

## 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: Royston

**10.16 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. A three tier education system operates in Royston and the surrounding villages. This comprises First Schools (years R to 4); Middle Schools (years 5 to 8); and an Upper School (years 9 to 13). There is also one faith primary school.
2. The North Herts Local Plan allocates sites totalling 1049 homes in Royston. Based on a one form of entry (FE) yield per 500 dwellings, this will result in a demand for 2.1 FE of school places.

#### First School Infrastructure

3. There is insufficient capacity within the existing First Schools (or faith primary school) to accommodate the additional 2.1 FE of demand arising from the proposed new developments. The provision of a new first school site in the town is therefore required.
4. Policies RY1, RY2 and RY10 all refer to the need for an appropriate solution for education requirements but do not allocate a site.
5. Site RY2 now has planning permission for a development that does not include a first school.
6. The County Council has been in discussions with the landowner of site RY1 who has offered to include a site for a 2FE first school within their development. Policy RY1 bullet point 1 should therefore be reworded to say:
  - *A site for a 2FE First School*
7. The County Council's strategy, as local authority with responsibility for education, therefore relies on a first school site coming forward on RY1 to meet the yield from the scale of new housing proposed within the town.
8. In order to ensure that sufficient school places are available to meet the demand from all of the housing allocations in Royston, site RY1 would need to come forward first. This would enable the County Council to secure the land required to provide the new school.

9. In addition, all of the site allocations would need to be brought forward within the same time period, preferably the first 10 years of the plan, to ensure that sufficient S106 contributions are available to fund the new school.
10. Without the provision of a new first school site in Royston the proposed housing allocations are not deliverable as there are insufficient places in the existing schools to accommodate the demand that will arise from the new developments.

### **Middle and Upper School Infrastructure**

11. There is considered to be sufficient potential expansion capacity within the Middle Schools and Upper School to accommodate the increase in demand for places that will arise from the proposed housing allocations.
12. Funding will be sought from the housing developments to ensure that the local education infrastructure can accommodate the additional demand.

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

13. The County Council, as local authority for education, considers that the proposed housing allocations can only be justified and appropriate if a site is included within RY1 for a first school. The reasons for this are given in paragraphs 3 to 10 above.