

Warwickshire County Council Statement

Warwick District Council Local Plan Examination

Response to Inspector's Matters and Issues

Matter 8 - Other proposed site allocations

Policy DS12 – Land for education

ED2 – Southcrest Farm, Kenilworth

Purpose

1. This Statement seeks to clarify the position of Warwickshire County Council regarding the provision of secondary school places to support local plan allocations in the area.

Scope

2. This Statement sets out the approach for the following Local Plan allocations

Housing Allocations (Policy DS11)

H06 Land East of Kenilworth (Thickthorn

H07 Crackley Triangle

H09 Kenilworth School Site

H12 Kenilworth VI Form College

H40 East of Kenilworth (Crewe Lane, Southcrest Farm and Woodside Training Centre)

H41 East of Warwick Road

Educational Allocation (Policy D12)

ED2 Land at Southcrest Farm

Preferred Approach

3. The proposed allocations set out above, along with other allocations in the existing Kenilworth School priority area, require 473 additional secondary school & sixth form places to be provided.
4. Combined with existing need within the Kenilworth School priority area, 2200 secondary school & sixth form places are required to support Kenilworth.
5. The current Kenilworth School sites are not suitable for expansion on this scale.
6. Kenilworth School believes that the split site arrangement currently offered by them, cannot be sustained for financial and operational reasons. The school is therefore looking to be located on a single site.
7. The proposal to redevelop Kenilworth School at Southcrest Farm offers a sustainable, long term way of improving education provision for Kenilworth and providing key infrastructure locally to enable the integration of existing and new communities in the Town.
8. The Southcrest Farm site is well suited in terms of size, location and opportunities to provide for the medium to long term secondary and sixth form educational needs of Kenilworth.
9. The development of a new secondary school and sixth form at Southcrest Farm (ED2) is therefore supported by all parties as the preferred approach to meeting the educational needs of Kenilworth.

Ensuring Viability

10. Potential sources of funding for the proposed new school are:

- Sale of land occupied by the existing school for housing
- CIL/Section 106 contributions
- Department for Education / EFA funding
- Other sources relating to the potential for providing specific facilities on the site

The exact quantum of funding from each source is still to be finalised and discussions between interested parties continue.

11. All parties are committed to working together on an ongoing basis to plan a phased approach to the development of a new school to enable sources of funding to be identified to provide necessary funds to cover the initial costs

12. Although recognising that the proposed relocation and expansion will be phased we must not lose sight of the fact that the primary focus of this proposal is the provision of additional school.

13. All parties agree to engage with the DfE/EFA as appropriate regarding further funding opportunities

Proposed Alternative

14. As a responsible planner, Warwickshire County Council has had to consider how it will be able to fulfil its statutory duty re the provision of a sufficient supply of school places in the event that the approach described in paragraphs 3 to 9 is unable to deliver additional places to meet the demand of new developments.

15. The County Council will ensure the secondary and 6th form educational needs of Kenilworth (including the pupil places required to support the proposed housing allocations) are met in full.

16. Specifically:

- a. If the 6th Form is relocated to Leyes Lane this would lead to the loss of 300 school places currently within the town. .
- b. In the event of the relocation of the 6th Form, the number of additional places required would be sufficient to sustain a new school. Warwickshire County Council would, therefore, promote the development of a new free school in Kenilworth to provide sufficient places to meet need, which will be at least 773 secondary and sixth form places.

Signed on behalf of Warwickshire County Council



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Sarah Mills, Service Manager Access and Organisation
Education and Learning

25th October 2016