

Horsham Local Plan Examination

West Sussex County Council Additional Hearing Statement – Education

October 2026

This additional statement has been prepared by officers on behalf of West Sussex County Council (WSCC) in its role as Education Authority.

Matter 6d: Strategic Policy HA(NP1): Land at Adversane

1. This statement is intended to clarify WSCC's position regarding the provision of a 6 form entry expandable to 8 form entry secondary school to mitigate development from the proposed allocation at Adversane.
2. The hearing statement submitted by Thakeham Homes (document reference MJB6d.10) references Planning School Places 2026¹, highlighting that by 2034 a sufficient buffer will be available in the planning area for secondary provision (paragraph 1.38).
3. Planning School Places 2026 uses data from a range of sources to forecast school places, an overview of which is given on pages 6 and 7 of the document. To avoid overestimation of pupil projections, pupil forecasts do not include proposed housing allocations until a local plan is adopted. Planning School Places 2026 therefore does not include pupil forecasts arising from the housing growth in the emerging Horsham Local Plan, and the projections for pupil demand will increase once the emerging allocations are factored into the pupil projections.
4. Once the proposed allocations in the emerging local plan are taken into account for pupil projections, capacity in the school planning area will reach capacity by 2033 (see appendix). This is based on total school capacity and estimated number on role as opposed to pupil admission number (year 7 intake) which is referred to in Planning School Places 2026 capacity tables. The Weald School in Billingshurst is the only secondary school in the planning area and is currently 10 forms of entry and a landlocked site. Planning School Places states that secondary schools should operate at a minimum of 6 forms of entry and no larger than 10 forms of entry.
5. A new secondary school is required to mitigate the impact of proposed development in the emerging local plan in the Billingshurst school planning area, which projections show there will be a need for three full forms of entry for secondary education once proposed allocations are built out. This school should be built at the suggested minimum of 6 forms of entry, with the capability of

¹ [Planning School Places 2026](#), West Sussex County Council

expansion to 8 forms of entry to allow for flexibility in the provision of secondary education in the planning area.

6. Facilities for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) should also be provided alongside the provision of new mainstream education infrastructure in a class base known in West Sussex as a Special Support Centre (SSC) (sometimes referred to as a Specialist Inclusion Base). This supports the Department for Education (DfE) approach to educate SEND pupils alongside their peers in mainstream education as far as practically possible², alongside the provision of special school placements where required.
7. The developer of the proposed allocation at Adversane will be expected to provide land and proportionate contributions to meet their mitigation requirements in respect of education including secondary with attached SEND provision. The DfE makes clear that new settlements or urban extensions large enough to require a new school should be expected to meet their full education requirement in whole forms of entry³.
8. It should be noted that provision of land alone may not be sufficient to deliver the necessary education infrastructure; financial contributions will be required to facilitate the construction and equipping of education facilities. The additional land provided above their expected level of mitigation will be taken into account during the negotiation of financial obligations at the planning application stage, where the capacity of the school planning area will be assessed at the time of application. This ensures that contributions are not sought for infrastructure that is not directly related to the development. This is consistent with our approach at similar sites across the county and satisfies the statutory tests set out in regulation 122 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations.

² [Inclusive Education Estates](#), Department for Education, June 2026

³ [Securing developer contributions for education](#), Department for Education, August 2023

Appendix

Horsham District Local Plan - Housing Site Totals and Trajectories in Billingshurst school planning area

Housing *Trajectories from HDC Statement on Matters 5a and 5b document ID MJB1.01																			
Site / Settlement	Units		2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	2031/2032	2032/2033	2033/2034	2034/2035	2035/2036	2036/2037	2037/2038	2038/2039	2039/2040
	Allocated	Delivered in Plan Period																	
Strategic Sites																			
East of Billingshurst	1,000	1,000	-	-						50	75	120	120	120	120	120	120	100	55
Land at Adversane	3,200	1,425	-	-						50	100	125	150	150	150	175	175	175	175
Total Strategic Sites	4,200	2,425							0	100	175	245	270	270	270	295	295	275	230
Smaller Sites - Settlement Total in the Billingshurst planning area																			
Billingshurst (HA(NP2))	80	80							20	40	20								
Pulborough (HA13)	25	25							10	15									
Rudgwick and Bucks Green	105	105					47	48	10										
Barns Green (BGR3)	20	20							20										
TOTAL Smaller Sites	230	230					0	47	48	60	55	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Strategic Sites and Smaller Sites	4,430	2,655					0	47	48	60	155	195	245	270	270	270	295	295	230

Total Secondary places required (0.16 pupils per dwelling)	709
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Secondary Education Capacity																	Remaining eLP allocation requirement beyond 2040
	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	2031/2032	2032/2033	2033/2034	2034/2035	2035/2036	2036/2037	2037/2038	2038/2039	2039/2040			
Sec places available forecast by Edgeanalytics (June 2026) based on housing up to 31/03/25 for The Weald Sec School	298	302	257	276	271	206	175	136	93	50	6	-41	-88	-132	-132		
Demand for places generated by planning applications submitted between 1/4/25 to 1/10/26* in the Billingshurst planning area	40	40	40	40	40												
Demand for places generated by emerging Local Plan June 2026 onwards* See above.	0	8	8	10	25	31	39	43	43	43	47	47	44	37	284		
Places available surplus or deficit (+/-) based on Edge forecast + planning applications from 1/4/25 + numbers in the Emerging Local Plan	258	255	210	227	206	175	136	93	50	6	-41	-88	-132	-169	-416		
% of places available surplus or deficit (+/-) across the Billingshurst planning area	12%	11%	9%	10%	9%	8%	6%	4%	2%	0%	-2%	-4%	-6%	-8%	-19%		

*Edgeanalytics forecasts are based on data up to and including planning applications permitted and housing allocated to 31/03/2025
Planning applications from 1/04/2025 to 1/10/2026 are monitored separately via HDC and WSCC. Both monitoring systems are based on 0.19 pupils per dwelling.
A 5% buffer is the NAO benchmark for sufficient capacity