

Welborne Plan

Statement of Common Ground

Fareham Borough Council
and
Hampshire County Council

On Education and Children's
Services Matters

October 2014

Welborne Plan Statement of Common Ground

Fareham Borough Council
Hampshire County Council

Fareham Borough Council (the local planning authority), and Hampshire County Council have prepared a Statement of Common Ground ahead of the Welborne Plan Examination Hearings.

The enclosed statement is agreed by:

Name: Claire Burnett

Position: Head of Planning Strategy and Regeneration

Organisation: Fareham Borough Council

Signed:



Name: Chris Holt

Position: Head of School Organisation

Organisation: Hampshire County Council

Signed:



Fareham Borough Council and Hampshire County Council are referred to as “the parties” in this document.

Introduction

1. The purpose of this statement is to set out the agreed position of the Borough Council and Hampshire County Council on education and children's services matters in the Welborne Plan.
2. This statement builds on a substantial dialogue and correspondence that has been undertaken between the parties throughout the preparation of the Welborne Plan.

Main Areas of Agreement

3. It is common ground between the parties that a sustainable new community of approximately 6,000 dwellings, together with associated uses, will include the provision of three new primary schools and a new secondary school.

Main Areas Requiring Further Work

4. The main areas where further work is required can be summarised as follows:
 - The location and size of each of the new schools; and
 - Date of delivery for each of the schools
5. Both parties agree that both of these issues will be resolved through a consideration of the applicant's masterplanning and planning applications, monitoring pupil numbers and the agreed suitable wording of planning obligations.

Main Areas of Difference

6. The main areas of difference between the parties can be summarised as follows:
 - The size of the primary schools – Hampshire County Council is requesting three new three-form entry (FE) primary schools, i.e. a total yield of nine-forms of entry (9FE). Fareham Borough Council, on the advice of Aecom¹, considers that seven-forms of entry (7FE) of school places will be sufficient to meet the demands of the development.
 - The size of the secondary school – Hampshire County Council is stating that the anticipated pupil yield for the primary provision is 9FE so, as the pupils move through the schools into the secondary sector, a 9FE secondary school will be required to meet the demand. Again Fareham Borough Council considers on the advice of Aecom that a 7FE secondary school will be sufficient.
 - The size of the primary school sites if they are to accommodate pre-school provision.

¹ *Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2014, Stage 2 report, Aecom*

7. Both parties agree that these issues will be resolved through ensuring via the planning application process that the applicant's masterplanning makes sufficient provision for sites to accommodate the higher estimate of school provision, should they be required, including the envisaged pre school provision. Monitoring pupil numbers and the agreed suitable wording of planning obligations will be used to ensure delivery.

Other Statements in Response to Inspector's Questions

8. It is assumed that every new school will be an academy. Fareham Borough Council will continue to work with Hampshire County Council (as the commissioners of the new schools) to include within the Academy Application Form to be submitted by the prospective academy applicant a section outlining how the schools sites and buildings will be used by the community. However, it will be for the governing body of the academy to ultimately decide on how to use the school buildings and sites.
9. Welborne Plan Policy WEL15 states that some pre-school provision will be expected to be provided on the sites of the new primary schools. If pre school provision is included at each primary school, then sufficient land will be needed to accommodate those facilities. Thus far the size of sites requested by Hampshire County Council to accommodate the schools excludes any area required for pre-school provision. If larger sites are not available for the primary schools then all pre-school provision, including day care facilities, will have to be provided elsewhere within the development rather than the school sites.
10. The need for the schools is driven by the number of pupils living on the Welborne site.
11. Hampshire County Council has been asked to comment on the siting of the secondary school and responded that either site identified for the secondary school in the Welborne Plan is acceptable in principle.
12. Providing the school earlier than the end of Main Phase 3 presents a number of challenges. As the majority of revenue funding for schools is based on its pupil numbers there is a need for sufficient pupil numbers to attend the school to ensure that sufficient teaching staff can be employed to enable pupils to access the required broad and balanced curriculum. Secondly, an earlier opening of the school brings with it the potential for pupils from outside the catchment area for the new school (which will be drawn around the new Welborne development) to apply for, and secure places. This may ultimately result in pupils living at Welborne development not being able to gain a place at the school.
13. Discussions between the parties are on-going with regard to the provision of an "all-through" school and no formal decision has yet been reached. In terms of the site areas required to provide separate primary and secondary schools or an all-through educational solution the areas are broadly similar.