



## **NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL IN NORTH WEST CAMBRIDGE**

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**June 2015**

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide background information on Cambridgeshire County Council's (the Council's) proposal to increase the number of secondary school places available in Cambridge City in response to housing development.

This will be achieved by the opening of a new secondary school on a site in the city within the Darwin Green development between Histon Road and Huntingdon Road. The school will include facilities for 900 secondary pupils aged 11-16 and serve this and the North West (Cambridge University) development.

Work is already underway to acquire the site and progress the design and build process for the new school. The Council is meeting all the capital costs associated with its establishment utilising S106 receipts from the developments it will serve. Sponsors will have the opportunity for detailed involvement in the school's design.

This background document provides:

- Information on the existing educational provision in the area;
- Forecast pupil data taking into account existing demographics and planned major new housing developments;
- Information on the number, type and timing requirements for new educational facilities, which need to be provided to serve this area; and
- Information on the statutory process, which all local authorities must follow in order to establish new schools.

It should be read in conjunction with the Statutory Notice published in the Local and National Press and the School Specification Document. Anyone interested in applying to establish and run the school must submit their proposals in accordance with the requirements set out in Section 6.

## **2. Cambridge City**

Cambridgeshire is one of the fastest growing counties in the country. A significant proportion of this growth is in and around Cambridge City, a city with an historic centre, world-class reputation for education, research and knowledge-based industries and very low levels of unemployment.

In response to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan in 2005, a number of strategic development sites were identified to meet demand for housing across the Cambridge sub-region and released from the Green Belt. Development was focused in a number of development quadrants to support the delivery of strategic infrastructure.

The North West Fringe Quadrant, bounded by the M11 to the west and the A14 to the north, is made up of three strategic development sites.

These are:

- Darwin Green 1 (formerly known as NIAB 1) between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road in Cambridge City;
- Darwin Green 2 between Huntingdon Road and Histon Road in the administrative district of South Cambridgeshire;
- North West Cambridge (University of Cambridge development) between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road in both districts.

Darwin Green is planned to be built in two main phases. Outline planning permission for phase 1 was granted in December 2013. Construction is due to commence shortly with the completion of the first houses expected in the 2015/16 financial year. Pre-application discussions for the second phase are underway, but timescales for construction remain unknown.

The first phase of development will provide 1,593 new homes, of which 40% will be affordable homes, split between social housing and shared equity. The Darwin Green 2 development is likely to provide a further 1,000 homes. A total of 187 homes have already been built as part of an earlier phase of development. The latest draft submission of the South Cambridgeshire District Local Plan includes a further site, Darwin Green 3. It is expected that, if allocated, this land will be linked to the Darwin Green 2 allocation for the purposes of development.

Darwin Green will be linked to existing neighbourhoods in Cambridge City through a network of cycle and footpaths, but will be kept separate to the village of Girton by a green corridor in the existing green belt. As a major urban extension, in addition to new housing, Darwin Green will include:

- Two new primary schools each providing 420 places (2 forms of entry (FE)) with pre-school provision;
- A secondary school of 900 places (6 FE) which is the subject of this new school sponsor application process;
- Children's Centre accommodation, to be co-located with the Darwin Green 1 primary school (this will be run by the Council);
- A local centre including a library, GP surgery, community facilities and supermarket; and
- Community sports provision as part of a central park space (in phase 1) and country park (phase 2).

North West Cambridge is a 150-hectare mixed use development on land which is owned by the University of Cambridge. Outline planning consent was granted in February 2013. Development on site commenced in 2014 and the first occupations are expected towards the end of 2016. The site includes:

- A new primary school of 630 places (3 FE) with a pre-school. This is planned to open in September 2015 and will be run as a University Training School by the University of Cambridge;
- 1,500 homes for University and College staff;
- 1,500 private houses for sale;

- Accommodation for 2,000 postgraduates;
- Academic and research and development space;
- Community facilities such as a community centre, health centre, supermarket and local shops;
- A hotel, care home, community sports provision and playing fields.

With construction on both sites still at an early stage, the Council is happy to facilitate the opportunity for prospective sponsors to meet the developers and visit the site in order to give a sense of where the new school will sit in relation to the developments.

### **3. Local Pupil Profile**

As new communities, the pupil profile for the new community at Darwin Green and North West Cambridge is unknown. However, experience of other major development sites in Cambridgeshire with a large percentage of affordable housing, such as Darwin Green, suggests that the pupil profile may share many of the characteristics with pupils living in neighbouring wards. Key characteristics from Cambridge North Locality which also comprise a significant percentage of social housing include:

- Seventeen LSOAs (Lower Super Output Areas) are in 20% of the most deprived in Cambridgeshire;
- 12.6% of pupils are entitled to Free School Meals. This is above the county average of 10.6%;
- 74.3% of pupils achieve L4 in reading writing and maths at KS2. This is above the county average of 71.9%;
- 63.9% of pupils achieved 5+ A\*-C grades at GCSE including English and maths. This is above the county average of 60.3%;
- Lower levels of obesity in reception age children but higher levels in Year 6 children, with 7.1% of Reception pupils and 16.4% of year 6 pupils being identified as obese compared to the county average of 7.6% and 15.8% respectively;
- 4.2% of 16–19 year olds are recorded as being 'Not in Education Employment or Training' (NEET). This is above county average of 3.4%;
- Overall absence in secondary schools at 4.8% is lower than the county average of 5.1%

There are good partnerships established with local childcare settings, primary and secondary schools and local groups that help identify vulnerable families to receive the appropriate support. As they are established, the new schools in the North West Fringe are expected to join and strengthen these existing partnerships.

### **4. Current Educational Provision**

The Council, in its role as the local Children's Services Authority, is responsible for planning, reviewing and commissioning educational services, including the establishment of new schools. It has a statutory duty to provide a school place for every child living in its area of responsibility who is of school age and whose parents want their child educated in the state funded sector. To achieve this, the Council

has to keep the number of school places under review and to take the appropriate steps to manage the position where necessary. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 also requires local authorities to adopt a strategic role, with a duty to promote choice, diversity and fair access to school provision.

### **Services for Early Years and Childcare**

In Cambridgeshire, the majority of children aged 0-5 years attend non-maintained settings such as pre-schools and full day care provision for their early years' entitlement. In North Cambridge there are a range of early years and childcare settings which are run by private, voluntary and independent providers. There is also a large number of registered childminders offering both sessional and full day care.

### **Primary School Provision**

There are eleven primary schools serving Cambridge north of the River Cam and north of Madingley Road and others in villages nearby. Neighbouring schools are listed below and shown in the map in a separate document. The new secondary school will serve the North West Cambridge and Darwin Green developments. As stated above the University of Cambridge Primary School will open on the North West Cambridge site in September 2015 and there are two further primary schools planned to provide for the need resulting from the Darwin Green developments.

<b>North Cambridge – Primary School Places Available in 2015/16</b>	
<b>Schools feeding to City Secondary Schools</b>	
Arbury Primary School	420 places (1FE)
Chesterton Primary School	210 places (1FE)
Grove Primary School	420 places (2 FE)
Kings Hedges Primary School	630 places (3FE)
Mayfield Primary School	420 places (2FE)
Milton Road Primary School	450 places (2.1FE)
Orchard Park Primary School	210 places (1FE)
Shirley Primary School	420 places (2FE)
St Laurence RC Primary School	315 places (1.5FE)
St Luke's Primary School	210 places (1 FE)
University of Cambridge Primary School	420 places (2FE) (Planned to increase to 630 places (3FE))
<b>Village schools</b>	
Girton Glebe Primary School	280 places (1.3FE)
Histon and Impington Infant School	270 places (3FE)
Histon and Impington Junior School	360 places (3FE)

### **Secondary and Post-16 Provision**

There is a mixed pattern of age 11-16 and 11-18 schools in Cambridgeshire. Had there not been sufficient need for a new school, these developments would have been served by Chesterton Community College, Impington Village College and North Cambridge Academy. The schools are shown in the table below.

<b>North Cambridge – Secondary School Places Available in 2015/16</b>				
School	Age Range	Admission Number 2015/16	Places aged 11-16	Pupil Roll January 2015
Chesterton Community College, a stand-alone converter academy.	11-16	180	900	918
Impington Village College, a stand-alone converter academy.	11-18	210	1050	1419 (including the 6 <sup>th</sup> form)
North Cambridge Academy sponsored by the Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust.	11-16	150	750	402

Post-16 provision in Cambridge City consists of two sixth-form colleges, Hills Road and Long Road, together with Cambridge Regional College (a further education college) and the University Technical College. Both Netherhall School and Parkside Community College, in the south of the city, have sixth forms as does Impington Village College.

A review of secondary school provision in Cambridge City is underway in response to the recent increase in the primary-aged population and housing growth proposed in recent local plans. It is likely that additional places will need to be provided at secondary schools in the city in the coming years.

### ***Special School Provision***

In Cambridgeshire there are 6 area special schools which cater for children aged 2-19 with a range of complex and severe learning needs. Each school serves a local catchment area. The north of Cambridge City is currently served, but not exclusively, by one area special school, Castle School. It provides 130 places.

## **5. Demographic Forecasts**

The Darwin Green and North West Cambridge developments are forecast to generate demand for up to 6 FE (180 places in each year, 900 in total) of children aged 11-15. The table below shows the forecast demand for places for Year 7 based on the latest forecasts.

<b>Demographic Forecast for number of Year 7 (Age 11+) Places Required.</b>					
<b>Darwin Green and North West Cambridge</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Forecast Demand for Year 7 Places	64	84	98	110	118

## **6. Process for Establishing New Schools**

The Education Act (2011) states that when a Local Authority identifies the need for a new school, that this school should be promoted as either an Academy or a Free School. It is required to publish a notice inviting proposals to this effect and to specify a date for academy / free school proposals to be received. After that date, it must forward all proposals received to the Secretary of State for Education outlining the steps taken to secure the proposals, together with the details of any academy/ free school proposals received, or, if no proposals have been received.

The Council will be shortlisting potential sponsors who submit applications, in response to an invitation to establish a new school, based on the strength of their written proposal. Each proposal will be scored for its quality and content against eight previously identified target areas. Those sponsors who are successful at this stage will be invited to present their proposals at a public meeting and to attend a question and answer session with an Assessment Panel comprising County Councillors (Members) and officers. All proposals, excluding the financial plan, will be published on the Council's website ahead of the public meeting.

Following detailed consideration of all of the information available to them, the Assessment Panel will reach a view on which, if any, of the applications received they would prefer to see implemented. It should be noted that letters of support will not be given any weighting as part of this decision making process. A report on the conclusions reached will then be presented to the next available meeting of the Council's Children and Young People Committee. The Committee's recommendation, together with all the applications received, will be forwarded to the Regional Commissioner for consideration and assessment. He will then make a recommendation to the Secretary of State for which, if any, of the potential sponsors will be given approval to run the school.

If none of the proposals are acceptable to the Secretary of State, then the Council can request approval to embark on a school competition process to establish a new maintained school in line with the provisions set out in section 7 (1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Once advised of the outcome of the Regional Commissioner's consideration of the applications and recommendation to the Secretary of State, the Council will publicise this information on its website and via other media / communication channels and begin the process of working with the successful sponsor to establish the new secondary school.

The key milestones for establishing the new secondary school in North West Cambridge are set out below:

<b>Stage 1 – Invitation for Proposals</b>	
15 June 2015	Launch of process: National and local press announcements – start of 10 week process
1 July 2015 afternoon	Opportunity for site visits
31 August 2015	Deadline for receipt of proposals
<b>Stage 2 – Assessment</b>	
9 September 2015	Assessment of proposals begins
29 September 2015	Public Meeting
20 October 2015	Assessment Panel Interviews and confirmation of preferred sponsor
w/c 5 November 2015	Council Children and Young People Committee confirms its preferred sponsor Regional Commissioner notified
<b>Stage 3 – Assessment by Regional Commissioner and Decision by Secretary of State</b>	
Expected during spring 2016	Department for Education to confirm sponsor and funding allocations for new academy

## 7. Funding

The total capital costs for the secondary school accommodation will be in the region of £30m. This will be funded by the Council in full utilising anticipated contributions from developers building North West Cambridge and Darwin Green.

As this school will open as either an Academy or Free School, the successful sponsor will need to enter into a revenue funding agreement with the Secretary of State for Education to be effective from the date of the secondary school's opening.

As this will be an Academy established to meet basic need, the Council will be responsible for funding an amount to support pre-opening revenue costs and post-opening diseconomies from the growth fund it has established with the agreement of Schools Forum within the local Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), in line with the framework set out by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) in their published operational advice. In December 2015, Schools Forum agreed a policy on new school funding stipulating a payment of £150k for pre-opening costs in a secondary school and the diseconomies arrangements that apply until a school is at normal capacity with all cohorts open. The full policy is available as Appendix D of the revenue funding guidance at:

<https://www.learntogether.org.uk/Resources/Documents/Primary%20and%20Secondary%20School%20Revenue%20Funding%20Guidance%20v1.0%20Feb%202015.pdf>

It is envisaged that this new school will be a recoupment Academy, meaning that an allocation is made to the school from local DSG and local decision making applies to the school's block revenue funding factors paid across by the EFA.

In recognition of its responsibilities the Council has made provision in its Capital Programme for project management/start up costs.

## **8. Further Details and Application Form**

Proposals should be submitted using the Council's Specification Document available to download at:

[http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools\\_and\\_learning/347/school\\_changes\\_and\\_consultations/12](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20059/schools_and_learning/347/school_changes_and_consultations/12)

If you would like any further information, or would like to discuss your application in detail, please contact Alan Fitz at:

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**Completed Application Forms must be submitted by: 31 August 2015**