

Education Statement of Common Ground Adur District Council and West Sussex County Council

The Submitted Adur Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan October 2016 reflects, as set out by West Sussex County Council (WSSCC), the level of education provision required to mitigate planned development in the Adur Local Plan area.

WSSCC and Adur District Council (ADC) agree with the statements in this paper.

Education Provision Requirement

WSSCC is the Local Education Authority (LEA) for West Sussex. The County Council has a statutory duty to ensure that there is sufficient appropriate education provision across West Sussex. Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 placed a duty on the Local Authority (WSSCC) to secure sufficient childcare for working parents.

Maximum Form of Entry

WSSCC sets out some standards in relation to primary educational facilities in 'Education and Schools' Policy' (WSSCC, 2010). With respect to the built environment and built educational facilities, the document states:

'Our guiding principles for Primary schools are that, wherever possible:

- *4-11 all-through primary schools should be established;*
- *they should have a minimum of one form of entry and a maximum of three forms of entry;*
- *the pattern of schools should ensure that a primary school is readily accessible to its pupils and, in urban areas, within walking distance of the homes of the majority of its children.¹*

Walking Distances

Statutory guidance for sustainable travel and transport to / from schools is provided by the Department for Education² (DfE). This guidance notes the duty placed on Local Authorities to promote the use of sustainable travel and transport and the requirement to provide travel arrangements for pupils who live outside maximum walking distances from schools.

Sustainable modes of travel can be defined as those that the local authority considers may improve the physical well-being of those who use them, the environmental well-being of all or part of the local authority's area, or a combination of the two.

The Local Education Authority (WSSCC) must provide free transport for all pupils of compulsory school age (5-16) if their catchment or nearest suitable school is:

- *beyond 2 miles (if below the age of 8); or*
- *beyond 3 miles (if aged 8 and over)*

Exceptions may be made where the walking route between home and the school is regarded by the County Council as too hazardous for the child to walk, even when

¹ Refer to 'Education and Schools' Policy' (WSSCC, 2010), page 17

² Refer to 'Home to school travel and transport guidance. Statutory guidance for local authorities' (DfE, 2014)

accompanied by an adult, taking into account the age of the child and there being no suitable alternative walking route.

This exception does not apply where the child does not attend their nearest or catchment school.

Site Size Requirements

The Department of Education and Education Funding Agency have produced non-statutory area guidelines for mainstream school sites for all age ranges (including primary schools)³. WSCC use this document as a guide to minimum site size requirements for new schools within the County.

Based on the formulae in this document, the recommended minimum site size requirement for a new 1 form entry primary school is 1.12 hectares.

The guidance document acknowledges that the site size requirements should be used as a guideline and that there may be cases where the standards cannot be met:

*'in line with policies which seek to increase choice and opportunity in state funded education, these guidelines will not necessarily have to be met in every case and should always be applied flexibly in light of the particular circumstances.'*⁴

Other Requirements

The basic requirements set out above are used to aid site identification. However, each site is assessed by the County Council on an individual basis as constraints (such as topography, access arrangements and flooding issues) all have impacts on the site and affect the delivery of educational facilities. Therefore before any site is agreed for identification/allocation in a Local Plan for educational facilities, an initial feasibility assessment would be undertaken.

Free Schools and Academies

Significant changes in educational policy at the national level have occurred in recent years. Significantly, this includes preference for construction of free schools / academies before traditional local authority schools.

Academy schools are state funded schools which are directly funded by central government and are independent of direct control by the local authority. Academies are self-governing and all are constituted as non-profit charitable trusts.

Free schools are an extension of the existing Academies Programme. The Academies Act 2010 authorised the creation of free schools and allowed all existing state schools to become academies.

Following the enactment of the Education Act (2011), local authorities that need to create a new school must in most circumstances seek proposals for an academy or free

³ Refer to Area Guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103 (DfE, EFA, 2014)

⁴ Refer to page 3 of Area Guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103 (DfE, EFA, 2014)

⁵ https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/10089-001_Capital-funding-for-new-school-places.pdf

school in the first instance. They can only propose a traditional Local Authority maintained community school if no suitable free school or academy is proposed. In this instance, the local education authority becomes the provider or operator of last resort.

In relation to admissions, the governing bodies of voluntary aided church schools, academies and free schools set the admissions criteria for their individual school. The Local Education Authority has limited control over how any potential new free school or academy admits pupils.

The statutory duty to provide sufficient school places remains with WSCC.

Education Facilities Capacity

Most early years childcare provision in Adur is delivered through private businesses or through on-site nursery care provided by primary schools. The WSCC Childcare Sufficiency Report identifies that there are currently vacancies for all forms of childcare provision within Adur. The report identifies the need to sustain the current childcare supply. Consideration must be given to the impact of the 30 hours extended free entitlement from September 2017, with capacity built based on information gathered from parents, settings and other local knowledge such as building developments and setting openings and closures. Therefore the requirement from future planned developments may change due to the increased requirement for childcare provision. Provision for early years places, to meet the need from planned development, is set out for each strategic development site.

WSCC plans for a 5% buffer in surplus school places, as recommended by the National Audit Office, *'it is considered on average 5% was the bare minimum needed for authorities to meet their statutory duty with operational flexibility while enabling parents to have some choice of school'⁵*.

Primary Schools in the Adur area are currently running close or over the desired 95% capacity, with expansions underway and planned. Provision and contributions towards primary places, to meet the need from planned development, is set out in the Local Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the strategic development sites.

Secondary Schools in the Shoreham area are currently running close or over the desired 95% capacity; as a result contributions are sought towards the delivery of expansion to a school of 0.5 FE to meet the needs of planned development. It is recognised that a half form entry would not occur in practice, so further funding would be required to bring this forward as a 1FE expansion.

Education Requirements

Since early preparation of the Adur Local Plan and JAAP document the County Council has set out the requirement for a minimum of 2 new 1FE primary schools to meet the needs from the planned strategic developments in New Monks Farm & West Sompting strategic developments (1FE expandable to 2FE) and Shoreham Harbour development area (1FE). In order to mitigate planned development, contributions are also required towards the expansion of existing facilities for early years and secondary school provision, see the summary table below with indicative costs.

Provision	Development	Estimated cost	Comments
Provision of 32 new places for early years education	West Sompting	£429,312	Expansion of existing provision

Provision of 30 new places for early years education	New Monks Farm	£402,480	Expansion of existing provision
Provision of 26 new places for early years education	Shoreham Harbour redevelopment	£348,816	Expansion of existing provision
New 1FE (210 place) expandable to 2FE (420 place) primary school	New Monks Farm and West Sompting	£5.4 – 6m (not including land cost)	Located on New Monks Farm site development
New 1FE (210 place) primary school	Shoreham Harbour	£5.4 – 6m (not including land cost)	Options being appraised
Expansion of secondary school provision	Development in Adur	£4.66 – 5.28m	Expansion of existing provision

Options Considered

Early Years Provision

Local Authorities are required, by duties within the Childcare Act 2006, to shape and support the development of childcare in their area in order to make it flexible, sustainable and responsive to the needs of the community. This includes encouraging existing providers to expand their provision and new providers to enter the local childcare market. Therefore, contributions for expansion are required to mitigate development.

Primary Provision

Primary Schools current capacity and planned expansions are set out in the table below:-

Primary School	Current capacity, improvements and expansion potential
Shoreham Locality	
Buckingham Park	3FE school. Recently expanded. Currently at capacity. Insufficient land available between this and adjoining school site for further expansion.
Eastbrook	2FE school. Reaching existing pupil capacity. Academy school. Insufficient land to expand.
Holmbush	1FE school. Currently at capacity with insufficient land to expand.
Shoreham Beach	1FE school. Currently at capacity with insufficient land to expand.

St Nicolas and St Marys	2FE school. Recently expanded. Currently at capacity. Christian faith school with no catchment area. Insufficient land available between this and adjoining school site for further expansion. However, the school is sponsor of a new 2FE Free School for Shoreham and is awaiting approval from DfE (expected Spring 2017).
St Peters	1FE school. Currently at capacity insufficient land to expand. Catholic faith school with no catchment area.
Swiss Gardens	2FE school. Currently at capacity. No land to expand within the school grounds. Additional pupils accepted in Sept 2016 due to pressure on school places in the locality. Considering options for expansion with the District Council to meet existing pupil projections.
The Glebe	3FE school. Recently expanded. Currently at capacity. Insufficient land to expand.
Lancing Locality	
North Lancing	2FE school. Currently at capacity. A feasibility study is being undertaken to assess the scope to meet existing and potential future demand for school places.
Seaside	3FE school. Currently at capacity. Limited land available to expand.
Sompting Village	Currently at capacity. Expansion consultation underway from 2FE to 3FE.
The Globe	3FE school. Currently at capacity. Limited land available to expand.

Note: 'Insufficient land' in accordance with Area Guidelines for mainstream schools Building Bulletin 103 (DfE, EFA, 2014)

Shoreham Locality

There are eight primary schools in the Shoreham Locality with a total published admission number of 450. Our current projections show that over the next four years the schools in the locality will be over capacity. Projections show that in the Shoreham locality for starting school in 2020/21, there is a forecast intake of 556 pupils against the admission number of 450. The 450 available places take into account the expansions set out in the table above.

As indicated above the current shortage of places has prompted St Nicholas School and St Mary's (St Nics) to apply to the Department for Education to set up a new 'sister' primary school for Shoreham. Whilst, no site has been identified the sponsor indicates that the school, to be known as St Clement CE Primary Academy, could potentially be a 2 form entry (2FE) and could open on the existing school site in September 2017.

Given the capacity issues experienced by existing schools, increasing demand from additional housing and the current uncertainty around the provision of a Free School serving Shoreham, the County Council and District Council will take a proactive but flexible approach towards meeting future education needs. A range of options are being considered whilst awaiting news on the proposed Free School and this may require an innovative approach to provision given the lack of land availability.

Lancing Locality

There are four primary schools in the Lancing Locality with a total published admission number of 330. Our current projections show that over the next four years the schools in the locality will be over capacity. Projections show that in the Lancing locality for starting school in 2020/21, there is a forecast intake of 368 pupils against the admission number of 330. The 330 available places take into account the expansions set out in the table above.

The County Council with the District Council have considered the expansion of existing schools in the localities to accommodate the needs from planned development, primary schools in the localities have been or are to be expanded to their limits with regards to space requirements. Considering the other requirements for primary education and distance from schools there are currently no schools within the localities that could be expanded to a size to accommodate planned development. The most suitable option is therefore to seek the delivery of new primary schools to meet the education needs of planned development, with the ability of expansion.

Secondary Provision

Secondary schools in the area have the potential to expand to accommodate the development needs, therefore contributions for expansion is required to mitigate development.

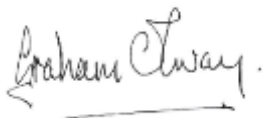
Conclusion

To meet needs arising from planned development within Adur District, WSCC and ADC are working effectively to ensure that:

- there are sufficient primary school places in the locality,
- schools are of an appropriate size to provide suitable educational facilities
- schools are located in accessible locations on safe walking routes within reasonable walking distances.

The policies in the Local Plan are considered sufficient to bring forward the necessary infrastructure to meet educational needs in the District.

Signed



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Graham Olway MBE
Principal Manager,
Capital Planning & Projects &
Cabinet Member sign off



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James Appleton
Head of Planning and Development
Adur & Worthing Councils
(Following Consultation with the
Executive Member for Regeneration)