

Items 1 and 15.

Further Information on Delivery of the new Lakenheath Primary School

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The County Council, as Education Authority, supports the approach agreed by the District Council and Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO) in agreeing a condition to manage any future reserved matters application, if brought forward by an academy provider.

If, as is planned, the Education Authority brings forward a new (separate) detailed application for development of a primary school on this site, the noise issues identified in the Statement of Common Ground will be required to be assessed as part of the planning application submitted to the County Council as local planning authority.¹ Noise is acknowledged as a constraint which the school design and facilities will have to respond to.

The condition set out by the District Council and DIO will be a material consideration for the determination of the future school proposal, so the school proposal is being developed on the assumption that it will need to be in conformity with that condition.

The project for the new school is still being developed, so full design details are not yet available. However, the County Council is satisfied that sufficient noise mitigation measures can be provided to meet requirements and satisfy the DIO. The County Council is developing a proposal which will include:

- Noise insulation for the school buildings which meets requirements in Building Bulletin 93 (BB93 – ‘Acoustic Design of Schools’).
- Enhanced indoor sports provision, to provide an option for a quiet environment for all or part of PE lessons. Can also provide a separate quiet indoor play space for use at play and lunch times, should pupils choose to use it.
- To ensure suitable provision for informal play and to help meet early education curriculum requirements, external structures which provide shelter from noise may also be required. The details are still being considered but structures are in place at schools in noisy environments in other local authority areas.

This is considered sufficient to meet requirements for internal and external spaces, and for informal and formal learning and play.

¹ In line with Regulation 3 of The Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992, the County Council acts as planning authority for determining applications related to its own functions, such as for schools, highway projects, fire stations, minerals and waste development.

Pupil Place Requirements

Finally, there is an extant query regarding ‘where’ the need for new primary school places is being driven from. As shown by data set out in written statements to the examination of the Single Issue Review and Site Allocations Plan, developments promoted by the Local Plan (and not yet accounted for within school forecast data), total 828 dwellings.

Applying Suffolk County Council’s standard pupil yield multiplier (and assuming that all dwellings have at least two bedrooms), this will generate an additional 207 primary aged pupils.²

The most recent pupil forecast for Lakenheath Primary School shows that the school is at capacity, and these 207 additional pupils cannot be accommodated on the existing school site.

The new school is being designed to provide 210-places at first, with core facilities (hall, canteen, staff room etc.) large enough to enable expansion to 420-places in the longer term (if needed). As such, the future expansion of the school can be delivered relatively easily, without costly redesign.

As explained at the examination hearings, the opening of the new school will be phased so as to minimise the effect on demand for places at the existing Lakenheath Primary School whilst avoiding places being taken up by children not associated with the new developments.

² Following the approach set out in the adopted Developers Guide (**Ref: D37**)