

## Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA420855400

Submitted: 09 May 2022 15:13 PM

### Executive summary

**Title of policy / decision:** New primary school and nursery on the Dry Street development, Nethermayne, Basildon

**Policy / decision type:** Cabinet Decision

**Overview of policy / decision:** The demand for school places continues to grow within the administrative area of Essex County Council (ECC), and ECC has a duty to ensure that every child wanting one has access to a school place. In executing these responsibilities, ECC also seeks to add value to the educational offer that can be made to parents and carers within a local area, to ensure that learners receive the best possible outcomes from their time in formal education.

Like many places across Essex, Basildon is growing as a result of house building activity underway in the local area. Projected pupil numbers, as set out within Essex County Council's latest school place planning document (10 Year Plan - Meeting the demand for school places in Essex, 2022-2031) show a sharp rise over the next few years and as such, these children should ideally be accommodated within local schools.

Should these places not be provided locally then there is a strong possibility that increased car journeys will need to make outside the local area, in order for parents to secure a preferred primary school placement. However, by enhancing provision that sits directly within the area of demand it is not unreasonable to see this as the more sustainable solution, with children able to walk, cycle or scoot to their local school, reducing congestion and the subsequent impact that that has upon public health.

ECC's proposal to increase the number of primary school places available will ensure that more local children can access a local school place. It will provide more places to meet the growing demand in the area.

The Dry Street housing development in Basildon has planning permission for approximately 725 homes. A S106 agreement is in place and provides a site for a new primary school and a contribution of £3.892m for the construction of the new school.

The potential impact of a new primary school on other local schools has been taken into account. The demand in the area will be closely monitored and ECC will recommend that the new school opens with a 1FE intake until demand shows the need for 2FE.

**What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?:** A good place for children and families to grow.

**Executive Director responsible for policy / decision:** Tom Walker (Economy, Investment and Public Health)

**Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision:** Tony Ball (Education Excellence, Skills and Training)

**Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?:** New policy / decision

**How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?:** Pupil forecasts and pupil distribution data will be monitored on a yearly basis to evaluate the percentage of local children gaining a place at their local school.

**Will this policy / decision impact on:**

**Service users:** Yes

**Employees:** No

**Wider community or groups of people:** No

**What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?:** Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?:** Infrastructure, Future growth and investment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment:** Net zero, Levelling up the environment

**Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families:** Education outcomes

**What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?:** Basildon

## **Digital accessibility**

**Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?:** No

## **Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics**

### **Age**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

### **Disability - learning disability**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - mental health issues**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - physical impairment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Disability - sensory impairment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Sex**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Gender reassignment**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Marriage / civil partnership**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Pregnancy / maternity**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Race**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Religion / belief**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Sexual orientation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Positive impact for children aged between 4 and 11 years-old, as this proposal will enable more children to access their local primary school.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

## **Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts**

**Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Children on Free School Meals**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Harlow**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Jaywick and Clacton**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Harwich**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Basildon (Town) housing estates**

**Nature of impact:** Positive

**Extent of impact:** Medium

## **Canvey Island**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Rural North of the Braintree District**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** Being a new school and early years provision, there will be no adverse impact upon any of the protected groups mentioned. However, should additional places not be delivered for September 2024, there is a significant risk that children will be without school or early years place in their local area, that longer journeys will need to be made between home and school in order to find alternative schools with spaces and that in an increased number of cases parental preference will not be satisfied. The building works will be procured by the County Council using framework agreements which it is entitled to use. Contractors experienced in working on projects of this type will be used. The premises to be provided will need to meet the statutory requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and the feasibility studies and the final programme will ensure that this happens. As public buildings, schools and early years provisions are required to provide full accessibility in order to obtain Building Control sign-off. Essex County Council produces a set of employer's requirements which add further interpretation to ensure this is achieved from the early stages of design. Prior to planning permission application Building Control approval is sought to offer earlier compliance confirmation. Any works to expand the building will be fully compliant with the legislation. This builds in a future-proofing dimension to our buildings, ensuring they are accessible for disabled users. A consultation was conducted by the Essex County Council between 31 January 2022 and 13 March 2022. The consultation explained the proposal and was published on the Essex County Council website. Responses to the consultation could be made via letter, email or online survey. There were 123 responses to the online survey, with 112 responses being in favour of the proposals and 11 responses against, showing that the vast majority of the responses were in favour of the proposals. The only concerns expressed were in relation to potential traffic issues at the new schools. Further consultation will be held with the community as part of the planning process, regarding the detailed design of the proposed building works, parking and traffic issues. The school will be engaged as a key stakeholder as part of the design process.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

## **Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups**

### **Refugees / asylum seekers**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Homeless / rough sleepers**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Offenders / ex-offenders**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Carers**

**Nature of impact:** None

### **Looked after children**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Veterans**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People who are unemployed / economically inactive**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People on low income**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **Working families**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This decision does not impact the above groups.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

# **Equalities - Geographical Groups**

## **People living in areas of high deprivation**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People living in rural or isolated areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People living in coastal areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

## **People living in urban or over-populated areas**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This decision does not impact the above groups.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

# **Families**

## **Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families before, during and after couple separation**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown**

**Nature of impact:** None

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** This decision does not impact the above groups.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

## **Climate**

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?:** Yes

**Do you know what products, materials, and qualified built environment professionals you will be using?**

**Are you maximising the opportunity to source materials locally and maximise use of sustainable materials such as wood?:** No

**Are you using a qualified architect / design team / consultant with the experience and capability to design and secure planning permission to deliver to the highest carbon zero building standards?:** Yes

**Are you clear that the builder, sub-contractor is qualified and capable of delivering climate resilient buildings (noting risks including subsidence, flooding, overheating), to the highest net zero carbon build quality?:** Yes

**Is your proposed development / building using the best practice guidance and advice on design quality, climate change and health?**

**Are you using the design quality and advice provided by the Essex Design Guide?:** Yes

**Are you using the Climate Change guidance and advice provide by the Essex Design Guide?:** Yes

**Are you providing a policy compliant development which accords with the District Local Plan policies?:**  
Yes

**Are using the Health and Wellbeing guidance provided by the Essex Design Guide?:** Yes

**Have you provided a costed net zero option for consideration?:** Yes

**Is your proposed development / building as efficient as possible?**

**Is the Energy performance Certificate (EPC) rating of the achieving and EPC A+ or net zero carbon standard?:** Yes

**Have opportunities to reduce energy use through the use of smart digital systems been considered?:**  
Yes

**Does your development by design avoid the need for air conditioning?:** Yes

**Does your new development have water efficiency measures in place?:** Yes

**Do you know where your energy is coming from and how much of it comes from renewable sources?**

**Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?:** Yes

**Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?:** Yes

**Is your new or extended development using a renewable heat source e.g. district heating or a form of heat pump?:** Yes

**Is your development resilient to climate risks including flooding, overheating and subsidence?**

**Is your site at risk of coastal erosion? Is there a plan in place to protect the coastline: if the coastline is being allowed to erode, this may impact the lifetime of your site.:** No

**Have you reviewed environment agency to ascertain your flood risk? Do you need to put in place mitigation such as sustainable drainage?:** Yes

**Water is scarce and needs to be absorbed into the land wherever possible. Are you prioritising nature based flood risk mitigations such as sustainable drainage, water butts, planting and ponds which protect against water scarcity?:** Yes

**Are you using external planting, green walls and green roofs to insulate the building and provide shading to cut risks of overheating?:** No

**Is your development supporting active travel and minimising pollution?**

**Does your site allow connection to key public transport and active travel routes?:** Yes

**Are you using Green Infrastructure to interrupt the pathway of carborne pollutants to the public e.g. use of hedges, shrubs and trees?:** N/A

**Have you provided space for secure cycle parking, showering, cycle and walking pathways on site etc?:** Yes

**Does the building have adequate space for recycling and waste separation?:** Yes

**Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?:** No

**Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?:** No

**Nature of impact**

**Built Environment / Energy:** Positive

**Extent of impact**

**Built Environment / Energy:** Low

**Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:** The new build will be designed and constructed using current environmental standards, achieving net zero in design, and energy efficiency will be

modelled as part of the design process. The school, supported by ECC officers, will design an ambitious travel plan to promote active and sustainable travel and maximise on the opportunity to embed this within the culture of staff, students and the community.

**What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:** N/A

## **Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts**

**Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?:** No

## **Details of person completing the form**

**I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance:** I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

**Date ECIA completed:** 09/05/2022

**Name of person completing the ECIA:** Ian Bateman

**Email address of person completing the ECIA:** Ian.Bateman@essex.gov.uk

**Your function:** Economy, Investment and Public Health

**Your service area:** Sustainable Growth

**Your team:** School Organisation and Place Planning

**Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?:** No

**Email address of Head of Service:** joseph.chell@essex.gov.uk