

## Examination of the North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031

### Statement of Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Property Development Services on behalf of HCC Services

#### Matter 10 – The housing allocations and the settlement boundaries: the Towns: Baldock

##### **10.1 Are all of the proposed housing allocations deliverable? In particular, are they:**

##### **c) deliverable, having regard to the provision of the necessary infrastructure and services, and any environmental or other constraints?**

1. The North Hertfordshire Local Plan allocates land in Baldock across eight sites for a total of 3386 dwellings (including 300 at BA1 post 2031). Based on a one form of entry (FE) yield per 500 dwellings, this equates to a need for 6.7 FE of school places. The strategy of the County Council, as local authority with responsibility for education, regarding the provision of these places is given below.

##### **Site BA1**

2. Site BA1 will provide 2800 homes. This development will therefore require 5.6FE of both primary and secondary school places.
3. It is proposed that the primary school places will be provided through the provision of two 3FE primary sites within BA1.
4. The secondary school places will be provided through the provision of an 8FE secondary school site within BA1. Although the pupil yield from the development is 5.6FE, HCC requires a larger site to provide capacity for future expansion.
5. This pattern of provision is included in the recently submitted outline planning application for site BA1.
6. Part h of policy SP14 refers to the specific education requirements at BA1 as follows:

*Up to 6 forms of entry (FE) of additional primary-age and secondary-age education provision.*

7. To reflect the strategy of HCC as local authority for education the policy wording should therefore be amended to the following:

*A site for a new secondary school of up to 8 forms of entry  
Sites for two new 3 forms of entry primary schools.*

##### **Sites BA2 to BA7 and BA11**

8. The remaining sites allocated in Baldock will require 1.1FE of school places. These will be provided through the expansion by 1FE of an existing school within the town. Feasibility work has been undertaken to inform the expansion potential of Hartsfield Primary school from 2FE to 3FE.

9. The additional 1FE of secondary school places required to meet the demand from these sites will be provided at Knights Templar School.
10. Funding will be sought from the developments to ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand.
11. The strategy outlined above, including the proposed amended wording to Policy SP14, will ensure that the housing sites are deliverable as the necessary infrastructure in terms of the provision of school places would be met.

***10.2 Are all of the proposed housing allocations justified and appropriate in terms of the likely impacts of the development?***

12. The County Council, as local authority for education, consider that the proposed housing allocations are appropriate in terms of the provision of school places through the implementation of the strategy given in paragraphs 2 to 11 above.