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Your ref:
Our ref:
Date: 28th November 2017

Dear Sir,

Representation to the Inspector – Fylde Local Plan

The matters and issues for part 2 of Fylde's Local Plan examination were published, with Stage one hearings taking place on 28th and 29th March 2017, where all previous consultations and evidence were presented and reviewed by the Inspector. Stage two hearings took place between 20th and 29th June 2017, after which the Inspector sent out specific questions. These included a requirement of clarification regarding the location of a proposed secondary school site and whether this had been decided. Lancashire County Council's School Planning Team contributed to a one council response to the specific questions. The response provided at that time is attached.

Further to your concerns being raised, may I inform you that Lancashire County Council School Planning Team has, to date, not received a response from Fylde on how a secondary school site might be secured and, according to the information available to us, feel this issue to still be outstanding.

An Issues and Options consultation was undertaken between June and July 2012. The need for primary and secondary places was noted in the consultation response and this is also mentioned by the Westby-with-Plumpton's parish council, which was concerned about the number of planned developments and lack of education places.

Reference has been made throughout the Local Plan process by Lancashire County Council to the need for both primary and secondary school places, and also the need for a new secondary site (going back to the Preferred Option stage in July/August 2013.) At this stage Fylde also produced the developing Infrastructure Delivery Plan in June 2013. A one council response was submitted to the preferred option stage and IDP on 21 August 2013. The Preferred Options Part 1 document was produced by Fylde to capture comments received. Paragraph 12.9 below, refers to the need for a new

secondary school site to be secured and, at that time, its location was given specifically as Warton:

12.9 It is projected that there will be a significant shortfall of school places in the Borough over the plan period and many schools, particularly within Lytham and St Annes, are already at capacity. Education services in Fylde are managed through Lancashire County Council. It has identified a need for a new secondary school in the south west of the Borough. Following discussions with Lancashire County Council, it is recommended that a location within the strategic site west of Warton, included in the Warton Strategic Location for Development, be identified for a new secondary school. It is anticipated that the specific site will be identified in the Fylde Local Plan Part 2: Site Allocations to 2030. Further information is set out in the draft IDP that supplements this document.

A Revised Preferred Option was consulted on during 15th October – 3rd December 2015. This consultation included consultation on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), which sets out in more detail the issues and requirements of educational need in Fylde. Again this referenced the need for secondary new provision and provided an updated pupil projection. Please see below an extract from the published IDP:

6.17 LCC has taken steps to provide additional places at three primary schools in Lytham St. Annes in the last few years to address an increase in the demand for primary school places created by an increased birth rate and new housing development. The provision of additional primary school places are prioritised in Lancashire's Strategy for the Provision of School Places and Schools' Capital Investment. In relation to primary schools, LCC's preference is to expand existing schools, where they are physically capable of being extended. From the information in the housing trajectory in Appendix 2 of the Local Plan, the development sites could bring forward the need for 6 ½ additional primary forms of entry and approximately 787 secondary school places over the lifetime of the plan. Given the scale of development, the need to assess the feasibility of existing sites for expansion and the fact that a 1 ½ form of entry primary school has been included within the Section 106 Agreement for the Queensway development at St Annes, there may be a need to identify additional primary school sites. Because no one development is likely to be of a scale to produce sufficient secondary yield for a new secondary school, there is a need for Fylde Council to take a strategic decision on the provision of an additional secondary school site which will be required over the timescale of the Local Plan.

The response to the publication version was put out to consultation in August 2016 and School Planning Team responded in great detail, again highlighting the need for a secondary and potential primary sites indicating when the secondary site would be required.

Stage three hearings are scheduled to take place 12th to 13th December 2017, at which Lancashire County Council wishes to raise concerns that, although numerous references are made within Fylde Borough Council's Local Plan documentation to the need for a secondary school site, in addition to a need for potential primary expansions or new school sites, the Borough Council has not provided any certainty to Lancashire County Council on how they have planned for this strategically within the Local Plan. With just 3 existing secondary schools within the Fylde district (which have limitations to the extent to which they may be expanded), we feel that the lack of strategic plans to

secure a secondary school site to support the scale of the full development planned for Fylde undermines the sustainability of the development plans.

I look forward to hearing your comments on this matter,

Yours Sincerely

Lancashire County Council,
School Planning Team