

Planning Inquiry

Town and County Planning Act 1990 (as amended)

Appeal Reference: APP/K1935/W/20/3255692

Local Planning Authority Reference: 19/00474/FPM

Summary Proof of Evidence

Kate Ma

Senior Planning Officer

School Planning, Children's Services

Hertfordshire County Council

1. My name is Kate Ma and I am a Senior School Planning Officer at Hertfordshire County Council. My proof of evidence addresses the current and forecast primary education capacity levels in Stevenage.
2. In Section 2, I outline the County Council's Statutory Responsibilities for School Place Planning.
3. In Section 3, I explain how the County Council plans school places and provide demographic data used to inform school planning analysis. I explain the datasets informing the pupil forecasts and that, as the primary forecasts are underpinned by actual pre-school aged children, they only project four years into the future, beyond which children seeking a Reception place in the year they turn 5 are not yet born.
4. I then explain that as a result of the limited period on which the primary forecasts are based, a significant level of new housing development proposed in the area is not taken into account within the primary pupil forecasts, and nor is the anticipated new pupil yielding from it.
5. The final part of Section 3 outlines the limited expansion capacity available in schools local to the Land at Lytton Way development.
6. I conclude in Section 4 that, in my view there is currently insufficient spare primary education capacity in the area to accommodate the proposed development and it will place demand on town centre education and the new primary school proposed for the town centre.