

16th April 2021

Mr. Antony Proietti,
Hertfordshire County Council

By email only

Dear Mr Proietti

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Local Plan Examination
Education Provision

The Inspector has asked me to thank you for your letters of 31 March, the contents of which are very helpful. Your letters point out that Hertfordshire Education Authority has a preference for two form entry (2FE) primary schools for the reasons set out in the correspondence. You point out that a 2FE school would require approximately 1,000 dwellings to support its pupil requirement.

Even in areas of rapid growth, the development and occupation of 1,000 dwellings in a short period of years is an unusual occurrence and in Welwyn Hatfield this amount of development within a school catchment area could well take more than a decade.

In such circumstances what is the Education Authority's preferred course of action? It presumably obtains a site with sufficient space to enable the development of a 2FE school at the outset. However, having done that, does it construct all of the facilities as soon as it is apparent that there will be children residing in the area requiring education or does it construct the facilities in a phased manner as the demand for the places builds up over a period of years?. If the latter in what way does the construction tend to be phased?

Yours sincerely,

Louise St John Howe

Programme Officer.