

# Post meeting follow-up answers.

## Education - Alison Cramer & Rachel Pinion

**Q:** What is the definition of “reasonable distance” within a school catchment?

**A:** Cambridgeshire County Council follows the DfE statutory guidance for “Travel to school for children of compulsory school age” (link provided below).

Paragraph 98 on page 31 specifies journey times:

“98. As a general guide, the maximum journey time for a child of primary school age should be 45 minutes each way, and 75 minutes each way for a child of secondary school age, including any time taken to walk to a pick-up point, but there will be circumstances in which this is not possible, for example in rural areas where children live in remote locations, where a child needs to travel a long way to the school named in their EHC plan, or when journey times are extended by traffic delays. Wherever possible, a child should not be expected to make several changes on public transport.”

[Travel to school for children of compulsory school age](#)

**Q:** Why is it taking so long for Darwin Green Primary School to open?

**A:** The opening of a new Council delivered school is decided on a case-by-case basis between the Council, the DfE and the Trust. The Council will look to support the opening of the first primary on Darwin Green when all the local primary schools are working at or near capacity and there are enough children requiring a place at the new primary to ensure that the school is able to offer a full and broad educational experience.

**Q:** Could you please be specific about the trigger that will result in action on Darwin Green for secondary provision? And if you can't, is there a possibility of setting up temporary buildings for children to access education?

**A:** There are triggers in the section 106 agreement around when county can access the site. We haven't met those triggers yet, but we are working closely with Barrett Redrow in South Cambs to foresee when those triggers will be and when we're able to get access to the site. Once we have a clear understanding of when we can access the site, we can start putting together a clear construction programme and will be much more definitive around time scales.

S106 triggers:

Darwin Green Phase 1 S106:

Schedule 5: Education provisions Part 2 (page 97)

“The Covenantee Parties shall by no later than the 450<sup>th</sup> Dwelling Occupation Date or the issue of the Relevant Permission for the Secondary School whichever is later undertake the steps set out in paragraph 1.2 of this Part 2 of Schedule 5 unless otherwise agreed with the County Council.”

Darwin Green Phase 2/3 S106:

Schedule 12, paragraph 5:

“The County Council covenants not to serve the Secondary School Site Notice on the Owners until the later of:

5.1 The date the County Council (acting reasonably) determines it requires the Secondary School Site in order for it to commence construction of the Secondary School Building to enable the Secondary School Building to open for secondary education purposes on its programmed opening date; and

5.2 the one hundredth (100<sup>th</sup>) Dwelling Occupation Date.”

The Council is considering a variety of alternative options to manage the demand for places. Currently, the Council is meeting its statutory obligations in providing sufficient places within a reasonable distance of student’s homes.

**Q:** How will the school(s) be funded considering the total amount of funding allocated by both Section 106 agreements is only £14M – index linked.

**A:** The budgets for the first primary and the secondary at Darwin Green are in the Council’s 2024-25 Business Plan and are made up of S106 contributions, Council investment and grant funding from Central Government.

## Darwin Green Phase One - Andrew Maclaren

**Q:** Residents are concerned about drainage issues between the new sports pavilion and Huntingdon Rd. Can we get confirmation that BDW2 will not exacerbate the drainage issues already experienced by existing residents?

**A:** *Awaiting response*