

BRENT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR AN ACADEMY

Section 1: Summary of proposal

1.1 Provide a brief summary of the project (refer to size and location of Academy, age-range of pupils, specialism and sponsor):

This is an expression of interest by Brent Council and the sponsor, Andrew Rosenfeld for the creation of a new Academy. If approved by the DfES it will enable a feasibility study to be undertaken which will involve full consultation with the local community and all interested parties.

The proposed new Academy for 1630 3-18 year old students will be sited at Wembley Park. The 1630 total comprises 60 nursery places, 420 primary places (2 Form Entry), 90 secondary 11 – 16 places (6 FE) and 250 16 – 19 sixth form places. This is a new school required to meet the demands for extra secondary places which will result from new housing in the Wembley regeneration scheme and from new housing developments generally in Brent. This regeneration scheme is closely linked to the new national stadium at Wembley, which will help give the school a national and international profile in raising achievement.

The new Academy will have a strong community focus as its guiding principle and an educational vision based on the five outcomes for children identified in the Children Act 2004. The specialism will be Citizenship and the curriculum will be linked to the urban regeneration stimulated by the new Wembley National Stadium. Wembley is a unique area, where the majority of residents are born outside of the UK. The Academy will support newly arrived children and families to participate fully in society.

The identified site (4.3 hectares) is currently owned by Transport for London (TfL). The London Development Agency (LDA) supports the use of the site for the Academy and is negotiating with TfL for the transfer of the site to Brent Council. It is expected that confirmation of the transfer will be received in Autumn 2005. A letter of undertaking from the LDA is attached and it is expected the site will be in the ownership of the Council by September 2006.

Section 2: Need for an Academy

Tick all that apply:

2.1 *Is the Academy replacing a school requiring special measures?*

2.2 *Is the Academy replacing a school which has serious weakness?*

2.3 *Is the Academy replacing a school categorised as causing concern?*

2.4 *Is the Academy achieving below 30% 5* A-Cs at GCSE level?*

2.5 *Is the Academy a new school which does not replace any existing provision?*

Yes X No

2.6 *If the Academy is replacing an existing school please provide the following details:*

N/A

2.7 *Provide details of the school's involvement in any Education Action Zone, EiC or LiG arrangements:*

Brent has a successful Excellence in Cities Partnership and 14/19 Collaborative Forum. There are also two Leading Edge collaboratives. The Sponsor and Brent Council are committed to the new Academy playing an active part in these and similar collaborative arrangements in order to raise achievement for all students.

The new Academy will also forge strong partnerships with local primary schools in its mission to achieve the best possible outcomes for children.

The distinctive vision of the Academy is that it will be an exemplar of the integrated approach to achieving outcomes for children set out in the Government's Green Paper, Every Child Matters. This will mean the Academy will have very strong links with Council services, employers and a range of external agencies, particularly health, but also voluntary and charitable bodies, involved with children's well-being. The Brent PCT have indicated that they would like to discuss the provision of health facilities or outreach services at the Academy and consideration will be given to co-location of Council family support services in addition to health services. These will be funded from Brent Council outside of normal Academy funding.

2.8 *The governing body agrees the proposal.*

N/A

2.9 *If not, please provide details:*

2.10 *Are there any conditions attached to the governing body agreement?*

Yes No X

2.11 *If yes, provide details:*

This is a proposal for a new school. The shadow governing body is not yet in place.

2.12 *If this is a new or expanding school, provide details of the need for secondary school places and the basis for the proposed size of the Academy:*

In January 2005, the Council commissioned a review of secondary school places within its area, but taking account of movements across neighbouring LEAs. The review was commissioned because there was concern about the accuracy of local and GLA forecasts. The main findings point to:

The review shows that by 2008 an additional 7 FE will be needed at secondary level and that by 2014, an additional 14 FE will be needed. This is at the lower end of the

projections. The demand will be greater if all the planned housing development which we set out in the London Housing Capacity Study materialise.

At primary level, a preliminary review has forecast that an additional 9 FE will be needed by 2014. The pressure on school places is already acute. In September 2005, 13 out of Brent's 14 secondary schools were fully subscribed in Year 7. The only school with capacity is a denominational boys school. Similarly all primary schools in the Wembley area are fully subscribed.

The increase in the demand for places is due to:

- Significant housing growth
- An increase in the popularity of Brent schools and increasing imports from neighbouring Boroughs and decreasing exports
- An increase in the numbers of new arrivals to Brent from elsewhere in the UK, Europe, Asia and Africa in Brent

The forecast of growth is expected to be verified by the forthcoming London Challenge report on school places in London.

The new Academy will play a vital role in meeting the forecast shortage of places at both secondary and primary levels. In addition to the Academy there will need to be expansion of a number of existing schools.

In the primary age range, the Council's preliminary forecast indicates that it will have a deficit of the equivalent of a 5FE school in the area in which the Wembley Community Academy is proposed to be sited.

It is proposed that the Academy will have a sixth form of 250 places to meet the forecast increased demand. All Brent's secondary schools have sixth forms and with the College of North West London are partners in the Brent 14/19 Strategic Forum. The Academy will be a partner in the Forum and collaborative arrangements.

Section 3: The Proposed Academy

3.1 The Academy will:

- Provide nursery education for 60 students aged 3 - 4
- Provide 420 primary places for students aged 3-4 and 5-11
- Provide 900 secondary places for students aged 11-16
- Provide 250 sixth form places for students aged 16-18
- have 2 primary forms of entry with an admission number of 60
- have 6 secondary forms of entry with an admission number of 180
- will have a total pupil number of 1630 students aged 3 - 18

3.2 The Academies programme aims to raise standards in the secondary sector. If proposing an-all age Academy (i.e. catering for primary and secondary pupils) please provide a strong argument why this should be supported.

There are projected shortages of school places by 2014 in both primary and secondary sectors in Brent. As stated in section 2.12, the review of primary provision points to a deficit of the equivalent of 5 FE primary age range places in the area where this proposed Academy is proposed to be sited by 2014.

An all age range school is integral to the vision for the academy, which is embedded in the Every Child Matters outcomes for children. The all-age range will help to overcome the dislocation posed by transition at 11 which is of particular concern in Brent for underachieving groups. Evidence in Brent shows that a high proportion of African and African/Caribbean students following transition at 11 do not make the expected progress in secondary education that their attainment at 11 warrants. The academy catchment area will cover areas which have a high proportion of these students.

3.3 If proposing to cater for pupils aged 3-5 confirm that the proposal forms part of the LEA strategic plan for nursery education. Please provide details:

It is predicted that the 4000 new homes for the Wembley regeneration area will justify the extra places and this will be incorporated into the nursery plan.

3.4 The Academy's proposed opening date is:

1 September 2009

3.5 Has the local LSC been consulted on the proposed post 16 provision?

Yes x No

3.6 Does the LSC agree to the Academy proposal on this basis?

Yes x No

Please see attached correspondence

We have consulted with the Executive Director of the LSC who supports the proposal in principle subject to the need for places and evidence of no adverse impact on other 16/19 provision being established and confirmed during the feasibility study and consultation. The need for places has been outlined to the School Organisation Committee and will be set out in the Review of the Council's School Organisation Plan.

3.7 If yes, attach a letter from the local LSC confirming their support for the Academy proposal. Mark if attached: x

3.8 If no, provide copies of any correspondence and give details of LSC objections:

3.9 Will the Academy have a specialism?

The Academy will specialise in Citizenship.

3.10 Provide a statement about the vision of the Academy, particularly how the Academy will address under-performance and educational deprivation through innovation and the chosen specialism (this is a key section and the guidance must be consulted):

This statement of Vision for the Academy has been developed jointly between the sponsor, Andrew Rosenfeld, and Brent Council. The distinctive vision of the Academy is that it will be an exemplar of the integrated approach to achieving outcomes for children described in the Government's Green Paper, Every Child Matters.

The sponsor chairs the NSPCC's FULL STOP Campaign and is a Trustee of the NSPCC. It is his intention, in partnership with the Council, to create an Academy that meets the needs and requirements of both children and parents and provides a range of community childcare and family support facilities. The Council created a Children and Families department from July 2005 under the professional leadership of a Director of Children's Services working with the political leadership of an Executive Member for Children's Services. The Academy working with neighbouring schools and agencies will be a key element in the new Department's strategy for meeting the Children Act outcomes.

The family unit and the wider community will be central to the success of the school. All students will develop a sense of community responsibility and commitment to others within society. Parents will have strong representation on the Governing Body. Appropriate governance and management arrangements will be made for the nursery, primary and secondary key stages and the sixth form. Students will achieve academic success and be well equipped for their chosen career path. They will also take with them throughout their lives a sense of community and charitable responsibility to benefit others less fortunate than themselves. This philosophy will be pivotal to the school's ethos and an integral part of its curriculum.

The new Academy will set a very high standard of aspiration and achievement for all of its students. It will be located in an area of international importance. The new National Stadium at Wembley and the major regeneration associated with it will serve as an inspiring and unique backdrop for the new Academy. The Academy will raise young people's horizons.

Outline of educational ethos and how we aim to secure the highest standards of achievement.

The Academy will explicitly promote the linkage between community, education, childcare and family support. The ethos will emphasise the importance of the family and responsibility to self and to others in the community. Personal, social and health education will be central to the curriculum, including a focus on emotional and behavioural development. Opportunities for active citizenship will be fostered in the context of the complex and varied communities who will live and work in Wembley and the area near the Stadium.

Children and young people learn best when they are confident, secure and healthy. The Academy will be structured to ensure, as far as possible, the safety, physical and mental well-being and health and fitness of all students. Teaching and support staff will be selected and developed to make full and effective use of current research on maximising learning. All students' personal, physical and academic progress will be tracked, with additional support provided where necessary to enable students to meet challenging but achievable targets. This support will include family learning, healthy living and emotional and behavioural support as well as support for pupils with learning

difficulties, or English as an additional language.

Details of the proposed specialism and how it will fit in with local needs

We intend the Academy to be an exemplar for the five outcomes of 'Every Child Matters'. The specialism of Citizenship will contribute especially strongly to two of the five outcomes – making a positive contribution and achieving economic well-being. The curriculum will enable young people to:

- engage in decision-making
- support the community and the environment
- develop positive relationships
- develop enterprising behaviour
- engage in FE, employment or training on leaving school
- be ready for employment

It is proposed that all students will move on to further or higher education or to employment in jobs with training and career opportunities. It is intended that both at the development phase and in planning the curriculum, full account will be taken of the 14/19 White Paper proposals.

The community served by the Academy is likely to have a complex profile. Wembley is a unique area, where the majority of residents are born outside of the UK (source IPPR Report 2005). The Academy will have a strong focus on enabling new arrivals to participate fully in society. Many of the students will have already experienced dislocation and will include refugee and asylum seeking families as well as 2nd or 3rd generation immigrants. The Academy will seek to nurture positive attitudes to citizenship and community involvement for all students.

Some sections of Brent's population experience high levels of unemployment, crime, drug use, teenage pregnancy and family instability. The Academy will help young people to be ready for employment (particularly the opportunities offered by the Stadium and regeneration) and to develop positive attitudes to work and continuing education and training. There will be specific programmes to provide a counter balance to 'street culture'.

Innovative vision for curriculum, direction and delivery

All students will have access to the enrichment programmes restricted to 'gifted and talented' pupils elsewhere, to raise the aspirations for all. All students will have individual educational plans.

The Academy will implement the National Primary and Secondary Strategies fully. In particular, schemes of work will embed assessment for learning and explicit attention to thinking and learning skills (leading in learning). All students will be expected to achieve to their maximum potential in the core skills of literacy and numeracy.

The Academy will make maximum use of ICT and e-learning. A new state of the art learning resource hub will be central to teaching and learning. The hub will also be a resource for local communities. There will be opportunities for adults and older students to learn together in such areas as vocational and practical language courses. ICT as a discrete subject will be taught systematically, with challenging targets for

each year group and schemes of work for other subjects will include structured use of ICT. All teaching and support staff will be trained to maximise effective use of ICT. Through ICT, the Academy will develop working relationships with local primary schools and with a school in another part of the world (e.g. South Africa). These links will be embedded in the curriculum, e.g. local students will directly support local primary children.

Teaching and support staff will have opportunities for secondment to community and business sectors and the Academy will seek to recruit from other fields of employment, to ensure that the curriculum remains fit for purpose and contributes to the Academy's aims. A wide range of work-based learning and vocational qualifications will be provided.

The Academy will seek to promote innovative approaches in respect of training and development for both teachers and support staff in order to enhance the quality of the school's curriculum. It is expected that during the development phase options will be explored for offering the Academy as a centre for staff and professional development in public services which serve the needs of children and young people.

The Academy will play a full part in Brent's full service extended school strategy. It will be part of a neighbourhood cluster of schools providing together a range of extended activities including family support, study support, ICT facilities, sports and arts facilities, access to health and social care services and provision of childcare. Wembley Stadium will have a Study Support Centre that will be linked to the Academy's outreach offer. The Academy will promote the enjoyment of sport and physical activities appropriately to all its students.

Each student will have personal health and fitness target in addition to their individualised learning targets. There will be support for healthy eating, covering curriculum topics on food and its sources together with provision of good quality breakfasts and lunches incorporating the target of five portions of fruit and vegetables a day.

The curriculum will have Citizenship themes each half term covering such issues as

- What is it like to be old in our community? other communities?
- What rights should workers have?
- What rights should children have?
- What responsibilities does a citizen have?
- What is democracy?

There will be strong links with link primary schools particularly in creative arts and sports.

3.11 The Academy's admissions policy, exclusion policy and over-subscription criteria will meet the requirements of the Schools Admissions Code of Practice (available from the DfES publications centre). Mark if agree x

3.12 The Academy will serve children from its local community. Yes x No

3.13 If no, provide details:

The Academy will be a school for the local community and its catchment area will include neighbouring disadvantaged communities.. See 3.17 below.

3.14 Will the Academy take up its place on the local Admissions Forum?

Yes x No

3.15 If the Academy is oversubscribed, will the Academy select up to 10% of its pupils by aptitude in one of the five specialisms permitted by legislation (modern foreign languages; the performing arts; the visual arts; physical education and sport:

Yes No x

3.16 If yes, please provide details and confirm how the sponsor will develop a selection mechanism that is not dependent on ability:

Selection by aptitude will not be pursued. The admissions criteria principles are set out below.

3.17 Provide any details known about the admissions criteria (in particular any specific requirements of the sponsor or LEA):

The London Borough of Brent is a geographically compact area. It stretches about 6 miles North to South and at its widest point it spans 5 miles. Sites suitable for a secondary school are extremely difficult to identify at this juncture. A site options appraisal was carried out; this included a scrutiny of availability within the potential catchment area. No suitable site was identified other than the proposed one. The proposed location of the Academy in Wembley Park will serve a community that consists not only of its immediate geographical surroundings, but also many of the most deprived areas in the Borough most of which are in easy travelling distance of the proposed Academy.

In line with the Admissions Code, the criteria will be clear, fair and objective, and will be further developed and consulted during the feasibility phase. The Sponsor intends to work very closely with the Council on this aspect since it is crucial to the agenda for raising achievement and standards for all of Brent's communities.

It is envisaged that applications will be dealt with in the following priority order

- children who are looked after,
- children with identified social and/or medical need;
- children without a school place;
- children with siblings on roll at the Academy;
- children resident in a defined catchment area to include the local regeneration area and an area to the south of the Academy (the attached map gives a first outline of the proposed area, there may be refinements to this area as the proposal enters development phase)

The proposed catchment area includes the Wembley regeneration area which is the major source of forecast demand for school places. It includes areas of high social deprivation and areas which are furthest from other alternative schools and where parents have limited choices of schools. Care is being taken to ensure that other schools nearby to the proposed Academy are not destabilised by close proximity to the site.

3.18 Can the LEA confirm that it is broadly supportive of the sponsors' proposed admission criteria? Yes x No

3.19 Can the sponsor confirm that the Exclusion Policy will be in line with the Code of Practice on Admissions? Yes x No

3.20 Do you propose that the Academy has any Special Educational Needs (SEN) units? (see elsewhere in 3.25)
Yes No x

3.21 If yes, provide details:

3.22 Does the SEN unit form part of the LEA-wide provision for SEN?

N/A

3.23 The LEA confirms it will bear all the costs (revenue and capital) of any LEA-wide SEN Unit that they wish to locate within the Academy.

N/A

3.24 The Academy's policy for SEN will meet the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice (available from the DfES publications centre), please provide full details:

The policy for SEN will be fully compliant with the SEN Code of Practice including admission arrangements.

3.25 Provide details of provision for pupils with special educational needs, including any designated provision for pupils with specific types of special need:

The Council has just concluded an extensive SEN review and the first stage of consultation has now been completed. Alongside developments in Special school provision, provision for SEN in mainstream schools requires strengthening; there are proposals to improve mainstream provision for pupils with physical disabilities and to establish greater links between special schools and mainstream schools. The Academy will need to be appropriately accessible for children with physical disabilities.

3.26 Provide details on the Academy's links with the wider community:

We will forge extensive links with the wider community since we see the school as a flagship for Wembley, for Brent and for London. It is envisaged that we will include the Academy in on the existing network of relationship between providers, partners such as the LSC and the PCT, LSP members, Regeneration led organisations, and developers..

The Academy will be expected to have developed a Community Access Plan that sets out the framework (time periods and charges) for accessing facilities (such as libraries and sports) either during school hours or outside the main school day. This may also enable the Academy to address the current section 106 obligations on that site. The sports pitches and facilities which are currently underused will be made available fully

to the community. It is expected that up to 85% of the current site will be retained for sport and recreation.

Section 4: The Premises/Site

4.1 Where will the Academy be located?

The Academy will be located at Wembley Park adjacent to Wembley Park Tube Station and close to the new National stadium.

4.2 What is the size of the site?

The approximate size of the site is c.4.3 hectares.

4.3 A copy of the Ordnance Survey map showing the site boundaries is attached.

Mark if agree x

4.4 Where required in response to site constraints i.e. size etc. Please provide details of a satisfactory decanting plan for existing occupants on the proposed sites and details of who will pay the associated costs:

N/A

4.5 Please provide brief details of a satisfactory plan for dealing with any co-locating primary school, SEN Unit, Pupil Referral Unit, youth or community groups etc sharing the site, including who will pay for associated costs:

The school is an all-new school that is not replacing an existing school.

4.6 The Council confirms that:

- *it is content with the selection of the site and that no others are under consideration for this project;* Mark if agree
- X
- that the site will be transferred at nil cost (or nominal lease) to the Academy prior to the Academy opening with terms to be agreed prior to Funding Agreement; and Mark if agree
- X
- that the entire site will transfer or if only part, confirmation of the boundaries of the part that will transfer. Mark if agree
- X

4.7 Are there any known hazards, impediments or political sensitivities to new buildings eg Japanese Knotweed, land contamination, asbestos, covenants, allotments, access, pylons etc? Yes x No Don't know

4.8 If yes, provide details:

The absence of Brent Council within the BSF announcement (Waves 2 and 3) is likely to mean that local neighbouring secondary schools, long awaiting renewal and reconstruction, may object to building of the Academy without a plan for the renewal of those schools on a similar timescale; they are concerned that a brand new school will be more attractive to parents. The consultation phase will draw out those views.

Section 106 Covenants exist requiring amenities to be available to communities. Other site and ground conditions are not known. The School building Development Unit of the DfES advised that no site studies were required of the Council .

The closeness to the major regeneration site will require the agreement of the Highways Agency as part of the planning application.

Although the site has high public transport accessibility, there are concerns about traffic congestion in the area and a detailed Traffic Plan is needed as part of the Feasibility Study. There is a need for improved bus access and routes which will need to be negotiated with TfL.

4.9 If the site does not currently house a school, in addition to the above, please provide:

4.10 Details of the ownership of entire site:

The identified site (4.3 hectares) is currently owned by Transport for London (TfL). The London Development Agency (LDA) supports the use of the site for the Academy and is negotiating with TfL for the transfer of the site to Brent Council. It is expected that confirmation of the transfer will be received by Spring 2006. A letter of undertaking from the LDA is attached.

4.11 Timetabled acquisition details including current tenants or compulsory purchase orders as necessary:

4.12 Feedback from discussions with Local Authority planners and legal advisors on any likely planning or legal restrictions that would preclude Academy site development, or could lead to abnormal costs, or impact on the proposed outline programme for completion:

Detailed Traffic Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessments have not yet been carried out. Site investigations have not yet been carried out. No capacity study has yet been carried out, given the steer from the SBDU. Planning's informal view is that the site can work as an Academy provided the desired use outcome stemming from existing (community) use covenants can be retained in the new Academy through for example a cogent and Community Access Plan that is cost-neutral to the Authority.

4.13 The Council confirms it will bear all land purchase and other costs involved in the acquisition (note: DfES is unable to purchase land for this purpose.

Mark if agree x

4.14 All parties are content with the site selection:

Mark if agree xx

Section 5: LEA involvement

5.1 *The LEA confirms that it has formal Executive/Council agreement to the proposals and support for the closure of any predecessor school(s).*

The proposal will be considered by the Executive on November 14th.

5.2 *There are conditions attached to this agreement.*

Yes x No

5.3 *If yes, provide details of any conditions:*

See above on site covenants

5.4 *Please confirm any neighbouring LEAs (if close to other LEA border) support the proposal:*

Yes No N/A x

5.5 *If no, provide details of issues:*

The proposed site of the Academy in the centre of Brent and is not close to borders with other Local Authorities. Neighbouring Local Authorities have been provided with details of the proposal.

Section 6: Sponsorship Details

6.1 Andrew Rosenfeld ¹ will provide £2m² towards the capital cost of the Academy. This will be provided after the Funding Agreement has been signed and during the construction period of the project.

6.2 *Please confirm that your sponsorship payment will be paid before the end of the construction period:*

Yes x No

6.3 *There are conditions attached to this sponsorship.*

Yes No x

6.4 *If yes, provide details of any conditions and/or in-kind sponsorship:*

It is envisaged that the sponsorship will confirm the partnership between the LEA and Sponsor as articulated in this Expression of Interest.

6.5 *Provide details of the nominated individual to take forward the project (this may be the sponsor themselves or a sponsor representative):*

Andrew Rosenfeld

6.6 *Please confirm that you are content for Project Managers and Design Teams to be selected from the current DfES framework lists:*

Project Managers

Yes x No

Design Teams

Yes x No

¹ Name of sponsor(s)

² amount of sponsorship

6.7 If no to either of the above, please state your requirements. If you would prefer to appoint a project manager from within the Sponsor organisation, this would have to be an existing employee in order for us to pay fees, otherwise fees would need to be paid by the Sponsor (note: this would not count towards the capital sponsorship contribution). If your preference is for a different design team, then fees would have to be paid for by the Sponsor (but this would count towards the capital sponsorship contribution).

Section 7: Contact Details

Name of LEA contact: John Christie

Address: Director of Children & Families, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane,
Wembley, Middlesex HA9 7RW

Email: john.christie@brent.gov.uk

Tel: 0208 937 3130

Mobile: 07940437474

Fax: 0208 937 3023

Name of LEA contact: Nitin Parshotam

Address: Children & Families, Chesterfield House, 9 Park Lane, Wembley,
Middlesex HA9 7RW

Email: nitin.parshotam@brent.gov.uk

Tel: 0208 937 3080

Mobile:

Fax: 0208 937 3093

Name of sponsor contact: Andrew Rosenfeld

Address:

Email:

Tel:

Mobile:

Fax:

Name of sponsor contact:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

Mobile:

Fax:

Section 8: Agreement

I fully support all aspects of this Expression of Interest and agree to use it as a basis for the future development of the Academy.

Signature:
(For and on behalf of the Sponsor)

Name in full: Andrew Rosenfeld

Date: _____

Signature:
(For and on behalf of the Council)

Name in full: Cllr Michael Lyon –Executive Member for Children & Families & John Christie – Director of Children & Families

Date: _____