

North East Lincolnshire Council
Education Contribution Justification Statement
November 2023

Introduction

Schools are deemed as critical infrastructure and the provision of pupil places as per the Education Act is a statute responsibility of Local Authorities, so ensuring that there are sufficient, suitable and fit for purpose provision forms a significant part of the local plan process when looking at proposed new housing developments. Whilst birth rates naturally over time rise and fall, the impact of new housing will always have an impact upon the existing education provision. The requirement for either new school provision or the possible expansion of existing sites or specialist provision because of new housing developments is a key consideration.

Provision within North East Lincolnshire

The school estate in North East Lincolnshire is broken into planning areas (with the exception of Special Educational Needs (SEN) places) to ensure that there are places across the Borough within locality for local children. However, parental choice plays a significant role in determining how some sites fill (particularly in the secondary estate) and the impact of new housing often adversely effects this choice with the impact being that pupils are pushed back into more localised provision and that provision requiring additional places to meet the demand rather than the catchment site for the new housing.

Thresholds and Scale of Contribution

North East Lincolnshire currently operates upon the following formulas and sums when asking for S106 contributions:

Education contributions will be sought from housing developments of ten units or more, contributions towards SEN provision will apply only to developments of 24 units or more, where it is demonstrated that there would be insufficient school capacity to accommodate the anticipated number of children generated by the proposed development.

The contribution will be a once only payment linked to the granting of planning permission.

The size of the contribution will be determined based upon the LEA's forecast of future school capacity within the identified catchment over a 3 year time horizon. This will be based upon a contribution of school place costs (subject to annual review)

The thresholds applied are based on the local authorities calculation of pupils generated from past housing developments.

- Primary every 4 properties generates 1 pupil (£16,900.40)
- Secondary every 5 properties generates 1 pupil (£25,464.68)
- 7% of the LA's school population are Special Educational Needs pupils which equates to 1 in every 12 pupils, which relates to 48 properties generating 1 SEN pupil (£67,601.60)

SEN provision will be sought on the following basis:

- 24 properties will generate 0.5 SEN pupils and 5.5 primary pupils with the appropriate sums requested. (Note the SEN provision is taken as a proportion of the primary provision) It should be noted that SEN S106 contributions are ringfenced countywide and can be pooled or spent upon the specialist needs of pupils which may be provision and/or equipment.

Exceptions

The exceptions when North East Lincolnshire will not request a S106 education contribution are:

- Over 55 housing
- Care Homes
- Affordable Homes
- Extra Care
- one bedroom accommodation