
Policy SP14: New Schools – The New Barnfield Site

This Position Statement has been prepared by Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council (the Council) and Gascoyne Cecil Estates (the Estate) to assist the Planning Inspector with his consideration of the position reached on the need for new primary and secondary schools in the Welwyn Hatfield area arising from the provisions of the Submission Draft Local Plan and the likelihood that it will be necessary to allocate additional housing sites to make the Plan sound.

The Council acknowledges that if additional housing sites are required over and above those currently identified in the Plan there will be a need for three new secondary schools in the area. It is therefore proposing to amend the provisions of Policy SP14, sub-paragraphs (i) and (ii), to reflect this position with a caveat that further revisions may be required depending upon the outcome of deliberations on the overall housing requirement for the Plan period.

The Estate has noted the content of the revised Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Council and Hertfordshire County Council which reflects the changed circumstances in relation to the New Barnfield site and in response to the consultation on **EX234** is in broad agreement with the intended approach. The Estate does however have some reservations as set out in the SoCG agreed between Hertfordshire County Council, the Borough Council, and the Estate dated 11 October 2017 (**EX23**).

Both parties acknowledge however that until such time as the Inspector has deliberated on the Full Objectively Assessed Housing Need (FOAHN) for the Borough over the Plan period further discussion on future education provision will need to be held in abeyance. Nevertheless, the stated position of both parties is clearly articulated and the consideration of matters relating to the future use of the New Barnfield should be capable of being resolved based upon the written material already submitted to the Examination.