Land North of London Road and South of Rawreth Lane and West of Rawreth Industrial Estate, Rawreth Lane, Rayleigh

Impact on Essex Schools

Background

The proposed development includes up to 500 new homes. Essex County Council (“ECC”) advise that this will generate a need for 45 Early Years Places, 150 primary and 100 secondary school places. The Rayleigh area schools infrastructure is operating at its operational capacity with no surplus school places available and therefore a developer contribution is necessary for the provision of additional places for all of the three education phases.

Primary School Places

The Application makes provision for a site for a new primary school in the event that ECC determines that a new primary school is preferable to enlargement of an existing primary school. Either way, the Application is committed to funding the necessary places in accordance with the ECC Developer Guide.

Early Year Places

In the event that a new primary school is established and located on the Application Site, it will include the associated Early Years Places. Otherwise, a financial contribution, in accordance with the ECC Developer Guide, will be used to expand existing provision off-site or establish a new facility on a part of the land reserved for a new primary school.

Secondary School Places

There are two secondary schools in Rayleigh: The Swayne Park School and The FitzWimarc School. Both schools are located on sites where it is not currently possible to expand into additional land adjacent to the sites due to other existing uses and the land not being in the ownership of ECC. However, national space standards guidance\(^1\) contains no restriction to the enlargement of either or both schools utilising the existing site area of the school. The Development Plan specifically mentions the expansion of The FitzWimarc and The Swyne Park schools.

The issue of provision of secondary school places is not one, which turns on the physical space of the site area required for the expansion of existing secondary schools. In any event, there is sufficient physical space within both The FitzWimarc and The Swayne Park schools sites to allow for expansion of both schools to accommodate the additional pupil demand from this Application and other

---

\(^1\) DfE Building Bulletin 103 (June 2014)
developments, coming forward. ECC are confident that physical expansion within the existing school sites is possible and would be appropriate.

ECC in its various consultation responses in relation to the previous application relating to the proposed development that was refused in January 2015 is quite clear that a financial contribution in accordance with its Developer Guide will enable ECC to secure the necessary additional secondary school places. The principle of securing a contribution for off-site provision of secondary education provision is established in the Core Strategy policies CLT1 and CLT3

“At secondary level the proposed development is located within the priority admissions area for the Sweyne Park School. This school has a capacity of 1,240 places. The school is forecast to have a deficit of 9 places by the school year 2018-19. The Fitzwimarc School is also forecast to have a deficit of 22 places by 2018-19. A contribution will therefore be required in accordance with the formula set out in ECC’s Developers’ Guide to Infrastructure Contributions (2010)”.

At present, both secondary schools have enrolled up to their published capacities with (January 2014) 2,590 places and 2,582 pupils. The Sweyne Park School established a sixth form in 2013, which has taken the overall capacity to 2,870 places. The ECC forecasts for 2018/19 indicate that net of new dwellings the combined roll will be 2,849 and including known new housing (including pupils that will derive from the proposed development of the Application Site) to 2,986 pupils. The ECC forecast for 2020-21 shows 3,078 on the combined rolls.

It is noted that the schools are popular with Southend residents and the schools admit from beyond their ‘priority admission (catchment) area’ and beyond their education authority area to sustain the number of pupils at the schools. The net Local Authority cross border movement of secondary school pupils from Southend to Essex is in excess of 600. In addition, both schools’ Admissions Rules dictate that where they are over-subscribed, distance from home to school is the determining criterion.

It will be a matter purely for ECC and the Schools themselves to decide whether the capacity of the school(s) should increase and the tradition of admitting pupils from outside of the priority area(s) and from Southend should continue or whether they will fix the capacities and reduce, over time, the number of pupils from outside of the area.

In any event, pupils resident at the Application Site at the date they transfer to secondary school will secure a place at a Rayleigh secondary school on the grounds of proximity, as the Application Site is located within the priority area of The Swayne Park School.

---

2 ECC consultation response to the earlier refused application14/00627/OUT
4 ECC Commissioning School Places 2014-19
5 ECC School Capacity (SCAP) Return 2014
6 ECC Commissioning School Places 2014-19 (Under the 'open enrolment rules’ schools must admit if they have the capacity)
7 SFR 15 2014 Cross Border Movement Matrix Table (DfE)
A financial contribution to ECC for secondary school places in accordance with the Developer Guide will fully mitigate the impact of the proposed development. There is sufficient physical space at both The FitzWimarc and The Sweyne Park schools to enable expansion of existing facilities to accommodate additional pupils places arising from the proposed development.