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PLANNING STATEMENT EDUCATION MATTERS OUT2019/0484

Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW

Please note: Nothing has changed in the interim since the Education response against PRE/2018/2822 was submitted on 05/11/2018.

SUMMARY

Development at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW is likely to result in a requirement for contributions towards Early Years / Pre-School provision, Primary provision, Secondary and Sixth Form provision, Primary SEN provision and Secondary SEN provision.

The City Council would expect to secure contributions¹ towards education provision as follows:

Provision stage	Number of children generated	Provision	Contribution requested
Early Years / Pre-School	39	Increase provision within 2 miles of the development.	£496,140
Primary School	197	A contribution is requested towards improving education facilities (which may include the purchase and improvement of land and buildings) within the new school on the Keresley SUE.	£1,050,000 ²
Primary SEN	3	A contribution is requested towards improving education facilities (which may include the purchase and improvement of land and buildings) at Sherbourne Fields.	£56,916
Secondary	116	A contribution is requested towards improving education facilities (which may include the purchase and improvement of land and buildings) President Kennedy, Coundon Court or another school	£1,918,466

¹ Using DfE cost multipliers published annually

² This cost has been calculated based off the cost of building a new school divided by the proportion of homes this application gives

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		to be identified.	
Post 16	20	A contribution is requested towards improving education facilities (which may include the purchase and improvement of land and buildings) President Kennedy, Coundon Court or another school to be identified.	£379,057
Secondary and Post 16 SEN	4	A contribution is requested towards improving education facilities (which may include the purchase and improvement of land and buildings) at Sherbourne Fields.	£86,156

Total Contribution	£3,986,735
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1. Introduction and context

- 1.1. This planning statement sets out the reasons for seeking a financial contribution towards additional education provision from a development at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW.
- 1.2. Please note that Coventry do not request a contribution for single bed dwellings, therefore the contribution outlined here for the development should only include homes in design of 2 bed and above dwellings.
- 1.3. Where it is currently not possible to discern the amount of 1 bed dwellings from the application then in the response a full contribution for all homes will be requested. When the developer can demonstrate the number of 1 bed dwellings that will need to be discounted, Coventry City Council will make the adjustment.

2. Education Sufficiency Duties

- 2.1. The City Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996 to provide a school place to all of its school-age resident children.
- 2.2. This responsibility still remains despite the recent direction of government policy towards giving schools more autonomy. As a result, all schools, including Academies and Free Schools, are considered equally in the City Council's planning of school places. The consequences of the City Council not meeting this duty are serious and would involve considerable financial costs as explained below:
 - Parents can exercise their right to complain to the Local Authority.

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- Where it is considered that the Authority is in breach of its legal duty to secure sufficient school places, affected persons (e.g. parents) could pursue Judicial Review proceedings in the High Court. Apart from the cost implications of the Court ordering the Authority to comply with their statutory duty under section 14 of the Education Act 1996 to provide sufficient school places, the Authority would normally have to pay the legal costs of the parents as well as its own legal costs.
- Parents can appeal to Independent Admission Appeal Panels if the admissions authority refuses a child admission to a school. If the shortage of places leads to Independent Appeal Panels upholding more appeals, this could lead to already oversubscribed schools having to admit even more pupils. If Panels uphold infant class size appeals, the admission authority will normally be required to take measures for the following year to ensure that the class falls within the infant class size limit, for example, by providing a new teacher or a new classroom. The potential cost implications could be significant.

2.3. Even when a place can be found, if it is not close enough to home – i.e. within a 2 mile walk for primary-age pupils and within a 3 mile walk for secondary age pupils – the local authority is liable for the cost of transporting the child to and from school each day for the length of time they are at the school.

3. General School Place Planning Context

- 3.1. Coventry's school age population has been changing significantly over the past few years as a result of demographic change and government policy. As with many parts of the country, Coventry, particularly in urban areas, has seen an upturn in the number of births each year following a drop in numbers some years ago. As a result there is localised pressure on primary school places, and many secondary schools are starting to see the larger primary cohorts moving through placing pressure on Secondary School places across the city.
- 3.2. **Primary Schools:** Current pupil forecasts show the overall numbers of Primary school children will continue to grow until September 2018, as larger birth cohort's work their way through. Without any further housing development within the city, Primary numbers should begin to stabilise for the year groups entering Reception from September 2018 onwards. However any new housing development will offset this.
- 3.5. **Secondary Schools:** The picture for secondary schools is more complex. Some schools currently have some level of surplus capacity whilst others admit pupils over their published capacity. Without any further housing development within the city, overall numbers in secondary schools will grow from September 2017 onwards as larger cohorts transfer from primary schools, expecting to peak, and stabilise from that point, in September 2022 to correspond with the Reception peak seven years earlier. Therefore, the current capacity in Secondary schools will be taken up as primary age pupils already in the system roll through to secondary school. The LA is preparing plans to provide additional secondary school places from September 2018 onwards to cope with the

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anticipated impact of housing exacerbating the growing pressure on pupil places.

- 3.6. **Post-16:** The number of pupils accessing post-16 provision will be influenced by the demographic changes outlined above. However, a further consideration is the recent legislation around Raising the Participation Age, which requires all 17 and 18 year olds to continue in education or training. With this in mind Post-16 provision includes Sixth forms, Further Education Colleges and Post-16 SEND provision.
- 3.7. **Early Years / Pre-School:** Under the Childcare Act 2006, the LA has a statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare and free Early Years provision for eligible young children. This Early Years education and childcare is provided across Coventry in nursery schools and school nursery classes as well as in private nursery settings. The demographic changes outlined above have an impact on Early Years provision first; however, recent changes in legislation are adding to these pressures, particularly the statutory requirement to secure sufficient early education places for eligible 2 year olds. Approximately 40% of two year olds in Coventry qualified for this scheme in 2014, a further 1,200 places.
- 3.8. The Government has increased entitlement for 3 to 4 year olds from 15 to 30 hours per week for working parents from September 2017. This entitlement will require significant growth from the sector to meet demands from the current population. Therefore, further investment and growth will be needed to absorb the impact of any new housing.
- 3.9. **SEND Provision:** The recent demographic changes have also affected Special School numbers, which have gone up by 10% since 2010. There is significant pressure on special schools with increasing numbers of pupils having to be placed out of city at considerable cost to the local authority. There will continue to be a need to increase the level of SEND provision in the City with additional places at special schools and the expansion of existing and development of new resourced provision within mainstream schools.

4. Requirements for Contributions

- 4.1. A contribution towards increased education facilities is sought when the predicted impact of a new housing development creates a shortfall in provision.
- 4.2. This is assessed by looking at current capacity and forecast demand using birth data from the health authorities, the school census and data on parental preferences and housing numbers. Where the additional pupil numbers brought to the area may be partly accommodated, the level of contribution requested would be adjusted accordingly. The additional demand, net of any capacity that might be available, informs the request for contributions.
- 4.3. To allow for flexibility in the system to meet parental preference, enable in-year transfers and help families moving to an area find a place for each of their children at the same school. The target for Coventry is for the supply of places

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to exceed demand by approximately 4% with as even a spread across the City as possible. Therefore, maintaining this level of surplus will also be considered when looking at current capacity and the impact of housing development in an area.

5. Key Place Planning Assumptions

- 5.1. Due to the importance of providing sufficient school places, the local authority is required to strategically plan as far in advance as possible. The existence of capacity at a particular point in time does not mean that it will still be available for the duration of the planning period. For example, where there is an increasing birth rate, schools will fill from the youngest year groups up and through the school. Any current capacity in older year groups will clearly be required to accommodate pupils from younger year groups as they progress through the school. It would therefore be unreasonable to assume that any current capacity in older year groups could be used to mitigate the impact of a housing development.
- 5.2. The LA has a statutory duty to meet parental preference wherever possible under Section 86(2) of the School Standards and Framework Act (1998). Whilst Coventry generally operates catchment areas, it is not always possible to increase a specific school to be able to accommodate all children within its agreed catchment area. Catchment areas are simply a mechanism to determine who should be offered places at a school in the event that they are oversubscribed. As a result there is complex pattern of movement between catchment areas that sees no school take all of its pupils from its own catchment area.
- 5.3. If places are available at a school at the time of an application then the admission authority for the school may not refuse to offer a place regardless of where the children live. Once those children have been admitted, they may not be removed from the school.
- 5.4. Families moving to a new development may find that places have been taken by children from further afield. There is no mechanism available (or desirable) to move children attending a school but living outside of the priority area back to their local school. It is therefore important to consider the sufficiency of provision within a reasonable area rather than a single school unless there are no reasonable alternatives.
- 5.5. Reasonable, in this case, may be defined as within the government guidelines on walking distances to school (2 miles for primary age pupils and 3 miles for secondary age pupils) assuming there is a safe walking route. Where pupils are placed at schools further afield than these distances (i.e. where those pupils have not chosen to attend that school but have been allocated a place at that school), the LA would have a duty to fund home to school transport.
- 5.6. In addition to the use of catchment areas, the admission system in Coventry uses straight line distance from home to school as a 'tie-breaker' when deciding

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who should be offered places. On this basis, it is reasonable to assume that, in time, at normal points of transfer (e.g. starting primary or secondary school) children moving to a new development built very near to a school site would gain priority for admission over children living further away. However, it is important to consider the wider, knock-on impact this would have in terms of displacing pupils who would otherwise have been able to attend the school.

- 5.7. It is the Department for Education's view that development should mitigate impacts that arise as direct result of the new development and that displacing pupils from one full school to another should be considered as such even though that other school may not be local to the development site.

6. Requirements for Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW³:

6.1. Early Years/Pre School: By calculation, Coventry City Council would anticipate that 500 homes at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW would create a demand for, 39 children aged 0-4 who might require Nursery Education Funded (NEF) nursery / pre-school provision.

6.1.1. Local authorities are required by legislation under the Childcare Act 2006 to secure sufficient free early years provision for eligible young children. All children are currently entitled to free early education for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year from the start of their 3rd birthday until they start school. From September 2017, the Childcare Bill doubles free childcare available for working parents of 3 to 4 year olds from 15 to 30 hours per week. In addition to this, from 2013 Councils were also required to provide free early education places for eligible 2 year olds for 15 hours per week for 38 weeks per year. In Coventry, this equates to 40% of two year olds qualifying for this entitlement.

6.1.2. There are currently 10 pre-school/nursery settings within the planning area of this development, able to provide places for 433 children (0-4) at any one time. These settings range in the type of provision they provide and the age range of the child they can cater for.

6.1.3. As of late October/early November 2018, these settings were currently operating at an overall capacity of approximately 85%, these places were largely at one early years setting which has historically received very few funding claims. Therefore there is pressure on early years places in the surrounding area.

6.1.4. Over the next five years development in this area could bring approximately 230 children aged 0-4 into the vicinity of this application site. Therefore, in order to help increase sufficiency of nursery educated funded provision in the area, a contribution is requested towards increasing nursery/pre-school provision within two miles of the development site.

³ Pupil yield based on dwellings with two or more bedrooms. Calculation for application PREP/2018/2822 provisionally based on Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW dwellings

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6.2. **Primary:** By calculation, Coventry City Council would anticipate that 500 homes at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW would create a demand for 197 Primary Age children who would require a place at a local primary school. Primary age includes children across the 4-11 age range, it is assumed an even split over all year groups.

6.2.1. There are currently 5 primary schools within the planning area in which this site is located. All schools are at, or close to, capacity and forecast to remain so.

Table 1⁴

Year	Total capacity	Total number of children forecast
September 2017	2205	2226
September 2018	2205	2261
September 2019	2205	2275
September 2020	2205	2359

6.2.3. This demand, together with a larger early year's cohort moving through into primary education, will result in schools in the vicinity of application PREP/2018/2822 remaining at capacity and therefore unable to accommodate pupils from this development.

6.2.4. A contribution is requested towards providing the new school on the Keresley SUE. This cost has been calculated based off the cost of building a new school divided by the proportion of homes this application gives.

7. Secondary Schools

7.1. By calculation, Coventry City Council would anticipate that 500 homes at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW would create a demand for 116 Secondary School places and 20 Post 16 places. Secondary age includes children across the 11-16 age range, Post 16 includes children 16-19, it is assumed an even split over all year groups.

7.2.

7.2.1. There are 3 secondary schools within the planning area of the location of the development.

7.2.2. The next couple of years will see a significant growth in pupil numbers as a result of larger primary cohorts moving through and the high level of housing anticipated in the area.

⁴ Please note that the table includes already approved developments.

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7.2.3.

Table 3⁵

Year	Total capacity	Total number of children forecast
September 2017	3883	3798
September 2018	3883	3909
September 2019	4009	4034
September 2020	4105	4203
September 2021	4225	4443
September 2022	4345	4669

7.2.4. As illustrated in Table 2, as the housing builds out it is anticipated that available capacity in the area will be utilised over the next couple years and additional pupil places will need to be provided.

7.2.5. Schools within a 3 miles radius of this development show a similar position.

7.2.6. As part of the planned expansion of secondary provision in the area, a contribution is requested towards expansion of President Kennedy, Coundon Court or another school to be identified closer to the time.

7.3. If development at Thompsons Farm Thompsons Road CV7 8JW is permitted then the City Council would expect to secure contributions towards secondary school provision.

8. SEN

8.1. Using September 2017 commissioned places as a baseline and assuming that the recent increase in demand is permanent, the following cumulative forecast for demand increase by phase between 2019 and 2022 is set out:

8.2

	September 19	September 20	September 21	September 22
Primary – Additional commissioned places required	20	6	0	0
Secondary – Additional	64	25	20	30

⁵ Please note that the table includes already approved developments.

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commissioned places required.				
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8.2 As part of the planning expansion of SEN provision in the area, a contribution is requested.