

Derby HMA Aligned Core Strategies

Preferred Growth Strategy Consultation October 2012

Education Position Statement:

Introduction

- 1.1 Amber Valley Borough Council, Derby City Council and South Derbyshire District Council share a Housing Market Area. The three planning authorities are working together to agree strategies for deciding where future housing and other development should take place over the next 15 – 20 years. The strategies are known as Core Strategies (or Local Plans) and are being developed in line with the Government's new National Planning Policy Framework. The next stage in the production of the Core Strategies for the three respective authorities is the publication of their Preferred Growth Strategies (PGS) in October 2012.
- 1.2 One of the key issues for consideration is the location of the new housing and how to ensure that adequate infrastructure can be put in place to meet the needs of the developments, including in relation to school places, highways, health provision etc. Officers within the School Organisation Team have been working closely with Planning Officers from the three local authorities and colleagues responsible for place planning in Derbyshire County Council on how school places could potentially be provided for the developments.
- 1.3 Local authorities are responsible for ensuring sufficient school places within their administrative boundaries having regard to provision in all categories of schools, including academies. The Local Authority has a role in leading on the strategic management of school places and all proposals will be fully consulted upon with the schools affected. Discussions are taking place with those schools which are located near to areas of growth.

Background

- 2.1 The Preferred Growth Strategies for the three Authorities propose 33,700 houses across the HMA between 2008-2028, with 19,200 of these properties being located within Derby or on the edge of the City, known as the Derby Urban Area (DUA). The figure for the DUA is made up of 12,000 homes located in Derby with the remainder in South Derbyshire (6,700) and Amber Valley (530). Outside the DUA, 6,000 homes are proposed in South Derbyshire and 8,470 in Amber Valley.
- 2.2 The housing would be developed gradually over a 15 year period but it is important to have a strategy in place for dealing with school place requirements. In planning for school places, it should be noted that Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place

applications. In addition to this, projections are showing that numbers will continue to increase.

- 2.3 Colleagues from City and County Education teams have assessed all the proposed sites within the three respective PGSs and have advised that if the full extent of development is considered, there will be significant implications for school provision, in both the City and County. This note summarises the implications of the PGSs for school place provision.
- 2.4 For information, Derby City Council's pupil yield formula will be applied to those sites within Derby City and on the edge of the City boundary within the DUA. City and County Education Officers have agreed this approach on the basis that the DUA sites adjoin the city and are therefore more likely to reflect the demographics of the city as opposed to the county.

Primary Education

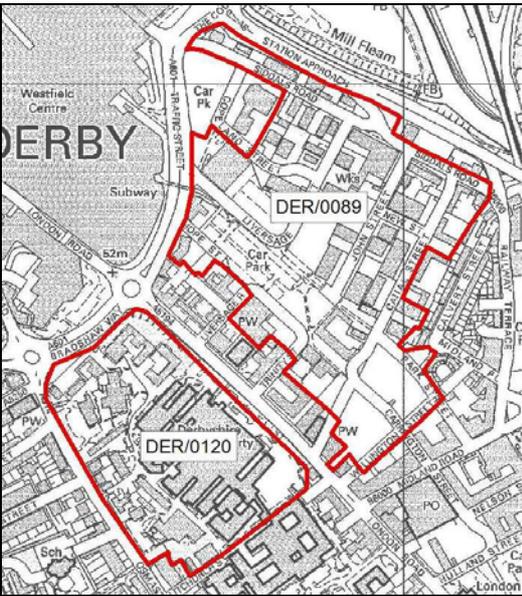
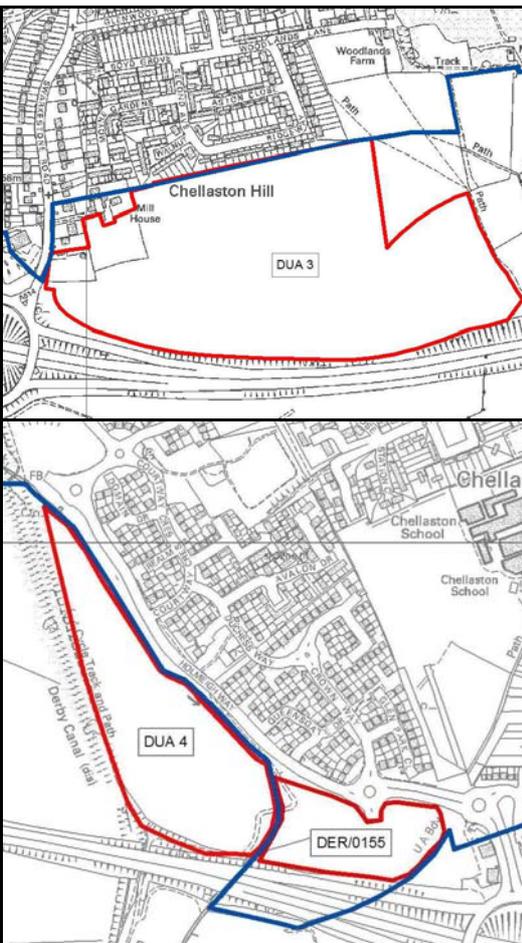
Derby City & DUA

- 3.1 Sites of over 750 new houses are likely to require a new one form entry primary school, although consideration would also be given to the expansion of existing schools. Any new schools are likely to be an academy or a free school and would be subject to consultation and the competition process. Where new primary schools are required within the administrative boundary of Derbyshire County Council, it is suggested that the County Council lead on these proposals working closely with Derby City Council.
- 3.2 The cost for a new primary school is likely to be a minimum of £4 million and the land area required would be a minimum of 0.87 hectares¹
- 3.3 From the level of housing growth across the city and the number of pupils we expect to be generated, there are a number of sites where there are no places available and expansion of existing schools is not possible. In addition to this, Derby has seen an unprecedented increase in school place applications, therefore this will need to be considered when considering the proposed housing developments. Projections are showing an increasing trend in pupil numbers and there is a need for additional primary places in a number of areas of the City; resulting in fewer options available to accommodate pupils from new developments. There is guidance that suggests that primary school pupils should not travel more than 2 miles or 30 minutes to their school² which needs to be taken account of as pressure increases on places.
- 3.4 There are a number of housing sites which are likely to be extremely problematic to accommodate at primary level, due to schools in these areas either already being large or not being capable of expansion. The

¹ [DfE: Building Bulletin 99, 2004](#)

² [s.444\(5\) Education Act 1996](#)

table below details these sites and identifies what approaches could be taken to address the problems posed by further housing growth:

Site(s)	Issue	Potential Approach
	<p>All sites within the normal areas of St James Infant, Rosehill Infant and St James Junior (1,278 properties = 358 pupils, including Castleward and former DRI); without a new primary, any development in this area is likely to be extremely problematic.</p>	<p>A new school is to be secured as part of the Castleward development. This new primary school could potentially be expanded to accommodate other developments.</p>
	<p>The sites within Chellaston Infant and Junior School and Homefields Primary normal areas (120 properties = 34 pupils), which include Woodlands Lane and Land off Holmleigh Way and the adjoining area within South Derbyshire which includes Chellaston Fields and Land west of Holmleigh Way (650 properties = 182 pupils).</p>	<p>Work with County colleagues to consider these cumulative pupil requirements from all four sites. These sites combined would be sufficient to justify a new primary school. However, only one of the sites would appear to be of sufficient size to accommodate a school. A planning application has recently been submitted to South Derbyshire on this site, Chellaston Fields.</p>

 <p>* Potential Additional Housing Allocation</p>	<p>The development at north of Fellowlands Way, Chellaston which is within the normal areas of Oakwood Infant and Junior Schools and Chellaston Infant and Junior Schools (200 properties = 56 pupils)</p>	<p>The site on its own would not sustain a new primary and would be problematic bought forward in isolation. If the site were to come forward along with the potential strategic allocation on the north side of Boulton Moor, the pupil numbers could be accommodated at a new school required as part of this development.</p>
	<p>The two sites at Onslow Road, Mickleover within Ravensdale Infant and Junior Schools' normal area (250 properties = 70 pupils)</p>	<p>The development is not large enough to necessitate a new school on site and Ravensdale Infant & Junior School, is already a large school with limited scope for expansion. There is potential to accommodate pupils at other primary schools in the vicinity.</p>

3.5 There are some instances where the number of new dwellings suggested will require a new primary school to be provided on site. . These include:

- The Rykneld Road, Heatherton site (900 properties = 252 pupils).
- The South Derbyshire sites at Wragley Way (1,948 dwellings = 546 pupils) would create the need for two new primary schools to be built on site. Pupils from the Wragley Way site within the City could feed into this new school or the existing Ashcroft Primary School.
- The cross boundary site at Boulton Moor would create an additional 1690 homes, which equates to 474 primary school places. A new primary school will be required to serve the development of the site within the City (800 dwellings = 225 pupils). The two South Derbyshire sites at Boulton Moor (890 dwellings = 250 pupils) will be accommodated through the expansion of the new primary school to be built on the adjacent site that already has permission for 1,058 new homes; as this can expand from a one form entry to become a two form entry primary school.

Outside the DUA

- 3.6 Outside of the DUA, within the remainder of Amber Valley and South Derbyshire, sites of over 1,000 new houses are likely to require a new one form entry primary school, although consideration would be given to the expansion of existing schools. Any new schools are likely to be an academy or a free school and would be subject to consultation and the competition process.

Amber Valley

- 3.7 In general terms, primary school places within the Borough are significantly less constrained. There would, however, be difficulties with primary school provision if the preferred site at Newlands/Land Off Taylor Lane, Heanor were to be developed, as the existing Marlpool infant and junior schools are at capacity and cannot be expanded further.
- 3.8 However, there is a site notified for development of education provision and this could be utilised as and when required. Ongoing liaison with the education authority is required to find a solution to this problem.
- 3.9 With regard to the preferred site north of Denby, if 1,800 dwellings were to be built as part of a mixed use scheme a new two form primary school would be provided on site.
- 3.10 Primary school places for all other preferred sites can be provided through existing surplus capacity at existing schools or the expansion of existing schools.

South Derbyshire

- 3.11 There are a number of housing sites within South Derbyshire where the additional primary school places required are likely to prove problematical. The particular areas of concern with the District are around Swadlincote, Woodville and Hilton.

Swadlincote & Woodville

- 3.12 There are three primary schools that would be particularly affected by the housing sites suggested in the Swadlincote and Woodville area. The housing site north of William Nadin Way falls within the normal area of Newhall Infant School and Newhall Community Junior School. These schools have some surplus capacity and could address the demand for places from approximately one hundred dwellings, but both sites could have additional accommodation built to address demand in excess of this.
- 3.13 The two sites around Church Street fall within the normal area of St George's Primary School which is currently at capacity and has no room to expand, so an alternative solution would need to be found. The Broomy Farm site falls within the normal area of Woodville Infant and Junior schools both of which are currently at capacity on a shared site with no room at all for expansion. There are also indications of

continued pressure for places from population growth within the normal area without the further pressure of new development in the normal area. The demand for primary school places extends to other primary schools in the locality. It should be noted that Church Gresley Infant School, is being re-built alongside Pennine Way Junior School site (build started Autumn 2012) and this will create some additional places though not sufficient to cover the expected demand from the housing sites.

Hilton

- 3.14 Hilton's population has increased rapidly in recent years through significant amounts of house building. The primary school in Hilton has reached a number on roll in excess of 770. This is excessively large for a primary school and generates extreme pressures. Any small scale development within the village would further increase this pressure on the school but would not provide a solution in terms of necessitating a new primary school within the village. In view of past growth, the District Council is not proposing further strategic scale house building in Hilton. However, the need for new infrastructure including primary school places is a priority and the District Council is exploring how this can be provided - which may need to include some housing development.

Hatton

- 3.15 The proposed development at Hatton would affect Heath Fields Primary School with places to be found for around 60 additional pupils. The primary school is nearing capacity but does have the potential to expand through either expansion to existing buildings or the building of new classrooms.

Secondary Education

Derby City & DUA

- 4.1 A number of City secondary schools are at capacity, some with limited opportunity to expand. This situation is compounded by the fact that the County secondary schools of Ecclesbourne and John Port, with normal areas covering the south west and north west of the City, are also at capacity and cannot expand further.
- 4.2 In addition to this existing pressure on secondary school places; the guidance regarding the time/distance travelled to work needs to be considered. The guidance suggests that a secondary pupil should not travel further than three miles or for longer than 45 minutes³.
- 4.3 To explore potential approaches to providing additional secondary school places to meet the requirements arising from housing growth, Education and Planning colleagues have looked at two broad alternatives, expanding existing schools or providing a new secondary school. These options are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

³ [s.444\(5\) Education Act 1996](#)

- 4.4 Whilst dependent on the mix of houses included on a site, typically new sites of over 6,000 new homes would generate the need for a 1,200 place secondary school. This standard applies to both City and County. Any new schools are likely to be an academy or a free school and would be subject to consultation and the competition process.
- 4.5 In terms of assessing how additional secondary school places can be provided at existing schools, in line with the above guidance, separate detailed scenario analysis has been undertaken by City Education Officers. This looks at possible combinations of sites that could be accommodated, through expansions of existing secondary schools. This indicates which sites could be served by school places at extended schools and which sites could not.
- 4.6 These scenarios include assumptions about maximum school sizes. These have been based on schools having a maximum annual admission number of around 300 (1500, 11-16 places) with post 16 places being on top of this. It should be noted that schools have not been formally consulted on the proposals as yet and may have a different view on this.
- 4.7 This scenario analysis has been further refined in consultation with Planning Officers to assess how many of the housing sites included in the PGs for Derby and South Derbyshire can be served by expansions to existing schools rather than through the provision of a new secondary school.
- 4.8 This further option would result in Sinfin Community School increasing in size to offer 1,652, 11-16 school places, and Noel-Baker School needing to increase in size to offer approximately 1,658, 11-16 pupil places. In addition, Noel-Baker provides post-16 places. This size of school is roughly equivalent to existing City secondary schools.
- 4.9 Under this further option, Sinfin Community School would need to increase its admission number to around 330 to accommodate anticipated pupil numbers from the housing within this further option. Noel-Baker School would need to increase its admission number to around 300, with post-16 numbers on top of this.
- 4.10 Increasing a school's admission number to 330, as a result of proposed new housing, could limit the flexibility for expansion arising from general growth in pupil numbers. An admission number of 330 would also result in an uneven number of forms of entry which may make it more challenging for the school in terms of timetabling and curriculum planning. Any sixth form numbers also need to be considered as the school may become too large and this could impact on standards.
- 4.11 Schools may therefore not be willing to accept an increase in size to this extent due to the impact it may have on education outcomes and the ethos of the schools. Further work is required to refine this work, in terms of working with schools to understand the implications of school expansions.

- 4.12 Despite this further option, not all of the sites that are included in Derby and South Derbyshire's PGSs could be served by sufficient secondary school places, even with the significant expansions of existing secondary schools outlined. There would also still be a residual requirement for a number of additional pupil places around the southern edge of the City, which may necessitate the consideration of a new secondary school.
- 4.13 Based on the number of homes proposed in and around the City, it is therefore unlikely that existing secondary schools can be expanded to meet the levels of growth anticipated; this is particularly true in and around the south and south eastern edge of the City.
- 4.14 If a new secondary school were to be required, very careful consideration would need to be given to the location of the proposed new school as well as the way in which a site and funding would be acquired. A new secondary school is likely to cost a minimum of £14 million and would require a minimum of 6.8 hectares of land⁴.
- 4.15 Derby City Council would work closely with Derbyshire County Council if the proposals are brought forward for a new secondary school. The location and normal area of any new secondary school would need to be subject to very careful consideration between the two local authorities. A new school would be subject to a competition and consultation process. There are likely to be sensitivities over any changes to existing normal areas.
- 4.16 The decision to pursue a new secondary school in itself requires a significant amount of work to identify a potential location/site, delivery strategy and funding.

Amber Valley

- 4.17 With regard to the preferred site north of Denby, it is likely that secondary school provision will be provided by extending the existing John Flamsteed School adjacent to the site. The precise way in which secondary school places will be provided for the new residents will require ongoing liaison with the education authority.
- 4.18 Secondary school places for all other preferred sites can be provided through existing surplus capacity at existing schools or the expansion of existing schools.

South Derbyshire

- 4.19 Outside of the DUA there is also pressure on secondary school places in Swadlincote and Etwell. The three existing secondary schools in Swadlincote are under differing amounts of pressure. William Allitt is a popular and successful school but the current site is too small for the

⁴ [DfE: Building Bulletin 98, 2004](#)

existing number of pupils on roll without any further numbers being added, so a solution needs to be found for this if this school is to grow. Granville and The Pingle secondary schools have some capacity and both have the opportunity to expand if land could be acquired.

- 4.20 John Port at Etwall is currently at capacity and does not have any room for further expansion. It is the largest secondary school in Derbyshire. Aside from the DUA housing sites the housing site in Hatton would have an impact on John Port. Due to the smaller nature of this site, it is possible that this site alone could be accommodated at John Port.

Next Steps

- 5.1 Education and Planning colleagues from the respective authorities will continue to work together on this process on to inform which options, for secondary education in particular, can be considered further; as Planning Officers move towards finalising their Core Strategies for Submission to the Secretary of State for formal examination. Further work will help firm up plans for new education infrastructure, including costings and available funding mechanisms.
- 5.2 In particular, consultations on the Preferred Growth Strategy will continue with Head teachers and School Governors.