

Stage 3 Examination – New Schools

Aurora Properties (UK) Limited

The NPPF (para. 157), requires – crucially – that Local Plans should “*plan positively for the development and infrastructure required in the area to meet the objectives, principles and policies of this Framework [...].*”

Paragraph 72 “*attaches great importance to ensuring that a sufficient choice of school places is available to meet the needs of existing and new communities. Local planning authorities should take a proactive, positive and collaborative approach to meeting this requirement, and to development that will widen choice in education. They should: give great weight to the need to create, expand or alter schools [...].*”

The location of primary schools (paras. 37 & 38) should be located within walking distance of most properties to minimise journey lengths.

Our suggested policy is a simple and positively worded approach. It also recognises that there needs to be safeguarding for the long-term, so that Green Belt boundaries can endure:

SP 14 – New Schools

- i. Secondary school provision to meet the Council's OAN housing ~~target~~ requirement for the plan period will be planned for through the identification of suitable sites in a location well related to the communities it is intended to serve with good public transport and cycle access. ~~leads [...]~~ ~~serve.~~
- ii. Primary school provision to meet the Council's OAN housing requirement for the plan period will be planned for through the identification of suitable sites in a location well related to and within walking distances of most properties within the communities it is intended to serve. ~~The [...]~~ ~~above.~~
- iii. Safeguarding school sites for the longer term requirements arising from growth beyond the Plan period will be made for each settlement.

Sites for education will be identified in the settlement policies of the Local Plan, for all settlements including the larger villages in which growth is planned.