BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

November 2009
INTRODUCTION

Cambridgeshire County Council, the local Children’s Services Authority, together with all other public sector agencies, faces the challenge of responding to high levels of housing and population growth as a result of planned housing development identified in East Cambridgeshire District Council’s Local Development Framework (LDF). This growth will create pressure on current secondary school capacity within the District. Additional secondary school capacity will be required and all the Authority’s maintained secondary schools in the area will be affected to some degree. Therefore, a strategic review of secondary educational provision across East Cambridgeshire is essential to ensure viable, sustainable and high quality secondary education provision, both now and in the future.

THE CURRENT PATTERN OF SECONDARY SCHOOL Provision

There are four secondary schools in the District: City of Ely Community College, Soham Village College, Witchford Village College and Bottisham Village College. The schools provide 4761 places for 11 to 16 year olds, based on their combined assessed capacities. At present, there are 302 surplus places, representing 6.3% of the total capacity (March 2009).

Guidance from the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to Local Authorities (in the Building Schools for the Future programme) recommends that 10% surplus capacity in the secondary school sector is a reasonable basis on which to plan the future pattern of provision. This is to allow for natural fluctuations in pupil numbers arising from changing birth rates and patterns of migration, both domestic and international and the operation of parental preference in line with overarching Government policies of promoting choice and diversity.

A limited number of post-16 places are provided within the District, at the City of Ely Community College (250 places). In addition, the secondary schools within the District are a part of the Cambridge Area 14 –19 Partnership, providing students who wish to continue their education post-16 with the opportunity to progress to one of the five existing post-16 providers (Hills Road Sixth Form College, Long Road Sixth Form College, Netherhall School, Impington Village College and Cambridge Regional College). However, under the Authority’s Home to School/College Transport Policy, City of Ely Community College would normally be considered to be students’ nearest appropriate centre and therefore, very few students would qualify for transport assistance to one of the other post-16 centres.

Table 1 below summaries the existing pattern of provision together with current feeder/partner primary schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary School</th>
<th>Partner Primary Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Ely Community College (8FE)</td>
<td>The Lantern, Spring Meadow, Ely St Mary’s, Ely St John’s, Littleport, Millfield, Downham Feoffees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soham Village College (9FE)</td>
<td>St Andrew’s Weatheralls Isleham Fordham Kennett Burwell – shared catchment with Bottisham VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchford Village College (6FE)</td>
<td>Little Thetford Stretham Wilburton Robert Arkenstall Sutton Rackham Mepal and Witcham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottisham Village College (7FE)</td>
<td>Burwell – shared catchment with Soham VC Swaffham Prior Swaffham Bulbeck Fen Ditton Cheveley Kettlefields Bottisham Teversham Fulbourn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF PLANNED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

In the summer of 2008, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC) published for consultation its Submission Draft Core Strategy. The Core Strategy is the principal document in the Local Development Framework (LDF) and contains the vision for the future development of the District up to 2025, including significant housing allocations together with the broad policies to be used in the consideration of future planning applications. The LDF will gradually replace the existing East Cambridgeshire Local Plan that was adopted in 2000. Following a public consultation held in May 2009, the Core Strategy was adopted by ECDC in October 2009. The Core Strategy can be viewed at: http://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/html/ldfpages.asp?servid=6&title=Core+Strategy+-+Adoption&hier=LDF.

The Core Strategy for East Cambridgeshire sets out a target dwelling supply of 10,469 new homes to be built during the period 2001 to 2025. Of these, 4,632 were built between 2001 and 2008, including 1,939 houses in Ely, 468 in Littleport and 564 in Soham. Of the remaining 5,837 houses, around 1,459 are planned at Ely, 1,202 at Littleport and 1,169 at Soham including 265 dwellings on windfall sites. 1,518 dwellings are to be delivered elsewhere in the district, including 575 dwellings on windfall sites between 2018-25. There is a requirement to identify additional sites for a further 483 dwellings as part of the Site Specific documents (likely to be in Ely, Soham or Littleport). The cumulative impact of these developments will mean that there is a need to expand overall secondary school capacity with an additional total of 1050-1459 secondary school places (7-10 Forms of Entry).
East Cambridgeshire District Council has also published a Masterplan for Ely, which suggests a higher rate of housing growth (up to 3,000 additional houses) than that set out in the Core Strategy. The revised version of the Masterplan is currently out to consultation. Until further certainty between the Masterplan and the Core Strategy is developed there will be a need to retain a degree of flexibility in the planning of secondary school provision in response to planned development.

To determine the number of additional secondary school places that need to be provided in response to housing development, the Authority has adopted the demographic multiplier of 18-25 children aged 11-15 per 100 dwellings. A more accurate forecast can only be made once details of the housing mix by number of bedrooms and the type of tenure is known. This information is not usually known until an outline planning application is made by a housing developer. Table 2 below sets out the forecast number of secondary places required on the basis of the number of houses planned.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New secondary school places required</th>
<th>Forms of Entry (FE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ely 1459 new homes (or with additional 3000)</td>
<td>263-365 (803-1115)*</td>
</tr>
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<td>Littleport 1202 new homes</td>
<td>216-300</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>689-957 (1229-1707)</strong>*</td>
</tr>
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5837 remaining houses to be built resulting in an additional total of 1050-1459 secondary school places (7-10 Forms of Entry)

* If an additional 3000 dwellings were built at North Ely, this would require an additional 803-1115 additional secondary school places (5.5-7.5FE). This would be over a longer timescale than the Core Strategy, beyond 2025.

**PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS AND POLICY PARAMETERS**

The Authority’s plans for responding to planned housing growth will be informed by the following established policies and principles:

- The Authority has a policy of providing secondary schools serving the 11-16 age range.
- The Authority operates without a strict policy on size of secondary schools in order to promote diversity and reflect local circumstances and opportunities. However, only in exceptional circumstances will the Authority consider establishing a school smaller than 600 places (4FE) or larger than 1650 places (11FE). The lower end of the range reflects the current funding formula which is based on secondary schools being at least this size.
• An appropriate balance between size of school, the need to provide transport and promotion of community cohesion needs to be achieved
• There is a need to build upon the strengths of existing schools and existing partnerships, such as the Ely Schools Partnership, particularly for the planning of educational opportunities for young people age 14 to 19
• The Authority will avoid, as far as possible, disruption to existing communities when changing the pattern of secondary school provision
• The Authority will seek to avoid disparities in the quality of the schools estate across an area which can occur when investing in new schools or major extensions to existing schools
• Catchment areas will be continue to be used to determine priority for admission
• The development of schools will support the development of sustainable communities, including sustainable modes of transport.

1) There is a continued need for the operation of catchment areas.

Admissions criteria for all secondary schools in Cambridgeshire give a priority for admission to children either living in the defined catchment area of the secondary school or attending a school in the catchment area of the secondary school. There is no requirement to use catchment areas to organise school admissions. The most frequent criticism levied of catchment areas is that they sustain social inequalities, particularly through a distortion of local housing markets. Conversely, they provide some certainty of secondary school provision and support closer working with local communities and linked primary schools. It must also be recognised that exercise of parental preference will be limited by the capacity of schools. The expansion (and contraction) of schools to respond to parental choice takes time and for some schools on constrained sites is impossible. This Review assumes that catchment areas will continue to form a basis for admissions.

2) The choices of parents should be based on issues such as ethos and specialism, not differential quality of education;

At its most extreme differential quality of education can be the most and often only significant factor in determining the pattern of admissions. Schools perceived as being high performing are filled, those perceived as performing less well are left with spare capacity. Within Cambridgeshire excellent progress has been made over the last few years to close gaps in educational outcomes and perceptions of performance. This review assumes that all schools will provide a high standard of education to their pupils.

It is expected that there will be differences in schools in areas such as ethos and specialism, which may affect future admissions patterns. However, these are not considered a major factor in determining the future pattern of secondary school provision.

3) There should be minimal turbulence for young people and communities through the implementation period of the review;

Population growth in East Cambridgeshire will continue for at least the next fifteen years. The existing projected timescales for new developments will put pressure on secondary school provision; the pace of development will be uneven resulting in a mismatch between the demand and supply for secondary school places in local areas. Multiple changes to catchment areas to better match demand and supply have to be avoided wherever possible and other more flexible solutions sought.
4) The review should support the implementation of the 14-19 curriculum;

In line with national expectations and practice, it is expected that no school will be able to provide all 14 specialised diplomas when implementation is completed in September 2013. It is accepted, therefore, that schools need to work in partnership to enable pupils to be able to access the full range of diplomas by the deadline of 2013.

5) Inequalities in the school estate should be minimised;

The building of a new school will distort existing patterns of provision. A new secondary school will take at least five years to fill and is highly likely to have spare capacity on opening. A brand new school may be attractive compared to existing provision and the spare capacity quickly filled from other areas, especially given the fact that local authorities are unable to reserve places in the expectation that they will be required for families moving into an area. It is important that the age of a school building does not unduly influence parental choices. Consideration will need to be given to the use of Building Schools for the Future funding to ensure that there is significant capital investment in all schools. For East Cambridgeshire, Ely and Witchford are identified for investment in 2016/17, with Bottisham and Soham identified for 2018/9.

6) Schools should continue to play a central role in their communities;

Schools provide an important focal point for local communities. Secondary schools provide a range of services and facilities and there is a strong identification between a school and its surrounding community. Changes to secondary provision can disrupt these important links. Where the need for new schools is identified, these will be designed to ensure that they offer a range of facilities that complement existing and planned services and support the delivery of extended services. Every effort should be taken to maintain existing links between schools and communities.

7) The review should support the development of sustainable schools;

School design and construction should be to high standards and reduce the impact of the school building and its operation on the environment. Home to school travel should be minimised.

FACTORS TO INFORM THE EVALUATION OF OPTIONS

The trend based demographic forecasts for East Cambridgeshire secondary schools up to 2018/19 are set out in Table 3. These forecasts do not include additional pupil numbers arising from housing allocations proposed in the Core Strategy or sites already allocated for development in the current Local Plan for which planning applications have not been submitted. Neither do they assume any increase in current school capacities. When a school reaches capacity children from within its catchment area are allocated to neighbouring schools. Therefore, although there is no major housing growth proposed in the Witchford VC catchment area after an initial decline in pupil numbers it is forecast to be operating at capacity by 2018/19

More important than the total surplus capacity, is the distribution of that spare capacity (see Table 3 below). Within East Cambridgeshire, the main areas of housing growth in the
Core Strategy (Ely, Littleport, Soham) coincide with those areas where there is either very limited or no spare capacity based on the trend forecasts up to 2018/19. This reflects a consistent planning approach of focusing housing growth upon the market towns both in the recent past and in the future up to 2025. Therefore, in Ely for example, the County Council has already expanded both primary and secondary school provision in response to the growth that has taken place in recent years and will need to expand the provision of places further prior to the completion of the build out of existing housing allocations. This is before the new allocations within the District’s Core Strategy are taken into account. The maps attached (Appendix 1) show the planned development areas.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Assessed Capacity</th>
<th>Number of 11-15 year olds on roll</th>
<th>Spare Capacity 2008/9</th>
<th>Forecast Spare Capacity 2018/19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Ely Community College (11-18)</td>
<td>1403</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soham Village College (11-16)</td>
<td>1408</td>
<td>1349</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchford Village College (11-16)</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>825</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottisham Village College (11-16)</td>
<td>1050</td>
<td>1043</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4761</strong></td>
<td><strong>4459</strong></td>
<td><strong>302</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 clearly shows that the available surplus capacity in our secondary schools is declining in those areas where further housing growth is proposed, most notably City of Ely Community College and Soham Village College. Witchford Village College may operate at capacity should there be the need to accommodate children from outside its catchment area.

Table 4 below compares the children living within the catchment area of each secondary school with the numbers on roll. While the Authority’s approach is to plan overall provision on the basis of pupil numbers within catchment areas, the extent to which patterns of parental preference are reflected will be a consideration during the consultation.
Table 4 - Comparing number of children living in the catchment area with the number of pupils on roll

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Catchment</th>
<th>11</th>
<th>12</th>
<th>13</th>
<th>14</th>
<th>15</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottisham VC</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burwell - Bottisham or Soham*</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Ely CC</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>288</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>277</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soham VC</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Witchford VC</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>855</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>858</td>
<td>897</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>4325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These children have not been allocated to either of these schools in table 4. Historically, children have split equally between the two schools. This would add 180 pupils to the total numbers of both Bottisham and Soham VC if this trend continued.

FACTORS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN EVALUATING OPTIONS

School Transport

Cambridgeshire County Council is legally obliged to provide free transport for children aged 11-16 if they live more than three miles from their nearest or catchment school. Some pupils may be entitled to subsidised transport providing low income criteria, as set out in County Council policy, is met.

Correlation of planned developments to existing schools’ catchment areas

Appendix 2 shows footprint maps of each of the existing secondary schools. Detailed feasibility studies will need to take place to investigate and determine expansion possibilities for all of these schools.
Cambridgeshire’s Vision for the Education: Schools for the Future

This document has been produced to inform the design of the schools required by the new developments and the major investment to be received through the BSF programme. New technologies, changes to the curriculum, the development of the personalisation of learning and the development of innovative practice, both nationally and locally, mean that young people will learn and pursue their education in very different ways in the future. New and refurbished schools will need to be sufficiently flexible to accommodate these developments.

Community Cohesion

Experience in Cambridgeshire and elsewhere indicates that towns served by two schools will sometimes have a favoured school and one that is less-favoured, not always for reasons that relate to the quality of education provided. Where the overall anticipated school-age population is likely to be below 10 forms of entry, this factor should be actively considered in terms of a debate between the potential benefits in respect of social cohesion (that may favour one large school) and those relating to choice and diversity (that may favour the development of two schools).

Funding and Building Schools for the Future

As has been the case in recent years, the most significant source of funding for new schools or expansion of existing schools is expected to be housing developers’ section 106 contributions.

Investment in improvements to existing schools accommodation to address suitability and condition deficiencies will be through Building Schools for the Future (BSF), the Government’s national programme for the redevelopment and renewal of the existing secondary school estate. The level of investment provided is significant.

Fenland schools are the first in Cambridgeshire to receive BSF funding. Future allocations are subject to Government spending reviews. Recently, Government reviewed the process for bidding for future funding, moving away from geographically based school clusters based on District Council Areas (e.g. East Cambridgeshire) to locally determined priorities, grouping schools in six clusters totalling around £100m for each cluster to be implemented over the next 14 years. Detailed funding proposals will need to be developed to support the review outcome but it is clear that the scale of development will place a major strain on these limited funding sources.

Timing and phasing of developments

Interim changes may be needed whilst the new developments and any new school are being built. The Authority may need to plan, therefore, on the assumption of a phased programme of changes to its secondary educational provision.

The New School Competition Process

The Education Act 2005 placed a requirement on local authorities to invite other potential promoters to enter into a competition to provide any new secondary schools they planned to establish, or where they planned to provide replacements for existing secondary schools.
OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

A number of options have been identified to meet the future needs of secondary school provision:

**Location of one large 13-15FE secondary school in Ely**

- The City of Ely Community College occupies a large site which could accommodate a school up to 13FE, however, locally there will be planning concerns about the intensification of use, transport, parking etc. The site is already shared with a primary school and a special school
- County Council Policy preference is for secondary schools is to be a maximum of 11FE (1650 places, excluding sixth form provision)
- Detailed consideration will be needed of the impact on management and organisation and education delivery of such a large school

**Location of a new 5-7FE secondary school in Ely**

- This option would create a new school in Ely. This would provide for the current City of Ely catchment area plus the new development in Ely to be served by two schools relatively close together

**Location of a new 5-7 FE secondary school in Littleport**

- This option would create a new school in Littleport leaving the current catchment area served by two secondary schools.

**Extend City of Ely CC and provide additional capacity at other schools**

- Overall, sufficient capacity could be provided across the four secondary school sites
- There would also be an opportunity to build upon the strengths of existing schools
- However, significant alterations to existing catchment areas would be required which may disrupt long standing community relationships

Other options may include:

- **Extend City of Ely and establish a smaller, perhaps 4FE, school in Littleport**
- **Extend City of Ely and Soham and/or Witchford and establish a 4FE school in Littleport**

All options are likely to require changes to existing catchment areas

There will also be issues to consider in relation to the provision of education post 16. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) has undertaken a strategic review of provision in response to growth across the Cambridge Sub Region. This review is in the process of being endorsed by the Cambridge Area Partnership and will inform the provision of post-16 facilities in East Cambridgeshire. The LSC is currently responsible for post-16 planning, however, the Authority takes on this responsibility from April 2010.
NEXT STEPS

During November 2010 discussions will take place with a wide range of stakeholder groups on the issues raised by the planned new developments and the potential responses that are emerging.

The consultation plan will include dialogue with:

- The Ely School Partnership
- Governing bodies and head teachers of the four existing secondary schools
- Governing bodies and head teachers of the existing primary schools
- Representatives from East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Officers from Cambridgeshire County Council services
- Local and County members
- Local Strategic Partnership
- Learning and Skills Council
- 14-19 Partnership
- Parish Councils
- Unions
- Post-16 establishments

A report will then be presented to the Children and Young People’s Policy Development Group (PDG) in January 2010. This will provide an analysis of the feedback received and seek advice on the development of those options, which it is considered require more detailed evaluation. These options would then form the basis for a second round of consultation.

The PDG has responsibility for advising the Council’s Cabinet on educational reviews and matters of operational policy. The Group consists of County Councillors, one church representative and three teacher representatives.

The Stage 2 consultation will take place between the end of January and early February 2010 and will involve a series of meetings.

By early March 2010 formal proposals will be prepared based on these discussions and feedback received. This will provide the basis of a report to the Council’s Children and Young People’s Policy Development Group (PDG) for consideration in March 2010.

The Council’s Cabinet will be asked to consider and approve recommendations for the future pattern of secondary provision in the East Cambridgeshire in April 2010.

Your Comments

Should you wish to comment on any aspect of this document, please use the form attached to this document.

Alternatively, you can email Alison Cook at Alison.cook@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Appendix 1 - Planned development areas
Housing Growth - SOHAM

Allocations on land at Station Road and north east of The Causeway/Brook Street

Sites with Planning Permission
Housing Allocation
Anticipated Future Sites
Appendix 2 Maps of existing schools
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL PROVISION
IN
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
COMMENT SHEET

NAME ____________________________________________________

Comments should be sent by 30 November 2009 to:
Alison Cook
Schools Planning Officer
Cambridgeshire County Council
Room B202, CC1209
Castle Court
CAMBRIDGE
CB3 OAP
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE
Welcome

Format of the meeting

• Presentation
• Break-out session
• Feedback and Q&A
• Next Steps
• Close
Background

- High levels of housing growth are needed within East Cambridgeshire as set out in the East Cambridgeshire Local Development Framework (LDF) and Core Strategy (adopted October 2009) with 10,469 houses needed up to 2025.

- This growth will create pressure on current secondary school capacity.

- Additional secondary school capacity will be required.

- All the Authority’s maintained secondary schools in the area will be affected to some degree.

- A strategic review of secondary educational provision is essential to ensure viable, sustainable and high quality secondary education provision.

- The County Council has a statutory duty to provide schools places and take into account parental preference.

- County Council current policy is to establish age 11-15 yrs secondary schools that are not smaller than 4FE (600 places) and not larger than 11FE (1650 places).
Proposed Growth

- A target dwelling supply of 10,469 new homes to be built 2001 to 2025.

- 4,632 were built between 2001 and 2008: 1,939 houses in Ely, 468 in Littleport and 564 in Soham.

- 5,837 houses still to be built: of which around 1,459 are planned at Ely, 1,202 at Littleport and 1,169 at Soham, including 265 dwellings on windfall sites.

- 1,518 dwellings to be delivered elsewhere in the district, including 575 dwellings on windfall sites between 2018-25. A requirement to identify additional sites for a further 483 dwellings as part of the Site Specific documents (but likely to be in Ely, Soham or Littleport).

- **Total additional need of 7-10 Forms of Entry (1050-1459 places).**

NB: East Cambridgeshire District Council has also commissioned a Masterplan for Ely, which suggests a higher rate of housing growth (up to 3,000 additional houses) than that set out in the Core Strategy. The revised version of the Masterplan is currently out to consultation.
# Existing Provision

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<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Area of Provision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>City of Ely Community</strong> College</td>
<td>The Lantern, Spring Meadow, Ely St Mary’s, Ely St John’s, Littleport, Millfield, Downham Feoffees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Forms of Entry</td>
<td>1403 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Soham Village College</strong></td>
<td>St Andrew’s, Weatheralls, Isleham Fordham, Kennett, Burwell – shared catchment with Bottisham VC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Forms of Entry</td>
<td>1408 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Witchford Village College</strong></td>
<td>Little Thetford, Stretham, Wilburton Robert Arkenstall, Sutton, Rackham Mepal and Witcham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Forms of Entry</td>
<td>900 places</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bottisham Village College</strong></td>
<td>Burwell – shared catchment with Soham VC, Swaffham Prior, Swaffham Bulbeck Fen Ditton, Cheveley, Kettlefields Bottisham, Teversham, Fulbourn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Forms of Entry</td>
<td>1050 places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact - Additional FE required

Demographic multiplier of 18-25 children aged 11-15 per 100 dwellings.

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* If an additional 3000 dwellings were built at North Ely, this would require an additional 5.5-7.5FE ranging from 803-1115 additional secondary school places. This would be over a longer timescale than the Core Strategy, beyond 2025.
Principles

• There is a continued need for the operation of catchment areas

• The choices of parents should be based on issues such as ethos and specialism, not differential quality of education

• There should be minimal turbulence for young people and communities through the implementation period of the review

• The review should support the implementation of the 14-19 curriculum

• Inequalities in the school estate should be minimised

• Schools should continue to play a central role in their communities

• The review should support the development of sustainable schools
Potential Options…

Location of one large 13-15FE secondary school in Ely

• The City of Ely Community College occupies a large site which could accommodate a school up to 13FE, however, locally there will be planning concerns about the intensification of use, transport, parking etc. The site is already shared with a primary school and a special school
• County Council Policy preference is for secondary schools is to be a maximum of 11FE (1650 places, excluding sixth form provision)
• Detailed consideration will be needed of the impact on management and organisation and education delivery of such a large school

Location of a new 5-7FE secondary school in Ely

• This option would create a new school in Ely. This would provide for the current City of Ely catchment area plus the new development in Ely to be served by two schools relatively close together
Options…(cont’d)

Location of a new 5-7 FE secondary school in Littleport

• This option would create a new school in Littleport leaving the current catchment area served by two secondary schools.

Extend City of Ely CC and provide additional capacity at other schools

• Overall, sufficient capacity could be provided across the four secondary school sites
• There would also be an opportunity to build upon the strengths of existing schools
• However, significant alterations to existing catchment areas would be required which may disrupt long standing community relationships
Options (cont’d)

Other options may include:

- Extend City of Ely and establish a smaller, perhaps 4FE, school in Littleport

- Extend City of Ely and Soham and/or Witchford and establish a 4FE school in Littleport

All options are likely to require changes to existing catchment areas
Factors to Consider

- School Transport and Sustainable Travel Strategy
- Community Cohesion
- Correlation of planned developments to existing schools’ catchment areas
- Cambridgeshire’s Vision for the Education: Schools for the Future
- Section 106 Funding
- Building Schools for the Future
- Impact on post-16 provision and diploma programme
- Timing and phasing of developments – short, medium and long term
- Ongoing development (Local Development Framework 2021, Ely Masterplan 2025, Regional Spatial Strategy 2031)
- The New School Competition Process
Timescales and Consultation Process

- **Stage 1** – consultation on possibilities (Nov 2009)

- **Stage 2** – consultation on recommended way forward (Jan/Feb 2010)

- Presentations to County Council Policy Development Group (Jan-Mar 2010)

- Report to County Council Cabinet for decision (April 2010)
Next Steps

• 3 x break-out groups to discuss:
  - options identified so far
  - other possible options
  - factors to consider

• Feedback

• Comment Sheets – deadline 30th November 2009

• Contact alison.cook@cambridgeshire.gov.uk