

Agenda Item 6: Alconbury Weald Secondary School Project

Comments from Cllr Bywater, the Member for Sawtry and Stilton

'I am not the local member for Alconbury but I neighbour the area and Sawtry Village Academy is directly impacted by decisions made on this agenda item

I appreciate that this is a difficult decision for committee based on the many complicating factors however, I still have a concerns regarding the impacts it will bring on operational numbers attending Sawtry Village academy and other schools in the County. Timing / delivery is crucial for the whole area affected by this. The housing Market is now moving into a very different position which makes forecasting even more difficult. I cannot see the evidence behind this other than a very brief appendix 1?

I think the proposed recommendation A is hugely ambitious to deliver the school by 2024 and would like to make the following points

- when comparing this to when Northstowe was built detailed estimates with various options and degrees of "optimism" in terms of predicting numbers emerging from new estates that covered the new school and the locality were presented. Appendix 1 provides one set of figures with no real explanation of how they are built. There are No consideration at all for the other local schools St Peters , SVA etc. The lack of consultation with schools risks assumptions being presented as facts.
- The estimate of 56 y7 places does not require the opening of a new school, especially not through a central route free school. I'm certain MVN will be a key consideration by the DFE which will in turn impact the funding should they agree/disagree.
- The notes in the appraisal about drawing students from other schools remain ill-judged and harmful to the council's relationship with these other schools.
- I'm informed that SVA can easily manage any bulge that would emerge until 2026. le Require opening until 25 at the earliest....
- the interchange of the words "deliver", "opening" and "building" causes concern. I am unclear as to exactly what the s106 requires and thus anyone else reading it.
- Looking at the overall paper and current forecasts and to keep costs down it might be more suitable to consider going for option D. This way we still deliver

the school but we keep costs under control as far as possible and future proof education on the Weald.

- It would also appear to me that there continues to be a lack of engagement between CCC and academies on items such as this . I did seek to address this but I'm informed it is as wide now as it has ever been. I would like clarification what is being done by the Chair to improve these relationships especially on items such as this so opportunities are not lost.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider my comments and I look forward to a response and how committee handle this.