

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

New schools for Didcot

28 January – 31 March 2013

**A consultation to hear community views
on what types of schools should serve
Great Western Park**

Didcot is planned to grow by 9,000 homes over the next 20 to 25 years. As a result, Didcot's population is forecast to increase from 15,000 in 1981 to over 30,000 residents by 2016.

This growing population will need new schools: eventually at least six new primary schools are expected and at least one new secondary school.

**You now have an opportunity to
influence what those schools
will be like.**

Oxfordshire County Council is consulting the Didcot community about the new schools planned for the Great Western Park (GWP) development. There will also be new schools in the longer term for other housing developments, but these will be consulted on separately, as their timing is not yet certain.

This leaflet includes some information about the consultation, but more information is available at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcotschools

If you prefer printed information, please call 01865 816445 and ask for the Didcot GWP new schools information.



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

How are new schools created?

The 2011 Education Act says that all new schools are expected to be academies, including special types of academies such as Free Schools, University Technical Colleges (UTCs) and Studio Schools. This means that they are not run by the county council, but by independent academy trusts. These trusts can be set up by a wide range of organisations, including religious groups, educational specialists, employers, charities and community groups. Existing academies can apply to run new schools.

Oxfordshire County Council will not run the new schools, but has two roles in their creation:

1. Plan for and secure sufficient schools

We have identified the need for two 2 form entry primary schools, and a new secondary school, as part of the GWP development. Sites for the new schools, and funding to build them, have been agreed with the GWP developers. The first primary school should open in September 2015: until then there will be enough space at existing schools because Stephen Freeman Primary School was expanded to meet the needs of the early GWP housing. The secondary school is expected to open in September 2016: until then there will be enough space at the existing schools. The timing of the second primary school will depend on how quickly the housing is built, but we expect it to be by 2017.

This consultation is to hear your views on what type of schools you want to see in Didcot. This will help us write the detailed specification for what the new schools should be like.

2. Decide who will run the schools

The three schools for GWP could all be run by different providers, or two or three of the schools could be run by the same provider. The government has set out a bidding and selection process to choose which organisation(s) will run the new schools. The decision is shared by the county council and central government Department for Education (DfE).

This consultation is to help us choose which new school proposals are preferred.

We want to hear:

- Your views in general on the type of academy providers we should seek.
- Your views about the details of the primary schools.
- Your views about the details of the secondary school.

Full information is available at
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/didcotschools
or call us for printed information on
01865 816445.

To respond to this consultation:

- Fill in the online response form at the consultation website above
- Email your views to:
[GWP2013-manager@
myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:GWP2013-manager@myconsultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk)
- Write to: Diane Cameron,
School Organisation & Planning,
County Hall,
FREEPOST
OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Please send your response by
31 March 2013**

**Drop-in sessions where you can
discuss your views directly with
council staff will be held on
21 February from 2pm to 4pm
and 22 February from 6pm to 8pm
at The Vibe Hub, Park Road,
Didcot, OX11 8QX.**

Alternative formats of this publication can be made available. These include other languages, large print, Braille, Easy Read, audiocassette, computer disc or email. Please telephone 01865 816454 or email SchoolOrgPlan@oxfordshire.gov.uk