

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

(including as the LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY (LEA) for LEICESTERSHIRE)

Charnwood Local Plan Examination - Response to Matters, Issues and Questions

MATTER 2 – VISION, OBJECTIVES, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

EDUCATION

1. The purpose of this document is to confirm the extent and nature of the Leicestershire County Council's ("the County Council") request for Section 106 education contributions required in respect of early years, primary, secondary, and special education. Specifically, the document addresses the matters, issues, and questions in respect of the Local Plan:
 - HA12, Land at Gynsill Lane and Anstey Lane
 - HA15, Loughborough Urban Centre
 - HA32, Shepshed Urban Area
 - HA49, Land off Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar
 - Policies DS1 and DS3 Service Centres of Anstey, Sileby and Barrow upon Soar

2. This report should be read in conjunction with the following documents:
 - The County Council response for Education contributions to Charnwood Borough Council for the various housing developments forming part of the Local Plan as referenced above.
 - The Leicestershire County Council Planning Obligations Policy approved by the County Council Cabinet 25th June 2019 ("LPOP") – available via the following link. <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/developer-contributions>
 - The DfE guidance published in November 2019 entitled 'Securing Developer Contributions for Education'. It is expected that a revised version of the document may be consulted upon by the DfE prior to the Local Plan Examination https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/843957/Developer_Contributions_Guidance_update_Nov2019.pdf

KEY PRINCIPLES

3. The County Council and Charnwood Borough Council have worked closely together throughout all stages of the local plan preparation process to inform and shape policy development.
4. The two authorities have worked to ensure that early years and school places (including SEND) will be available to serve the developments proposed in the local plan, having regard to:
 - anticipated future requirements for primary, secondary, specialist (SEND) and early years places
 - the capacity of existing schools to accommodate new growth
 - assessments of the scope for school expansion, and where new schools are required
 - the thresholds for pupil numbers to enable new schools, based on the yields of children arising from housing developments
 - the expected housing trajectories relative to each development area to help inform the timing for delivery of additional places
 - the statutory walking distances for school age children
5. The Councils' aim is to ensure that children living in a settlement are able to attend appropriate schools or educational settings in that development (or nearby to it) and will therefore avoid temporary arrangements for out of settlement placements. In order to achieve this, it has been agreed that the timely availability of new school places is of paramount importance.
6. Where it has been agreed between the respective authorities and land promoters/developers that a new school is required, it is acknowledged that sufficient time must be allowed for the new school to be built. The land on which any new primary or secondary school is to be located must be made available in an accessible and serviced condition no less than two years before the expected point at which the additional places are required.
7. In order to achieve the above the respective parties have agreed a delivery strategy which sets out (amongst other matters) a funding mechanism to enable forward funding and equalisation of costs such that each developer pays a fair and equitable Section 106 contribution, considering all land acquisition and build costs.
8. Leicestershire County Council is not required to forward fund the provision of school places arising from new housing development nevertheless has agreed to provide a certain amount of funding to enable the early development of new primary school provision relevant to rural service centres and to recognise the challenges that smaller scale housing development in these localities presents.
9. It has been agreed as part of the delivery strategy that developers will fund transport costs to other schools and any temporary accommodation if school places are not

available when expected. This is in addition to seeking financial contributions towards building the school within the settlement.

ISSUE 3 – THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Policy SC1 - Service Centres

2.17 Are the site allocations in the Service Centres of Anstey, Barrow upon Soar and Sileby (served by Cossington primary school) as proposed in Policies DS1 and DS3 justified when there is a lack of capacity in their respective primary schools? How would this be addressed?

10. The development of new housing in the Service Centres is justified on the basis that each development within these locations would contribute to the provision of new primary schools. The requirement for new schools has been determined through a co-ordinated and evidence led approach based on the following principles and as also set out in the revised and updated Statement of Common Ground. Early years and school places (including SEND) will be available to serve the developments proposed in the local plan, having regard to the key principles set out in para 4.

Anstey

11. Site HA43, Land west of Anstey includes provision for 600 homes and a 1FE (210 place) Primary School. In addition, Site HA44, Fairhaven Farm includes provision for 47 homes. The total number of homes therefore allocated in Anstey is 647 dwellings.

12. The two existing primary schools in Anstey are The Latimer Primary School (2 Form Entry/420 places) and Woolden Hill Primary School (1 Form Entry/210 places).

13. Pupil forecasts for these two primary schools indicate that the small availability of places at Latimer Primary School will be taken up by September 2025 whereas for the Woolden Hill Primary School surplus places will be exhausted by September 2024, hence, the requirement for the new 1 FE School on land within HA43. Should a larger school be required to accommodate further development longer term in Anstey then there is potential to provide for 2FE Primary School within the site.

Barrow upon Soar

14. The Local Plan allocates land at HA49, Land off Cotes Road, Barrow upon Soar to provide a site for a new 1 Form Entry Primary School. Ongoing delivery discussions with the various site promoters for Barrow upon Soar have resulted in the identification of an alternative site on HA48, Land off Willow Road for the new primary school and which has the benefit of early release of the site.

15. Current provision in Barrow is provided by the Hall Orchard C of E Primary School. The local authority has worked in partnership with the school over a number of years to

increase the size of the school on a phased basis. This is to meet increased births and the demand of housing that has already been granted planning permission. The final phase to increase the school to 3FE (630 places), which is the maximum that could be accommodated on this site, is programmed to be completed by 2023/24.

16. There is no other primary school within a two-mile walking distance of the proposed developments. Primary schools in the surrounding villages are either full or forecast to be full due to current housing growth and rising births in their own catchments.
17. The current pupil forecast for Barrow Hall C of E Primary School suggests that there may be 32 primary places available in the early stages of construction (subject to year group required), and this may be of help with transition arrangements. However, if the forecast increases and these places are no longer available then additional funding will be required for temporary accommodation and/or transportation costs whilst the new school is constructed, in keeping with the delivery strategy agreed between the respective parties.
18. The land and build costs of the school will be shared between the five developments that it will serve.

Sileby (Cossington)

19. Sileby is served by two primary schools: Redlands Community Primary School, a 2 Form Entry School for 420 pupils and Highgate Primary School, a 1.5 Form Entry School with currently places for 285 pupils and increasing annually by 15 places to provide a maximum of 315 places overall. In addition, the neighbouring village of Cossington is a small 0.5 FE School with places for 105 pupils.
20. The County Council has agreed that a 0.5 FE extension (105 places) to Cossington Primary School would provide the additional places to serve local plan growth in both Cossington and certain Sileby developments located nearest to the school.
21. The school expansion would be sited on their existing playing field land with new playing fields created to the rear of Derry's Garden Centre, Cossington (HA59) with the reasonable costs of making this provision to be shared amongst the two developments that it would serve via an equalisation mechanism.

PUBLIC HEALTH

ISSUE 1 – ARE THE VISION FOR CHARNWOOD 2037 AND THE PLAN'S OBJECTIVES SOUNDLY BASED AND WILL THEY CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

2.1 Do the Plan's vision and objectives cover the full range of opportunities, challenges and priorities that need to be addressed in the Borough over the Plan period? Is it clear how the policies will help to deliver the vision and objectives over the Plan period?

22. As identified within the Regulation 19 feedback, it would be advantageous to see health inequality considered and explored more overtly considering the inequality that exists within the borough and with the area being one of the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. We suggest these objectives within the Local Plan be amended to included reference to health inequality:
23. Development Strategy Objective 3:
*To create distinctive, attractive places **and healthy environments** for people to live in by requiring high quality design that enhances a place's individual identity and seeking high environmental standards in all development*
24. Society, Objective 1:
*To provide our communities with access to homes to suit their needs **across the lifecourse** and providing affordable homes, including for rural communities*
25. Society, Objective 4:
*To promote health and well-being, by ensuring that residents have access to health care, wildlife rich local parks and other green spaces, the countryside and facilities for sport and recreation, creative and community activities, **healthy food** and by promoting healthy and active lifestyles in the Borough.*
26. Society, Objective 6:
*To reduce poverty, deprivation **and inequality**, particularly in those parts of the Borough identified as areas of relatively higher need, for example the Priority Neighbourhoods of Loughborough East, Loughborough West, Mountsorrel and South Charnwood.*
27. Environment, Objective 7:
*To improve local air quality, protect and improve the quality and quantity of the water in the Borough's surface and groundwaters and reduce other forms of pollution in the Borough **and associated health inequality from these.***