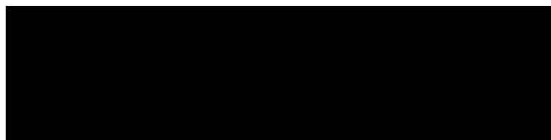


Development Strategy and Housing Manager  
South Lakeland District Council  
South Lakeland House  
Lowther Street  
Kendal  
LA9 4DL  
01539 793 388



Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 11 November 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

In response to the consultation document received from South Lakeland Council and Lancaster City Council combined Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB Development Plan Document (DPD) November 2016.

Lancashire County Council (LCC) School Planning Team (SPT) would like to thank you for the opportunity to be involved in the consultation process, and provide an updated position of school planning within the district of Lancaster, to be included as one of the key evidence documents submitted to the planning inspectorate for emerging local plan for Lancaster City Council.

The Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB (DPD) takes into consideration the relationship of developments in Lancashire and South Lakes District Councils and the cross boundary issues

This document is intended to give an indication of the expected education needs for primary and secondary places in Lancashire taking into account the impact of proposed developments indicated in the plan, the birth rates and migration of pupils.

The projections in this report assess the impact of demand against the capacity within the schools in Lancashire, however due to county boundaries, impact from developments can affect all schools and assumptions are made that parental choice may result in children living in one county and educated in another. An assumption has also been made that the demand will match the accommodation, in reality this may not be the case.

### **Overall Summary**

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 SEN Team and is not covered by this response. The [Strategy for the provision of school places and school's capital investment 2015/16 to 2017/18](#) 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 recent 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 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 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.

### **Primary Schools**

The area of Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB consists of local service centres and small villages east of Lancaster. The plan indicates there are four areas of potential development and will be the focus of developments of multiple dwellings.

- Arnsdale
- Silverdale
- Sandside/Storth
- Warton

Developments in small villages include Yealand Redmayne, Yeadland Conyers and Beetham will be restricted and limited in development and will focus on conversions and infilling where appropriate

Information received there will be approximately 74 dwellings across the planning areas with the remainder of development attributed to employment or other use.

Within the defined areas there are three schools controlled by Lancashire County Council that would be affected by future developments within these areas

- Yealand C of E Primary
- Silverdale St John's C of E Primary
- Warton Archbishop Hutton's Primary

Currently all three schools are rated as good by OFSTED.

Reviewing the 5 year forecast school place projections the schools listed show there to be surplus places at all three schools with the majority at Warton. It should be noted that these figures do not take into account the schools proximity to other major or strategic developments in Lancaster and the preference of parental choice of one school over another.

The School Planning Team uses a number of named planning areas in each district to assess the impact of development on a range of schools in that area. A planning area reflects a group of schools in an area which reflects natural travel to school route.

When providing an education impact assessment for a development, LCC would look at the impact within 5 years, considered a reasonable timescale for a development to come forward. Data used for LCC projections is the birth data, provided by Office of National Statistics, the 5 year housing land supply document, provided by the district council and the migration, taken from the pupil census. The data available for 5 years means that these projections are more reliable than the longer term projections, however are heavily caveated.

When considering the impact of housing the housing assessments take into account the number of bedrooms within a dwelling, as this affects the anticipated yield from a development. At the point of pre-application/outline application stage the dwelling bedroom information is not generally available, therefore, LCC has made the assumption that all dwellings will have 4 bedrooms and the 4 bedroom pupil yield has been applied. When a development produces accurate bedroom information the SPT reserve the right to reassess the pupil yields.

### **Secondary Schools**

Secondary planning is based on the whole district not on individual planning areas, accepting that older children are able to travel independently and there is greater parental preference in terms of freedom to travel.

When providing an education impact assessment for a development, LCC would look at the impact within 5 years, considered a reasonable timescale for a development to come

forward. The secondary projections consider migration of primary pupils accessing secondary school places. The data available for 5 years means that these projections are more reliable than the longer term projections and heavily caveated.

When considering the impact of housing the housing assessments take into account the number of bedrooms within a dwelling, as this affects the anticipated yield from a development. At the point of pre-application/outline application stage the dwelling bedroom information is not generally available, therefore, LCC has made the assumption that all dwellings will have 4 bedrooms and the 4 bedroom pupil yield has been applied. When a development produces accurate bedroom information the SPT reserve the right to reassess the pupil yields.

The table below sets out the yield per development. An assessment would only be calculated for application of 10 dwellings or more, however a number of smaller developments coming forward at the same time in smaller rural areas such as Arnsdale can have an impact on the education provision and other infrastructures. LCC advise all planning authorities to take a strategic approach when reviewing applications and their impact. The School Planning Team can advise at the point of application submission.

<b>No of Bedrooms</b>	<b>Yield per development - Primary</b>	<b>Yield per development – Secondary</b>
1	0.01	0.00
2	0.07	0.03
3	0.16	0.09
4	0.38	0.15
5+	0.44	0.23

## **Conclusion**

Lancashire County Council SPT have reviewed the information provided by South Lakeland District Council and Lancaster City Council through their combined approach producing the Arnsdale and Silverdale AONB DPD and conclude, that currently the provision of school places within schools affected by proposed developments has low impact in the short term.

It should be noted, the plan does involve county cross boundary issues and includes developments potentially close to LCC maintained schools, however the approval falls with South Lakeland District Council and therefore LCC may not include them in their assessment.

Lancaster City Council and Lancashire County Council have an open dialogue regarding the districts emerging local plan and have welcomed the consultation process and responded to a number of consultations. Face to face meetings have enabled Lancashire CC to highlight potential concerns within schools affected by strategic developments. Keeping up to date with progress and changes to the delivery of housing within the local plan, LCC would appreciate to be include in any future dialogue or

information sharing and welcome the opportunity to respond to South Lakeland District Council or Lancaster City Council individually or as a collective approach

Yours Sincerely

Lancashire County Council

School Planning Team