

Ribble Valley Core Strategy
Lancashire County Council Education Statement

Background

As published in the Strategy for School Places 2014/15 -16/17, Lancashire County Council has a statutory duty to ensure a school place is available for all Lancashire children and young people who requires one.

Where new housing development creates a demand for school places in excess of those available, Lancashire County Council will expect district councils to work with Lancashire County Council in seeking a financial contribution from the developers to address the direct impact of that development on local infrastructure. It is critical that developers make a financial contribution to school places as, without one, Lancashire County Council will be unable to deliver the required provision and this will impact on the children and families that come to settle in new developments.

Due to the rise in demand for primary school places, Lancashire County Council has already commissioned 1,690 permanent additional primary school places in Lancashire since 2011.

Details of additional in Ribble Valley in 2013:

Clitheroe St James Primary Increase admission number from 45 to 60 (1 year only)

Until this year, a stable (and at times falling) birth rate had meant that there were sufficient places to accommodate the housing development within Ribble Valley without establishing a new school. Historically, additional places were added at Whalley C of E Primary (5 places per year group), Langho & Billington St Leonards (10 places per year group) and Langho St Mary's RC Primary (10 places per year group) in 2004 as a result of the Calderstones development.

Planning for future delivery

The baseline position for assessing the need for additional places is taken from the current capacity and number of pupils on roll at schools in the area impacted upon by a development. 5 year pupil projections are then factored in which take into account in year migration, live births and the impact of housing with planning permission, as detailed in the

district's 5 year Housing Land Supply document. This approach is applied consistently across all districts. This gives an indication of whether there will be surplus places available in 5 years' time to serve the needs of the proposed new development (s). Where these projections indicate a shortfall or the surplus capacity is insufficient to accommodate the full yield of the development, it would be necessary to seek a contribution from a developer to mitigate the impact of the development.

For more information about Lancashire's Education Contribution Methodology please see the link below. A Frequently Asked Questions document and further details of the Pupil Projection Methodology are also available by following this link.

Lancashire County Council works closely with the district councils to obtain up to date data on planned housing development. This close working relationship enables the county council to identify potential longer term future demand. The Core Strategy is a key element of this partnership working and Lancashire County Council have provided longer term education projections based on the information contained within the plan. These assessments will be updated to reflect the latest information.

Delivery Limitations

Before taking any action to provide additional places, Lancashire County Council must have sufficient evidence of demand. However, having planning permission in place is no guarantee of delivery or occupation; additional places cannot be provided on the basis of houses not yet built. In fact, for the majority of contributions secured against housing developments across Lancashire, the payment will be linked to a trigger point of a certain number of occupied properties on a site.

In addition, when making significant enlargement of an existing school or on the establishment of a new school both projects would require the authority to consult interested parties before making any decision. This process is prescribed under the School Organisation (Prescribed Alterations to Maintained Schools) (England) Regulations 2007 (as amended by The School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2007 which came into force on 21 January 2008 and the School Organisation and Governance (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 which came into force on 1 September 2009). This means that Lancashire County Council cannot predetermine where the education contribution provided by a developer will be used to provide additional

http://www3.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/atoz/a_to_z/service.asp?u_id=2839&tab=1

places at the time of the planning application or as part of the Core Strategy development process. Wherever possible, an education contribution will be used within 3 miles of the housing development.

Whilst there have been significant numbers of developments receiving planning approval in Ribble Valley in recent years, few have yet to be completed to occupation and Lancashire County Council has yet to receive any actual contributions from developers linked to this recent tranche of planning applications.

Other factors that will influence whether additional places are provided and what action is taken are as follows:

- The emerging academy and free school programme (where a free school or academy could apply direct to the Secretary of State to provide places in the area, unplanned by Lancashire County Council and often in areas where additional places are not actually needed);
- The willingness of schools (particularly academies and aided schools) to expand;
- The feasibility of the schools within the catchment of a development to expand;
- Changing parental preference in response to any number of factors, which will influence where demand exists;
- The phasing of development delivery in response to the housing market;
- Availability of sites to establish new provision and the suitability of these and existing school sites for building work.

The Provision Planning Team of the Children and Young Peoples' Directorate of Lancashire County Council updates data on a timely basis to regularly assess the need for places across the county and has an annual rolling programme of delivery. As part of this ongoing monitoring Lancashire County Council works closely with Ribble Valley Planning Officers to ensure that data used is as up-to-date as possible.

Lancashire County Council's scope for the delivery of places is 5 years on the basis that we can assess the need for places with relative certainty within this period. This is due to the fact that we will only have live birth and 5 year housing land supply data of known planning permissions for this period ahead. However, to assist districts with their longer term planning required for Local Plans, we have used longer term forecasts of need to give general indications of the need for additional places. Whilst this, and the limitations stated

above will prevent the authority from being able to state where the places will be provided in the longer term, we can assess the likely yield of planned developments and number of places that need to be available or made available to accommodate them.

Pupil Yield

In order to provide an indication of the potential impact of projected development on the principal settlements, the table below shows a projected pupil yield for primary and secondary places for each area, based on a 4 bedroom dwelling yield.

The pupil yields have been determined based on research carried out by Lancashire County Council in 2012/13, to identify pupil yields based on dwelling bedroom information. The 4 bedroom pupil yield is used when actual bedroom information is not available, such as in the case of outline planning applications, and this approach is in line with Lancashire County Council methodology. Further information about the pupil yield research and the methodology can be viewed at the link above.

The data in the table only relates to the residential number of dwellings projected and does not include commitments up to March 2014, as the impact of these developments will have already been addressed by existing Section 106 agreements.

| Location | Residential Number of Houses Required | Primary Pupil Yield | Secondary Pupil Yield |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Clitheroe | 215 | 82 | 32 |
| Longridge | 629 | 239 | 94 |
| Whalley | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Standen | 1040 | 395 | 156 |

The above pupil yields reflect the latest education methodology. Further information would be provided as part of a full assessment once more detailed development and phasing information becomes available.

By identifying schools local to each development, within 2 or 3 miles, the number of surplus places can be calculated, which can be projected beyond 5 years based on build phasing information. The difference between the surplus places and the projected pupil yield would determine the shortfall of school places in local schools.

Specific housing development contribution assessments would be based on the grid reference of the planning application and would be assessed based on actual bedroom information.

Further information about education provision planning in Lancashire can be found in the [Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Capital Investment 2014 to 2016](#).