

local planning guidance

This is one of a series of guidance notes providing information to help you understand our procedures and improve design standards.



27. Developer Contributions to Schools

This is one of a series of local planning guidance notes designed to amplify policy GDP2 in the Wrexham Unitary Development Plan (UDP) and identifies the circumstances and locations in which developer contributions to the provision of education facilities, such as additional classrooms, will be necessary. The (UDP) was initially adopted by the Council in February 2005. This updated version was subject to consultation between 16 July and 13 August 2018 and 1 October and 26 October 2018 and was adopted by the Executive Board on 11 December 2018. This guidance note is a material consideration in the determination of all relevant planning policies.

Education Planning in Wrexham

For education planning purposes links between certain primary schools and secondary schools in groups throughout the County Borough are maintained. The Council's School Admissions Policy grants parental preference, unless to do so would prejudice the efficient and effective use of its resources. Over 98% of pupils are allocated places in accordance with their parents' first preference.

Background to this Guidance Note

Local authorities find themselves under increasing financial pressure to meet the educational needs arising from residential development. Cumulatively, even relatively small developments can have a significant financial impact on the provision of school places. Welsh

Office Circular 13/97 'Planning Obligations' makes provision for developer contributions to offset the negative consequences of development provided there is guidance on this in the local development plan. The Wrexham UDP provides this guidance through Policy GDP2 on Capacity of Infrastructure & Community Facilities.



The rest of this note sets out further information on how this Policy will be applied.

Criteria

Any developer contribution will be based on the following considerations:

- It will only apply to proposed developments of four or more residential units, whether by new build, conversion or changes of use. Developments should not be deliberately sub-divided or phased in an attempt to avoid this threshold. Where the development has been split or phased, the resulting cumulative number of dwellings will be used to calculate the financial contribution.
- It will only apply to schools deemed to have a shortage of places taking into account other residential developments within the area and after addition of the extra pupils likely to be generated by the proposed development.
- The number, type and size of the proposed residential units. No contributions will be sought for apartments or dwellings that have only 1 bedroom. More detail is given in Table 1.
- The likely ratio of pupils per housing unit applicable to the appropriate school or schools at both primary and secondary level.
- The location of the development and likely impact on existing schools. This will be assessed using the same criteria as the Council's Schools Admissions Policy in relation to proximity.

If the potential pupils generated by the proposed development cannot be accommodated within existing schools then a commuted payment will be calculated by multiplying the additional places required by the pupil cost figure (see Table 1) to produce the commuted sum to be included in the planning obligation. Contributions by way of a release of land for a new school or direct construction may be considered as an alternative to payment of a commuted sum at the Council's discretion.

Timing of contributions

Any built educational provision will need to be completed to reflect the planned occupation of the homes. For larger developments phased payment will be considered to fit construction and occupation programmes.

Cost guidelines

The following guidelines are designed to give prospective developers an idea of the possible implications of their proposals:

- A development of 100 x 3 bedroom houses produces around 23 primary age pupils and around 20 secondary age pupils.
- For developments that generate 100 pupils and above consideration will be given to a new school on a new site dependent on location and future growth potential of the area and the applicant will be expected to contribute in proportion to the number of school places the development generates.
- The Council will specify the nature of the works or the area which the contribution will finance, which may include a completely new school.
- Where a contribution is required, a draft Section 106 Agreement should accompany the planning application. Wrexham County Borough Council's Section 106 templates are available on request from the Planning Department.



TABLE 1: Cost Guidelines

School Type	No. of pupils generated per dwelling		Building Cost Multiplier £	Contribution £
Primary 4 - 11 years	Apartments with 2 or more bedrooms	0.07	12257	858
	2 bedrooms	0.12		1471
	3 bedrooms	0.23		2819
	4+ bedrooms	0.31		3800
Secondary 11 - 16 years	Apartments with 2 or more bedrooms	0.04	18469	739
	2 bedrooms	0.07		1293
	3 bedrooms	0.2		3694
	4+ bedrooms	0.31		5725
Post 16	Apartments with 2 or more bedrooms	0.02	12000	240
	All dwellings	0.06		720

Notes

- The number of pupils generated per dwelling figures set out in the Table 1 are derived from 2011 Census statistics.
- Building cost multipliers are based on Department for Education guidelines, pupil allocations and average building cost assessment.

TABLE 2: Worked Example

Number of dwellings	Primary	Secondary	Total
10 x 2+ bedroom apartments	10 x 858 = £8580	10 x 739 = £7390	£15970
10 x 2 bedroom houses	10 x 1471 = £14710	10 x 1293 = £12930	£27640
10 x 3 bedroom houses	10 x 2819 = £28190	10 x 3694 = £36940	£65130
10 x 4 bedroom houses	10 x 3800 = £38000	10 x 5725 = £57250	£95250
Total	£89480	£114510	£203990

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*Adopted March 2004, Revised November 2010
Updated December 2018*