

Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031

Statement of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Property Development Services on behalf of HCC Services

Matter 11 – The housing allocations and the settlement boundaries: the Category A Villages: Ickleford

11.28 Are all of the proposed housing allocations deliverable? In particular, are they:

c) deliverable, having regard to the provision of the necessary infrastructure and services, and any environmental or other constraints?

11.29 Are all of the proposed housing allocations justified and appropriate in terms of the likely impacts of the development?

1. The North Hertfordshire Local Plan allocates land in Ickleford for 199 dwellings across three sites. Based on a one form of entry (FE) yield per 500 dwellings, this will result in a demand for an additional 0.4 FE of school places.
2. There is a 1FE primary school in Ickleford. Expansion potential of the school is limited as the site is constrained and the original building is Grade II Listed,.
3. The County Council own site IC3 which is allocated for 150 homes. Land for a 2FE primary school will be reserved within this site. The wording of Policy IC3 at bullet point one requires:
 - *Appropriate solution for primary education requirements having regard to up-to-date assessments of need.*
4. To ensure that adequate land is reserved within site IC3 for a new primary school the wording should be amended to the following:
 - *A reserve site for a new 2FE primary school.*
5. This would enable HCC, as local authority for education, to ensure that adequate land is reserved for a new primary school should this be required in the future.
6. However, the quantum of development currently proposed in Ickleford (and Lower Stondon) is insufficient to support a full form of entry, in either additional pupil demand, or S106 funding, to enable the school to relocate. Additional housing would assist in supporting a relocation and expansion of the school, including allocated sites yielding a higher number of units than those proposed in the local plan.
7. The County Council, as local authority for education, consider that the proposed amended wording of policy IC3 as suggested in paragraph 4 above will ensure that a site of sufficient size is provided to enable the school to relocate and expand in the future. However, to achieve sufficient funding from the developments to ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand further housing numbers may be needed.