

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'C'

Hertfordshire County Council's Response to Demand for Primary and Secondary School Places in East Herts District – September 2013

Introduction

In February 2013 East Herts District Council (EHDC) requested information from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) on the school place planning implications of the Potential Development Areas being considered as part of the Local Plan preparation.

This document forms the response to that request, updating information previously provided on primary schools, as well as responding on secondary schools across the District. It is therefore considered a standalone comprehensive response to the current development growth outlined by EHDC. Please note the housing numbers referred to are those provided by EHDC on 6 September 2013.

To assist with interpreting the information provided the background to the current situation regarding school places within the District, together with a definition of the terms used throughout this document, is given below.

School Planning Context

Hertfordshire has experienced a significant rise in the demand for primary places across the County in recent years in line with the picture nationally. The rise is not consistent across the county with some areas experiencing substantial increases in the primary aged population, whilst in some more rural areas demand is less pressing or currently remains fairly static.

HCC has adopted a strategy to respond to the rising demand for school places, developing a primary expansion programme across the County to meet the additional need. This programme has seen significant level of additional school places provided across the County year on year since 2012. Proposals, including new schools, have been agreed (subject to town planning consent) to meet additional need for September 2014, including new places in Ware within East Herts District.

Work is now underway to identify primary expansion options for 2015 and the County Council will bring forward school enlargement proposals for this in due course. In parallel, with the increased primary demand beginning to be reflected in our forecast need at secondary level, feasibility work is underway to identify options for meeting rising secondary need in identified areas across the County.

A summary of the process required to deliver additional school places in an area of identified need is contained in **Appendix 1**.

Forms of Entry

School provision is often described in terms of 'forms of entry'. 1 form of entry (f.e.) equals 30 places per year group.

Primary schools have seven year groups from Reception through to Year 6. HCC has a preference for primary schools of 2 f.e. or more as this larger size provides improved opportunities for delivery of a broad education curriculum and staff development, as well as offering the ability to better manage fluctuations in demand

Secondary schools have 5 year groups, from Year 7 through to Year 11 and sixth forms, with lower and upper year groups. A typical Hertfordshire secondary school is between 5 and 8 f.e., with a 5 f.e. school having $30 \times 5 \times 5 = 750$ compulsory age pupils. Currently on average across the County, approximately 60% of students take up places in the sixth form, although this varies in specific areas.

Local authorities have a duty to ensure that sufficient, suitable places are available to meet the reasonable needs of all young people

When undertaking high level school place planning related to new residential development (e.g. at Local Planning stage) HCC determines child yield based on a ratio of 1 f.e. per 500 dwellings to be 97.5% confident of not underestimating yield.

This is based on a study of 49 Hertfordshire developments undertaken by HCC's demographer (c 2008). This work produced a yield range of 1 f.e. per 500 dwellings [42 children per 100 dwellings/97.5% confidence of not underestimating child yield] to 1 f.e. per 850 dwellings [24.7 children per 100 dwellings/50% confidence of not underestimating child yield]. This range is referred to throughout this document. The County Council applies the upper end of the range, 1 f.e. per 500 dwellings, in the first instance for reasons of prudence.

When considering actual proposals or planning applications the County Council uses specific development forecasting models to ascertain more tailored demographic profiles, including child yields.

School Site Size Standards

The school site standards have recently changed (School Premises Regulations (2012)) and provide a much less stringent approach to school site standards. The previous prescriptive formula based a certain area of space per pupil has been replaced with the term 'suitable'. The County Council has recently reviewed its school site size standards and have agreed to continue using previous site areas that refer to Building Bulletin 99/99 guidance as these are deemed 'suitable'. Deviation from these standards will only be considered under exceptional circumstance.

Detached Playing Fields

Ideally a school should have all of the facilities it requires, including playing fields, provided on a single site. However, there may be situations where in order to provide additional school place capacity at an existing site a detached playing field is required.

A detached playing field is an off-site area that is accessed by the school during school hours to enable delivery of the required sports curriculum. It can be in the form of a public recreation ground, a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) or on HCC owned land. For a primary school this facility should ideally be located within 400

metres of the main school site and be appropriate to enable delivery of the PE curriculum.

Types of Schools

There is a diverse range of schools within Hertfordshire and East Herts District, including both two tier and three tier education systems.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to ensure sufficient school places within its area. However, HCC is only the admitting authority for voluntary controlled and community schools across the County. There is a wide variety of schools including academies, voluntary aided, foundation and trust schools which are their own admitting authorities, determining their own admissions policies and over-subscription criteria.

All admitting authorities' admissions rules and policies must abide by the Admissions Code but the Local Authority, in its role as commissioner of places rather than a provider has no power to direct schools that are their own admitting authority to provide additional places.

Information on each of the schools discussed in this report is given in **Appendices 2 and 3**, which include the type of school at the time of writing. However, the information may change over time as more schools become academies.

Pupil Forecasts

The County Council produces pupil forecasts twice each year. Further information on the methodology around these can be found at:

<http://www.hertsdirect.org/services/edlearn/aboutstatesch/planning/>

Green Belt Boundaries

HCC would seek a flexible approach to Green Belt boundaries which fall within school sites. The inclusion of school sites within the Green Belt can provide potential difficulties in expanding these schools and it is considered that a more flexible approach with regards to Green Belt policy and schools is required for the long term.

Primary Schools

The response given below relates to the latest housing numbers provided on 6 September 2013 by EHDC. Information on the potential of the named primary schools to expand is given in **Appendix 2**.

Bishop's Stortford

Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
North of Bishop's Stortford	2650 (5FE)	n/a
South of Bishop's Stortford	800	Richard Whittington Thorley Hill
East of Bishop's Stortford	150	Summercroft
Bishop's Stortford Goods Yard	160	Hillmead St Joseph's Summercroft
Bishop's Stortford Old River Lane/Causeway	100	Hillmead St Joseph's Summercroft
Small Sites / SLAA Sites	267	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	4127	

4127 dwellings equates to between 5 to 8.5 f.e.

In respect of the existing primary schools within Bishops Stortford, these are currently all full or nearing capacity and current forecasts suggest the current level of demand is likely to continue into the future.

It should be noted that the County Council has seen dramatic increases in primary aged population in many parts of the county recently; which the County Council has responded to with a significant primary expansion programme. Bishops Stortford has not yet been impacted by rises experienced elsewhere but may be so in the future.

Any potential primary expansion capacity across the town is required to deal with potential future growth arising from the existing communities and HCC will manage this demand accordingly. In short, HCC would seek appropriate and adequate developer contributions and/or new school sites to provide for the infrastructure requirements arising from future housing developments in the area.

It would also be prudent to plan and allocate a reserve 2 f.e. primary school site in the town to potentially meet future needs.

Buntingford

Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
Buntingford	470 + 400 safeguarded	Layston First School Millfield First School
Small Sites / SLAA Sites	44	Layston First School Millfield First School
TOTAL	514 + 400 safeguarded	

514 dwellings equates to 0.6 to 1.1 f.e.

914 dwellings equates to 0.9 to 1.9 f.e.

A three tier education system operates in Buntingford with a mixture of first, primary and middle schools offering places to primary aged pupils.

Currently there is some available and potential additional capacity available in the Buntingford First schools planning area. However, owing to the notable interest from developers for housing of significant numbers, a master plan is needed for the town to ensure adequate infrastructure requirements are provided related to new development in the area.

Hertford

Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
Hertford West	550	Hollybush.
Hertford North	150	Bengeo
Hertford South	100	There are potential options for a 2 f.e. school on land in HCC ownership.
Hertford South – Mead Lane	100	Wheatcroft
Hertford National Grid/Norbury Woodyard	200	Wheatcroft
Hertford West of Marshgate Drive	182	Wheatcroft
Hertford – former Police Station	126	Wheatcroft
Small Sites/SLAA Sites	307	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	1715	

1715 dwellings equates to 2 to 3.5 f.e.

Hertford has experienced pressure on primary places in recent years with additional temporary places provided in the town in 2012. Current primary forecasts indicate a rising need for an additional 2 f.e. in the short term.

There are limited options for expansion on existing primary school sites in Hertford as a result of a number of town planning, site and highways constraints, and very few site options available for a new school in the town.

Feasibility work is underway to assess the capacity of the Simon Balle School site to accommodate a 2 f.e. primary school to enable the site to become an all through school. However, 2 f.e. of additional primary places would only meet current forecast demand from the existing community.

In light of the limited existing and potential capacity available across the town, HCC would request that further housing development in the town be master-planned, and would seek appropriate and adequate developer contributions to provide for the infrastructure requirements arising from future housing developments in the area.

The identification and allocation of a reserve 2 f.e. primary school site and appropriate policies that provide flexibility is required to ensure future potential primary needs can be met across the area.

Sawbridgeworth

Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
W of Sawbridgeworth	3000	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity (3.5 to 6 f.e.) so 2 or 3 school sites are required.
Sawbridgeworth N & S of West Road	200	Mandeville
Small Sites/SLAA Sites	11	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	3211	

3211 dwellings equates to 3.7 to 6.5 f.e.

There is little or no capacity across the primary schools in Sawbridgeworth, with significant demand from the local area. Limited options exist for expansion on existing primary school sites in Sawbridgeworth as a result of a number of town planning, site and highways constraints.

HCC would seek appropriate and adequate developer contributions to provide for the infrastructure requirements arising from future housing developments in the area. It also requests policies within the Local Plan that provides the flexibility required to develop existing school sites where possible.

As indicated above, a development of 3000 would require its own school sites within it to meet the needs of that new community.

Ware

Scenario 1		
Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
Ware North – High Oak Road area	200	Kingshill Infants/St Mary's Junior Tower Primary
Ware – land east of Trinity Centre	81	Kingshill Infants/St Mary's Junior Tower Primary
Small Sites / SLAA Sites	146	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	427	
Scenario 2		
Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
Ware North – (with High Oak Road area as subsection)	1,700	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity (2 to 3.4 f.e.) so 2 x 2 f.e. sites are required.
Ware – land east of Trinity Centre	81	Kingshill Infants/St Mary's Junior Tower Primary
Small Sites / SLAA Sites	146	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	1927	
Scenario 3		
Potential Development Area	No Dwellings	Nearest Primary Schools
Ware North – (with High Oak Road area as subsection)	1,700	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity (2 to 3.4 f.e.) so 2 x 2 f.e. sites are required #.
Ware East	1,300	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity (1.5 to 2.6 f.e.) so a 3 f.e. site is required #.
Ware – land east of Trinity Centre	81	Kingshill Infants/St Mary's Junior Tower Primary
Small Sites / SLAA Sites	146	Depends upon site location
TOTAL	3227	
<i>#The above calculations are based on the Areas of Search being developed in isolation and reflect the need for each individual area. This would enable either area to be brought forward independently. However, if both developments come forward in combination, which would total 3000 dwellings, there would be a need for 3.5 f.e. to 6f.e. primary schools. This would reduce the joint requirement for these two individual sites to 3 x 2f.e. sites.</i>		

Scenario 1: 427 dwellings equates to 0.5 to 0.9fe

Scenario 2: 1927 dwellings equates to 2.3 to 3.9fe

Scenario 3: 3227 dwellings equates to 3.7 to 6.5fe

Primary schools in Ware are generally at capacity. A forecast shortfall of 0.5f.e. has led to the permanent expansion of St Catherine's which, subject to town planning, will come into effect in September 2014. Forecasts suggest a further, temporary, need of up to 1 f.e. additional places in 2015.

Expansion potential at existing school sites is very limited. Any new housing development is therefore likely to generate a need for additional places and must provide appropriate and adequate infrastructure to deal with the primary population it generates.

It would be prudent to plan for 1 new 1f.e. primary school in scenario 1, two new 2 f.e. primary schools in scenario 2 and three new 2 f.e. primary schools in scenario 3.

East of Welwyn Garden City

East of Welwyn Garden City	1500	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity through the provision of a 2 f.e. site with capacity to expand to 3 f.e, as/when required.
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1500 dwellings equates to 1.8 to 3 f.e.

North of Harlow

North of Harlow	10,000	HCC would expect this development to provide for its own school capacity.
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10,000 dwellings equates to 11.8 to 20 f.e.

Primary schools should be 2 f.e. minimum in size but may be provided on 3FE sites to enable expansion as and when demand arises during the construction of the development.

East Herts Villages

The information given below is for those villages which have been identified as potentially accommodating 10% growth.

Settlement	+ 10% dwellings	Primary Schools
Aston	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Aston St Mary's C of E (Aided) <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. Site in MGB.</p>
Bayford	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bayford (C of E) VC Primary <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. Site in MGB.</p>
Birch Green	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E VA <p>This is a 1 f.e. school which serves a number of settlements in the local rural area. Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. Site in MGB.</p>
Braughing	34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jenyns First School and Nursery <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development.</p>
Buckland	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Barkway VA First School* ○ Reed First School <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development.</p>
Cole Green	2	Closest school is Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E VA in Birch Green. See comments for Birch Green.
Colliers End	5	Closest school is Puller Memorial C of E VA Primary, High Cross. See comments for High Cross.
Cottered	19	Closest schools in Buntingford. See information in Appendix 2
Dane End	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Little Munden C of E VC Primary <p>New housing is likely to generate a need for additional places. There is no capacity or expansion potential.</p>
Furneux Pelham	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Furneux Pelham C of E <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development.</p>
Hadham Ford	11	Closest school is Little Hadham Primary. See comments for Little Hadham.
Hertingfordbury	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E VA <p>See comments on Birch Green.</p>
High Cross	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Puller Memorial C of E VA Primary, High Cross <p>The school has potential expansion capacity up to 1FE if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan. Site in MGB.</p>
High Wych	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High Wych C of E Primary <p>This school is located within the Sawbridgeworth primary planning area. Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. There may be potential to expand if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan. Site in MGB.</p>
Hunsdon	37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hunsdon JMI <p>There may be potential to expand if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan. Site in MGB</p>
Letty Green	8	Closest school is Hertingfordbury Cowper C of E VA in Birch Green. See comments for Birch Green.

Little Hadham	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Hadham Primary <p>Potential expansion capacity up to 1 f.e. if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan.</p>
Much Hadham	52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Andrews C of E Primary Much Hadham <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development.</p>
Puckeridge	86	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Roger De Clare C of E First School Potential to expand Roger De Clare by 1 f.e. (to 3 f.e.) if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan.
Standon	56	See comments for Puckeridge as closest schools located here.
Stanstead Abbots & St Margaret's	177	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Andrews C of E Primary <p>There is no capacity to accommodate children from any additional development and the site capacity will not enable expansion of the school. If any further housing is proposed a new 2 f.e. school site will be required.</p>
Spellbrook	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spellbrook Primary <p>This school is located within the Sawbridgeworth primary planning area. Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. However, there are town planning challenges to the expansion of this school including noise (relating to Stansted Airport) and highways. Site in MGB.</p>
Tewin	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tewin Cowper C of E VA Primary <p>Any further development in the village will require additional school places. Potential to expand if adjacent land not in HCC ownership is allocated in the District Plan. Part of site in MGB.</p>
Thundridge	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thundridge Primary <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. Site in MGB.</p>
Wadesmill	14	See comments for Thundridge as closest school located here.
Walkern	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkern Primary <p>This school is to be expanded from September 2014 subject to town planning consent. Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development.</p>
Watton-at-Stone	87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watton-at-Stone <p>HCC hold land on adjacent site to allow school to expand.</p>
Westmill	9	Closest schools and in Buntingford and Braughing. See comments in Appendix 2 for Buntingford and above for Braughing.
Widford	18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widford School <p>Due to the low level of growth proposed capacity would not be a bar on a limited amount of development. There may be potential to expand as the school is on a large site, however, it is constrained by highway issues.</p>
Terlings Park	200	These units have been incorporated within current forecasts for primary and secondary school places. Nursery, primary and secondary contributions were sought from this development.

Key

MGB Metropolitan Green Belt
Dpf Detached playing field

Secondary Schools

Strategic planning at secondary school level is more complex, comprising a more diverse offer of schools and with secondary aged pupils tending to travel further for their education resulting in the need to plan over a wider geographical area.

There are three secondary education planning areas within East Herts. These are:-

- Bishop's Stortford (which includes Sawbridgeworth)
- Buntingford
- Hertford and Ware

Information on each of these areas is given below.

Bishop's Stortford

Proposed Housing Numbers

The proposed 150 units at Bishop's Stortford East would yield approximately 0.3 f.e. of demand, while the additional 267 units identified in the SLAA, together with the 150 at Bishop's Stortford East, equates to 0.8 f.e.

The proposed 200 units at Sawbridgeworth West A and B, together with the 11 units from the SLAA equates to 0.4 f.e. of demand.

The proposed development at Bishop's Stortford North (BSN) of 2650 dwellings equates to 5 f.e. of demand.

The proposed safeguarded land in Bishop's Stortford of 800 units post 2031 would have to be assessed nearer the time, but it is likely to yield 1.6 f.e. of school places.

Secondary Schools

The secondary education planning area of Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth includes a total of 6 secondary schools currently offering 1010 Year 7 places.

Property feasibility work has been undertaken to establish the expansion potential of all of schools in the planning area. This includes town planning appraisals, transport assessments and in some cases an evaluation of site capacity. A summary of the expansion potential can be found as **Appendix 3a**.

Strategy for Secondary Education provision

Following the unsuccessful planning appeal for the relocation and co-location of The Bishops Stortford High and the Herts and Essex High Schools' on a new site at Whittington Way, HCC has been reconsidering its secondary strategy for the area, working with the secondary schools to explore alternative options for meeting future forecast demand.

Current pupil forecasts indicate a deficit of Year 7 places from 2014 and a need for an additional 2 f.e. rising to a peak of 3 f.e, in 2019/20. These forecast figures

exclude any assumed yield from the land at Bishops Stortford North, but include the other proposed housing sites expected to be completed within the lifecycle of the forecast,

HCC is seeking 5 f.e. of secondary provision within Bishops Stortford North to enable the development to provide the appropriate education infrastructure for that new community.

Until there is certainty about the outcome of proposed housing development in the north of Bishops Stortford, for which planning applications are currently under consideration by East Herts District Council, it is not considered appropriate to bring forward expansion plans for the latent demand in the town. The developments currently represent the largest development in Hertfordshire and will require new school provision within them to meet the demand generated by them. Any other demand from existing communities will need to be dealt with as required but the options for doing so can only be finalised once proposals for the new development have been settled.

It should be noted that the nature and complexity of the secondary school sites across the area means that the development of the existing school sites represents a significant challenge and, until development options are explored and tested in detail through the town planning system, there is a high risk that expansion capacity may not be achievable either in physical or financial viability terms.

Furthermore, all schools in the Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth planning area are their own admitting authorities and, with a variety of admissions arrangements, recruit from a wide geographical area. The Local Authority (HCC) acts in a commissioning role and has no control over the school's admissions arrangements. The County Council has no power to require the schools to expand or to change their admissions arrangements.

With regard to the HCC owned site in Hadham Road, until there is clarity around the expansion potential of the existing schools, Policy BIS7 should be retained.

Buntingford

Proposed Housing Numbers

The proposed housing allocations excluding the safeguarded land, totals 470 units which equates to almost 1 f.e. of demand. If the 44 SLAA units are included this would bring the total number of units to 514, which is just over 1 f.e. of demand.

The need for school places arising from the proposed safeguarded land of 400 units post 2031 would have to be assessed nearer the time. However, it is likely to yield 1 f.e. of secondary school places.

Secondary Schools

Buntingford operates a three tier education system, with both middle schools (years 7 and 8) and the upper school (years 9 to 11 + sixth form) providing secondary

places. The middle schools serving this school place planning area are Edwinstree C of E in Buntingford and Ralph Sadleir in Puckeridge. The upper school, Freman College, is located in Buntingford.

Property feasibility work has been undertaken to establish the expansion potential of all of these schools. The conclusions around this can be found in the table at **Appendix 3b**.

Conclusion on Buntingford secondary

Although forecasts indicate a small shortage of places in both the middle and upper schools, the schools attract pupils from both Stevenage and Royston, both of which have sufficient school places in the short term. To add more places would draw more pupils from those communities. There are sufficient places in the Buntingford schools currently to cater for local demand from the existing community.

However, future housing growth is likely to increase demand for places in these schools and HCC would seek appropriate and adequate developer contributions to provide for the infrastructure requirements arising from future housing developments in the area, and also requests policies within the Local Plan that provide the flexibility to develop existing school sites where possible and necessary.

Hertford and Ware

Proposed Housing Numbers

In Hertford, the proposed housing at the Former Hertford Police Station site and in Ware to the East of the Trinity Centre has been included within current forecasts for secondary school places.

The total of 1715 units proposed for Hertford would yield a demand for school places of around 3.4 f.e. to 2026. In Ware the proposed development of 200 units at Ware North would yield 0.4 f.e. of need and the SLAA units of 146 would yield 0.3 f.e.

In total there would be a demand for 4.1 f.e. of secondary school places arising from the proposed housing in both towns.

Secondary Schools

This secondary school planning area includes Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages. There are five secondary schools covering this area including a single sex boy's school in Hertford (Richard Hale) and a single sex girl's school in Ware (Presdales). There is movement of students between the two towns which generally relates to attendance of the single sex schools.

Limited feasibility work has been undertaken to establish the expansion potential of these schools. A summary of the schools and their sites can be found in the table at **Appendix 3c**.

Conclusion on Hertford and Ware secondary

The majority of the secondary schools within Hertford and Ware are located within the Green Belt or identified as sites which have a MDS designation. Both these policies can be restrictive when assessing expansion capacity potential at school sites and it would be considered useful if these boundaries could be reassessed and a more flexible policy approach made available for the future.

Some feasibility work is being undertaken to determine the potential of the existing secondary schools to expand. However, until all schools have been assessed additional capacity, if any, that could be accommodated within existing sites is not known. Therefore, as the proposed housing is likely to yield 4FE of demand it would be prudent to seek a land allocation for a secondary school site in the Hertford and Ware area to ensure potential school provision is secured for the future.

North Ware

A proposal for 1500/1700 dwellings to the north of Ware would generate approximate need of 3.5 f.e. of secondary school places. It is assumed that this need could not be accommodated within the existing secondary schools in Ware and Hertford and a new school site would therefore be required to meet the need from this development. The provision of an all-through school within the development could be considered an option as a way of managing the primary and secondary pupil yield arising from this new housing.

Other sites

East of Welwyn Garden City

There is a proposal by Lafarge Tarmac to actively promote land at Cole Green and land at Birchall Farm as a new strategic allocation within the district of Welwyn and Hatfield. The proposal is to create a new garden suburb for Welwyn Garden City for 2500 dwellings which would be known as Birchall Garden Suburb. This land allocation is on the boundary with East Herts and it is proposed that approximately half of the total number of proposed dwellings would be located on land within East Herts and could thus be considered to have an impact on education provision within the district.

In light of the scale and location of this development, HCC expects the development to provide its own school infrastructure for the new communities.

It would generate the need for a 4 f.e. secondary school (with flexibility to expand if required in the future), and two new 2 f.e. primary schools with the provision for at least one to be flexible to expand to 3 f.e. if required in the future. Opportunities for an 'all through school' could be considered.

Gilston and Eastwick

The 200 units proposed at Terlings Park would generate between 0.23 and 0.4 f.e. Nursery, primary and secondary developer contributions have been sought from this development.

The large scale proposed development for 10,000 dwellings at Harlow North would be expected to provide its own school infrastructure within the development, with provision for 20 f.e. of secondary school capacity. It is likely that 3 x 7 f.e. secondary schools would be needed. These could be provided as 2 x 7 f.e. schools with a reserve site to be developed as and when the additional demand arises from the development.

East Herts Villages

There is proposed growth of 862 dwellings within the villages in East Herts. **Appendix 4** uses the school census data from January 2011 to identify the pupil yield from the suggested developments. In total it is anticipated that the proposed additional dwellings will produce an estimated requirement of approximately 1.8 f.e. of need.

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Appendix 1

School Expansions Process – School enlargement (prescribed alteration)

- Identification of need
 - Meeting the Rising Demand for School Places
 - Pupil forecasts
 - Engage with local Head Teacher groups
- Analysis of need in identified areas
 - Analysis of demand
 - Property feasibility work on potential for school sites to expand
 - Work with multi-disciplinary teams to identify possible options
 - Engage with schools in area of need to explore options
- Options Recommendation & decision to consult
 - Assessment of options against the Director's Four Tests which considers whether the options:
 - Provide the right number of places in the right place to meet demand
 - Enhance capacity to raise educational standards, reduce risk of under-performance or serious weakness, and offer extended schools
 - Have acceptable implications for building design, environmental impact, and cost
 - Have acceptable transitional arrangements for affected pupils
- Statutory consultation on enlargement proposal
- Engagement with School on building design for enlargement
- Formal statutory decision taken by County Council
- Submission of town planning application for building enlargement, including external play areas and associated car parking requirements
- Project completion and additional places made available

Appendix 2

Current and Potential Capacity in East Herts Primary Schools

School planning areas	School	School Type	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments	Additional information
Bishop's Stortford	All Saints CofE	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Hillmead	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Expansion potential to 2FE if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further.
	Manor Fields	Community	2FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Northgate	Academy	2FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Richard Whittington	Community	1½FE	0	No expansion potential	Already has dpf at former Havers School
	St Joseph's Catholic	VA	1½FE	0	No expansion potential	Further investigation needed to assess expansion potential to 2FE.
	St Michael's CofE	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Summercroft	Academy	2FE	+1FE	Located on a large site.	Further investigation needed to assess if possible to expand. Likely to be highways issues due to site access.
	Thorley Hill	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	.
	Thorn Grove	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Windhill Primary & Nursery	Community	2FE	0	No expansion potential	
Hertford	Abel Smith	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Significant site constraints
	Bengeo	Community	2FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential to 3FE with use of EHDC dpf + parent drop off on site. Need to investigate further.
	Hertford St Andrews CofE	VC	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Hollybush	Community	1FE	+1FE	Has some spare capacity in existing buildings for temporary expansion.	May be possible to expand to 2FE with two storey building/MUGA or potential joint facilities with adjacent Sele School
	Mill Mead	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Significant site constraints
	Morgans	Community	2FE	+1FE	Site large enough to accommodate additional development. MGB + listed building. Maybe Sport England issues.	
	St Joseph's Catholic	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Wheatcroft	Community	1½FE	0	Site only capable of expansion to 2FE with dpf.	In light of constrained nature of site previous options around expansion

School planning areas	School	School Type	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments	Additional information
						development proved not cost effective.
Ware	Christ Church (CofE) VA Primary & Nursery	VA	1½FE	0	No expansion potential	Constrained site. Highways issues, adjacent listed building.
	Kingshill Infant/St Mary's Jr	Community /VC	2FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Priors Wood	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Highways issues – alternative site access would be required.
	Sacred Heart Catholic	VA	1FE	+1FE	Site located in area at risk of flood but large site.	Feasibility required.
	St Catherine's (CofE)	VC	1½FE	+½FE	Proposed expansion to 2FE in September 2014	No further potential beyond 2FE.
	St John The Baptist VA CofE	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Tower	Community	1FE	0	To expand by 1FE dpf needed + 2 storey building and MUGA.	Constrained site. Would be town planning issues with any expansion.
Sawbridge worth	Fawbert & Barnard Infant's	Community	2FE	0	No expansion potential	Linked to Reedings Junior
	High Wych CofE	VC	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further as could be noise and highways issues.
	Mandeville	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further as could be noise and highways issues.
	Reedings Junior	Community	2FE	0	No expansion potential	Linked to Fawbert & Barnard Infants
	Spellbrook	VC	½FE	0	No expansion potential	Town planning challenges to any expansion include highways and noise issues from Stansted Airport. Need to investigate further.
Villages						
The Pelhams	Albury C of E (VA)	VA	PAN 10	0	No expansion potential	
	Furneux Pelham CofE	VC	PAN 20	0	No expansion potential	

School planning areas	School	School Type	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments	Additional information
The Hadhams	Little Hadham	Community	PAN20	0	No expansion potential	Potential to expand to 1FE if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF to allow school to expand.
	St Andrew's CofE Primary & Nursery, Much Hadham	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
Watton District North	Little Munden CofE VC	VC	PAN 25	0	No expansion potential	
	Watton at Stone Primary & Nursery	Community	PAN 34		HCC hold land in reserve on adjacent site to allow school expansion	
Ware Villages	Hunsdon JMI	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further.
	Puller Memorial CofE VA	VA	½FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further.
	St Andrew's CofE (VC), Stanstead Abbots	VC	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Thundridge	VC	PAN12	0	No expansion potential	
	Wareside CofE	VC	PAN 8	0	Large site but highways issues due to location.	
	Widford	Community	PAN 8	0	Large site but highways issues due to location.	
Hertford South Villages	Bayford (CofE) VC	VC	½FE	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further.
	Hertford Heath	Community	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
Watton District South	Hertingfordbury Cowper CofE VA	VA	1FE	0	No expansion potential	
	Stapleford	VA	PAN 12	0	No expansion potential	
	Tewin Cowper CofE VA	VA	PAN 22	0	No expansion potential	Possible expansion potential if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. Need to investigate further.
	Tonwell St Mary's CofE	VC	PAN 8	0	No expansion potential	
Stevenage	All Saints CofE (VA) Primary	VA	PAN 25	0	No expansion potential	

School planning areas	School	School Type	Current Capacity	Expansion Capacity	Comments	Additional information
South East Villages	Datchworth					
	Aston St Mary's CofE (Aided)	VA	PAN 20	+10 spaces	Potential to become 1FE but constraints include highways issues	Feasibility required.
	Benington CofE	VC	PAN 16	0	No expansion potential - highway issues	
Buntingford	Ardeley St Lawrence	VA	PAN 18	0	No expansion potential	
	Layston CofE First	VC	1FE	+1FE	Site size sufficient for 2FE	.
	Millfield First & Nursery	Community	1½FE	+½FE	No expansion potential	Potential to expand to 2FE if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF/detached playing field provided
	Roger de Clare CofE (VC) First & Nursery	VC	2FE	0	No expansion potential	Potential to expand if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF.
Puckeridge	St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic	VA	PAN 15			
	Anstey First School	Community	PAN 10	0	No expansion potential	
	Hormead CofE (VA)	VA	PAN 20	0	No expansion potential	Potential to expand to 2FE if adjacent land not in HCC ownership allocated in LDF. May be highways issues as site located some distance from settlements. Need to investigate further.
Other Villages	Jenyns First Braughing	Community	PAN 21	0	No expansion potential	
	Walkern	Community	PAN 15	+10	It is proposed to expand this school by 10 places in September 2014.	

Key

Dpf Detached playing field

VA Voluntary Aided

VC Voluntary Controlled

Date September 2013

Appendix 3

Tables 3a-c: Secondary Schools

Table 3a: Bishops Stortford (incl. Sawbridgeworth)

School/Land Option	Type	Current Capacity (FE)	Potential Expansion Capacity (FE)	Comments / Details
Hockerill Anglo-European College	Academy	4	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required.• No expansion potential at the school; team games playing area of insufficient size and cannot be increased without a reduction in site size standards. Other constraints: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conservation Area• Main building Grade II listed• Right of Way runs through site
St Mary's Catholic School	Voluntary Aided	5.1	Possibly +1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required.• Very challenging as site is constrained in terms of size and there is limited scope for enlarging school site. Potential expansion may be possible subject to a range of highways mitigation measures but further feasibility required to test.
Birchwood High School	Academy	8	Possibly +1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required.• Possible to expand school by 1fe on existing site but with a reduction in site standards beyond 15%/provision of additional MUGA• Highways mitigation measures required, including car parking and works to the Parsonage Lane/A1250 Dunmow Road roundabout.• Expansion may be possible subject to town planning and highways mitigation measures but further feasibility required to test potential.

School/Land Option	Type	Current Capacity (FE)	Potential Expansion Capacity (FE)	Comments / Details
The Hertfordshire and Essex High School	Foundation (Academy conversion pending)	5.3	Possibly +1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required. School currently has detached playing fields at Beldams Lane. School site very challenging as size is small, very developed and there is limited scope for enlarging site unless additional land is acquired in order to expand the site or make available further detached playing fields. Highways mitigation measures would be required to reduce the residual and safety impact of additional traffic. Further feasibility required to test potential.
Bishops Stortford High School	Foundation	5.1	0.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required. Very challenging as site is constrained due to its small size and topography, whilst playing field and hard play is designated open space and part of playing field is in an Area of Archaeological Significance. Potential expansion subject to provision of additional playing fields (in addition to the existing detached playing field at Jobbers Wood). Highways mitigation measures would be required, although this would only marginally improve the existing traffic conditions in the vicinity of the site. Further feasibility required to test potential
Leventhorpe	Academy	6	Possibly up to 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required. School site is located in the Green Belt with hard play and playing fields designated as protected open space. Agricultural land to the north is designated under Policy SA4 (Sports Pitch provision) in the East Herts Local Plan. Some of this land has recently been purchased by the school, with the remaining under option. Potential expansion by up to 3fe subject to use of purchased land and highways mitigation measures, including junction improvements. Further feasibility required to test potential.

Table 3b: Buntingford

School/Land Option	Type	Current Capacity (FE)	Potential Expansion Capacity (FE)	Comments
Freman College	Academy	7	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required. The site is located within the planning policy area 'Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt' with the majority of the area occupied by the school buildings identified as a Major Developed Site (MDS). Expansion could be achieved subject to town planning and highways mitigation measures. Initial feasibility work has concluded that it may be possible to expand the school but that part of the proposed Buntingford North site may be required for additional development of the school site, playing fields and/or further access to the site linking to Ermine Street. Use of EHDC Pay & Display car park on Bowling Green Lane as a park and stride would help in minimising the impact of any additional traffic resulting from expansion.
Edwinstree C of E Middle	Voluntary Controlled	3.7	1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion could be achieved subject to town planning and highways mitigation measures. Expansion would require use of an All Weather Pitch and/or use of the adjacent EHDC recreation ground as a detached playing field. Use of EHDC Pay & Display car park on Bowling Green Lane as a park and stride would help in minimising the impact of any additional traffic resulting from expansion. The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required.
Ralph Sadleir Middle	Community (Academy conversion pending)	3	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate an increase in pupil numbers and therefore additional buildings would be required. Expansion by 1 or 2FE would be possible subject to town planning and highways mitigation measures

Table 3c: Hertford and Ware

School/Land Option	Type	Current Capacity (FE)	Potential Expansion Capacity (FE)	Comments
Simon Balle School	Foundation (Academy conversion pending)	5.5		<p>This is a 5.5FE co-educational secondary school located in Hertford. Very little feasibility work has been undertaken to assess secondary expansion capacity in this area. The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a permanent increase in pupil numbers by whole forms of entry, and therefore additional buildings would be required.</p> <p>This site is currently located within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Although part of the site is identified as a MDS this area is quite restrictive and means that currently if the school were to be expanded 'very special circumstances' would need to be demonstrated. It would be helpful if the site could either be excluded from the Green Belt or the MDS boundary expanded to provide a realistic footprint within which further development could be provided.</p>
Richard Hale	Academy	5.5		<p>The school is a 5.5FE single sex boy's secondary school located in Hertford. Very little feasibility work has been undertaken to assess secondary expansion capacity in this area. The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a permanent increase in pupil numbers by whole forms of entry, and therefore additional buildings would be required.</p> <p>The school already has a detached playing field located in Morgans Walk. A town planning appraisal has been undertaken for this site which identifies that there is limited potential to expand the school. The provision of facilities such as an all weather pitch may help in freeing up some of the existing playing fields for development. Further work would be required to establish the potential of this school to expand.</p>
The Sele School	Academy	5		<p>The school is a co-educational secondary located in Hertford currently offering 150 Year 7 places. Very little feasibility work has been undertaken to assess secondary expansion capacity in this area. The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a permanent increase in pupil numbers by whole forms of entry, and therefore additional buildings would be required.</p> <p>This site is currently located within the Metropolitan Green Belt which would appear to be an anomaly. This site has clearly defined boundaries within the urban area. To the west is Thieves Lane; Welwyn Road, with housing development beyond, is located to the north; Hollybush primary school (also in the Green Belt) and housing</p>

				<p>in Fordwich Rise are located to the east; and residential development in Turpins Close and Ladywood Road is to the south. Although part of the site is identified as a MDS this area is quite restricted and means that currently if the school were to be expanded 'very special circumstances' would need to be demonstrated. It would be helpful if the site could either be excluded from the Green Belt or the MDS boundary expanded to provide a realistic footprint within which further development could be provided.</p> <p>A Transport Statement was produced in 2010 which assessed the implications of a 1FE expansion of Hollybush Primary School, assessing the site alongside adjacent Sele School. This concluded the highways network was capable of some expansion. Further work would be required to establish the potential of this school to expand.</p>
Presdales School	Academy	5.5		<p>The site is located in Ware and is a single sex girl's school offering 168 Year 7 places. Very little feasibility work has been undertaken to assess secondary expansion capacity in this area.</p> <p>The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a permanent increase in pupil numbers by whole forms of entry, and therefore additional buildings would be required.</p> <p>This site is currently located within the Metropolitan Green Belt, with the area containing the majority of the school buildings identified as a MDS. This boundary needs updating as a sports hall has been constructed on the site of the former tennis courts located to the east of the swimming pool. In addition, the MDS area is quite restrictive and means that currently if the school were to be expanded 'very special circumstances' would need to be demonstrated. It would be helpful if the site could either be excluded from the Green Belt or the MDS boundary expanded to provide a realistic footprint within which further development could be provided. Further work would be required to establish the potential of this school to expand. This should include a transport assessment, since the school is accessed via Hoe Lane, a narrow lane with no capacity for widening immediately to the south of the school.</p>
Chauncy School	Academy	5.3		<p>The site is located in Ware and is a 5.3FE co-educational secondary school. Very little feasibility work has been undertaken to assess secondary expansion capacity in this area.</p> <p>The school does not currently have sufficient accommodation to facilitate a permanent increase in pupil numbers by whole forms of entry, and therefore additional buildings would be required. Further work would be required to establish the potential of this school to expand.</p>

Appendix 4

Impact Upon Secondary School Places of +10% Growth in Identified Villages

Table 1 – Secondary School Planning Areas Affected by Possible +10% Growth in Identified Villages

Area of Search No	Settlement Name	+10% dwellings on 2011 Census figure	Secondary schools attended*
23	Aston	23	Buntingford
24	Bayford	7	Hertford & Ware
26	Birch Green	9	Hertford & Ware
27	Braughing	34	Buntingford/ Bishop's Stortford
29	Buckland	7	Buntingford
30	Cole Green	2	Unknown
31	Colliers End	5	Hertford
32	Cottered	19	Buntingford
33	Dane End	26	Hertford & Ware
35	Furneux Pelham	13	Bishop's Stortford
37	Hadham Ford	11	Bishop's Stortford
39	Hertingfordbury	8	Hertford & Ware
40	High Cross	15	Hertford & Ware
41	High Wych	18	Sawbridgeworth
42	Hunsdon	37	Hertford & Ware
43	Letty Green	8	Potter's Bar/Ware
44	Little Hadham	13	Bishop's Stortford
45	Much Hadham	52	Bishop's Stortford
46	Puckeridge	86	Buntingford/Ware/Bishop's Stortford
47	Spellbrook	7	Bishop's Stortford/Sawbridgeworth
48	Standon	56	Buntingford/Ware
49	Stanstead Abbots	177	Hoddesdon/Ware
51	Tewin	31	Hertford & Ware
52	Thundridge	19	Hertford & Ware
54	Wadesmill	14	Hertford & Ware
55	Walkern	51	Buntingford/Stevenage
57	Watton at Stone	87	Hertford & Ware
58	Westmill	9	Buntingford
59	Widford	18	Hertford & Ware/ Bishop's Stortford
		862	

Based on School Census January 2011 information previously provided to EHDC

Table 2 – Potential Need for Secondary School Places from Possible +10% Growth in Villages

Secondary school planning area	Total no dwellings proposed	Pupil yield*	FE required**
Bishop's Stortford (includes Sawbridgeworth)	169	71	0.34
Buntingford	158	66	0.31
Hertford & Ware	416	175	0.83
Hoddesdon	88	37	0.18
Potter's Bar	4	2	0
Stevenage	25	11	0.05
Unknown	2	1	0
Total	862	363	1.71

*Pupil yield is based on 500 dwellings yielding 1FE or 210 children longitudinal FE which equates to 42 children per 100 units or 0.42 children per dwelling.

**FE required calculated by dividing child yield by 210.