

**Director of Environment
& Infrastructure: Mark Kemp**



**Louise St John Howe
Programme Officer
PO Services
PO Box 10965
Sudbury
Suffolk, CO10 3BF**

**Growth & Infrastructure Unit
Environment & Infrastructure
Hertfordshire County Council
CHN114
County Hall
Pegs Lane
Hertford, Herts SG13 8DE**

Sent by email to:
louise@poservices.co.uk

Tel: 01992 555600
Email: Antony.Proietti@hertfordshire.gov.uk
My ref:
Your ref:
Date: 23 April 2021

Dear Ms St John Howe,

Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council Local Plan Examination – Answers to Further Questions on Education Provision

On the 16 April 2021 you wrote to Hertfordshire County Council in regard to further questions that the Inspector has raised on education provision.

For completeness the details of the letter, and questioned raised, are set out below:

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?

The County Councils response to these questions is set out below.

In terms of a new 2 Form of Entry primary school, Hertfordshire County Council would always look to build the school out in its entirety from the start as generally this is more cost effective and avoids disruption to the operation of the school and the education of the pupils that would occur with a phased delivery.

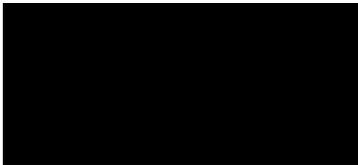
We would look to establish a new school as demand arises particularly in a large strategic new development, where a new school is planned to serve that new community, or where there is little surplus capacity available in existing local schools.

Initially a new school is likely to have less students than its maximum physical capacity to ensure the new pupils can obtain a local school place. When considering the build-up of pupil yield it is noted that the demand, particularly for primary pupils, grows very quickly. Whilst it can take a number of years for 1,000 dwellings to be built the pupil demand can peak very early and therefore early delivery of a primary school can be justified and the demand sustained.

In some instances the County Council does need to look to existing schools to meet some of the initial demand before a primary school is open and there always needs to be a balance between providing sufficient local places while also demonstrating a minimum viable number of pupils to the Department for Education to be able to open new school provision.

The County Council trusts that this information is of assistance. However, please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any clarification in relation to the further information provided.

Yours sincerely



Antony Proietti

Growth Area Team Leader (North East Growth Area), Growth & Infrastructure Unit