

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
PROPERTY (DEVELOPMENT SERVICES)**

**NORTH HERTS DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**REPRESENTATIONS ON REGULATION 19 PROPOSED  
SUBMISSION LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON  
BEHALF OF HCC SERVICES**

**NOVEMBER 2016**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The following representations are made on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council Property (Development Services) in relation to the North Herts Council Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation Document. They represent the interests of various departments within Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), including Children's Services; Health and Community Services (HCS); Waste Management; Libraries; Community Protection; and the Gypsy and Travellers section.
- 1.2 The approach adopted to the representations follows the format of the consultation document itself. It should be noted that comments are only made on those policies that are considered to have an impact upon the provision of the County Council's services.
- 1.3 The representations in relation to education, together with information relating to school place planning, are contained in **Appendix A**.
- 1.4 Separate representations have been submitted by HCC as landowner.

## **SECTION ONE – INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT**

### **2.0 A Picture of North Hertfordshire**

- 2.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

## **SECTION TWO - SPATIAL STRATEGY AND STRATEGIC SITES**

### **3.0 Spatial Strategy and Spatial Vision**

- 3.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **4.0 Strategic Policies Sustainable Development**

- 4.1 Policy SP1 refers to sustainable development in North Hertfordshire. Part c of policy SP1 states that the District Council will:  
*'grant planning permission for proposals that, individually or cumulatively:*
  - iii provide the necessary infrastructure required to support an increasing population.*
- 4.2 HCC consider that the District Council has failed to include sufficient school places to meet the needs arising from the increasing population that will arise from the housing development included in the emerging local plan.
- 4.3 This failure results in the plan not being positively prepared. The plan is required to be based on a strategy that meets infrastructure

requirements, including unmet requirements from neighbouring authorities where it is reasonable to do so.

4.4 HCC consider that NHDC has not met the requirements of the existing and new population in the following strategic locations:

- SP14: Site BA1 – North of Baldock
- SP15: Site LG1 – North of Letchworth Garden City
- SP16: Site NS1 - North of Stevenage
- SP18: Site GA2 – Land off Mendip Way, Great Ashby
- SP19: Sites EL1, EL2 and EL3 – East of Luton

4.5 Detailed objections are provided in the responses to the strategic policies from 4.25 below.

4.6 The plan is therefore not effective because it is not deliverable without this infrastructure. In addition, it has failed to provide effective joint working on cross boundary strategic priorities.

#### **Countryside and Green Belt**

4.7 Policy SP5: part c refers to development proposals in the Green Belt only being permitted where they would not result in inappropriate development. Many of the schools in North Herts, particularly secondary schools are located within the Green Belt. Indeed in Letchworth both secondary schools have Green Belt locations.

4.8 As a consequence of the housing proposed in the local plan it will be necessary for many schools to be expanded, including some located in the Green Belt. The County Council as education authority would not wish this policy to restrict the expansion of this key infrastructure which would be required to meet the needs of the development proposed within the local plan.

#### **Infrastructure**

4.9 Policy SP7 refers to infrastructure requirements.

4.10 HCC is a provider of infrastructure within the District including education, early year's provision, Youth Connexions, libraries, health and community services, community protection and waste disposal.

4.11 Specific needs within settlements are given in the relevant response in Section 4. However, more general District wide information is given below.

#### **Education**

4.12 As detailed in **Appendix A**, HCC is the local education authority whose responsibilities include the planning and commissioning of school places in its local authority area.

### **Children's Centres**

- 4.13 Children's Centres are provided by HCC Children's Services. These are often, but not exclusively, provided on school sites. The information contained in **Appendix B** details the current position and the requirements arising from the proposed housing development for the provision of Early Years facilities in the District.

### **Youth Connexions**

- 4.14 The HCC Youth Connexions team offer young people youth work, information, advice, guidance, outdoor education and work related learning. Details of their service are provided in **Appendix C**.

### **Library Services**

- 4.15 There are currently five libraries located in the District located in Baldock, Hitchin, Knebworth, Letchworth Garden City and Royston. Information regarding the requirements of each of these to meet the needs from the additional housing to be provided in these settlements is given in Section 4.

### **Health and Community Services**

- 4.16 Details of the requirements of health and community services are provided in response to the relevant housing policies in Section 3 and in **Appendix D**.

### **Community Protection**

- 4.17 Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service do not believe that there is a need for additional fire facilities in the District to support the proposed new housing development. However, the Service would continue to recommend the provision of sprinkler systems in all buildings and new developments to form part of an integrated safety provision.

### **Waste Disposal**

- 4.18 HCC as the Waste Disposal Authority (WDA) requires strategically located facilities for the management of Local Authority Collected Waste (LACW) to ensure the effective management of waste arising in the District.

### **Design**

- 4.19 Part b of Policy SP9 is requiring master plans for significant is noted. As referred to throughout these representations master planning of significant developments is essential to ensure that infrastructure requirements are met.

### **Healthy Communities**

- 4.20 Part e of Policy SP10: Healthy Communities states that NHDC will:

*Work with Hertfordshire County Council and education providers to ensure the planning system contributes to the provision of sufficient school places and facilitates the provision of new or expanded schools in appropriate and accessible locations.*

- 4.21 HCC are the education authority and as such are the commissioner of school places. More information on the role of the County Council in education provision is provided in **Appendix A**.
- 4.22 As will be discussed later in these representations it is considered that NHDC have not worked with HCC in the preparation of the Local Plan to ensure that sufficient school places are available. As such the County Council consider the plan to be unsound as it is not based upon a strategy that seeks to meet infrastructure requirements.
- 4.23 Paragraph 4.125 refers to 'lower' schools. In Hertfordshire schools providing places for children from Reception to Year 4 are called 'first' schools.

#### **Natural and Historic Environment**

- 4.24 Policy SP12 seeks to protect the green infrastructure network. In some instances it may be necessary for green infrastructure located in close proximity to a primary school to be used as a detached playing field to support the provision of additional school places to support the proposals within the local plan. In these cases HCC would seek to work with the District Council to ensure that the use of green infrastructure, which would continue to be protected, could assist in the provision of school places.

#### **Strategic Housing Sites**

- 4.25 As stated in 4.1 above HCC considers that on all of the strategic sites the District Council has failed to meet the infrastructure requirements that will arise from those developments. As a consequence the County Council do not consider the plan to be sound as it has not been positively prepared. The detailed representations in relation to each of these sites are given below..

#### **Policy SP14: Site BA1 – North of Baldock**

- 4.26 It is noted that Policy SP14 requires a site masterplan to be prepared which is welcomed.
- 4.27 However, Part h of SP14 refers to up to 6FE of additional primary-age and secondary-age education provision being provided on site BA1.
- 4.28 3600 homes are proposed in total in Baldock, including site BA1, which equates to a demand for 7.2FE of school places.
- 4.29 In considering the total scale of development proposed in Baldock the education infrastructure requirement should therefore include:
- A pattern of new primary school sites to accommodate up to 8FE of primary provision, suitably located within the development to serve the new communities north and south of the railway.
  - A secondary school site of up to 8FE in size to the north of the railway, which could include all through education provision.

4.30 The exact configuration of the above education infrastructure is still to be finalised and will need to be included in the masterplan. Some expansion of Knights Templar School is possible and could be considered in this exercise.

4.31 HCC consider that the District Council has failed to include sufficient secondary school provision in Baldock to meet the needs arising from the increasing population from the housing development included in the emerging local plan. It is therefore considered to be unsound.

**Policy SP15: Site LG1 – North of Letchworth Garden City**

4.32 The inclusion of a site masterplan in Policy SP15: Site LG1 is welcomed. However, part a (iii) of policy SP15 refers to an appropriate education solution with a presumption in favour of onsite provision of a new primary school.

4.33 The proposed 900 units at SP15 will result in a 1.8FE demand for school places. A new 2FE primary school is therefore required within the site to meet that demand.

4.34 The failure to provide a new school would result in insufficient primary school places being available in this part of Letchworth Garden City. HCC consider that without a primary school in this location the local plan is unsound as it has not been positively prepared to meet infrastructure requirements.

**Policy SP16: Site NS1 North of Stevenage**

4.35 Site NS1 North of Stevenage should be delivered jointly through a master plan to be prepared with Stevenage Borough Council, which controls the adjoining land to the south.

4.36 There is a requirement at Part b of policy SP16 that site NS1 achieves the following:

*‘integration with adjoining development in Stevenage Borough including site-wide solutions of access, education, retail and other necessary social infrastructure’.*

4.37 The provision of 900 dwellings in NS1 will result in a demand for 1.8FE school places. On this basis HCC would seek a 2FE primary school within the NHDC land to the north of Stevenage, with any adjacent development within Stevenage Borough having its own primary provision.

4.38 Indeed, the area of this site located within Stevenage Borough is allocated for 800 units and includes a primary school. This is to be a 1FE school located on a 2FE site.

4.39 The failure to provide a new school would result in insufficient primary school places being available to the North of Stevenage. HCC

consider that without a primary school at NS1 the local plan is unsound as it has not been positively prepared to meet infrastructure requirements.

**Policy SP17: Site HT1 – Highover Farm, Hitchin**

- 4.40 Policy SP17: Site HT1 part a, requires a site masterplan to be prepared which is welcomed.
- 4.41 New on site provision of a primary school is included in the policy for the proposed 700 homes, although the size is not specified. This development would result in a requirement for 1.4FE of school places. Paragraph 4.205 refers to the size of the school to be provided being determined by the expansion potential of Highover JMI. This school has already been expanded and has no expansion capacity. In addition, there is limited capacity in the existing primary schools across the town for expansion.
- 4.42 The total number of dwellings proposed for Hitchin, including HT1 is 1009 resulting in a demand for 2FE of school places in the town.
- 4.43 To meet the infrastructure needs arising from all of the proposed housing development in Hitchin, the new school at HT1 would therefore need to be 2FE in size.

**Policy SP18: Site GA2 – Land off Mendip Way, Great Ashby**

- 4.44 Details regarding the HCC services requirements for Policy SP18 Site GA2 are contained in the response to Section Four.
- 4.45 Policy SP18 allocates site GA2 for 600 homes. Part c of Policy SP18 requires:
- up to four hectares of land for education purposes subject to up-to-date assessments of need including, at minimum, 2FE of primary-age provision.*
- 4.46 Stevenage Borough Council is also proposing housing within their boundary to the north of the settlement. There is a need to plan holistically for the cumulative impact from proposed developments in this area.
- 4.47 In April 2010 planning permission was granted on the north western area of GA2 for a secondary school. This permission had now lapsed.
- 4.48 HCC have consistently requested that, given the combined level of development proposed at North and North-East Stevenage, it would be prudent to plan for future secondary school needs in this area.
- 4.49 This has included advising NHDC of this requirement in the responses to the various housing scenarios that the District Council has tested

since 2010 when preparing the Regulation 18 and 19 Local Plans. This information can be made available on request.

- 4.50 Indeed HCC have previously made representations requesting that the area of site GA2 previously granted permission for a secondary school be allocated for this purpose. This included requesting that an education zone for 2FE primary school and 6FE+ secondary school be held in reserve pending the future demand for school places in the HCC representations to the Regulation 18 Local Plan Preferred Options in February 2015. These representations are contained in **Appendix E**.
- 4.51 In January 2016 HCC undertook a Transport Assessment (TA) of site GA2 to determine whether the local highway network could support an 8FE secondary school, with either a 1FE or 2FE primary school, and a quantity of housing on the remaining land. This work was undertaken to inform the representations to be made to the North Herts Local Plan Regulation 19 consultation.
- 4.52 The TA, included at **Appendix F**, concluded that within the context of this part of northeast Stevenage, the scale of the proposed development, the traffic generation and resulting impact would be considerable. It identified that there is only one apparent and currently available point of access and that the overall limited capacity of the existing road network (except for Martins Way) would undoubtedly be placed under considerable strain if it was expected to serve a development of this size.
- 4.53 In March 2016, to inform the County Council's strategy for secondary school places in Stevenage and North Herts, HCC employed town planning consultants Vincent and Goring (V&G) to search for, and evaluate, potential new school sites.
- 4.54 V&G have experience of undertaking secondary school searches for HCC across the County, including in South West Hertfordshire. The work undertaken (and therefore by implication, the methodology employed) for the site search was accepted by the Inspector at the Three Rivers Site Allocations DPD Examination in Public where HCC achieved two allocations for new secondary schools.
- 4.55 The search identified site allocation GA2 as the most suitable location for a new secondary school. This report is included at **Appendix G**.
- 4.56 However, as the majority of this site has now been allocated for housing, it is no longer affordable or deliverable for education.
- 4.57 NHDC officers were made aware that this work had been commissioned. Indeed, they were invited to and attended the presentation of findings in July 2016 where HCC officers highlighted



that if no secondary school site was identified at Great Ashby then the County Council would have no option but to object to the local plan.

- 4.58 As detailed in the correspondence included at **Appendix H**, HCC sought to engage with NHDC officers to discuss this matter, but they have consistently refused to meet. Instead NHDC requested that the agent acting for the landowner of site GA2 should meet HCC.
- 4.59 That meeting took place in September 2016. The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether the landowner would consider the use of land outside of the site allocation for playing fields and possibly additional built development to support a secondary school.
- 4.60 At that meeting the agent and landowner confirmed that they have also undertaken a TA which also demonstrates that the local highway network would not support the quantum of development proposed at GA2 and a secondary school.
- 4.61 Following that meeting the site to the East of Stevenage, within East Herts, which ranked second in the search, was reconsidered. It was again discounted as it is not in the correct location, given existing highway arrangements, to meet the need arising from the new development in the North and North-East of Stevenage, as detailed in the education strategy contained in the site search.
- 4.62 In October 2016 HCC instructed V&G to extend the search further into the green belt beyond the area already considered to identify a secondary school site. This work is currently underway.
- 4.63 In addition, HCC consultants are currently preparing TAs for all of the Stevenage secondary schools and the site for another new school proposed at Barnwell East (to be clear, a school to be rebuilt within the urban area). This is both to confirm the expansion potential of each of the existing schools, and to test the assumption that any new secondary school at Barnwell East might be enhanced beyond 5FE, the capacity of the school previously occupying the site. This work is due to be concluded in December 2016.
- 4.64 The failure of NHDC to identify a site for a new secondary school also impacts upon both the Stevenage Local Plan and the East Herts District Plan.
- 4.65 The representations submitted by HCC to the Stevenage Local Plan in February 2016 require the identification of a new 8FE secondary school site on the edge of Stevenage, within North Herts District, to meet the needs of both Stevenage Borough Council (SBC) and NHDC.
- 4.66 Since the publication of the Stevenage Local Plan, East Herts District Council has allocated a site to the East of Stevenage (Policy EOS1) in its Regulation 19 District Plan, currently out to consultation until 15

December 2016. This includes provision for 600 units, which is estimated to yield over 1FE of need for secondary school places. The site is on the edge of Stevenage, and therefore children from this development would look to the secondary schools in the town for a school place. Consequently this development contributes to the cumulative demand for school places in Stevenage.

- 4.67 In conclusion, HCC as the local authority for education objects to policy SP18 (site GA2) as it is not considered to be sound.
- 4.68 The allocation in the policy of four hectares of land for education is insufficient to serve the need in the area. A 2FE primary school alone would require a minimum site size of 2 hectares.
- 4.69 This policy has not been positively prepared as it is not based on a strategy which seeks to meet infrastructure requirements, including unmet need from the neighbouring authority of Stevenage Borough.
- 4.70 The plan is not effective as sufficient secondary school places cannot be delivered over its period. It is therefore not based on effective joint working on the cross boundary strategic priority of providing adequate infrastructure, through the provision of sufficient secondary school places.
- 4.71 As NHDC has failed to cooperate with HCC in the provision of adequate secondary school places to the North and North East of Stevenage this impacts directly on the Stevenage Local Plan and indirectly on the East Herts Local Plan.
- 4.72 The local planning authority needs to work with HCC as education authority to identify and allocate an alternative site for a secondary school to serve this locality.

**Policy SP19: Sites EL1, EL2 and EL3 – East of Luton**

- 4.73 Details regarding the HCC services requirements for Policy SP19: Sites EL1, EL2 and EL3 are contained in the response to Section Four.
- 4.74 Part e of policy refers to up to 4FE of primary and secondary education provision to be provided on the site.
- 4.75 These sites are allocated for 2,100 homes which would result in a demand for 4.2FE of demand for school places.
- 4.76 At least 4FE of primary school provision is therefore required within these sites to meet that demand. Ideally this provision should be in the form of 2 x 2FE sites. The failure to provide new schools would result in insufficient primary school places being available to serve these developments. HCC consider that without sufficient primary school places in this location the local plan is unsound as it has not been positively prepared to meet infrastructure requirements.

- 4.77 In addition 4.2FE of secondary school places are required to serve these developments.
- 4.78 The nearest Hertfordshire secondary schools to sites EL1, EL2 and EL3 are in Hitchin, approximately six miles from the proposed developments. The sites fall mainly within the Hitchin priority area for admissions purposes. The secondary schools in Hitchin are all full at year of admission and current forecasts indicate a need for additional places to meet rising demand from the existing community. Proposals have therefore been brought forward to increase the number of Year 7 places available at Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls School by 1.5FE each, thereby providing an additional 3FE of permanent capacity across the town from 2018.
- 4.79 There are closer secondary schools to sites EL1, EL2 and EL3 within Luton. However, Luton Borough Council is also experiencing increased demand for secondary provision across their area and there is no existing surplus capacity available in Luton schools to accommodate the yield from this development.
- 4.80 In light of this, the County Council supports Policy SP19a which requires a master plan to be prepared. This should result in a sustainable development being brought forward that is capable of delivering new primary and secondary schooling for those new local communities.
- 4.81 The new secondary school could be sized to accommodate Hertfordshire pupils, for whom it would be their nearest school, thereby reducing pressure in Hitchin. This would need to be a minimum of 6FE.
- 4.82 As outlined above, there is no available capacity in the closest Hertfordshire secondary schools in Hitchin which are currently full and already implementing expansion proposals to meet local need. Discussions with Luton Borough Council confirm that it has no existing secondary capacity to meet the needs from the yield arising from any new housing proposed at East of Luton.
- 4.83 Therefore a new school site is required to meet the need from this proposed development.
- 4.84 It is requested that, in line with part a of policy SP19, the area as a whole is master planned, as the appropriate delivery of sufficient secondary capacity for the development as a whole is problematic if the individual sites are managed in isolation. The provision of an all-through school within the development could be considered as a way of managing the primary and secondary yield arising from this new housing.

- 4.85 In light of the demand arising from Hitchin, the County Council would seek a larger secondary school (of at least 6FE) to meet the needs both arising from the new development as well as the needs of surrounding Hitchin villages for which this new secondary school would become their closest Hertfordshire school. There may be an opportunity to expand this school further should Luton Borough Council wish to address some of its secondary demand issues through the provision of additional capacity at East of Luton.
- 4.86 If the new secondary school East of Luton only has 4FE of capacity, HCC may need to object to the level of new housing across the Hitchin area on the basis of insufficient secondary capacity to meet the entire anticipated yield.

## **SECTION THREE – DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES**

### **5.0 Economy and Town Centres**

5.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **6.0 Countryside and Green Belt**

6.1 The comments made in relation to policy SP5 at 4.7 above are relevant to this chapter.

### **7.0 Transport**

7.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **8.0 Housing Strategy**

8.1 Part b of policy HS1 refers to planning permission for residential development and associated infrastructure being granted for the local housing allocations where

*‘...Proposals successfully address site specific considerations’*

8.2 Policy HS1 assumes that the appropriate site specific considerations are included within the local plan with regard to infrastructure. As highlighted at 4.4 above this plan fails to address site specific considerations particularly at a number of strategic sites where insufficient school places would be available to serve both the proposed new housing and the existing population.

8.3 Policies HS4 and HS5 are supported by HCS. Further information regarding their requirements are contained in **Appendix D**.

8.4 The allocation of seven permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches in policy HS7 is welcomed.

### **9.0 Design**

9.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **10.0 Healthy Communities**

10.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **11.0 Natural Environment**

11.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

### **12.0 Historic Environment**

12.1 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make on this chapter.

## **SECTION FOUR – COMMUNITIES**

### **13.0 Communities**

13.1 Information regarding the service requirements as a consequence of the proposed development within each of the settlements identified in North Hertfordshire is set out below.

#### **Ashwell**

13.2 There is a 1FE primary school located in Ashwell. Funding will be sought to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from the 33 dwellings proposed in Site AS1.

#### **Baldock**

13.3 Detailed representations regarding site BA1 are contained in section 4.

13.4 With regard to Youth Connexions requirements, currently HCC has no venue to deliver youth work in Baldock and would like to access a rentable venue for the delivery of good quality youth work.

13.5 Baldock has a small community library which is considered to be fit for purpose. Additional stock, shelving and IT would be required to support the proposed population increase. Policy BA10 relates to the employment allocation at Royston Road. The policy does not specify the types of employment uses envisaged for this site.

13.6 HCC is aware that the District Council are looking to locate their depot within BA10. In line with the National Planning Policy for Waste 2014 the WDA believes opportunities for co-locating a HWRC and the District Council Depot, which could deliver better value for money and result in operational efficiencies, should be considered as part of the Baldock Master Planning process.

13.7 A large HWRC site within BA10 would improve the efficiency of the HWRC service as increased space would enable a greater throughput of vehicles; reduce the impact of vehicles queuing on the local road network; and allow a greater number of materials to be segregated for treatment instead of disposal. In addition, the WDA require a waste transfer station to be located in the northern part of the County. Following site searches carried out in 2015 site BA10 was identified as a potential location for such a facility.

13.8 HCC consider that the HWRC, NHDC depot and the northern transfer station should all be located on BA10. These uses will be included within the masterplan currently being prepared. The wording of policy BA10 should be amended to reflect these proposed uses.

#### **Barkway**

13.9 A total of 173 dwellings are proposed for Barkway, providing a pupil yield of 0.35FE. The existing school site is constrained and considered

difficult to expand. HCC therefore support the retention of the existing reserve school site allocation in the emerging Local Plan.

**Barley**

13.10 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Bygrave**

13.11 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make. Comments relating to the land to the North of Baldock within Bygrave parish are provided in 13.3 above.

**Caldecote**

13.12 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Clothall**

13.13 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make. Comments relating to sites within Clothall parish allocated for housing in Baldock are provided in 13.3 above.

**Cockernhoe and East of Luton**

13.14 The existing Cockernhoe Endowed Primary School should be considered in the pattern of primary school provision in the East of Luton development.

13.15 With regard to Youth Connexions, the nearest provision of youth facilities is at Bancroft in Hitchin.

**Codicote**

13.16 The proposals for 315 dwellings will result in a demand for 0.6FE of school places in the village.

13.17 The existing 1FE Codicote school site is constrained and current forecasts indicate a shortage of places from the existing community without any additional housing development. Expansion of the existing primary school is therefore required.

13.18 The inclusion of land within site CD5 Land South of Heath Lane is supported and welcomed. This additional land will provide the school with a detached playing field enabling the school to expand on its current site. The provision of a drop off/pick up area within, or adjacent to, the additional land would also alleviate the existing highways issues at the school.

13.19 However, in order to generate sufficient pupil yield and S106 funding to make the expansion of the school by 1FE viable the four development sites need to come forward within the same time period otherwise there will be insufficient school places for children moving into the new developments.

### **Graveley and North of Stevenage**

- 13.20 Representations regarding site NS1 are contained in section 4 above.
- 13.21 Site GR1 is located within the village of Graveley. It is anticipated that the pupil yield from the proposed eight dwellings could be accommodated within the existing primary school.

### **Great Ashby and North East of Stevenage**

- 13.22 Two sites are proposed for housing in Great Ashby and North East of Stevenage. Site GA1 has already come forward as a planning application and contributions have been sought from this development towards the expansion of The Leys Primary School as this is the closest existing primary school to the development with expansion potential. However, even with this development coming forward in advance, HCC would still seek a new 2FE primary school site as a result of the remaining housing sites and other sites coming forward in the northern Stevenage area.
- 13.23 With regard to secondary school places, contributions have been sought towards the expansion of Barclay School in Stevenage. However, it should be noted that if this planning application were to come forward now, as there are insufficient secondary places to serve this area for the long term and, with no identified solution to meet the identified need for the future, it is likely that HCC would be objecting to the proposal.

### **Hexton**

- 13.24 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

### **Hinxworth**

- 13.25 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

### **Hitchin**

- 13.26 Bearton Green is a reserve school site in the adopted Local Plan. Since September 2016 Bearton Green has been used as a detached playing field by William Ransom Primary which is being permanently expanded to 2FE. It would therefore be appropriate for the reserve site allocation to be carried forward into the emerging Local Plan as it would provide flexibility in that if needed, the land could be used to facilitate expansion of other existing schools by providing additional detached playing fields.
- 13.27 There are current proposals to expand both Hitchin Boys and Hitchin Girls Schools, which leaves some limited remaining expansion capacity. This is assisted by the removal of The Priory School from the Green Belt.
- 13.28 Additional secondary school capacity to the East of Luton to accommodate the demand from families living in the villages who would traditionally look to Hitchin is supported.



- 13.29 It is worth noting that the development at Highover Farm is closer to Letchworth Garden City for secondary provision. Pupil yield from this development may look to Letchworth Garden City rather than Hitchin for secondary education.
- 13.30 Paragraph 13.132 identifies the Churchgate Centre and surrounding area as a location for mixed use redevelopment. This could potentially include some residential development. As the numbers are not known an assessment cannot be made of the impact upon the demand for school places.
- 13.31 Hitchin library is due to be refurbished in 2016/17. It is anticipated that additional stock shelving and IT would be required as a result of the proposed increase in population.

#### **Holwell**

- 13.32 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

#### **Ickleford**

- 13.33 The proposed 199 homes would generate a requirement for 0.4FE of school places. Ickleford primary school is a 1FE school on a confined site.
- 13.34 A site for a new 2FE primary school would be required within site IC3 which would include the relocation of the existing school. However, an additional 0.4FE of demand may not be sufficient to support the relocation of the school. HCC preference is for 2FE primary schools as discussed in **Appendix A**.
- 13.35 HCC have commissioned consultants to undertake feasibility work on site IC3.
- 13.36 It is noted that there are 120 units proposed within Ickleford parish adjoining Lower Stondon, which is located within Bedfordshire. As children from this development would look to Lower Stondon for a school place, this development is discussed at 13.55 below.

#### **Kelshall**

- 13.37 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

#### **Kimpton**

- 13.38 Funding will be sought through planning obligations to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from Site KM3.

#### **Kings Walden**

- 13.39 To ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from site KW1 funding will be sought through planning obligations.

### **Knebworth**

- 13.40 The provision on 600 homes in Knebworth will result in a demand for 1.2FE of school places.
- 13.41 The existing primary school in Knebworth (with capacity for 2fe) is full and has no expansion capacity. There is therefore a requirement to identify an additional 1FE of primary capacity to cater for the need arising from the new homes. A new primary school site on the west of the Knebworth has been proposed. It would be preferable if the large sites could be phased to come forward together to support the delivery of additional primary places.
- 13.42 However, land adjacent to the existing primary school has been allocated as a housing site. The County Council would welcome a dialogue around exploring an alternative to the provision of a new primary school to the west of the town through the expansion of the existing Knebworth primary school to 3FE with provision of additional land.
- 13.43 Site KB4 includes 4ha of land for education purposes. Paragraph 13.193 suggests this could be for smaller scale secondary provision or an 'all-through school'. However, HCC have not identified a need for a secondary school in Knebworth.
- 13.44 The closest secondary schools to Knebworth are in south Stevenage. Long term proposed housing development and population growth suggests insufficient capacity within the existing secondary schools in Stevenage to accommodate future forecast demand.
- 13.45 HCC therefore object to site allocation KB4 as it is not providing secondary school infrastructure where it is required. As indicated in Section Four above, it would be prudent to reserve a secondary school site at Great Ashby and NE Stevenage to plan for future population pressures, since this is where there is a demand for places. Splitting the provision of school places to the north and south of Stevenage does not meet the need arising in Great Ashby and North East Stevenage. It is considered that with regard to the provision of secondary school places the plan has not been positively prepared as it is not providing infrastructure where it is required. In this regard the plan is considered to be unsound.
- 13.46 Knebworth has a small community library that is to be reprovided in a shared building with the NHS in 2017/18. It is anticipated that additional stock, shelving and IT would be required as a result of the proposed increase in population.

### **Langley**

- 13.47 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Letchworth Garden City**

- 13.48 A total of 1573 dwellings are proposed in Letchworth which equates to a demand for 3.2FE of school places.
- 13.49 As stated in Section Four above a new 2FE primary school site is required to be provided in site LG1.
- 13.50 To serve the demand arising from sites LG2 to LG10 additional school places would be required. These are to be provided through expansion of existing schools (financial contributions required), however, it would be prudent if the reserve school site allocation at Southern Way, which is on the proposals map of the current local plan, is carried forward into the new local plan and excluded from the Green Belt.
- 13.51 Feasibility work is required to establish if the existing secondary schools have sufficient expansion potential to meet the demand from the scale of development, particularly in light of the additional development at Highover Farm, Hitchin for 700 dwellings. The nearest secondary schools to this site would be in Letchworth.
- 13.52 Youth Connexions currently has no provision in Letchworth for the delivery of good quality youth work. They are seeking access to a rentable venue to provide this service.
- 13.53 The library in Letchworth is in a good location and well used. However, the current internal layout compromises the delivery of modern services. It is anticipated that additional stock, shelving and IT would be required as a result of the proposed increase in population.

**Lilley**

- 13.54 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Lower Stondon**

- 13.55 The settlement of Lower Stondon lies within Central Bedfordshire. Site LS1 is located within Ickleford parish in North Hertfordshire but directly adjoins the Central Bedfordshire Council boundary.
- 13.56 The nearest schools to this development would be in Lower Stondon. Central Bedfordshire Council has advised that there may be some expansion potential at either Derwent Lower or Stondon Lower School. This development of 120 units is therefore not considered to impact upon the provision of school places in Ickleford.

**Newnham**

- 13.57 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Nuthampstead**

- 13.58 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Offley**

13.59 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Pirton**

13.60 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Preston**

13.61 Site PR1 includes the provision of 21 dwellings. To ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from site PR1 funding will be sought through planning obligations.

**Radwell**

13.62 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Reed**

13.63 Funding will be sought to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from the 22 new homes proposed at Site RD1.

**Royston**

13.64 The primary population in Royston is increasing and, to ensure sufficient local places, HCC has provided an additional 1FE of permanent capacity within the First Schools in the town. All First schools are currently full and feasibility work suggests that there is limited further expansion capacity.

13.65 The proposed 1,049 homes in Royston results in the need for 2FE of school places. The provision of a new 2FE first school site at RY1 to ensure the future population and yield arising from the new housing across the town can access a local school place is supported.

13.66 Sites RY2 and RY10 include the following requirement

*'Appropriate solution for education requirements arising from sites RY2 and RY10 having regard to up-to-date assessments of need'*

13.67 630 homes are proposed at sites RY2 and RY10 resulting in a demand for 1.2FE of school places.

13.68 Site RY2 has planning permission which does not include a school site.

13.69 The education requirement at RY10 needs to be retained in the policy in the event that site RY1 does not come forward. However, this should refer to a new 2FE first school site.

13.70 Royston has a well located library that is considered fit for purpose. It is anticipated that additional stock, shelving and IT would be required as a result of the proposed increase in population.

**Rushden**

13.71 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Sandon**

13.72 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**St Ippolyts**

13.73 The provision of 52 dwellings at sites SI1 and SI2 will result in a demand for 0.1FE of school places.

13.74 Current analysis indicates that there are sufficient places to meet the local population, however an increase of dwellings in the village may impact upon this and the additional yield may be difficult to accommodate at this school. St Ippolyts C of E (Aided) Primary has a PAN of 20. It is likely that additional classrooms would be required to expand the school to 1FE.

**St Paul's Walden**

13.75 Site SP2 allocates land for 41 units which would result in a requirement for an additional 0.1FE of school places.

13.76 Current analysis indicates that there are sufficient places to meet the local population; however this may be impacted upon by an increase of dwellings in the village. Feasibility advice indicates that the existing St Paul's Walden Primary site is confined but has some expansion potential. Funding will be sought to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from the proposed development.

**Therfield**

13.77 Current analysis indicates that there are sufficient places to meet the local population; however this may be impacted upon by an increase of dwellings in the village. Feasibility advice indicates that the existing site is confined but has some expansion potential. Funding will be sought to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from the 12 homes proposed at site TH1.

**Wallington**

13.78 HCC Property (Development Services) has no comments to make.

**Weston**

13.79 Current analysis indicates that there are sufficient places to meet the demand from the local population; however this may impact upon by an increase of dwellings in the village. Feasibility advice indicates that some expansion potential is available at the school. Therefore funding will be sought via planning obligations to ensure the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand arising from the 40 units proposed at site WE1.

### **Wymondley**

- 13.80 The allocation of site WY1 for 300 dwellings will result in a demand for an additional 0.6FE of school places.
- 13.81 The existing village school is 0.5FE and has expansion potential to 1FE on its existing site; however expansion beyond this would require additional land or the provision of a detached playing field. HCC are currently working with the developer of WY1 around an appropriate education solution for the area. This may involve the relocation of the existing school into the new development.

## **SECTION FIVE – IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING AND REVIEW**

### **14.0 Delivery**

- 14.1 It is important to emphasise the need for master planning particularly where a combination of larger sites has significant infrastructure impacts. The onus should be on applicants to demonstrate how infrastructure will be provided, and the necessary funding mechanism to achieve this. The LPA should also be seeking to coordinate with their neighbours where sites are inter-related, such as north of Stevenage.

### **15.0 Conclusion**

- 15.1 HCC Property (Development Services), together with the HCC services represented, welcome the consultation and hope that the above comments and information are helpful.

**Appendix A**

**Hertfordshire County Council's Education Statement**

## Hertfordshire County Council's Education Statement for North Herts

### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To assist with interpreting the information provided, the background to the current situation regarding school places within the District, together with a definition of the terms used throughout this document, is given below.
- 1.2 Details of the known expansion potential of existing primary schools are provided. This information is based on existing feasibility work and does not take into account the cumulative effect of school expansion. For example, where schools are in close proximity to one another the expansion of one school may be limited by the expansion potential of another.

### Role of the County Council

- 1.3 Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) is the local education authority and is subject to a number of statutory duties and responsibilities including:
- Promoting high standards of education
  - Planning and commissioning school places in its local authority area
  - Extending diversity and choice
  - Co-ordinating admissions in the normal admissions round for all maintained and some academy schools
  - Resourcing the shared maintenance, improvement to, and provision of, the built school environment, and securing value for money.
- 1.4 In coming to a view about the most appropriate strategy in response to development growth proposals, HCC is looking for a solution which takes into account each of these elements.

### School Planning Context

- 1.5 HCC has a duty to secure sufficient school places in its area, ensuring that every child has access to a school place. HCC fulfils these planning responsibilities by forecasting the demand for school places in order to identify an appropriate balance between supply and demand. It negotiates the right number of places on an annual basis, whilst in parallel undertaking longer term strategic planning.

### Meeting the Demand

- 1.6 Hertfordshire has experienced a significant rise in the demand for primary places across the County in recent years in line with the picture nationally. The rise is not consistent across the county, with some areas experiencing substantial increases in the primary aged population, whilst in some more rural areas demand is less pressing or currently remains fairly static. More information on the rising demand is available through HCC's strategy document '*Meeting the Demand for School Places*', available at <http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/aboutstatesch/demand/>



### **Forecasts**

- 1.7 HCC produces regular pupil forecasts for both Reception and Year 7 demand. At a primary level, HCC publish forecast four years ahead and secondary forecasts stretch to 10 years in the future.
- 1.8 These forecasts are based on actual data of 0-5 year olds in an area, historic pupil movement as well as an assumed pupil yield from new housing developments. The secondary forecasts take account of an assumed housing growth trajectory for the longer term, based on information provided by Hertfordshire's District and Borough Councils.
- 1.9 Latest forecasts are provided within the body of this response. These project demand for admissions into Reception and Year 7 (or Reception, Years 5 and Years 9 in areas which operate a three tier system) and do not include any margin. HCC would normally plan a level of surplus across an area to allow for fluctuations in forecast demand.
- 1.10 Further information on the methodology around the pupil forecasts can be found at [www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/aboutstatesch/planning/](http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/aboutstatesch/planning/).

### **New Schools**

- 1.11 The way in which new schools are set up has undergone significant change in recent years. The County Council's role as a commissioner of places is such that where it considered there is a basic need for a new school it must:
- Seek proposals to establish an academy/free school; or (if unsuccessful)
  - Hold a statutory competition; or (if unsuccessful)
  - Publish its own proposals for a new maintained school
- 1.12 The County Council remains responsible for providing the site and meeting all associated capital and pre/post-opening costs in instances where the new school provision is meeting basic need. Therefore, the County Council continues to hold the key role in negotiating S106 contributions for, and the provision of, all school infrastructure.

### **Principles**

#### **Forms of Entry**

- 1.13 School provision is often described in terms of 'forms of entry'. 1 form of entry (FE) equals 30 places per year group.
- 1.14 Primary schools have seven year groups from Reception through to Year 6. HCC has a preference for primary schools of 2FE or more, as this larger size provides improved opportunities for delivery of a broad education curriculum and staff development, as well as offering the ability to better manage fluctuations in demand. A 2FE primary school will have 7 year groups of 60 pupils (420 in total), plus a Nursery class where offered.

- 1.15 Secondary schools have five year groups, from Year 7 through to Year 11. With few exceptions (such as Cheshunt School), the secondary schools within Hertfordshire operate sixth forms, providing lower and upper years groups at Years 12 and 13. HCC has a preference for secondary schools of 6 to 10f.e. as this offers improved opportunities for the delivery of a broad education curriculum. A 6FE school will have 5 year groups of 180 pupils (1080 in total) plus a Sixth Form.

### **Pupil Yield**

- 1.16 When undertaking high level school place planning related to new residential development, HCC determines child yield based on a ratio of 1FE per 500 dwellings to be 97.5% confident of not underestimating yield.
- 1.17 This is based on a study of 49 Hertfordshire developments undertaken by HCC's demographer (c.2008). This work produced a yield range of 1FE per 500 dwellings (42 children per 100 dwellings/ 97.5% confidence) to 1FE per 850 dwellings (24.7 children per 100 dwellings/50% confidence).
- 1.18 The County Council applies the upper end of the range, 1FE per 500 dwellings, in the first instance to ensure prudent planning.
- 1.19 When considering actual proposals or planning applications, the County Council uses specific development forecasting models to ascertain more tailored demographic profiles, including pupil yields.

### **Developer Contributions**

- 1.20 The co-ordination of new infrastructure provision to ensure that all development contributes appropriately to infrastructure requirements is an approach supported by HCC. We welcome an opportunity to continue with our joint working to determine the most effective trajectory for development. This will ensure that our services are able to deliver supporting infrastructure in a timely and efficient manner.
- 1.21 HCC is currently reviewing its Planning Obligations Toolkit to support the funding of infrastructure provision through S106 but we would seek to encourage the implementation of a CIL at the earliest opportunity. The cumulative impact of smaller sites can create additional demands and burdens on existing infrastructure which must be addressed through developer contributions. Since April 2015, the ability to pool S106 planning obligations is restricted and it is increasingly difficult to fund projects which mitigate the impact of smaller developments. The implementation of a CIL is currently the most viable option of supporting the development of these sites and the provision of infrastructure, particularly strategic infrastructure such as secondary schools.
- 1.22 HCC encourage the development of masterplans for strategic sites. This assists in delivering a transparent process whereby each

stakeholder is aware of their roles and responsibilities. This is particularly important where there are cross boundary issues associated with sites bordering neighbouring authorities, for example. It may also be necessary to consider how infrastructure contributions might be passed across administrative boundaries for cross boundary sites. For example, development directly adjacent to a settlement outside of your local authority administrative area might reasonably be expected to make contributions towards service provision at a neighbouring authority.

### **Site Size**

- 1.23 School site standards have recently changed (School Premises Regulations 2012) and provide a much less stringent approach to school site standards. The County Council is now using the site areas that refer to Building Bulletin 103 area guidelines for mainstream schools.

### **Detached Playing Fields**

- 1.24 A school should have all of the facilities it requires, including playing fields, provided on a single site.
- 1.25 There may, however, be situations where in order to provide additional school place capacity at an existing site a detached playing field may be required. For a primary school, this facility should ideally be located within 400 metres of the main school site and be appropriate to enable delivery of the PE curriculum.

### **Green Belt Boundaries**

- 1.26 The Proposals Map appears to indicate that all school sites have been removed from the Green Belt.

### **Types of School**

- 1.27 There is a diverse range of schools within Hertfordshire and HCC has the statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places within its area irrespective of how education is provided.
- 1.28 HCC is only the admitting authority for Community and Voluntary Controlled schools in the county.
- 1.29 All other schools (Academies, including Free Schools, Voluntary Aided and Foundation Schools) are their own admitting authorities, determining their own admissions policies and over-subscription criteria.
- 1.30 All admitting authorities' admissions rules and policies must abide by the Admissions Code but HCC, in its role as commissioner of places rather than as a provider, has no power to direct schools that are their own admitting authority to provide additional places. Therefore, the provision of any additional places will require the support of the school at the appropriate time.

**Education Planning Areas**

- 1.31 For the purposes of school place planning, HCC is divided into geographical education planning areas (EPAs). There are a total of 22 secondary EPAs within the county and each of these contains one or more primary EPAs (PPAs). The forecasts are produced to planning area level, not to individual schools.

## 2.0 Primary School

2.1 Details of the requirements for primary school places are contained in the responses to section 13 above.

2.2 A summary of the expansion potential of primary schools throughout the District is given below in Table 1. This summary is based upon desktop analysis. Detailed technical work would be required to confirm that any potential expansion is feasible.

**Table 1 Current and Potential Capacity in North Herts Primary Schools November 2016**

School Planning Area	School	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments
Baldock	Ashwell Primary School, Ashwell	1FE	0	No expansion potential
Royston	Barkway VA (C of E) First School	0.4FE	0	No expansion potential on existing site. Reserve site in the village.
Royston	Barley C of E (VC) First School	0.5FE	0	Limited expansion potential
	Breachwood Green JMI School	0.5FE	0	Small site, no expansion potential considered possible but need to investigate further
Hitchin	Cockernhoe Endowed C of E Primary School, Luton	0.5FE	0	No expansion potential
Welwyn GC	Codicote C of E Primary VC School, Codicote	2FE	+1FE	Temporary expansion by 1FE to 2FE Sept 2016. Additional land proposed in local plan to enable permanent expansion.
Letchworth	Garden City Academy, Letchworth	1FE	+1FE	Potential to expand by 1FE.
Letchworth	Grange Junior School, Letchworth	2FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 3FE, but may need a DPF.
Stevenage	Graveley Primary School, Graveley	PAN16	0	Possible expansion potential. DPF needed to expand to 1FE.
Baldock	Hartsfield JMI School, Baldock	2FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 3FE. Site located in an Area of Archaeological Significance and designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.
Hitchin	Hexton JMI School, Hitchin	PAN10	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	Highbury Infant School & Nursery, Hitchin	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	Highover JMI & Nursery School, Hitchin	2FE	0	No expansion potential.
Letchworth	Hillshott Infant School & Nursery, Letchworth	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	Ickleford Primary School, Ickleford	1FE	0	No expansion potential
Letchworth	Icknield Infant and Nursery School, Letchworth	3FE	0	No expansion potential
Royston	Icknield Walk First School, Royston	2FE	+1FE	Potential expansion to 3FE, however highways constraints may restrict this potential.
	Kimpton Primary School, Kimpton	1FE	0	No expansion potential without additional land or DPF.
Stevenage	Knebworth Primary and Nursery School, Knebworth	2FE	0	No expansion potential without additional land or DPF.
Letchworth	Lordship Farm Primary School,	2FE	0	No expansion potential

*HCC Property Representations to North Herts District Council on behalf of HCC services  
Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation*

School Planning Area	School	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments
	Letchworth			
Hitchin	Mary Exton Primary School, Hitchin	1FE	+1FE	Possible expansion potential to 2FE, but will need a DPF.
Letchworth	Northfields Infant & Nursery School, Letchworth	2FE		Potential expansion to 3FE, but challenging due to site size
Letchworth	Norton St Nicholas Church of England (VA) Primary	1FE	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	Offley Endowed Primary School, Offley	PAN20	0	Limited expansion potential. PAN increased from 19 to 20 in 2015.
Hitchin	Oughton Primary and Nursery School, Hitchin	1FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 2FE.
Hitchin	Our Lady Catholic Primary School, Hitchin	1FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 2FE.
Hitchin	Pirton School, Pirton	PAN21	+0.3FE	Potential to expand to 1FE.
Letchworth	Pixmore Junior School, Letchworth	2FE	0	No expansion potential.
Hitchin	Preston Primary (VC) School, Preston	0.5FE	+0.5FE	Potential to expand by up to 0.5FE, but dependent on DPF or acquisition of adjoining land.
Hitchin	Purwell Primary School, Hitchin	1FE	1FE	Possible expansion potential to 2FE, but will need a DPF.
Royston	Reed First School, Reed	PAN12	0	Limited expansion potential
Royston	Roman Way First School, Royston	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Stevenage	Round Diamond Primary School, Stevenage	2FE	0	No expansion potential.
Hitchin	Samuel Lucas JMI School, Hitchin	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Baldock	Sandon JMI School, Sandon	PAN14	0	No expansion potential.
Hitchin	St Andrew's C of E VA Primary School & Nursery	1FE	0	No expansion potential.
Hitchin	St Ippolyts C of E (Aided) Primary School	PAN20	+0.3FE	Potential to expand to 1FE, but likely to require a DPF or acquisition of adjoining land.
Baldock	St John's RC Primary School, Baldock	1FE	0	No expansion potential.
Royston	St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Royston	1FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 2FE.
Baldock	St Mary's Church of England (VC) Infant School, Baldock	2FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 3FE.
Baldock	St Mary's Church of England (VC) Junior School, Baldock	2FE	+1FE	Potential to expand to 3FE.
Hitchin	St Paul's Walden Primary School, Hitchin	PAN 17	+0.4FE	Potential to expand to 1FE
Letchworth	St Thomas More Catholic Primary School, Letchworth	1FE	0	No expansion potential.
Letchworth	Stonehill School, Letchworth Garden City	1FE	+1FE	Potential to expand subject to removal of mobile classrooms on site.
Hitchin	Strathmore Infant and Nursery School, Hitchin	2FE	+1FE	Potential to expand subject to widening the access road (linked with Wilshere-Dacre Junior Academy)
Royston	Studlands Rise First School, Royston	1FE	0	No expansion potential
Royston	Tannery Drift School, Royston	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Royston	Therfield First School, Therfield	PAN11	0	Limited expansion potential may need a DPF.
Baldock	Weston Primary School,	PAN20	0	Possible expansion to 1FE, but

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Regulation 19 Local Plan Consultation*

School Planning Area	School	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments
	Weston			challenging site
Hitchin	Whitehill Junior School, Hitchin	2FE	0	Some expansion potential with DPF. Linked to Highbury Infs where no expansion potential
Letchworth	Wilbury Junior School, Letchworth	3FE	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	The William Ransom Primary School, Hitchin	2FE	0	No expansion potential
Hitchin	Wilshere-Dacre Junior Academy, Hitchin	2FE	+1FE	Possible expansion potential to 3FE, but likely to need additional playing field space. (Linked with Strathmore Infant School)
Hitchin	Wymondley JMI School, Little Wymondley	0.5FE	0.5FE	Possible expansion potential to 1FE.

DPF = detached playing field

### **3.0 Secondary Schools**

- 3.1 Strategic planning at secondary school level is more complex, comprising a more diverse offer of schools and with secondary aged pupils tending to often travel further for their education resulting in the need to plan over a wider geographical area.
- 3.2 The following information includes an analysis of the current position regarding secondary school places using school place planning areas.
- 3.3 There are four secondary education planning areas (SPA) within North Herts. These are:
- Baldock
  - Hitchin
  - Letchworth Garden City
  - Royston (three tier system)
- 3.4 Information on each of these areas is given below.

#### **Baldock**

##### **Proposed Housing Numbers**

- 3.5 The proposed site allocations of 3386 dwellings in Baldock (including 300 homes to be built beyond 2031), together with the additional 33 homes proposed in Ashwell and 40 dwellings proposed in Weston would yield around 7.2FE of demand.
- 3.6 It should be noted that the Local Plan period extends beyond the lifecycle of HCC pupil forecasts and therefore the demand from both the existing population (the pupils of which are not yet born) as well as new housing will continue to impact demand beyond 2026/27.

##### **Existing Secondary Provision**

- 3.7 There is currently one secondary school in Baldock SPA, Knights Templar School (KTS) which offers 7FE of secondary provision. This equates to a Published Admission Number (PAN) of 210 Year 7 places.
- 3.8 KTS is an Academy and therefore its own admitting authority and outside Local Authority control. The school has recently changed its admissions arrangements to prioritise children within its Priority Area over those siblings living outside of the Priority Area.
- 3.9 Current forecasts project a deficit of Year 7 places across Baldock, however the forecast takes account of historic migration patterns and there has historically been an inflow of pupils from Letchworth, which is likely to stem in coming years as the population within the Baldock priority area grows.



2.0 BALDOCK		ACTUALS			FORECAST										
NO	SCHOOL	School admissions 2016	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
1	Knights Templar	210	210	209											
	Number of Year 7 places available	210	210	209	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210
	Demand				216	215	217	245	246	263	277	285	269	267	266
	Surplus/Shortage				-6	-5	-7	-35	-36	-53	-67	-75	-59	-57	-56
	% Surplus/Shortage				-2.9%	-2.4%	-3.3%	-16.7%	-17.1%	-25.2%	-31.9%	-35.7%	-28.1%	-27.1%	-26.7%
	No of FE				-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-1.2	-1.2	-1.8	-2.2	-2.5	-2.0	-1.9	-1.9

3.10 Without further demand arising from new housing, the actual existing overall school aged population living in Baldock is around 7FE and therefore KTS is the right size to meet the demands of the local community.

3.11 Property feasibility work has been undertaken to establish the expansion potential of KTS. This feasibility indicates that KTS has some expansion potential, but not enough to accommodate an additional 7FE of demand.

**Conclusion on Baldock Secondary**

3.12 A new 6 to 8FE secondary school site within the development to the north of the railway has been sought. When this new provision will be brought forward will depend upon the timing and phasing of the new housing.

**Hitchin**

**Proposed Housing Numbers**

3.13 The total of 1009 units proposed for Hitchin Town would yield a demand for school places of around 2FE. However, it is important to note that this total does not take into account new housing proposed in Hitchin villages; areas which traditionally look to Hitchin for secondary provision. This proposed housing totals a further 1,675 dwellings (Codicote, Ickleford, Lower Stondon, Kimpton, King’s Walden, Knebworth, Preston, St Ippolyts, St Paul’s Walden and Wymondley), which equates to around 3.4FE of pupil yield.

**Existing Secondary Provision**

3.14 There are three secondary schools in Hitchin; The Priory (6FE), Hitchin Girls’ School (5.5FE) and Hitchin Boys’ School (5.5FE).

3.15 There is some inflow into the town which is expected as the two single sex schools have a wider priority area and therefore recruit from a wider area including Letchworth and the Hitchin villages.

3.16 Current forecasts indicate an immediate deficit of places in the area and therefore additional capacity is required to meet this demand.

4.0 HITCHIN		ACTUALS			FORECAST										
NO	SCHOOL	School admissions 2016	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
30	Hitchin Boys	165	165	169											
31	Hitchin Girls	165	172	170											
33	Priory (The)	210	179	212											
	Number of Year 7 places available	540	516	551	540	510	510	510	510	510	510	510	510	510	510
	Demand				543	541	601	614	640	668	680	723	698	706	665
	Surplus/Shortage				-3	-31	-91	-104	-130	-158	-170	-213	-188	-196	-155
	% Surplus/Shortage				-0.6%	-6.1%	-17.8%	-20.4%	-25.5%	-31.0%	-33.3%	-41.8%	-36.9%	-38.4%	-30.4%
	No of FE				-0.1	-1.0	-3.0	-3.5	-4.3	-5.3	-5.7	-7.1	-6.3	-6.5	-5.2

- 3.17 In light of the rising demand for secondary provision in Hitchin, proposals have been brought forward to expand both Hitchin Boys' School and Hitchin Girls' School by 1.5FE each from 2018 to provide an additional 3FE of permanent capacity to meet demand from the existing community. Alongside this, both schools are considering changes to their admissions arrangements in order to prioritise further children from Hitchin.
- 3.18 The proposed expansion of Hitchin Girl's and Hitchin Boy's to 7FE will utilise all identified expansion potential in these sites. The Priory School will remain the only school in Hitchin with expansion potential. Feasibility advice indicates the site has expansion potential up to 9FE (i.e. +3FE). However as a Foundation School, The Priory is its own admitting authority and as such the County Council has no authority to direct it to offer additional places. The willingness of The Priory School to expand is therefore a key consideration in the provision of sufficient places to meet future demand for secondary places in Hitchin.

#### **Conclusion on Hitchin Secondary**

- 3.19 There are current expansion proposals for the two single sex secondary schools in the town, which leaves The Priory School as the only school with expansion potential. Achieving this is dependent upon the willingness of the School to expand to offer sufficient places to meet long term need.
- 3.20 We welcome the removal of the Green Belt designation at The Priory School as it would enable a more flexible policy approach for the future.
- 3.21 However, with a total of over 5FE of additional demand possible from the proposed scale of new housing in and around Hitchin, further secondary capacity beyond that possible at The Priory School needs to be identified.

#### **East of Luton**

- 3.22 A proposal for 2100 homes to the East of Luton would generate 4.3FE of secondary school places.
- 3.23 As outlined above, there is no available capacity in the closest Hertfordshire secondary schools in Hitchin which are currently full and already implementing expansion proposals to meet local need. Discussions with Luton Borough Council confirm that it has no existing secondary capacity to meet the needs from the yield arising from any new housing proposed at East of Luton.
- 3.24 Therefore a new school site is required to meet the need from this proposed development.
- 3.25 It is requested that the area as a whole is master planned, as the appropriate delivery of sufficient secondary capacity for the

development as a whole is problematic if the individual sites are managed in isolation. The provision of an all-through school within the development could be considered as a way of managing the primary and secondary yield arising from this new housing.

- 3.26 In light of the demand arising from Hitchin, the County Council would seek a larger secondary school (of at least 6FE) to meet the needs both arising from the new development as well as the needs of surrounding Hitchin villages for whom this new secondary school would become their closest Hertfordshire school. There may be an opportunity to expand this school further should Luton Borough Council wish to address some of its secondary demand issues through the provision of additional capacity at East of Luton.

## Letchworth

### Proposed Housing Numbers

- 3.27 The proposed housing allocations total 1523 units which equates to 3FE of demand.

### Existing Secondary Provision

- 3.28 There are two secondary schools in Letchworth – Fearnhill (5FE) and The Highfield (6FE).
- 3.29 The latest forecast indicates sufficient places to meet forecast demand in Letchworth.

LETCHWORTH		ACTUALS				FORECAST									
SCHOOL	School admissions 2016	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
Fearnhill	150	65	89												
Highfield (The)	180	179	178												
Da Vinci School of Creative Enterprise	0	53	44												
Number of Year 7 places available	330	244	267	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	330	
Demand				276	260	271	276	292	296	311	321	323	314	288	
Surplus/Shortage				54	70	59	54	38	34	19	9	7	16	42	
% Surplus/Shortage				16.4%	21.2%	17.9%	16.4%	11.5%	10.3%	5.8%	2.7%	2.1%	4.8%	12.7%	
No of FE				1.8	2.3	2.0	1.8	1.3	1.1	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	1.4	

- 3.30 Property feasibility work is being undertaken currently to establish the expansion potential of these schools.

### Conclusion on Letchworth Secondary

- 3.31 There is some existing outflow to Hitchin and to Baldock for secondary provision. However, as indicated above, this is likely to change in coming years due to admissions rules changes at both Knights Templar in Baldock and Hitch Girls and Hitchin Boys' Schools. The forecast demand is likely to be impacted in future years as a result of the push back from Baldock and Hitchin as well as from the yield arising from the proposed new housing.
- 3.32 HCC would therefore seek appropriate and adequate developer contributions to provide for the infrastructure requirements arising from future housing developments in the area, and also requests policies

within the District Plan that provide the flexibility to develop existing school sites where possible and necessary.

### Royston (middle and upper)

3.33 Royston and the villages operate a three-tier system of first, middle and upper schools, with four first schools and a Catholic primary school serving Royston Town, and four further first schools located in the outlying villages. Two middle schools (Roysia and Greneway) and Meridian Upper School serve the wider planning area.

3.34 The proposed housing allocations total 1049 new dwellings which equates to around 2FE of pupil yield.

### Middle School Strategy

3.35 There are two middle schools in the Royston secondary EPA offering a total of 210 places, Roysia (3FE) and Greneway (4FE).

3.1 ROYSTON MIDDLE			ACTUALS				FORECAST									
NO	SCHOOL	School admissions 2016	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	
77	Roysia Middle	90	43	42												
78	Greneway (The)	120	102	116												
	Number of Year 5 places available	210	145	158	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	210	
	Demand				179	176	197	206	221	246	236	223	207	226	210	
	Surplus/Shortage				31	34	13	4	-11	-36	-26	-13	3	-16	0	
	% Surplus/Shortage				14.8%	16.2%	6.2%	1.9%	-5.2%	-17.1%	-12.4%	-6.2%	1.4%	-7.6%	0.0%	
	No of FE				1.0	1.1	0.4	0.1	-0.4	-1.2	-0.9	-0.4	0.1	-0.5	0.0	

3.36 Although there is currently around 1FE of surplus in the middle schools, the latest forecast indicates a rising demand for middle school places with a peak deficit in 2020/21 where a need for an additional 1.2FE of capacity is required. This reflects the recent rise in demand at reception and the County Council's permanent expansion proposals which increased First School places in Royston by +1FE in 2015.

3.37 The County Council is engaged with the Middle Schools in the town to explore the scale of need and possible options, should they be required to meet peak demand in 2021.

3.38 There is currently a small outflow of pupils from the Royston education planning area into Buntingford Middle Schools, mainly from families living in the southern Royston villages for whom Buntingford is their nearest school. However, as demand within Buntingford increases from both the existing population and yield from new housing, this may result in pupils living further afield no longer being able to gain a place.

3.39 It is worth noting that if the pressure in neighbouring areas results in a pushback, further capacity will be required in Royston to cater for these displaced pupils.

3.40 Assuming the existing schools are full, current forecasts indicate an additional 1FE of demand would be required to meet peak demand from 2021/22. There is also a need to identify the potential for a further +3FE of capacity across the middle school estate in Royston to ensure

sufficient capacity to meet all the potential yield arising from proposed new housing growth for the long term.

### Upper School Strategy

3.41 There is one upper school in the Royston secondary EPA offering a total of 213 places, The Meridian (7.1FE).

3.0	ROYSTON UPPER		ACTUALS			FORECAST									
NO	SCHOOL	School admissions 2016	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
79	Meridian (The)	213	129	114											
	Number of Year 9 places available	213	129	114	213	213	213	213	213	213	213	213	213	213	213
	Demand				129	127	127	142	162	166	180	183	190	201	191
	Surplus/Shortage				84	86	86	71	51	47	33	30	23	12	22
	% Surplus/Shortage				39.4%	40.4%	40.4%	33.3%	23.9%	22.1%	15.5%	14.1%	10.8%	5.6%	10.3%
	No of FE				2.8	2.9	2.9	2.4	1.7	1.6	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.4	0.7

3.42 Current forecasts indicate there is sufficient capacity within the Upper School in the town to meet the needs arising from the existing population and some of the pupil yield from the planned new housing. Analysis of pupil dynamics confirms that currently around 1FE of pupils living in the Royston planning area travel to Buntingford for their Upper School provision.

3.43 However, with rising demand in Buntingford from its local community, this is likely to result in Royston pupils being unsuccessful in seeking a place in a Buntingford school in the future.

3.44 Taking into account current forecasts and the possible impact of Royston pupils no longer being able to access Upper School provision in Buntingford, the demand for Upper School places in Royston is anticipated to increase with the subsequent forecast surplus reducing to around 1FE.

3.45 To ensure sufficient places for the long term, the potential Upper School capacity in Royston therefore needs to be sufficient to cater for both rising demand from the local community and an anticipated pupil yield from proposed new housing.

3.46 Feasibility work is ongoing to confirm the expansion potential of the existing middle and upper school sites in Royston.

### Conclusion on Royston Middle and Upper

3.47 In conclusion, our assessment based on current information indicates the need to identify:

- Potential capacity for up to an additional +3/4FE in the middle school sector
- Potential capacity for up to an additional +2/3FE in the upper school sector to meet the anticipated housing growth across the town

## **Appendix 1**

### **School Expansions Process – School enlargement (prescribed alteration)**

- Identification of need
  - Meeting the Demand for School Places
  - Pupil forecasts
  - Engage with local Head Teacher groups
- Analysis of need in identified areas
  - Analysis of demand
  - Property feasibility work on potential for school sites to expand
  - Work with multi-disciplinary teams to identify possible options
  - Engage with schools in area of need to explore options
- Options Recommendation and decision to consult
  - Assessment of options against the Director's Four Tests which considers whether the options:
    - Provide the right number of places in the right place to meet demand
    - Enhance capacity to raise educational standards, reduce risk of under-performance or serious weakness, and offer extended schools
    - Have acceptable implications for building design, environmental impact, and cost
    - Have acceptable transitional arrangements for affected pupils
- Statutory consultation on enlargement proposal
- Engagement with School on building design for enlargement
- Formal statutory decision taken by County Council
- Submission of town planning application for building enlargement, including external play areas and associated car parking requirements
- Project completion and additional places made available

**Appendix B**

**Free Early Education and Childcare Provision**

## **Free Early Education and Childcare Provision**

### **Lead agency**

Hertfordshire County Council

### **Evidence base**

Liaison with Hertfordshire County Council

Childcare Sufficiency Report, Hertfordshire County Council April 2016

### **Current situation and Context**

Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 places a duty on all local authorities to secure sufficient childcare for working parents or parent who are studying or training for employment for children aged 0 to 14 years (19 for disabled children). The County Council has also a statutory responsibility to provide universal Free Early Education (FEE) for 3 and 4 year olds. Since September 2013 HCC also has a statutory responsibility to provide 15 hours FEE to eligible vulnerable 2 year old children across Hertfordshire.

In September 2017 a new extended entitlement of an additional 15 hours free childcare will be introduced for working parents in Hertfordshire. HCC is currently working on the likely demand across Hertfordshire linked to the number of places available. Consequently demand for these services is forecast to increase, in addition to the increasing population of young children in the county. Provision for this new entitlement will be within schools, preschools, day nurseries and childminders.

In addition to FEE places, HCC also has a duty to ensure there are sufficient childcare places for 0 to 14 year old children (19 for children with S.E.N.D.) in preschools, day nurseries and out of school clubs which can run either from school locations, or other community facilities.

The local authority also has a duty to provide Children's Centres in every community, for children under 5 and their families. These provide a range of services at designated Children's Centres and community venues, such as community centres and schools.

Children's Centres work in partnership with a number of partners including schools, midwives, health visitors and GPs. They offer services to support child development; outreach and family support; parenting support; access to training and work opportunities; and child and family health services. There 82 Children's centres in Hertfordshire clustered in 29 geographical groups.

There are ten centres in the North Herts area which serve a defined geographical area. The Children's Centre Areas are numbered NH1 to NH10 and their geography is used for the purpose of planning early year's provision (the different types of early years provision including Children's Centres are more fully explained in Appendix 1).

HCC currently RAG rates the sufficiency levels for 2, 3, and 4 year olds FEE places and the 30 hour free childcare offer in all Children's Centre Areas:



The key data is measured as follows:

- Green = sufficient places available (provision largely matches family's needs)
- Amber = near sufficient places available (a gap exists which may give families difficulties in accessing provision)
- Red = insufficient places available (a gap exists which may prevent families from accessing provision)

The latest information held by HCC regarding the 10 NHDC Children's Centres is shown in the RAG table below

Children's Centre	FEE for 2, 3 & 4 years old places available to parents 2016/2017*	30 hours free childcare places available to parents of 3 & 4 year old children from Sept 2017
NH1 Royston and the Villages	+ 204 GREEN	+30 GREEN
NH2 Baldock, Ashwell and Weston	+266 GREEN	+160 GREEN
NH3 Letchworth North	+146 GREEN	+59 GREEN
NH4 Letchworth North East	+ 79 GREEN	-29 RED *
NH5 Letchworth South	-50 RED *	-110 RED *
NH6 Oughton and Villages	+ 224 GREEN	+ 111 GREEN
NH7 Hitchin North East	+ 152 GREEN	+ 42 GREEN
NH8 Hitchin South	+ 74 GREEN	-55 RED *
NH9 Graveley and Great Ashby	+126 GREEN	+52 GREEN
NH10 Knebworth and Woolmer	+149 GREEN	+78 GREEN
Green		

FEE – Free Early Education

\* Data suggests that there are insufficient places in the given area

The rating for any area can quickly change if, for example, a preschool or nursery was to reduce the number of children it could accommodate; or if a preschool or nursery were to close. Future requirements will depend on a number of factors, including changes in birth rate; level of provision; changes in regulations; and new government initiatives relating to the sector.

### **Identified Infrastructure Requirements**

North Herts is the seventh most deprived area in the county. The number of working households is higher than other areas of the county. The demand for the new extended childcare entitlement will be high, and additional childcare provision will be required in those areas identified as insufficient or near to sufficient to support this new demand. If more private housing is developed than the demand for these places will increase further.

Current data indicates that three Children's Centre areas do not have sufficient places to meet the new entitlement from September 2017.

Two of the 10 Children's Centre areas in North Herts area fall into the 30% most disadvantaged within the county. As the 2 year old FEE scheme is only available for disadvantaged children, this indicates that the need for these places will be higher in these areas than the rest of the County.

The Local Plan Consultation indicates that a large number of houses will be built around the Letchworth, Hitchin, Royston town areas and a significant new housing North of Offley. This will impact greatly on provision in these areas and pressure will grow on both the FEE places and the new 30 hour childcare offer to parents over time. From local knowledge and data collected HCC are already aware of a pressure for places within the Letchworth area.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Early Years and Types of Provision**

HCC has a duty to secure sufficient free early education (FEE) and childcare places. Annually the County Council publishes a Childcare Sufficiency Report which details where places are required across the county. HCC works with the private, voluntary and independent (PVI) sector and schools to ensure adequate places. It also assists and enables the provision of day nurseries, play schemes and after school clubs, making sure there are sufficient places for parents to access across the county. The 15 hours of FEE can be provided in maintained provision (e.g. school) or the PVI

**Free Early Education (FEE)** is a central government funded scheme whereby all children from the term after which they are 3 years old until they reach school age are eligible for a free place for a maximum of 15 hours per week (maximum 38 weeks or a total of 570 hours per year). The free place can be offered in a state maintained school or through PVI provision such as a preschool, day nursery or childminder. Where new primary school sites are identified, early education (nursery) provision will usually be sought as part of the onsite provision. From September 2013 HCC also has a statutory responsibility to provide 15 hours early education to eligible 2 year old children across Hertfordshire.

**Maintained Nursery School** are funded by the state where only children aged 3 and 4 receive their FEE entitlement before attending primary school. There are 15 such schools in Hertfordshire.

**Maintained nursery classes** are based in primary schools where children aged 3 and 4 received their FEE entitlement until they move up to reception.

**Preschool/Playgroup** provision usually educates children between the ages of 2 and school age. These settings are often able to offer FEE to eligible 2 year olds as well as all 3 and 4 year olds. These settings are run by PVI providers in local communities and some children attending will be accessing their free early education place and others will be accessing additional services for which parents pay. These settings will usually be set up in community buildings or schools and will usually be open term time only.

**Day Nurseries** offer childcare and early education for children aged from 0 to 5 years old. These settings are used predominately by working parents for childcare purposes. They also usually offer FEE for eligible children but with most children accessing additional services for which parents pay. This provision is market led.

**Childcare** HCC has a statutory duty to ensure there is sufficient childcare for working parents. This duty covers 0 to 14 year olds (19 years for children with S.E.N.D.). Childcare can take place in preschools, day nurseries, childminders, and out of school provision, such as holiday clubs and after school clubs depending on the age of the child. It can take place in school

buildings or community use buildings. New schools should be designed to be able to offer FEE/childcare to children (aged 2 years upwards)

### **Hertfordshire Sure Start Children's Centres**

Legislation about children's centres is contained in the Childcare Act 2006. The Act places a duty on local authorities to improve the well-being of young children in their area and reduce inequalities between them. Specifically they must:

- ensure there are sufficient children's centres to meet local need
- ensure each children's centre is within the remit of an Advisory Board
- ensure there is consultation before any significant changes are made to children's centre provision in their area
- ensure that the local authority, local commissioners of health services and Jobcentre Plus jointly consider whether the early childhood services they provide should be provided through children's centres in the area
- ensure that after receiving a report from Ofsted following the inspection of a children's centre an action plan is prepared and published.

The core purpose of Children's Centres, as defined by the Department for Education (DfE), is to improve outcomes for young children and their families, with a particular focus on those families in greatest need of support. Centres are expected to support:

- **Child development and school readiness** - supporting personal, social and emotional development, physical development and communication and language from pre-birth to age 5, so children develop as confident and curious learners and are able to take full advantage of the learning opportunities presented to them in school.
- **Parenting aspirations and parenting skills** - building on strengths and supporting aspirations, so that parents and carers are able to give their child the best start in life.
- **Child and family health and life chances** - promoting good physical and mental health for both children and their family; safeguarding; supporting parents to improve the skills that enable them to access education, training and employment; and addressing risk factors, so that children and their families are safe, free from poverty and able to improve both their immediate wellbeing and their future life chances.

### **Number of Hertfordshire Centres**

There are 82 Children's Centres in the county, of which 10 are located in North Herts. The centres were developed in three phases between 2004 and 2010. At that time, each centre covered a geographical area containing an average of 800 children aged 0 to 4 years (0 to 4s means all children under the age of 5).

**Population** The population of children aged 0 to 4 in Hertfordshire is 74,492 (Mid Year Estimate 2011). 81% of children aged 0 to 4 are currently registered with a Children's Centre. The population of 0 to 4's has increased by 10,000

children from 2005 when the programme of centres was being planned. As population has grown, the average catchment for each Children Centre area is now 1000 children.

**Children's Centre Premises** There are 73 Children's Centre buildings which received DfE capital funding for extensions/refurbishment. The terms of the DfE grant mean that the premises must be used for delivery of Children's Centre/early years services and that DfE reserves a right to claw back the capital funding if the premises are no longer used for these purposes. Some provision is delivered through shared use of community buildings where no dedicated location was identified. All Children's Centre utilise some community buildings to deliver their wide range of services and make them accessible to the whole community.

### **How Centre Services Are Delivered**

All centres are commissioned. Contracts are in place between Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) and 50 lead agencies to manage the centres.

Children's centres offer access to a range of early childhood services aimed at supporting parents-to-be, young children aged under five and their families. These include;

- Activities (e.g. stay and play sessions, toddler groups) and information (e.g. early education and childcare , pre-schools, day nurseries) for families
- Outreach and family support
- Evidence-based parenting programmes (Family Links Nurturing Programme is delivered by some centres in Hertfordshire)
- Access to adult learning and employment support (this may include language, literacy and numeracy support, family learning, access to apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities as steps toward employment and links to Jobcentre Plus)
- Child and family health services (delivered by community midwives and health visitors).

Children's centres aim to meet the needs of their local families so services offered by centres will vary according to the population served by the centre.

**Appendix C**

**Youth Connexions Hertfordshire**

## **Background to Youth Connexions Hertfordshire**

Legislation<sup>[1]</sup> requires that local authorities have a “responsibility to ensure young people have access to sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being and personal and social development, and sufficient facilities for such activities; that activities are publicised; and that young people are placed at the heart of decision making regarding the youth work/positive activity provision.” To clarify the Government’s expectations of local authorities, the Department of Education published the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People’s Well-Being (June 2012).

The focus of HCC Youth Connexions (YCH) is prevention and early intervention. It supports young people by providing high quality informal education opportunities to promote young people’s personal and social development, enabling them to make informed decisions, have a place in their community and ultimately, to reach their potential and make a successful transition to adulthood. This will enable young people to:

- Make informed decisions based on the information which is available to them, thereby avoiding risky behaviour.
- Be confident that they can present their views, including those of others, and influence decisions.
- Develop resilience by knowing how they can help themselves and others.
- Recognise when they need support and where they can go to access it.
- Be able to recognise and develop healthy relationships thereby being less vulnerable to CSE.
- Develop a sense of purpose and self-belief, and recognise what they contribute to society thus ensuring a sense of emotional well-being and positive mental health.

All HCC Youth Connexions youth work is delivered through planned curriculum programmes which are based on identified need resulting in recordable personal and social development outcomes. Needs are identified in a variety of ways: through the planning and evaluation process; coproduction with young people; through consultation with stakeholders, elected Members and the local 11-19 Youth Strategy Groups. Outcomes are identified and a programme of work is designed and delivered. Delivery can be through a variety of media depending on the needs and interests of the young people, e.g. through sports, music, drama, art, peer mentoring, outdoor education etc. The outcomes, however, will be linked to at least one of the key curriculum areas: drugs and smoking, alcohol, sexual health and relationships emotional wellbeing including bullying and cyber bullying, youth engagement including youth councils, forums, UKYP, Herts1125, decision making, volunteering, preparation for education, training or work, youth crime and personal safety, ethnicity, diversity and culture, health and fitness, resilience.

Once a piece of work is completed, it is evaluated by young people and staff. The results of the evaluation are used in the development of future work.

Whilst Youth Connexions youth work provision is accessible to all young people aged 13 to 19 (up to 25 for young people with learning disabilities and up to 21 for those leaving care) resources are limited, therefore, YCH targets those young people with greatest needs, in areas of deprivation, those who are most vulnerable, and those engaging or likely to engage in risky behaviours.

Youth Connexions operates in a variety of settings including Youth Connexions Centres, schools, colleges, community centres, youth projects, One Stop Shops, training provisions and detached locations such as parks and streets.

<sup>[1]</sup> The Education and Inspections Act 2006, Part 1 Section 6: Education Act 1996, Section 205B



**Appendix D**

**Health and Community Services  
North Herts Housing Needs Response  
Housing Needs for Vulnerable People**

## **OLDER PEOPLE**

### **Residential Care**

Our aim is to increasingly use residential care beds to facilitate hospital discharges and allow people to return to their own home through intermediate care and enablement models. HCC predict that across ENHCCG, there will be a requirement for an extra 1200.3 residential beds, of which 40.4 additional residential care home rooms will be required in the North Herts district by 2025.

### **Nursing Care**

There is a current shortage of capacity (particularly nursing dementia/older people with complex mental health issues) that is available for health and social care funded placements. HCS predict a significant gap in supply of nursing beds between 2016 and 2020, with supply for people with dementia/complex mental health issues experiencing the greatest shortage. The capacity issue partly relates to bed numbers, but also relates to affordability of beds that can be accessed.

Across the whole market in the ENHCCG area, there will be a requirement for an extra 622.3 nursing beds. HCC predict that in North Herts district across the whole market there will be a need for an additional 278.5 nursing beds by 2025. HCC predict that they will need to purchase an additional 44 beds of the total market capacity in North Herts for Health and Social care funded beds. HPFT will also require an extra 65 nursing beds by 2025 across Hertfordshire as they continue their transformation programme. Continuing health care teams in the CCG predict a rise in their demand for beds, but this has not yet been quantified.

### **Extra Care/Flexicare**

The Housing Learning and Improvement Network's guidance for developing a housing strategy for accommodation with care for older people set an aspirational target of 25 units of extra care (flexicare) per 1,000 people aged over 75. Achieving this target in North Herts would require an increase of 29.5 flats by 2020, and 84.6 flats by 2025.

## **LEARNING DISABILITY**

### **Accommodation for Independence**

HCC have a target to convert up to 50% of residential care placements to supported living by the end of 2019/20. HCC have identified more than 40 residential schemes countywide that could be converted and are identifying where new supported living accommodation might be developed, such as new build general needs housing schemes.

### **Supported Living and Residential Accommodation**

HCC lacks specialist services for complex needs and wants to increase community living accommodation provision, including bespoke property solutions e.g. individual, detached properties, for people with specific needs.

This accommodation should ideally be provided in clusters of six to eight 1 bedroom flats that meet the adaptable dwelling standard in Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations and the Lifetime Homes Standard. They would need to be in locations within walking distance of local amenities, such as shops, doctor's surgery and public transport. They would need to be let at affordable rents or possibly even offered on a shared ownership basis. These types of units are currently absent in most requirements for affordable homes within new developments.

### **Transition Services**

In 2016-17 130 young people will move into adult social care countywide and HCC are looking to develop a comprehensive exit strategy for moving into adulthood to ensure suitable provision to provide young people with the care and accommodation they need.

### **Short Breaks**

HCC are looking to commission a specialist short break unit for individuals with autism and challenging behaviour to meet this current gap in the market.

## **PHYSICAL DISABILITY/SENSORY IMPAIRMENT**

### **Residential**

The number of adults aged 18-64 with a moderate/serious physical disability is expected to increase by 10% to nearly 78,000 by 2025. Whilst still needed for some specific care needs, HCC want to move away from 'traditional' residential services and instead develop alternative housing options with various types of tenures to promote independence. This includes developing more integrated community services and supported living, and making better use of existing stock in the private rented sector by securing affordable and sustainable tenancies.

### **General Housing**

HCC is reviewing all current housing stock with partners and district councils to design future projects including identifying/developing 1 or 2 bedroom specialist, wheelchair adapted properties. HCC also wants to work to make best use of existing housing stock and reduce the number of adaptations installed by matching service users' needs with the identification of available housing stock.

In 2016 130 young people are due to move into adult social care and HCC wants to stimulate the market to encourage more properties to be owner occupied.

### **Specialist Provision**

HCC has a gap in specialist provision to meet specific needs, including longer term placements for people who have a neuro rehab need, and placements for individuals with alcohol induced Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)/Korsakoff syndrome.

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

HPFT directly provide inpatient services for people with dementia who meet NHS Continuing Care eligibility and will be looking to the market to provide approximately 80 of these beds.

### **Residential Care**

Dementia diagnoses are projected to increase 15% by 2020 and 34% by 2025, and mental health prevalence is set to increase at an estimated 6% over the next 10 years. HCC wants to reduce use of traditional residential care/ group home settings for people with mental health conditions, and increase alternative housing and support options, including working with the private rented sector to secure affordable and sustainable tenancies.

### **Recovery Services**

HCC wants to stimulate the market to encourage more properties suitable for people with a mental health condition, focusing on the recovery model; this includes accommodation settings for rehabilitation, residential and supported living settings. These placements will not be a home for life but part of a pathway designed to equip individuals with skills they need to move on from these settings to independent living.

### **Move-on Accommodation**

HPFT have recently reviewed people accessing mental health placements and found the following requirements countywide for move-on accommodation for individuals with a well-managed mental health diagnosis: 30 people who require supported living; 50 people currently in supported living who are ready for general needs/independent housing; 20 older adults who would benefit from sheltered accommodation. The particular demand across the county is for one bedroom flats/studios or self-contained provision.

Market position statements, their strategies and plans, these can be found at <http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/your-council/hcc/healthcomservices/hscic/suporcarehe1/>