

Essential Facilities and Services

- 6.18 Over the Plan period, increased levels of provision of essential facilities and services will be required to support growth and development. These essential facilities and services include:
- Education – early years, primary, secondary and post 16 education;
 - Health – primary care (including GPs), acute and mental health care; and
 - Emergency services – Fire, Police and Ambulance.
- 6.19 The scale and range of this provision will need to be appropriate to the level of demand generated by development, and should address the specific needs of different groups of people. The timely delivery of services and facilities will be important to ensure the District can accommodate growth in a sustainable way.

Key Evidence

- Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Arup, 2017); and
- Essex County Council’s Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions (ECC, 2016).

Education

- 6.20 Access to high quality education is an important element of building and supporting sustainable communities and promoting economic prosperity. The Epping Forest District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan and Infrastructure Delivery Schedule set out the future requirements for education services over the Plan period.
- 6.21 Essex County Council is the Children’s Services Authority, and has the statutory duty to secure sufficient places in state funded schools, free early education and post-16 education for all children and young people. The Education Act 2011 represented a shift in the County Council’s role from a direct provider to a commissioner of school places. The County Council and District Council will therefore work in partnership with a

wide variety of education providers to ensure that the needs of the District are met.

- 6.22 Essex County Council seeks contributions, where appropriate, from developments of ten or more dwellings to mitigate the impact on education facilities. For large developments, where the need for a new school is identified, it should be provided on site to meet the needs of the new population. For smaller developments which do not in themselves generate sufficient demand for a new school but which put pressure on existing establishments, financial contributions towards new, expanded or improved off-site facilities will be sought. Contributions will not be sought on sites smaller than ten dwellings, unless their co-location with other sites would have a cumulative impact. More information is provided in Essex County Council’s ‘Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions (2016)’ and the District Council’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 6.23 Education facilities should be provided in accessible locations. The Council will support proposals for dual use of school facilities and the joint provision and co-location of compatible facilities (such as education campuses or co-located sports or community facilities). Development must also ensure good accessibility to schools through the provision of safe, direct routes by sustainable/active modes of transport where feasible. The creation of a safe and attractive environment around schools will also be required.

The Local Plan should be read as a whole. Proposals will be judged against all relevant policies.