

## **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: Lower Stondon**

***11.47 Is the proposed housing allocation deliverable? In particular, is it:  
c) deliverable, having regard to the provision of the necessary infrastructure and services, and any environmental or other constraints?***

***11.48 Is the proposed housing allocation justified and appropriate in terms of the likely impacts of the development?***

1. The North Hertfordshire Local Plan allocates site LS1 in Lower Stondon in Ickleford parish for 120 dwellings. Based on a one form of entry (FE) yield per 500 dwellings, this will result in a demand for an additional 0.24 FE of school places.
2. The nearest schools to this development are in Lower Stondon in Bedfordshire. Central Bedfordshire Council operate a three tier school system and have advised that there may be expansion potential at an existing first school in Lower Stondon to accommodate any pupil yield arising from this development. However, the development would be located in Hertfordshire and the County Council has a duty to ensure school places are provided for everyone within its area who wants one.
3. 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.
4. The County Council own site allocation IC3 which is allocated for 150 homes. It is proposed that land for a 2FE primary school will be reserved within this site. HCC have requested that the wording of policy IC3 is amended to include this requirement.
5. This will enable the County Council, as local authority for education, to ensure that adequate land is reserved for a new primary school should this be required in the future. It will ensure that all of the proposed sites in both Ickleford and Lower Stondon are deliverable, although, as indicated in the County Council's matters statement for Ickleford, a greater quantum of housing would assist in supporting a relocation and expansion of the school.
6. Funding will be sought from all of the developments to ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand.