfE PROCESS AND TIMESCALES

15. If the Executive approves Oasis Community Learning as the Council's preferred sponsor, this recommendation will then be submitted to the DfE.
16. The timeline for approval and implementation of the proposal is outlined in the table below.

Date	Event
20 th June 2013	Preferred provider recommended to Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
1 st July 2013	Preferred provider recommended to the Executive
10 th July 2013	Preferred provider recommended to DfE
July – September 2013	DfE considers proposals
September 2013 to September 2015	Confirmed provider works with Wandsworth Council and DfE to establish a new academy

17. The Council has consulted extensively on the proposal and reported on the consultation undertaken to the Executive on 24th September 2012 (Paper No.12-598). All stakeholders, including residents and the wider community will have a further opportunity to comment on the development proposal as part of the planning application process.
18. The proposals will be implemented and the provider appointed, if planning permission for the redevelopment of the site is granted and all other contractual and development matters are concluded.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

19. A full EIA is attached as Appendix 3 to this report. The EIA concludes that the recommendation of Oasis Community Learning as the preferred academy sponsor will have no negative impact on any of the protected characteristic group. If the DfE agrees that Oasis should be the academy sponsor, further consultation will be carried out by Oasis as part of the development of the academy prior to signing a Funding Agreement and opening. This will provide a further opportunity for equalities issues to be raised.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE COMMENT

20. The Director of Finance has had the opportunity to make appropriate financial checks on Oasis as a provider and is satisfied that there are no issues with regard to its financial standing. The Council's financial commitment to the capital scheme at the former Putney Hospital site is limited to the £3.235m current provision in the Council's Approved Capital Programme.
21. A recent change in legislation means that from 2013/14 local authorities will have to fund Basic Need Academies or Free Schools for their start-up costs and diseconomy of scale costs. This will be funded by the Growth Fund in the Dedicated Schools Grant and will last for several years based on empty year groups. The Schools Forum has limited start-up costs to a one-off payment of £60,000, whilst diseconomy costs for a primary school are set at a maximum of £277,500 over six years.

CONCLUSION

22. The Academies and Free Schools Commission unanimously agreed that its recommended preferred provider to run the proposed Putney Primary Academy is Oasis Community Learning. The Executive is asked to support this recommendation and to agree that officers submit this recommendation to the DfE, whose statutory role is to take the final decision on the promoter to run the school.
23. If the DfE approve the appointment of Oasis to run the proposed Putney Primary Academy, this appointment will be dependent on planning permission being granted for the redevelopment of the site for the provision of the proposed primary school and residential development and all other contractual and development matters being resolved.

The Town Hall
Wandsworth
SW18 2PU

Paul Robinson
Director of Children's Services

12th June 2013

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

All reports to Overview and Scrutiny Committees, regulatory and other committees, the Executive and the full Council can be viewed on the Council's website (www.wandsworth.gov.uk/moderngov) unless the report was published before May 2001, in which case the Committee Secretary (Rachel Williamson 020 8871 7857 or rwilliamson@wandsworth.gov.uk) can supply it if required.

APPENDIX 1

Putney Academy Expression of Interest

Section A: Applicant details		
Main contact for this application		
1.	Name:	
2.	Address:	
3.	Email address:	
4.	Telephone number:	
About your organisation		
5.	Please give details about your organisation or group	
7.	How many schools are you currently running/sponsoring? Please give details	
8.	How many schools have you got DfE approval to open in the next 2 years?	
9.	Did you put together this application with support from another company or organisation?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
10.	If Yes, please list the name(s) of the organisation(s) and describe clearly the role they played in developing your application. Please also describe the role (if any) you envisage for them in setting up and/or running the Free School if your application is successful:	
20.	Through its members, directors or otherwise, does the company limited by guarantee have any formal or informal links (eg. financial, philosophical or ideological) with any other organisations within the UK or overseas? These may include: other Academy or Free School groups; other institutions; charitable bodies; and/or commercial or non-commercial organisations. If yes, please provide details	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

22.	Would your proposed school be designated as having a religious character or have a faith ethos? Please give details
-----	---

Section C: Education vision

Please set out clearly why you are seeking to establish the Putney Academy and what is distinctive about your organisation's approach. Explain key features of the school including:

- identify what will make the school distinctive in its vision and ethos and how this has informed the education plan;
- set out your aspirations for the achievement of individual pupils, and the school as a whole, and why these targets are appropriate;
- explain how the ethos of the school will be reflected in its curriculum, pastoral care and approach to teaching and learning; and
- explain how your group's religious beliefs and affiliations will be reflected in, or influence, the curriculum if you are applying to set up an academy designated as having a religious character.

Grade 5	Clear and distinctive vision, highest aspirations, evidence that ethos will permeate the whole school, non-denominational
Grade 3	Vision satisfactory & clear; good aspirations for pupil outcomes; appropriate ethos and fair strategies for promoting this
Grade 1	Vision not clear or unremarkable; modest aspirations; ethos not clear or distinctive or penetration not evident; denominational

Section D: Education Plan

- The education plan should describe how the Education Vision would be implemented in practical terms
- How would you ensure excellence in the quality of teaching and learning?
- What systems would you use to monitor performance and standards for individual pupils and the school as a whole?
- How would you ensure that your curriculum meets the needs of all pupils, including those with SEN or English as an additional language and the most able?
- Set out your approach to providing extended learning opportunities outside the normal school day
- How would you ensure strong leadership, management and governance?

Grade 5 -	Clear but concise plan with challenging actions, outcomes and
-----------	---

	timelines. Robust and convincing on teacher appointment, development and monitoring; also on pupil tracking. Genuine commitment to and demonstrable systems to support the most and least able including SEN. Exciting and diverse range of out-of-hours learning. Outstanding leadership will be achieved.
Grade 3 -	Thorough plan with appropriate actions, outcomes and timelines. Addresses teacher appointment, development and monitoring; also pupil tracking. Suitable systems to support the most and least able including SEN. Good range of out-of-hours learning. Must still show how leadership will be outstanding.
Grade 1 -	Plan is superficial or lacking in clear actions, outcomes of timelines. Addresses one or more of teacher appointment, development and monitoring but systems may not convince. Plans for meeting needs of the most and least able mostly sound but unremarkable. Leadership no more than good.

Section E: Relationship with other schools, the Council and the wider education community

- Demonstrate your understanding of the community that the Putney Academy will serve and show how your education plan addresses the needs of that community.
- Set out your admissions policy, including the criteria to be used to prioritise places if your school is oversubscribed.
- Explain how you will make the school attractive to pupils of different backgrounds and abilities. This should include pupils from deprived or disadvantaged families.
- Describe your approach plans for working with other schools, Wandsworth Council and the wider community.
- Set out how you will promote good community relations.

Grade 5 - Must recognise and address the skewed intake and show how the

	needs of children from nearby estates will be met, including parents, as well as more affluent Putney families. Admissions policy in line with WBC criteria and ensures local needs are met. Innovative ideas for reaching out to the community. Genuine and evidenced commitment to being part of Wandsworth family.
Grade 3 -	Shows some awareness of the local demographics and profile but may be less clear on how to engage fully. Ideas for working with the community are sound but not necessarily unusual or innovative. Admissions policy technically secure and in line with WBC criteria but may have some unusual features eg bilingual.
Grade 1 -	Application could describe a school in any community rather than showing awareness of Putney. Ideas for working with the community are sound but unremarkable. Admissions policy mostly technically secure and in line with WBC criteria.

Section F: Capacity and capability

- Demonstrate that your organisation has the necessary capacity and expertise to set up and run a new organisation, school governance, human resources, ICT, design, finance, marketing and project management, quoting previous experience and track record in setting up new schools
- Give details of the individuals who would be involved in setting up the new school, including their experience of establishing a new school
- Set out plans showing an appropriate and phased build up of staff (as the school will grow in size over time) in line with planned pupil numbers and financial resources.
- Set out your plans for recruiting high quality members of staff, including the headteacher
- Set out your approach to school leadership and management
- Describe how you will identify and appoint committed governors with the breadth of skills needed.
- Give details of the systems that will be established to ensure the effectiveness of provision from the outset

- Whilst the premises will be provided by the Council, the applicant is asked to comment on how the services of a School Crossing Patrol Officer could be provided if deemed necessary and how they will implement a School Travel Plan.

Grade 5 - Clear, well focused governance structure with good range of skills to be recruited. Proposer has demonstrable, high quality back office capacity – including all of the following: finance, HR, ICT, marketing and project management. Financially viable plan for staff recruitment and leadership structure. Very strong accountability proposals. Outstanding track record in relation to all the above. Travel plan recognises need to minimise car traffic.

Grade 3 - Suitable governance structure with appropriate range of skills to be recruited. Proposer has reasonable back office capacity – including most if not all of finance, HR, ICT, marketing and project management. Realistic plan for staff recruitment and leadership structure. Accountability proposals clear. Travel plan recognises need to minimise car traffic.

Grade 1 - Governance structure is adequate but with some possible gaps or is not fully thought through. Limited or unproven back office capacity in relation to finance, HR, etc. Plan for staff recruitment and leadership structure not well thought through of financially unrealistic. Travel plan not specific to Putney circumstances.

Section G: Financial planning and viability

Please set out how you would go about producing a financial plan for your new school, including what assumptions you would be making about the funding available in the context of building up your pupil numbers over time.

Please set out your views on the key financial challenges you might encounter in running a primary school and how you would seek to address them

Please set out what systems you would put in place to ensure that the school's finances were properly managed.

Grade 5 - Excellent financial plan which is realistic, suitably detailed, has clear assumptions and innovative but sensible strategies for overcoming challenges and a track record to support this. Robust budgetary monitoring includes provider and governors.

Grade 3 -	Sound financial plan which is largely realistic, with sufficient detail to answer most questions. Includes some strategies for overcoming challenges but may have some gaps or queries. Sound but unexceptional budgetary monitoring and control.
Grade 1 -	Financial plan is barely adequate, either because it is not realistically costed or because it is insufficiently detailed to command confidence. Control mechanisms weak.

APPENDIX 2



John Murphy
National Director of Academies
Oasis Community Learning
75 Westminster Bridge Road
London
SE1 7HS

Mr John Johnson
Assistant Director (Standards and Schools)
Wandsworth Children's Services
Professional Centre
Franciscan Road
Tooting
London
SW17 8HE

23rd January 2013

Dear John,

Re: New Primary School, Putney Hospital Site – Oasis Academy Putney

Thank you for your e-mail dated 14th January 2013 addressed to Steve Chalke advising that Oasis Community Learning has been chosen by Wandsworth Borough Council as the preferred sponsor for the new primary school. Thank you for giving us this opportunity and we look forward to working with you to develop the new school over the coming months and years.

I am writing to answer the points raised in your e-mail on Mr Chalke's behalf.

1) More detailed information on how Oasis will address the issue of transport to school (both staff and pupils) given the sensitive nature of the site in a congested area.

Oasis is aware of the considerable local public opposition to the plans to develop the former Putney Hospital site. As the chosen preferred sponsor for the new primary academy, we would seek at an early stage, to consult positively and effectively in the locality and, as far as possible, address all areas of concern including transport to school for staff and pupils.

In conjunction with the London Borough of Wandsworth, Oasis Community Learning would generate a School Travel Plan which would aim to ensure that staff and pupils travel to school using the most environmentally-friendly means possible. We would take into account a further audit of the current travel situation and the final redevelopment of the site in order that our School Travel Plan would meet the following objectives:

- 1. To improve the safety of pupils walking to and from the Academy**
- 2. To reduce car use and encourage alternative modes of transport.**
- 3. To increase the number of pupils cycling to the Academy**
- 4. To maintain and encourage even more pupils to walk.**
- 5. To encourage more use of public transport.**
- 6. To encourage pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle.**
- 7. To promote improved knowledge, and involvement in the travel plan by all stakeholders.**

We would aim to meet these objectives by:

- a) Designating the responsibility for the School Travel Plan to a member of the SLT so that it has clear ownership and accountability.
- b) Setting up an award scheme for pupils who walk to the academy, rewarded by certificates, stickers, merit points etc.
- c) Participating in national campaigns aimed at 'green' travel, including Walk to School Week etc.
- d) Promoting public transport initiatives to parents and carers e.g. publication of bus/ underground/ rail timetables, cycle route maps in school newsletters and other materials, display of this information on school noticeboards.
- e) Develop initiatives for car sharing for both staff and pupils and implement systems where staff members and pupils can find appropriate car sharing arrangements.
- f) Provision of a School Travel Plan Noticeboard with information about "Walking to School" initiatives, car-sharing, public transport etc.
- g) Developing curricular activities around health awareness, fitness, walking and cycling which reflect the school travel plan recommendations and targets.
- h) To create synergies between the promotion of the Green Travel Plan and wider school activities such as "Eco Schools" and "Healthy Schools".
- i) To deliver cycle training twice a year to KS2 children, including basic bicycle maintenance lessons.
- j) To deliver Pedestrian Road Safety Training twice a year to all year groups.
- k) To introduce a reward scheme around the cycle training.

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

The School Travel Plan at Oasis Academy Putney will be reviewed and updated annually in April of each academic year. We will appoint a team to form a School Travel Plan Working Party who will be responsible for this task. The School Travel Plan will be a living document that will be monitored through a selection of travel to school information as recorded on the school's MIS system, a 'hands up' survey, and/or a questionnaire of pupil travel behaviour each year. A parent/carer questionnaire will also be sent out each year to consolidate the data given by the children, with the annual report to be sent to the London Borough of Wandsworth's School Travel Plan Advisor, Academy Council, staff, School Pupil Council and other interested stakeholders by the end of each academic year in July.

I note from the Transport Addendum to the original planning application for the site, prepared by Vectos, that provisions have been made for a coach turning circle on the school site. While coaches may be used on occasion, as a London based school we would aim for pupils to travel on school trips using public transport rather than regular journeys by coach. I anticipate the minimum of disruption to local residents from coaches. With regard to the increased number of cycle parking spaces on site in the addendum, Oasis would keep the use of the cycle storage under review and, if necessary, seek to increase this, while ensuring that it is screened from view of local residents.

With regard to the designated "Drop-Off Zone" for parents dropping their children off, we would consider the introduction of staggered start and finish times at the start and end of the school day in order to minimise congestion from the new spur road out on to Lower Richmond Road. We envisage that in the post-school period, traffic congestion in and out of the Drop-Off Zone can be managed well, with careful and considered timing of the activities undertaken at the school as part of our proposed substantial after-school enrichment programme.

If there are any other areas in which travel to the school site for students and families can be improved we would consider retaining the services of Travel Planning consultants in order to ensure pupil safety, a healthy school environment and good community relations.

2) Clarification of targets at KS2:

At Oasis Academy Putney, we would aim for 100% Level 4s at KS2, and a minimum of 2 levels of progress in English and Maths. We would aim for 96% attendance which is in line with two of our Primary Academies – Oasis Academy Johanna and Oasis Academy Limeside.

3) What the proposed extended hours will be?

We propose to offer 2 hours each day of after-school enrichment activities. Alongside, sport, dance, art, drama and musical activities led by external providers, there will be a strong

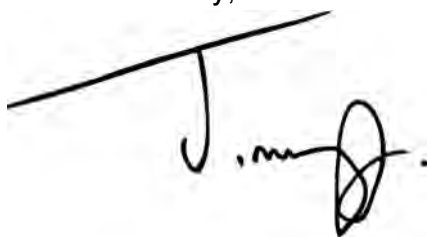
emphasis on academic achievement and learning, with high levels of supervised homework – similar to “Prep” found in the independent school sector. The Homework Club will be led by undergraduate students of the Educational Studies course taught at the Oasis College of Higher Education which is based in Waterloo, London. The extended hours will be optional.

4) Admissions Policy

Oasis Community Learning confirms that the admissions policy for Oasis Academy Putney may fall in line with the London Borough of Wandsworth admissions policy to ensure consistency with the local family of schools.

I am looking forward to meeting with you next Wednesday 30th January at 1.30pm for further discussion. In the meantime if you seek clarification on the information detailed above, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague, Lucia Glynn - Tel: 07973 940779 or by e-mail: Lucia.Glynn@oasisuk.org.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Murphy', with a long horizontal line extending from the top left of the signature.

John Murphy
National Director of Academies
Oasis Community Learning

APPENDIX 3 – EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Equality Impact Assessment – Recommended preferred academy provider for the proposed Putney Primary Academy

Department	Children's Services Department
Decision	The Executive is recommended to approve Oasis Community Learning as the Council's preferred sponsor to run the proposed Putney Primary Academy. The Executive are recommended further to agree that officers submit this recommendation to the DfE, who take the final decision on the provider.
Involved in preparation	Planning and Development Team, Policy, Planning, Review & Information team, and the Directorate, Wandsworth Children's Services

1. Key dates for the assessment

- 6 June 2013 - EIA completed
- 20 June 2013 - Preferred provider recommended to Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 1 July 2013 - Preferred provider recommended to the Executive
- 10 July 2013 – Preferred provider recommended to DfE
- July – September 2013 – DfE considers proposals
- September 2013 onwards – confirmed new provider works with Wandsworth Council and DfE to establish proposed new academy

2. Aims of the decision

To agree to the proposals as set out in Paper No. 13-391 to submit a recommendation to the DfE that Oasis Community Learning is the preferred sponsor of the proposed Putney Primary Academy.

The Executive has previously decided (Paper No. 12-336) that the proposed Putney Primary School should be an Academy. Under Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council is required to undertake a process to canvass for bids from providers to run the proposed new school. The Council recommends its preferred provider, although it is the DfE that ultimately takes the final decision.

From November 2012 to present the Council has engaged with potential providers and has evaluated the six bids that were submitted. As a result of this process, Oasis Community Learning has been chosen as the preferred sponsor.

This proposed new academy will be a two form entry (2FE) primary academy on the Putney Hospital site, subject to the granting of planning permission for the proposed primary school and residential development and all other contractual and development matters being resolved. It is proposed that a recommendation is submitted to the DfE that Oasis Community Learning be appointed to run the new Putney Primary Academy.

2. Rationale behind the decision?

The Council has a statutory duty to secure sufficient schools in the local area (Education Act 1996 Section 14) and to secure diversity of provision of schools and increase opportunities for parental choice (Education Act 1996, Section 14 (3A) added by (Education & Inspections Act 2006, Section 2).

The Council's policy regarding schools is to promote choice and diversity for parents and carers in the availability of local schools and to ensure that there are adequate school places to meet demographic need. The Wandsworth birth rate has risen significantly over the last few years and this has resulted in significant pressure on primary school places. One of the areas under greatest pressure is the Thamesfield Ward. Projections indicate the need for at least an additional 1.5FE (i.e. 315 places) to meet the demand in this area.

In order to help meet this demand, the Executive has previously decided (Paper No. 12-336) that the proposed Putney Primary School should be an Academy. Under Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, the Council is required to undertake a process to canvass for bids from providers to run the new school. In light of this, the Council and the DfE invited expressions of interest in November 2012 from providers to set up a 2FE entry primary academy on the former Putney Hospital site.

Six bids were received by the deadline of 21st December 2012 and were initially evaluated by officers using a scoring system based on the agreed criteria. The Academies and Free Schools Commission then met on 10th January 2013 to evaluate the bids and to recommend a preferred provider to

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

the Council. The Commission unanimously agreed that its recommended preferred provider was Oasis Community Learning, an established academy chain.

The recommendation was subject to officers clarifying a number of points with Oasis. Officers wrote to and then met with Oasis and all the questions raised were answered to the officer's and Commission's satisfaction. The committee report (paper 13-391) outlines in more detail the bids that were received and the decision-making process.

3. Which organisations will have the opportunity to contribute to the EIA?

There was a significant consultation exercise relating to the development of the site as part of the process for seeking planning permission. This took place prior to the notice advertising for expressions of interest to run the academy and included:

- Two consultation events took place on the 14th and 17th November 2011 at All Saints Church.
- An exhibition on March 19th 2012 to coincide with the Planning Services statutory consultation period. The proposal was to make residents aware that the application had been submitted and for them to be able to view all the planning submission documents.
- A consultation meeting was held at the London Rowing Club in Putney on 6th September 2012
- In addition the application was made available at the Town Hall and to view on-line at the Planning Website. Leaflets were also made available giving direction on how comments/objections could be made to Planning Services.

Following the consultation events, the proposed plans were reviewed and changes made. The size of the proposed school was reduced by removing the proposed nursery reducing the pupil numbers by 50. There were also resident concerns about the increase in traffic congestion in the Lower Richmond Road. To respond to these concerns a larger drop off/pick up area was integrated into the design.

The outcome of the consultation exercise was reported to the Planning Applications Committee on the 19th September 2012 (paper 12-610/610A) and the Executive on 24th September 2012 (paper 12-598). All stakeholders, including residents and the wider community will have a further opportunity to comment on the specific proposal as part of the planning application process.

With regards to the decision relating to the preferred provider for the proposed academy, this was taken first by officers independently scoring the bids, followed by the Council's Academies and Free Schools Commission meeting to review the bids. Further detail about this process is provided in the main committee report (Paper Number 13-391).

The Academies and Free Schools Committee comprises an independent Chair, the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services, four councillors on the Education and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Director of Children's Services, a Headteacher and a parent representative. It is an independent body set up to engage with and determine support for potential academy sponsors. The Commission agreed unanimously that the proposal by Oasis was the strongest and the best matched to the needs of the Putney community. It was felt to be particularly well evidenced in terms of ensuring high academic standards combined with a strong ethos of working with the local community.

The Commission noted a small number of areas where Oasis' bid needed further clarification. Officers therefore wrote seeking:

- (i) more information on how Oasis will address transport to school (staff and pupils) given the sensitive nature of this issue;
- (ii) clarification of targets at Key Stage 2;
- (iii) confirmation of the extended hours that the school will be open; and
- (iv) clarification of the proposed admissions oversubscription criteria.

Oasis wrote back and met with officers on 30th January 2013. All the questions raised by the Commission were fully addressed.

It is important to note that there will be further consultation regarding the establishment of the academy. Should the Executive approve the proposal to recommend Oasis as the preferred provider, the final decision will rest with the DfE. If the DfE agrees to appoint Oasis as the academy sponsor a further statutory consultation will follow.

4. Data held on the likely impact of the decision in relation to protected characteristics

	List data held	Gaps in information
Overall	Responses received as part of the planning consultation process	None known

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

Race	Ethnic breakdown for the schools in the Thamesfield ward and borough-wide primary school average – School Census Jan 2013 Proportion of pupils with English as an additional language (EAL) for schools in the Thamesfield ward and borough-wide primary school average – School Census Jan 2013	
Gender	Gender breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield ward and borough-wide primary school average – School Census Jan 2013	
Disability	SEN breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield ward and borough-wide primary school average – School Census Jan 2013	
Age	The proposed Putney Primary Academy will provide education for children aged from 4-11	
Faith	None	Information not currently collected. The proposed school is non-denominational.
Sexual Orientation	None	Information not currently collected.

5. What does available information show in relation to the potential impact of the proposed policy? What is the impact on different groups? Please give details

The EIA has reviewed the profile of existing primary schools in the Thamesfield ward (the proposed site of the proposed new primary Academy) by the BME, EAL, Gender, SEN categories to assess whether it is likely the proposal will have an adverse impact on the equality profile of the schools in the area. The conclusion is that the decision to recommend Oasis Community Learning as the academy provider should have no detrimental impact against any of the protected characteristics as set out by the Equality Act 2010.

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

The proposed academy will be non-denominational and co-educational and it will admit pupils using the usual admission arrangements for Wandsworth community schools i.e. priority for admission would be given in the following order: a) Children Looked After; b) children with an exceptional medical or social need for a place; c) siblings of existing pupils and; d) children living nearest to the school. These arrangements will ensure fair admission for all, and will mean that the school population will reflect the wider community in the Thamesfield ward.

The proposal put forward by Oasis Community Learning explains how the proposed academy will meet the needs of all pupils and how the academy will work with the local community to build good relations. In its proposal Oasis demonstrated good knowledge of the local community and detailed how and why the academy will be attractive to pupils from a wide-range of different backgrounds and abilities.

The consultation exercises carried out so far have not raised any concerns relating to equalities. One of the primary concerns from the consultation was that traffic congestion may increase. This concern was addressed in revised plans and Oasis Community Learning was also asked to provide more detail regarding transport to school for students and staff. The response from Oasis set out how the School Travel Plan will be used to ensure staff and pupils travel to school using the most environmentally friendly means possible. There is also a commitment from Oasis to consult positively with the local community and the wider stakeholder group at an early stage to address all areas of concern, including school transport.

More specific commentary against individual protected characteristics is provided below.

Race

The table below shows the BME profile of the four schools in the Thamesfield Ward. As shown by the statistics, there are significantly fewer BME pupils in the primary schools in the Thamesfield ward compared with the borough average in Wandsworth. The proposed provider Oasis Community Learning intends to draw at least 85% of pupils from the Thamesfield ward and so the proposed new school is likely to reflect a similar pattern. The additional capacity provided by the Academy will ensure all communities in Thamesfield and nearby wards have improved access to primary places by September 2015.

Oasis Community Learning will ensure that the curriculum followed at the proposed school is balanced and relevant to all pupils and celebrates the cultural and ethnic diversity of Putney. In order to develop an understanding of the local community regular visits will be carried out with nursery feeder schools and for every new pupil a home visit will be carried out and a full audit of the child's needs undertaken. The school will have a family link worker for harder to reach families and there will be a translation service for non-English speaking parents.

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

Schools in Thamesfield ward	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	BME total	White	Unknown
All Saints CE School	5.6%	1.2%	7.5%	2.0%	16.3%	83.7%	0.0%
St Mary's CE School	2.4%	3.2%	13.5%	2.8%	21.9%	78.1%	0.0%
Hotham School	8.5%	15.2%	13.6%	4.5%	41.8%	54.9%	3.2%
Our Lady of Victories	1.0%	0.5%	9.1%	3.5%	14.1%	82.3%	3.5%
Average across the 4 ward schools	4.4%	5.0%	10.9%	3.2%	23.5%	74.8%	1.7%
Primary school borough average	16.8%	23.4%	12.3%	3.4%	56.3%	42.8%	0.9%

The table below shows the proportion of pupils who have English as an additional language (EAL) in the Thamesfield ward schools. There is a much lower proportion of EAL pupils in Thamesfield in comparison to the borough-average but the figure is still significant and accounts to nearly a quarter of pupils. Oasis Community Learning has proposed to minimise barriers to success for pupils with EAL through a number of mechanisms including: providing information in the native languages and use of pictures; giving EAL students a 'buddy' for work and play; providing a pre-entry 'survival course' in English; in-class support where needed and; using handheld technology to help those with EAL.

Schools in Thamesfield ward	EAL	English	Language not known
All Saints CE School	16.3%	83.7%	0.0%
St Mary's CE School	12.7%	84.5%	2.8%
Hotham School	38.7%	61.3%	0.0%
Our Lady of Victories	28.3%	71.7%	0.0%
Average across the 4 ward schools	24.0%	75.2%	0.7%
Primary school borough average	44.4%	55.1%	0.5%

Gender

The table below shows the gender breakdown of schools in the Thamesfield Ward. There is a slight discrepancy with the borough average with a slightly lower proportion of male pupils and higher proportion of female pupils; however this difference is not significant. The proposed new academy will be co-educational and as such will have no negative impact on either gender.

Schools in Thamesfield Ward	Male	Female
All Saints CE School	44.4%	55.6%
ST Mary's CE School	46.6%	53.4%
Hotham School	53.9%	46.1%
Our Lady of Victories	48.5%	51.5%
Average across the 4 ward schools	48.4%	51.7%
Primary school borough average	50.2%	49.8%

Disability

The proposed new school will have the usual admission arrangements meaning that children with an exceptional medical or social need for a place will be given priority. These arrangements will ensure fair admission for all, including pupils with disabilities.

The funding agreement requires the proposed academy to have regard for the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2001) and any guidance issues relating to sections 316 and 316A of the Education Act. It also requires the proposed Academy to “use its best endeavours to, in exercising its functions in relation to the school, to secure that, if any registered pupil has special educational needs, the special educational needs provision which the pupil’s learning difficulty calls for is made”.

Oasis Community Learning has an agreed SEN policy which has been signed off as legally compliant and is used in existing academies. It takes account of the Education Act 1996, the code of practice 2001, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 and the aims of the proposed school as outlined in school

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

documentation. A member of the school leadership team will have responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the school's inclusion policies. SEN records will be available in school for scrutiny by appropriate parties at any time and a complaints process will be in place including escalation to the local authority.

As this is proposed as a new school, it will be built to be fully compliant with Part M of the Building Regulations and will be fully wheelchair accessible, making it a possible choice for many disabled pupils.

The table below shows that the total number of pupils with a Special Educational Need in the Thamesfield ward is low at 10.6% compared to the borough average of 21%. It is expected that the proportion of pupils with SEN at the new academy will be broadly similar to that in other schools in the ward.

Schools in Thamesfield Ward	School Action	School Action+	SEN Statement	Any SEN
All Saints CE School	3.6%	4.4%	2.4%	10.4%
ST Mary's CE School	4.4%	6.4%	2.0%	12.8%
Hotham School	2.9%	8.8%	0.3%	12.0%
Our Lady of Victories	5.1%	1.0%	1.0%	7.1%
Average across the 4 ward schools	4.0%	5.2%	1.4%	10.6%
Primary school borough average	11.1%	7.8%	2.1%	21.0%

Faith

The proposed academy will be non-denominational and therefore is unlikely to have a negative impact on pupils with regard to their faith or beliefs. Oasis Community Learning run their schools based on a Christian ethos meaning that there are a set of core values that stem from the Christian faith. However to be part of Oasis does not require anyone to own or accept Christian beliefs and the policy of Oasis is not to run schools of religious character.

Oasis will not enforce beliefs upon anyone, student or staff member, and will provide a welcoming environment for all faiths. The proposed new academy will provide collective worship provision in line with that offered in other non-denominational maintained schools and religious education will be based on the syllabus outlined by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in Wandsworth.

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

Information on the faith of pupils in schools is not consistently collected and therefore it is not possible to provide a breakdown of the faith of pupils in the Thamesfield ward. However the proposed new academy will have no negative impact on those of different faiths as it will be non-denominational and the admissions criteria will ensure fair access to those of different faiths. Three of the existing four schools in the Thamesfield Ward are faith schools, so a further non-denominational school will increase choice for parents and pupils.

Age

No age analysis has been done as the proposed academy will provide Primary education for children aged 4 -11 and therefore will have a positive impact for young people in the ward.

Sexual Orientation

Information on sexual orientation is not collected so it has not been possible to assess the impact in this area.

6. What does your review of the information show?	Evidence for your answer
a)No impact continue with policy	Data in relation to gender, ethnicity and disability shows that the cohort of the proposed Academy is likely to broadly reflect the profile of the other schools in the area. The evidence suggests that the arrangements, in terms of admissions and the funding agreement for the proposed Academy school would have no significant impact on young people and their families in relation to the protected characteristic groups.
b) Adjust policy in light of impact	
c) Continue with the policy despite impact	
d) Stop policy	

7. Have you identified any actions that will improve the proposed policy or mitigate any negative impact?
None. The recommendation of Oasis Community Learning as the preferred academy sponsor will have no negative impact on any of the protected characteristic group.

Putney Primary School Academy Provider

Feedback from the consultation has already resulted in two significant planning changes. The pupil roll has been reduced (by removing the nursery provision). The transport considerations have been reviewed which has included amending the arrangements for drop off/pick up parking and promoting a School Travel Plan which will encourage other modes of transport for staff and parent/carers rather than driving to and from school.

If the DfE agrees that Oasis should be the academy sponsor, further consultation will be carried out by Oasis as part of the development of the academy prior to signing a funding agreement and opening. This will provide a further opportunity for equalities issues to be raised.

8. What future monitoring and evaluation tools will be appropriate and effective?	
Race	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Gender	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Disability	Admission details and attainment performance indicators
Faith	Not collected
Age	Not required
Sexual Orientation	Not collected