



Council Offices  
Church Walk  
CLITHEROE  
Lancashire BB7 2RA



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Your ref:

Our ref: MH/DPD

Date: 06 September 2018

Dear Sir or Madam

Lancashire County Council has received notification from Ribble Valley Borough Council of its intention to submit modifications to the Housing and Economic Development DPD prior to examination in public for the inspector to consider.

The following response will only relate to the main modifications proposed and not on previous comments submitted through earlier consultations.

### Education Strategy

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 dictates that Lancashire County Council's statutory obligation is to ensure that every child living in Lancashire is able to access a mainstream school place in Lancashire. Some children have Special Educational Needs for which they access school provision outside of Lancashire. Special Educational Needs provision is managed by LCC's SEND Team and is not covered by this response. The Strategy for the provision of school places and school's capital investment 17/18 to 19/20 provides the context and policy for school place provision and schools capital strategy in Lancashire. Over the coming years, Lancashire County Council and its local authority partners will need to address a range of issues around school organisation in order to maintain a coherent system that is fit for purpose, stable, and delivering the best possible outcomes for children and young people.

Pressure for additional school places can be created by an increase in the birth rate, new housing developments, greater inward migration and parental choice of one school over another. If local schools are unable to meet the demand of a new development there is the potential to have an adverse impact on the infrastructure of its local community, with children having to travel greater distances to access a school place.

In a letter from the DfE to all Chief Executives, the Minister of State for Housing and the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools jointly stated that 'where major new housing developments create an additional need for school places, then the local

authority should expect a substantial contribution from the developer towards the cost of meeting this requirement.'

The SPT produces an Education Contribution Methodology document which outlines the Lancashire County Council methodology for assessing the likely impact of new housing developments on school places, where necessary mitigating the impact, by securing education contributions from developers.

In order to assess the impact of a development the School Planning Team consider demand for places against the capacity of primary schools within 2 miles and secondary schools within 3 miles. These distances are in line with DfE travel to school guidance and Lancashire County Councils Home to School Transport Policy.

Planning obligations will be sought for education places where Lancashire primary schools within 2 miles and/or Lancashire secondary schools within 3 miles of the development are:

- Already over-subscribed,
- Projected to become over-subscribed within 5 years, or
- A development results in demand for a school site to be provided.

### **Background to the consultation**

It should be noted that the last response sent by The School Planning Team June 2017 to the consultation Regulation 19 Publication Version advised the School Place Provision Strategy 17/18 to 19/20 consultation had closed. The approved version can be viewed by using the link above

The information received in this Ribble Valley consultation sets out a number of additional homes in three of the district's planning areas, Clitheroe, Simonstone and Langho, in total circa 210 across 5 sites with the main proportion planned for Clitheroe.

The School Planning Team has responded to a number of previous consultations leading up to the examination in public stage, and a number of face to face meetings and communications have taken place with School Planning Principal Officer Ben Terry.

The communications have enabled School Planning to update planning officers on changes to the forecasted position of schools across the district and allow Ribble Valley officers the opportunity to update on progress and phasing of strategic sites set out in the Local Plan.

The School Planning Team responded to the last consultation Regulation 19 Publication version HED DPD May 2017 which also included information relevant to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) vital to ensure the right level of infrastructure is delivered in time to support new housing and growth.

### **Specific Response to the Main Modifications**

## Primary Schools

The identified pupil yield from the additional developments applied to the pupil projections which takes into account the existing 5 year housing land supply (approved sites). We have considered a worst case scenario assuming all dwellings are 4 bedroom using the primary yield of 0.38 pupils per dwelling, provides an indication of the current and revised position.

Planning Area	Current 5yr	Yield of Additional Dwellings	Revised
Clitheroe	-133	68	-201
Simonstone	11	2	9
Langho	-155	4	-159

The figures above for Langho do not take into account current plans to increase capacity at four schools from reception year in 2019, this includes:

Langho St Leonards – 5 per year from 2018

St Marys – 5 per year from 2019

Whalley – 5 per year from 2019

Barrow – 10 per year from 2019

It is anticipated that the above expansions will create an additional 175 places in all year groups by 2024/2025. However, we expect some surplus to capture increased demand at Clitheroe.

## Clitheroe Town

Taking into account the revised housing projections it is clear there is projected to be a significant shortfall of places in Clitheroe, **circa -201** assuming all of the housing in the 5 year housing land supply comes forward.

Although a significant shortfall is projected it should be noted that 2 school sites, secured within section 106 agreements are available for the establishment of new schools. These are Higher Standen Farm Clitheroe and Lawsonsteads in Whalley.

## Secondary Schools

Secondary schools unlike primary schools consider the district as a whole and not in specific planning areas. Based on figures provided, the current projected shortfall of **circa -349** would increase by 33 places to a shortfall of **-382**.

In addition, an expansion has been approved at Ribblesdale High School and will provide an additional 150 places reducing the figure to a shortfall of 232 places.

Ribblesdale School is over admitting for 2018 with permanent expansion expected to start from 2019.

However, Ribble Valley is a major importer of pupils from other areas for a number of reasons, one of the main reasons is parental choice of good or outstanding schools. Currently LCC are working with colleagues to address the geographic areas and realign the increased demand from Ribble Valley pupils, and push back pupils to schools where they live, with potential capacity within those schools in those areas, for example Hyndburn and Blackburn.

#### **In conclusion**

LCC are aware of the issues that the Ribble Valley presents taking in to consideration the additional developments submitted would add to the capacity across the district schools. However, School Planning are working with LCC colleagues and liaising with schools to explore and action the right measures to mitigate the impact on local schools as part of our statutory obligations.

LCC will continue to liaise with planning officers in Ribble Valley to ensure that development information received is evaluated and actioned accordingly, taking into account updated information.

Once again LCC would like to thank Ribble Valley for the opportunity to respond to the latest consultation, and the continued cooperation received.

Yours Faithfully,

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Planning Manager  
Lancashire County Council