

## ST ALBANS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Action notes of meeting held on 26 April 2010  
2:00pm  
Hertfordshire County Council

Present:

[REDACTED] Hertfordshire Property  
[REDACTED] Hertfordshire Property  
[REDACTED] Children Schools and Families  
[REDACTED] Vincent and Gorbing

### ACTION

#### 1.0 Purpose of the meeting:

To discuss and agree the scope of the baseline analysis required for the site search process in respect of secondary school site(s) and justification for the definition of the study area.  
To identify any further information requirements for the project.

#### 2.0 Meeting agreements:

##### Deficit of secondary school places

The HCC Cabinet report (Dec 2009) identifies the secondary planning areas of St Albans and Harpenden as having a forecast deficit of secondary school places. Harpenden is showing a more immediate deficit with St Albans showing a longer term but potentially greater deficit. It was agreed that it was important to have more sensitive local information on the areas of deficit within St Albans and Harpenden since this would affect the potential of existing schools with expansion capacity to address the localised deficits and would also affect the selection of new school sites (an objective being to produce a sustainable, deliverable site with minimum travel distances). Hertfordshire Property would produce more detailed information on the areas of deficit within St Albans and Harpenden and supply to V&G.

##### Expansion of existing schools

A study of the existing secondary school sites will provide an understanding of how much of the deficit can be met through expansion and how much residual deficit would then need to be met

through secondary school provision on new site(s).

It was confirmed that this work was now underway and would form the priority for the V&G workplans. V&G will check whether they have all the necessary school capacity plans and will organise site visits in the near future.

#### **Site search for new secondary school site(s)**

It was agreed that the planning and environmental constraints sieving exercise carried out in S-W Herts should be carried out for St Albans but that there were distinct differences between the geography of S-W Herts and St Albans necessitating a different approach to the definition of the study area. The district of St Albans has more discreet settlement geography than S-W Herts. It was agreed that the study area for the sieving exercise should focus on those parts of the district where there is an identifiable deficit of places and where the SADC Draft Core Strategy proposes areas of search for future housing growth. It was agreed that these areas comprise:

- (i) St Albans
- (ii) Harpenden
- (iii) London Colney

Three study area plans will be prepared which include the Core Strategy Areas of Search. These will be sent to HCC for verification before the planning and environmental constraints analysis is undertaken.

Wheathampstead has an existing 2.5FE of primary provision and Redbourn has existing 2FE primary provision. CSF indicated that these settlements would not alone have the capacity to generate enough secondary school pupils in the future for a new secondary school. If provision in these settlements was to be made there would more pupil movements to these settlements (from St Albans and Harpenden - the areas of deficit) than would be the case if new provision was made in St Albans and Harpenden. This would be unsustainable in planning terms and consequently they are excluded from the study area.

#### **Workplan**

confirmed that would write to CSF to set out requirements for the progression of the above work and that regular meetings should be set up to review the progress of the project.