



Local Plan Evidence – Education Need and Provision

Summary: The report provides Education Need and Provision evidence that underpins the approach to Education provision (principally early years, primary and secondary school provision) in the emerging draft Local Plan Regulation 19 Publication version.

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Appendix	Title
A	Hertfordshire County Council response to the Draft Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation extracts

Corporate Vision & Priorities	Wards	Open / Exempt
Combat the climate emergency Including 'key activity' – Progress the Local Plan	All	Open

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the information in the report and that officers continue with work on the draft Local Plan Regulation 19 Publication as set out in this report, including taking on board points raised by the Committee.

2. Purpose of Report

- 2.1. The report provides Education Assessment evidence that underpins the approach to Education provision (principally early years, primary and secondary school provision) in the emerging draft Local Plan Regulation 19 Publication version. Officers will continue to make progress with the emerging policies and allocations for education generally as set out in this report, including taking on board points raised by the Committee.

3. Background and Context

- 3.1. The draft Local Plan Regulation 18 consultation version agreed by Planning Policy & Climate Committee (PP&C) on 10 July 2023 included a comprehensive approach to education provision and allocation. This approach had been developed over time with a variety of key stakeholders, principally Hertfordshire County Council as the Local Education Authority and key landowners who will be providing land for new schools.
- 3.2. Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has a statutory responsibility for education. One of its key duties is to ensure that there are sufficient school places available to meet the needs of its residents, now and in the future. HCC are seeking policies in the Local Plan to enable provision of primary and secondary school places over the Plan period. SADC needs to make appropriate provision for school places in its draft Local Plan in order to have the Plan found 'sound' at Examination in Public and be able to be adopted.
- 3.3. As intended, the Regulation 18 consultation provided an opportunity for a wide variety of statutory consultees, organisations, landowners and residents to comment on the approach to education provision and allocation. The high level summary of these responses was considered by PP&C at its meeting in December 2023.
- 3.4. It was useful to see a high level of engagement by consultees with these important education elements of the draft Plan. The most significant response was from Hertfordshire County Council and in particular its Children's Services (School Place Planning) service. The relevant extracts from this response have been reproduced at Appendix 1.
- 3.5. Officers have undertaken a number of meetings with statutory consultees to understand more fully their representations, discuss issues raised and the way forward. This includes Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and some of the key landowners.
- 3.6. It is important to set out that the HCC strategic education place planning function in relation to a Local Plan is different from the much more variable year to year position that HCC also manage. It is acknowledged that this year to year role is challenging to manage for HCC because of a variety of factors including parental choice and (in this District) recent significant immigration from Hong Kong and Ukraine etc. The challenges that relate to these shorter term issues (e.g., sometimes HCC having to work with schools to ensure provision of extra forms of entry relatively late in the academic year) do not affect the longer term Local Plan education place provision, which is more stable and has long lead in times that allow adjustments to be made to the long term approach as needed.

HCC Tiered Approach to School Place Planning

- 3.7. HCC apply a tiered approach to education planning, see extract below. Creating additional capacity can involve opening new schools and / or expanding existing schools. HCC's preferred size is 2FE or more for new primary schools and 6 FE - 10 FE for new secondary schools.

Tiered Approach to Education Planning		
Tier	Ratio	Description of development
1	1:400	Typically edge-of-settlement or other greenfield sites with a dominance of houses (e.g. 80%), a greater proportion of 3+ bed properties, and a greater proportion of detached or semi-detached houses, at lower densities.
2	1:500	Typically, Previously Developed Land (PDL) with a mix of houses and flats and higher density than Tier 1. Greater proportion of terraced houses, maisonettes or flats. More even split between smaller (1 & 2-bed) and larger (3-bed+) family homes.
3	1:1000	These sites are typically PDL with a dominance of 1 & 2 bed properties and are predominantly flatted developments with higher densities (e.g. 75+ dph) as a result. May form part of mixed-use schemes and/or be town center locations.

Overall Local Plan Position in relation to Education Provision – Appropriate Provision Made and ‘No Showstoppers’

- 3.8. Creating additional school capacity to meet the needs of existing and new communities will involve a combination of new school provision and expansion of existing schools over the Plan period. 8 new primary schools and 4 new secondary schools were proposed in the Reg 18 draft Local Plan. In addition, Local Plan policy (primarily at COM 1) has been developed to allow appropriate expansion of existing schools as required.
- 3.9. Overall HCC are supportive of the joint work done to date (that is continuing) and the approach taken in the Local Plan Reg 18 version. There will be some relatively minor iteration of the wording to address points raised by HCC as work progresses to the Reg 19 stage. No ‘showstoppers’ have been identified.

Local Plan Provision for St Albans and Surrounding Settlements

- 3.10. The Regulation 18 Local Plan made provision for over 5,500 new homes, including existing commitments, across the greater St Albans area (the city and surrounding settlements such as London Colney). Using the tiered strategic planning approach, this equates to planning to be able to accommodate approximately 13FE of demand. New primary school sites are proposed at St Albans North (2FE), St Albans East (2FE) and a further site at the former Ariston works (2FE). This means that up to 6FE can be delivered in new schools and the balance would be met through expanding existing primary schools (including potentially these new proposed schools becoming 3FE). There are also two new secondary school sites (East St Albans and London Colney) providing up to 16FE of new provision.

Local Plan Provision for Harpenden and Surrounding Settlements

- 3.11. The Regulation 18 Local Plan made provision for approximately 3,000 new homes across the greater Harpenden area (including Redbourn and Wheathampstead), which equates to approximately 7FE. New primary school sites are proposed at North-West Harpenden (2FE) and West of Redbourn (2FE). The balance would be met through expanding existing primary schools (including potentially these new proposed schools becoming 3FE). For secondary, future demand will be met with expansion of existing schools.

Local Plan Provision for Hemel Garden Community (HGC)

- 3.12. The Regulation 18 Local Plan made provision for 5,500 new homes within the section of Hemel Garden Community (HGC) which falls within SADC, some of which will be delivered beyond the Plan period. This equates to around 12FE of demand.
- 3.13. Primary school sites at North Hemel Hempstead (3FE), East Hemel Hempstead (North) (3FE) and two 2FE schools at East Hemel Hempstead (South) (totalling 4FE) will deliver up to 10FE of new primary provision (with the additional potential for these new proposed schools becoming 3FE).
- 3.14. At the secondary phase, two new school sites are required to ensure potential demand arising from these development sites, and the wider Hemel Hempstead and Hemel Garden Community areas. One new secondary school site within East Hemel Hempstead (North) will allow up to 8FE of new provision to be delivered. The allocation of a second secondary school site adjacent to the East Hemel Hempstead (South) broad location is capable of accommodating up to 10FE. These two sites could contribute up to 18FE of additional secondary provision to ensure potential future demand could be met.
- 3.15. For the rest of the District no issues relating to education provision necessary for the Local Plan has been identified.

Next Steps

- 3.16. Officers will continue to work with HCC, landowners and other stakeholders on the emerging Local Plan document, including taking on board Councillor comments as appropriate.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

- 4.1. The Council could choose not to consider the approach to education and the emerging draft policies, which would prevent Councillors having an early opportunity to understand and feed into the Regulation 19 version of the new draft Local Plan.

5. Post-Decision Implementation

- 5.1. None in the context of this report.

6. Implications of Decision

6.1. Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 6.2. Combat the Climate Emergency including 'key activity' – Progress the Local Plan.

6.3. Policy Implications

- 6.3.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.4. Implications on Resources

- 6.4.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.5. Legal & Constitutional Implications

- 6.5.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.6. Community Impact

- 6.6.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.7. Environmental & Sustainability Implications

- 6.7.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.8. Equality & Diversity Implications

6.8.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.9. **Health & Wellbeing Implications**

6.9.1. There are no immediate implications.

6.10. **Risk Management**

6.10.1. None in relation to this report.

7. **Background Papers – Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Bibliography	Custodian	File Location
N/A	N/A	N/A