Nottinghamshire County Council

Planning to meet increasing demand for school places – the context

The Education Act 1996 dictates that Nottinghamshire County Council has a duty to secure school places for all children of statutory school age who are resident in the county and whose parents want them to be educated in a Nottinghamshire state-funded school. Subsequent Education Acts have built upon this but the obligation placed on local authorities has not changed.

Funding for the provision of additional school places is derived from two sources:

1. An allocation from DfE (Education Funding Agency) to meet demand from the families occupying existing housing stock. Increasing demand on places in this case is a direct result of either rising birth rates or a net inward migration.
2. Developer education contributions which are required to mitigate the impact of new housing developments on infrastructure.

Forecasting the demand for school places – the methodology

The methodology employed by the County Council for forecasting pupil numbers is the same as that used by most other local authorities.

The County Council groups primary schools across the county into 'primary planning areas'.

Population profile data is aggregated to postcode and age group, which enables the numbers of children in each cohort to be mapped against school catchment areas. In turn, this data is aggregated to the primary planning areas. This provides the number of young people living in each planning area organised by National Curriculum Year.

The statutory school census data for an individual school for each of the past 3 years is compared to the corresponding population profile data for the planning area the school is in. This results in a 3 year period percentage intake from the planning area. These 3 percentages are averaged; however, the average is weighted towards the more recent census year.

This percentage is then applied to the appropriate population profile data for the next 5 years to create a first admission and infant to junior prediction for the following 5 years.

There is always a degree of movement into and out of schools throughout the year and this is calculated to produce a 'cohort flux' – for example, losses or gains between one school year and the next. The average cohort flux for each year group over the past 3 years is calculated for the school which is then applied to each cohort projection to predict numbers for the following year.

The same methodology is employed to forecast the demand for secondary school places.

Demographic changes

In line with the underlying national trend, Nottinghamshire has seen an increase in birth rates across the county since 2007. This is reflected in the overall school population but is particularly well illustrated in the numbers of primary age children (Figure 1).

Figure 1 - Total number on roll in mainstream primary schools

The total primary number on roll (NOR) had seen a steady decline in numbers between 2001 and 2010 but subsequent years have seen a sharp increase in total numbers to the school year 2015/16, with numbers now at their highest level since 2001/02.

The numbers of 4 year olds entering the school system show a sharper increase (Figure 2). Across the whole of the county, the number of 4 year olds began to increase around 2006.

Figure 2 - Total number of children in mainstream schools - reception year

Given the falling rolls of previous years, this sharp increase in numbers of 4 year olds did not impact on the county's overall ability to provide pupil places where they were needed. However, as smaller cohorts of older children are replaced by larger cohorts of young children, pressure on places inevitably increases. Figure 3 shows the cohort profile across the whole county in January 2016.

Figure 3 – January 2016 size of cohorts in mainstream schools – Reception to Year 6 – whole county

Meeting expected demand resulting from proposed housing developments

The County Council's consideration of whether or not developer contributions towards education provision are required will be informed by the projected demand for places compared with the known capacity figures. Empty places at a school do not necessarily equate to there being sufficient capacity at that school as it is a DfE expectation that schools should not operate at more than 90-95% of their capacity.

The projected demand for places, taking into account the proposed development, are calculated during the planning application process using the formulae described in the County's planning obligations strategy. This, in turn, is translated into a funding requirement which is again detailed in the strategy as a per pupil place cost. Any costs to be paid to the County Council will be index linked through the Section 106 agreement.

Where a new development is proposed in an area with sufficient projected capacity, no financial contribution will be required; however, where the proposed development would result in insufficient projected capacity, a contribution will be required. There may be a requirement, in some cases, for the provision of a completely new school. This is likely to be the case if the proposed development is in an area where all schools have already been expanded to reach their site capacity, or where the development is large enough to sustain its own school. Where a new school is required, the base level of contribution required will be an appropriate area of land for the required size of school plus the cost of building the school.

If there is insufficient capacity to accommodate the increase in pupils likely to be generated by a development and the development itself cannot enable the necessary provision the County Council will raise objections to the development.

Analysis of the impact of *2015/1376 Land at Chase Farm (Former Gedling Colliery) Adjacent to Arnold Lane* on the education infrastructure which will serve the development

Introduction

The proposed development of 1,050 dwellings is situated within the primary catchment area of Lambley Primary School and the secondary catchment area of Carlton Academy. Lambley Primary School is designated as a rural school but is adjacent to the primary school planning areas of Carlton and Arnold. To explore and exhaust all possible realistic options for accommodating any children generated by this development, a wider area than the Lambley catchment area has been analysed. This wider area consists of the following schools, which are the next nearest primary schools to the proposed development:

- Mapperley Plains Primary
- Stanhope Primary
- Westdale Infant and Junior Schools

Using calculations defined in the County Council Planning Obligations Strategy, which describes the use of the formula *number of dwellings x 0.21* (ie, 21 primary age children per 100 dwellings), the proposed development is likely to generate 221 primary age pupils. The secondary calculation is based upon 16 secondary age pupils per 100 dwellings, which suggests that 168 such pupils will be generated by the development.

As a one-form entry primary school (Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30) can accommodate 210 children, a proposed housing development of this size requires its own primary school to sustain the development, since local schools would not be able to accommodate this additional number of pupils. Furthermore, the anticipated arrival of 221 pupils would not be accommodated by a single one-form entry school, particularly when considering that the 221 pupils would not be evenly distributed across all 7 primary cohorts. Therefore, in the case of this proposed development, Nottinghamshire County Council requests a one-form entry primary school on a site large enough to allow potential expansion.

The following data analysis provides the background to the above request.

Primary education

The charts associated with each school illustrate:

- the projected total demand for places at the school
- the first admissions places allocated
- the projected demand for places in each cohort for the next 5 years

The total projected demand for places typically masks the pressure on first admissions places in the school resulting from the increased birth rates in recent years.

Lambley Primary School

Lambley Primary School overview

		Projected demand for places - Lambley Primary School									
		Year group							Totals		
		R	1	2	3	4	5	6	KS1	KS2	Total
	Jan 2015 actuals	22	15	21	17	15	17	15	58	64	122
Projections	2014/15	19	22	21	18	17	14	15	62	64	126
	2015/16	25	19	16	22	18	17	18	60	75	135
	2016/17	20	26	20	17	23	20	18	66	78	144
	2017/18	25	20	26	20	17	24	20	71	81	152
	2018/19	23	25	20	26	20	18	24	68	88	156
	2019/20	23	23	25	20	26	21	18	71	85	156

In the above table, the red shaded cells illustrate the cohorts which are projected to exceed the Published Admission Number (PAN) of **22** for that year and any yellow shaded cells in the right column show where the projected TOTAL demand for places exceeds the total capacity of the school (net capacity **154**).

Lambley Primary School has recently had building works completed to increase the school capacity to meet local demand. This work has taken the school to the full capacity of the site and no further expansion is possible.

The chart below illustrates the number of children on roll as of October 2015, in relation to the respective PANs in operation in any one year group:

Supplementary data analysis

The following charts illustrate the numbers on roll at other local schools as of October 2015 (the latest available statutory school census data), compared with the respective cohort PANs.

Mapperley Plains Primary and Nursery School

Stanhope Primary and Nursery School

Stanhope Primary School is currently undergoing building works to increase its capacity to accommodate the increasing numbers of pupils from across the area. Other schools have already been expanded to their respective site capacities.

Westdale Infant School

Westdale Junior School

Primary education – conclusion

There is no surplus capacity in local schools that can be used to accommodate the additional pupils expected to be generated by this development. In any case, the numbers of pupils generated from this proposed development will require a new one-form entry primary school to be built on site.

As a one-form entry primary school (Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30) can accommodate 210 children, a proposed housing development of this size requires its own primary school to sustain the development, since local schools would not be able to accommodate this additional number of pupils. Furthermore, the anticipated arrival of 221 pupils would not be accommodated by a single one-form entry school, particularly when considering that the 221 pupils would not be evenly distributed across all 7 primary cohorts. Therefore, in the case of this proposed development, Nottinghamshire County Council requests a one-form entry primary school on a site large enough to allow potential expansion.

Given the fact that the proposed development includes plans to create in excess of 1,000 dwellings, the contributions required to sustain education facilities on the site are as follows:

- A cleared and fully-serviced site of **1.5ha**
- The provision of a one-form entry primary school, the current estimated cost of which is **£3.6m**

Secondary education

The catchment secondary school, Carlton Academy, has almost met or exceeded its primary to secondary transfer PAN for the last four years. There is, therefore, no capacity to accommodate the expected average of 34 secondary pupils per age group, without additional accommodation being created. The following chart illustrates the number on roll in each cohort at the school as of October 2015:

To this end, secondary contributions of **£2,899,680 (168 x £17,260)** are required to mitigate the impact of the development on secondary education facilities.

It is anticipated that funding for secondary education will be collected through the Borough Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Given the pressure on secondary school places the County Council would wish to receive the secondary school funding as soon as possible.