

## Responses to written questions submitted prior to the meeting on education provision, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2013

*Has a full, binding schedule of educational site development been made to ensure Northstowe has necessary school places to meet the demands of its inhabitants at all times during every phase of development?*

*- If not, when will this be produced?*

*- What financial penalties will be imposed on the developers if they fail to keep to this schedule?*

Educational requirements for Northstowe will be provided through a S106 on Phase 1 and subsequent phases. The quantum of education places required as a result of the development has been calculated through our demography model and will be monitored throughout the build out of the town. We are satisfied at present that Phase 1 provides for the development need of the community.

The development programme is always subject to change and the County Council has sufficient flexibility to enable it to provide in full for educational need arising from Northstowe. Through the S106, educational provision is based on a submitted trajectory of housing completions and the early provision of schools to be delivered through County Council contracts will ensure education is delivered to schedule.

*Will there be powers in effect to stop the developers selling properties if there are insufficient educational places available to potential buyers?*

There are no such powers. However the S106 provides adequate mitigation for securing sufficient educational places to meet demand from Northstowe.

*At what stage will Longstanton pupils fall into the catchment area for Northstowe and hence lose entitlement to attend Swavesey Village College?*

The proposal is that Longstanton should become catchment for Northstowe secondary school with effect from September 2015.

The Cambridge Meridian Academies Trust (CMAT), the sponsor of the secondary school, will be the admissions authority. Admissions criteria and arrangements have yet to be confirmed but families will still be able to express a preference for their children to attend Swavesey Village College.

*Will the temporary secondary school admission be for just year 7 (meaning the majority of pupils will have to attend elsewhere, creating more pressure for local in-demand schools) or include other years (meaning some pupils will be expected to move school during their GCSEs or even take them at the primary school)?*

The first secondary pupils will enter the school (on the primary school site) on a staggered basis i.e. Year 7s in the first year of the development, year 8s joining them in the second year and Year 9 pupils joining them in the third year. The remaining Key Stage 3 pupils and Key Stage 4 pupils (on a

reducing basis over a 4 year period) will attend Swavesey Village College until the Northstowe secondary school's permanent accommodation opens in September 2018.

We would not expect CMAT to deliver the KS4 curriculum on a primary school site. Nor will pupils change school mid-secondary phase.

*Clearly the secondary school planned under the development is insufficient for Northstowe's needs (providing 600 places against projections of 1800 pupils). The school will therefore need to be massively extended. As the developers have refused to pay for a school of sufficient size for their development, where will this money come from?*

The proposal is to build the secondary school in 3 phases as follows:

Phase 1- 4 forms of entry (FE)/600 pupils

Phase 2 – increase to 8 (FE)/1200 pupils

Phase 3- increase to 12 FE/1800

The County Council will have to extend its borrowing commitments to cover the build costs in order to ensure that there are school places for Northstowe children.

*In Cambridgeshire County Council Response to Northstowe Phase 1 Outline Planning Permission it was stated that a total of 34.04ha of unencumbered land is required for education. The developer's plans refer ambiguously to 23 or 27.4ha. Have the developers committed to providing a minimum of the full 34.04ha?*

Through the S106 negotiations sufficient sites of the appropriate size will be available to deliver education at Northstowe. This includes the secondary school, post-16 facility and 7 primary schools

*Will pupils of the temporary school be regularly transported between the temporary school and Swavesey Village College?*

*- If so, will this transport take place during lessons-(meaning a loss of around 20 minutes education for every round trip) or will these pupils be expected to sacrifice their own break time?*

*- If not, how will lessons requiring dedicated facilities (labs, workshops, kitchens, sports facilities etc.) be provided at the temporary school?*

The Key Stage 3 secondary curriculum will be delivered at Northstowe. A science lab is part of the specification for the primary school so that secondary science and technology subjects can be delivered on site. Pupils will be transported to the Swavesey VC site for curriculum events such as PHSE days and for after school activities.

*Finally, on a non-technical point, do you feel it acceptable for young people to spend the majority of their secondary school education in temporary accommodation at a primary school, especially considering the psychological effect when mixing with peers from local secondary schools and the lack of belonging from being assigned to a temporary situation with no certain future?*

Transitional provision for secondary pupils at Northstowe will be in permanent accommodation in the primary school until the secondary school building opens. The representatives from CMAT will answer this question more fully at the meeting on 18 September.

*Can you confirm whether Longstanton children who currently attend Swavesey Primary School will be automatically allowed to attend Swavesey Village College or will they be forced to attend Northstowe (Village College) school?*

The admission arrangements for the proposed secondary school at Northstowe have yet to be determined. However, initial proposals have been raised with the governing body of Hatton Park Primary School that the school should become a partner primary for the new Northstowe secondary school. Until the final planning requirements have been met for Phase 1 of the new settlement at Northstowe it is premature to pursue formally details of the admissions arrangements for the Northstowe secondary school. However, at the appropriate time they will form part of the usual consultation on admission arrangements which takes place on an annual basis, co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

The details of the admission arrangements for the Northstowe secondary school will be decided by Cambridge Meridian Academy Trust, which as the sponsor of the new school has this responsibility as well as for managing and leading the school. The arrangements will be determined in conjunction with the Local Authority which has the statutory duty to ensure the provision of school places locally. Whatever the final admissions criteria are, parents will still be able to express a preference for up to three secondary schools, which could include Swavesey Village College, just as some parents have expressed a preference for their children to attend Swavesey Primary School, which is not the catchment school for children who live in Longstanton.