



**Our Ref: ESFA/Rushcliffe BC Local Plan Preferred Housing Sites/November
2017**

27th November 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Rushcliffe Borough Council Local Plan Preferred Housing Sites
Consultation**

**Consultation under Regulation 19 of Town and Country Planning (Local
Planning) (England) Regulations 2012**

Submission of the Education and Skills Funding Agency

1. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of planning policy at the local level.
2. The ESFA, launched on 1st April 2017, brings together the existing responsibilities of the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), to create a single funding agency accountable for funding education and training for children, young people and adults. The ESFA are accountable for £61 billion of funding a year for the education and training sector, including support for all state-provided education for 8 million children aged 3 to 16, and 1.6 million young people aged 16 to 19.
3. Under the provisions of the Education Act 2011 and the Academies Act 2010, all new state schools are now academies/free schools and the ESFA is the delivery body for many of these, rather than local education authorities. As such, we aim to work closely with local authority education departments and planning authorities to meet the need and demand for new school places and new schools. In this capacity, we would like to offer the following comments in response to the proposals outlined in the above consultation document.

Comments on the Local Plan Preferred Housing Sites

4. As you will be aware, the primary focus at this stage of the Local Plan's preparation is on the soundness of the plan, with regard to it being positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. The following detailed comments set out the ESFA's view of the plan's soundness in respect of education provision.
5. The Rushcliffe Local Plan Preferred Housing Allocations document recognises the important role that schools that play in supporting housing growth. Significantly, the document outlines a number of locations such as Cotgrave where school capacity could act as a brake on additional housing growth. It is a

concern that specific locations for the additional schools required have not yet been identified and is therefore suggested that the Local Plan sets out the mechanism through which school sites will be identified and secured. The ESFA is willing to assist in this process, including signposting good practice by other LPAs. This would then help to demonstrate more clearly that the approach to the planning and delivery of education infrastructure is justified based on proportionate evidence.

Forward Loan Fund

6. In light of the local plans allocation of 400 homes by 2028 on land surrounding Radcliffe on Trent, emerging ESFA proposals for forward funding schools as part of large residential developments may be of interest to the Council. We would be happy to meet to discuss this opportunity at an appropriate time.

Evidence base

7. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (February 2014) highlights that a new primary school will be required on site as part of the proposed development at Clifton South. It would be helpful if an indication of the size of school required could be indicated within the Plan. In addition, the Plan could provide greater clarity by indicating an area of land that will be safeguarded for the new school, to help provide more certainty around delivery.
8. The Rushcliffe Local Plan Preferred Housing Allocations document recognises the important role that schools that play in supporting housing growth. As outlined above, the document identifies a number of locations such as Cotgrave and Keyworth where the Local Education Authority has indicated pupil demand for primary school places from around 350 new homes could be accommodated, but no more than this. It would be useful if a Planning for Schools topic/background paper could be produced, expanding on the evidence in the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2014) and Nottinghamshire's School Place Planning Strategy, setting out clearly how the forecast housing growth at allocated sites has been translated (via an evidence based pupil yield calculation) into an identified need for specific numbers of school places and new schools over the plan period. This would help to demonstrate a robust and sound approach to the planning and delivery of education infrastructure.

Developer Contributions and CIL

9. One of the tests of soundness is that a Local Plan is 'effective' i.e. the plan should be deliverable over its period. In this context and with specific regard to planning for schools, there is a need to ensure that education contributions made by developers are sufficient to deliver the additional school places required to meet the increase in demand generated by new developments. The ESFA notes that CIL income is proposed to fund additional primary and secondary school places, but that the current strategic sites will be addressed through S106 agreements. We note that Rushcliffe Borough Council has produced a Development Requirements SPD (Adopted 2003) which will reflect Local Plan review priorities, and the Council will implement CIL rates to ensure appropriate rates are levied and the right infrastructure is secured across the borough (Section 5, page 8, of the Draft Charging Schedule). Allocation of school sites within the Local Plan Housing allocations document will help to achieve this aim. The ESFA supports the Council's approach to ensure developer contributions address the impacts arising from growth.

10. The ESFA would be particularly interested in responding to any update to the Development Requirements SPD, Infrastructure Delivery Plan or review of infrastructure requirements, which will inform any CIL review and/or amendments to the Regulation 123 list. As such, please add the ESFA to the database for future CIL consultations.

Conclusion

11. Finally, I hope the above comments are helpful in finalising Rushcliffe borough's Local Plan, with specific regard to the provision of land for new schools.
12. Please notify the ESFA when the Local Plan is submitted for examination, the Inspector's report is published and the Local Plan is adopted.
13. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this response. The ESFA looks forward to continuing to work with Rushcliffe borough to develop a sound Local Plan which will aid in the delivery of new schools.

Yours faithfully,

J Pilgrim

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