

Cllr Simon Dudley
Democratic Services
Town Hall
St Ives Road
Maidenhead
SL6 1RF

5th May 2017

Dear Simon,

Thank you for meeting with us on Tuesday 2nd May and for your letter dated 3rd May 2017. The Governors have now had time to reflect on the meeting and to consider the content of your letter. I write on behalf of this group to clarify the following points:

Bullet point 1 - The Royal Borough will indemnify the school for all reasonable costs.

The school is seeking indemnification of **all** costs. Currently all contractors have been RBWM approved.

Bullet point 3 -The school will submit the planning application as soon as possible and will contribute its £50,000 contingency to the project.

This has already been agreed. The £50,000 will not be paid to yourselves but to the contractors. It is suggested that the mechanism for this is decided by the School Business Manager and the RBWM counterparts.

Bullet points 4 and 6 - I will call a special meeting of the Conservative Group on the 19 June 2017, prior to Council, at which I as Leader of the Group will recommend the group supports the expansion of Lowbrook as per the plans. The formal Royal Borough decision to approve the additional capital funding - likely to be in the region of £750,000 to £1,000,000 - will be taken by full Council and will be taken after the final costs/figures are known.

These two points are of major concern to this Governing Body and place us at great risk if we proceed under these terms. We are requesting, as agreed at the meeting on Monday, that you indemnify the **full** cost of this agreed scheme.

The delays, incurred due to the unforeseen re-negotiation process instigated by the RBWM, have significantly increased the costs of this build. It is important to note also due to these delays, it will not be possible to obtain competitive tenders before offering places. Therefore indemnification of the full costs of this scheme is the only non-risk option for this Governing body.



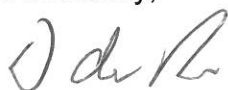
During this re-negotiation process the Governors, at short notice, have convened in the capacity of Extraordinary Full Governing Body meetings on four occasions. We are now asking the same of you and are seeking full approval of this scheme as soon as possible after the Purdah period, and preferably on the 19th of June, which is the date of the Group meeting. Being so close to the end of the academic year, we cannot wait until future unspecified meetings are held where the possible outcome could lead to the agreed scheme not being progressed. In short, the school will need to recruit a teacher now and cannot proceed without **full** commitment and approval.

All other bullet points are agreeable to us. We are pleased that the Cox Green land deal has been completed, however we have had no amendment to our Lease nor confirmation that this is the case. We would request that this is made known to us with immediate effect as we will need to update our legal agreements to reflect this as a matter of urgency.

It is the Governing Body's judicial responsibility to ensure that the education of our current pupils is not put at risk and therefore we seek clarification on the above points as a matter of priority in order that we can proceed. We would also request that a Steering Group is formed, with an appointed member of RBWM, to progress this project from this point on in collaboration and partnership with the Academy.

On a final note, the RBWM press release issued this week highlighted that the meeting on Monday was amicable and this is the principal under which all business in this Academy is conducted. Our staff have expertly served us in this capacity over a long period of time and always conduct themselves with the professional courtesies which are expected within this profession and in this school. We would request that future meetings with yourself and other members of the RBWM take place with the highest standards being upheld.

Yours sincerely,



Dominique Du Pre
Chair of Governors

cc:

David Rooney (Executive Principal)
Cllr Airey, Lead Member for Children's Services
The Rt Hon Theresa May
Alison Alexander, Managing Director
Cllr McWilliams, Ward Member for Cox Green
Cllr Brimacombe, Ward Member for Cox Green
Cllr Bullock, Ward Member for Cox Green
Kevin McDaniel – Head of Schools and Educational Services