

Statement of Agreement
Portsmouth City Council Local Planning
Authority & Portsmouth City Council Children,
Families and Education Directorate

**Relating to the Portsmouth Local Plan &
the Infrastructure Delivery Plan**

July 2024



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1. What is a Statement of Agreement?

- 1.1 This Statement of Agreement (SoA) is a jointly agreed statement between Portsmouth City Council (PCC) as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and PCC as the Local Education Authority (Children, Families and Education Directorate). The City Council has put handling arrangements in place to ensure:
- Functional separation between the Children, Families and Education Directorate's team (the Children, Families and Education Directorate Team) and the LPA's Team (the LPA Team) for the purposes of progressing the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which supports the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan;
 - Transparent, fair and proper policy making; and
 - The avoidance of any conflicts of interests.
- 1.2 Both parties agree to adhere to these handling arrangements in order to ensure a functional separation between the Children, Families and Education Directorate Team and the LPA Team. However, it is acknowledged that it is necessary for there to be a continued dialogue throughout the plan making process between the LPA and the Children, Families and Education Directorate, as there would be with any other third-party infrastructure provider.
- 1.3 This SoA follows on from correspondence between the two parties between Summer 2023 and Spring 2024 regarding the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP), a key supporting document for the Pre-Submission Local Plan 2040.
- 1.4 It sets out the position and understanding with respect to the provision of education infrastructure between the two parties. It is not binding on either party but sets out a clear and positive direction to inform ongoing strategy and plan making. It should be noted that this is a bilateral agreement between these two parties only.
- 1.5 The following documents form appendices to the SoA:
- Infrastructure Delivery Plan consultation letter sent by the LPA 17 August 2023.
 - Response from the Children, Families and Education Directorate 8 September 2023.

2. What does this SoA include?

- 2.1 Section 3 of this SoA sets out the process undertaken and the ongoing engagement between the two parties to reach an agreement on the education infrastructure requirements in terms of school places as a result of the levels of development set out in the Local Plan 2040.
- 2.2 Section 4 identifies the key matters that were agreed following the process outlined in section 3. These were replicated within the IDP to support the Local Plan 2040 at pre-submission.

3. Process undertaken

- 3.1 In August 2023, the LPA launched a focussed consultation with all infrastructure providers regarding the IDP, lasting four weeks. The letter sent is set out in Appendix 1 of this document. The consultation sought information from all infrastructure providers (including the Children, Families and Education Directorate) on the existing Citywide provision, and any planned infrastructure improvements that were coming forward irrespective of the Local Plan. It then asked whether the existing and planned infrastructure could accommodate the expected growth from the Local Plan and where this could not be achieved, what additional infrastructure would be required. All consultation responses were reviewed to inform the production of the document.
- 3.2 A consultation response from the Children, Families and Education Directorate was received in September 2023 which is included as appendix 2 and indicated that additional primary school; secondary school; and special education needs and disabilities (SEND) school places would be required to accommodate the estimated increase in pupil numbers arising from growth relating to the Pre-Submission Local Plan during the plan period of 2020-2040. Further engagement was undertaken in November and December 2023 to understand the anticipated pupil yield arising from the Local Plan and where there was space to accommodate these pupils both now and in the future.
- 3.3 A meeting was held in March 2024 between colleagues of the LPA and Children, Families and Education Directorate to understand whether the increased pupil school places need could be accommodated on existing sites through more efficient use of existing space or expansion of existing schools.
- 3.4 In March 2024, the Children, Families and Education Directorate undertook a series of site assessments across each school site in Portsmouth to determine site capacity and physical scope for expansion to accommodate new forms of entry. This assessment determined that the number of new primary school places resulting from the new Local Plan could be delivered on existing primary school sites within the City through on-site expansion projects. The Children, Families and Education Directorate requested planning advice on whether the required number of new secondary school places could also be accommodated on existing secondary school sites in the City.
- 3.5 Following this request, in April 2024 the LPA undertook a series of desk-based site appraisals on secondary school sites in Portsmouth. This aimed to identify the potential options and land availability on existing secondary school sites for expansion, to determine whether the required number of new secondary school places could be delivered through the construction of new school buildings and/or extensions and repurposing and rebuilding of existing school buildings. The results of this assessment were shared with the Children, Families and Education Directorate.
- 3.6 A final meeting was held in April 2024 to discuss the findings of the desk-based site assessment. An agreement was reached between the LPA and the Children, Families and Education Directorate that the additional primary and specialist places could be delivered on existing sites across the City during the plan period. Whilst there would also be the physical space to accommodate the additional secondary school places, both parties understand that providing all of the required secondary school places on existing school sites would be difficult to achieve practically and be unlikely to be in the interests of promoting high educational standards in the City. The provision of additional primary,

specialist and secondary school spaces requires very careful planning and effective/ongoing engagement with schools and the Children, Families and Education Directorate. It is also acknowledged and agreed that this is a sensitive and confidential matter that should be progressed appropriately.

4. Key Matters of Agreement and actions going forward

- 4.1 The LPA and Children, Families and Education Directorate of PCC agree that there is scope to meet the additional primary and secondary school places arising from growth associated with the Pre-Submission Local Plan through delivery on existing sites across the city during the plan period.

5. Signatories

- 5.1 Both parties agree that this statement is an accurate representation of matters discussed and issues agreed upon.
- 5.2 Both parties agree that they have engaged positively on an ongoing basis and that on this basis the Duty to Cooperate has been met.
- 5.3 Both parties agree that there are no substantial areas of disagreement between the parties relating to the emerging Portsmouth Local Plan and will both continue to work proactively on the key strategic cross boundary issues identified in this SCG.

	Signed:	Signed:
		
	Name:	Name:
	Ian Maguire	Mike Stoneman
	Position:	Position:
	Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth	Deputy Director, Education
	Portsmouth City Council	Portsmouth City Council
	Date:02/07/2024	Date: 02/07/2024

Appendix 1

Infrastructure Delivery Plan consultation letter sent by the LPA 17 August 2023.

Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

Planning Policy
Portsmouth City Council
Civic Offices
Guildhall Square
Portsmouth
PO1 2AL

17-Aug-2023

policyconsultations@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Re: Consultation request to Infrastructure Providers & Stakeholders on the Portsmouth Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Portsmouth City Council is preparing an updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support its new Local Plan for the period 2020-2040. The Local Plan will set out the future development strategy for the City including levels of future housing and economic growth. The IDP identifies key infrastructure required to support development within the City over the plan period following input from key infrastructure providers.

We understand you may have been consulted previously as a key infrastructure provider regarding this, however, the IDP is a live document and there is need for a revised version to support the Local Plan at the Regulation 19 stage. This is the version of the plan that we are intending to submit for examination known as the Pre-Submission Local Plan. Since we last consulted on the IDP there have been some amendments to the plan period, the expected level of housing, employment provision and allocated sites.

Following the preparation of the [Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2019-2038](#), the plan period has extended to 2040 and our development quantum have changed. The emerging housing target is 13,997 new homes over the plan period, equal to 700 dwellings per annum (dpa). Further detail on the identified new development quantum are set out in the table 1 below.

Table 1 Development quantum for the Pre-Submission Portsmouth Local Plan

Plan period	2020 to 2040
Net number of new homes to be provided in the City 2020-2040. A capacity based figure	13,997
Net number of new homes to be provided in the City per annum 2020-2040.	700 dpa
Housing need as defined by the standard methodology	906 dpa
Employment supply (gross) 2020-2040 for offices (Egi)	77,099 m2
Employment supply (gross) 2020-2040 for R&D & industrial processes (Egii-iii)	29,133 m2
Employment supply (gross) 2020-2040 for General Industrial (B2) & Storage or Distribution (B8)	109,231 m2
That part of employment land (B2 & B8) for marine businesses	58,000 m2

Total employment supply (gross) 2020-2040	215,463 m2
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The Council has published a Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) which identifies land which may come forward over the plan period and estimates the capacity of what might be delivered on each site. The last version of the HELAA was published in 2021 and an updated version will be published to support the Pre-Submission Plan later this year. Further to this, the Local Plan will allocate seven strategic sites and six site allocations of which the development quantum is outlined in table 2 below.

Table 2 Strategic site and site allocation figures

Strategic Site	New Homes	New Office Floorspace (m2)	New Manufacturing/Warehousing (m2)
Tipner East	1,056	0	0
Tipner West & Horsea Island East	1,250	0	58,000
Lakeside	0	50,000	0
City Centre	4,475	20,000	0
Fratton Park & Pompey Centre	750	0	0
St James & Langston Harbour	436	0	0
Horsea Island Open Space	-	-	-
Site Allocations			
Port Solent	500	0	0
St John's College	215	0	0
Fraser Range	134	0	0
The News Centre	100	0	0
Somers Orchard	490	0	0
Land West of Portsdown Technology Park	0	26,680	0
Total	9,406	96,680	58,000

It should be noted that we are still working on the development quantum for the Local Plan and these figures may change prior to the publication of the pre-submission plan later this year. The quantum is unlikely to increase.

To ensure that the IDP and the Local Plan are informed with the most up to date information, I would be grateful if you could provide a response to the following questions.

1. What is the ability of the existing infrastructure under your control to meet the quantum of development set out in Table 1?
2. What new infrastructure relevant to your provision is needed to support the quantum of development set out in Table 1?

3. What are the specific infrastructure requirements for the strategic Sites listed in Table 2?
4. What current plans do you have for infrastructure needs identified in the answers to questions 2 and 3 to be met?
5. What funding is available, or would be sought for the new infrastructure identified in the answer to question 4?

As the local education authority, please provide a response to the above five questions in regard to all types of schools (early years, primary schools, secondary schools, and special schools). Please let me know if you would like to raise any other matters in your response.

Responses should be provided via the online form available [on this link](#)

We will be assessing your comments to help to inform the on-going development of the new Local Plan and the IDP. Further information on the preparation of the new local plan is available on the Portsmouth City Council's webpage at:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/development-and-planning/planning-policy/portsmouth-local-plan/>.

Please could you respond with your comments by Friday, 15 September 2023.

Please inform us if you require an extension of time, as we recognise this consultation is being run during school holidays which may have an impact on staff availability.

If you have any questions regarding the consultation, please do contact us at PolicyConsultations@portsmouthcc.gov.uk.

Appendix 2

Response from the Children, Families and Education Directorate 8 September 2023

1. What is the ability of the existing infrastructure under your control to meet the quantum of development set out in Table 1?

RESPONSE: Current forecasting shows a shortage of secondary school placements within the next 3 years, whilst mitigating action is underway to manage this shortfall this would not provide for the likely pupil yield from the developments set out in Table 1. Primary school places are under less pressure but the current small capacity would not provide adequately for this pupil yield. All Portsmouth's specialist settings are at capacity and as such additional provision would be required to support any children/young people who require more specialist placements (a proportion would require this).

2. What new infrastructure relevant to your provision is needed to support the quantum of development set out in Table 1?

RESPONSE:

TIPNER AREA: 2 form entry primary provision and 3-4 form entry secondary provision would be required to offer adequate places to the likely pupil yield.

CITY CENTRE/SOMERS ORCHARD/ST JOHNS COLLEGE DEVELOPMENT: 3-4 form entry primary provision and 5 form entry secondary provision would be required.

FRATTON PARK & POMPEY/LANGSTONE CAMPUS: 1-2 form entry secondary provision would be required.

ALL AREAS: 4-5 specialist units attached to mainstream schools would also be required across the areas.

3. What are the specific infrastructure requirements for the strategic Sites listed in Table 2?

RESPONSE: There is some physical space within existing settings in the Tipner area that could be developed, however the size of these developments indicate that a new primary school with specialist unit would be needed. There is no capacity to expand primary schools or secondary schools in the city centre to this degree, therefore new schools would be required (with specialist units).

4. What current plans do you have for infrastructure needs identified in the answers to questions 2 and 3 to be met?

RESPONSE: There are no existing plans to increase school places to support this level of development.

5. What funding is available, or would be sought for the new infrastructure identified in the answer to question 4?

RESPONSE: The Local Authority would need to seek Section 106 contributions from developers to enable adequate school places to be made available. There is no other source of funding.