

Children and Young People Committee 29 June 2021

Public Question - Item 3: Action Log

Mrs Lara Davenport-Ray:

I am a resident of St Neots and I would like to ask a public question at the Children and Young People Committee meeting on 29 June. It is regarding Agenda item 3, Action Log Item "CYP Review of draft revenue and capital business planning proposals" (1 December 2020).

I am concerned about the secondary school provision in St Neots. My son attends the new Wintringham Primary Academy. Each day we walk past our catchment-area primary school on the school run. This is because our new housing development, Love's Farm, was built with insufficient PAN places for the number of children that live in our community. Thousands more new homes are planned to be delivered in the next two decades on the neighbouring Wintringham and Love's Farm East developments. I dearly hope that our County will be forward-thinking and proactively prepare for the increasing number of secondary school pupils in St Neots.

In March 2020 the Hunts Post reported that, following a Freedom of Information request, "the number of students in the [St Neots] catchment area was likely to increase from 1,974 in 2019/20 to 2,798 by 2028/29 and the number entering Year 7 was forecast to exceed the combined [Longsands and Ernulf] Published Admission Number of 522 in 2023/24 and from 2026/27 onwards."

The same article indicates that Cambridgeshire County Council has undertaken a feasibility study to assess how our increasing number of secondary students will be accommodated. From my search of previous committee papers, I believe this was commissioned in March 2019.

The Action Log included in this meeting's agenda shows that the Action assigned to the Director of Education, Jonathan Lewis, is now "completed" and that on 14 June a "briefing note [was] circulated electronically to committee members."

If the feasibility study for St Neots has been completed, would the Committee please share it with our community? If it is not complete, when can we expect conclusions to be available? In the interest of transparency and clarity for St Neots residents, would the committee publish the content of the "briefing note" that represents the conclusion of over two years of study?

Thank you for time and efforts on behalf of residents, and future residents, of St Neots.