

Update on developer contribution costs for early years and education

The Developers Guide in paragraph 1.22 says, “*The Developers Guide and supporting topic papers will be regularly updated to provide current cost information and changes to supporting policies*”. This update replaces previous cost multipliers information referred to in the Developers Guide, the Early Years and Childcare Provision topic paper, the Education Provision topic paper and The Code of Practice Protocol.

The Department for Education (DfE) publications ‘[Securing developer contributions for education](#)’ [revised November 2019] and ‘[Education provision in garden communities](#)’ [April 2019], should be read in conjunction with the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) on [planning obligations](#) (last updated 01 September 2019). The county council will use the DfE guidance to help it secure developer contributions for education so that housing developers contribute to the cost of providing the new school places required due to housing growth.

In paragraph 15 of the DfE publication ‘*Securing developer contributions for education*’ it says, “*We advise that you base the assumed cost of mainstream school places on national average costs published annually in the DfE school place scorecards. This allows you to differentiate between the average per pupil costs of a new school, permanent expansion or temporary expansion, ensuring developer contributions are fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. You should adjust the national average to reflect the costs in your region, using BCIS location factors. We recommend the use of index linking in planning obligations so that contributions are adjusted for inflation at the point they are due*”.

In paragraph 16 it says, “*Developer contributions for early years provision will usually be used to fund places at existing or new school sites, incorporated within primary or all-through schools. Therefore, we recommend that the per pupil cost of early years provision is assumed to be the same as for a primary school. Similarly, further education places provided within secondary school sixth forms will cost broadly the same as a secondary school place*”.

The most recent DfE school place scorecard is 2018. The most recent (March 2019) BCIS location factor for the East of England, which includes Suffolk, is 100. The county council will apply the following DfE school place scorecard costs to planning obligations entered into on or after 02 September 2019:

- Early years expansion cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £16,596
- Early years new build cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £19,611
- Primary school expansion cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £16,596
- Primary school new build cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £19,611
- Secondary school expansion cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £22,738

- Secondary school new build cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £23,962
- Sixth form expansion cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £22,738
- Sixth form new build cost per pupil place for 2019/20 is £23,962

Other costs:

- In paragraph 17 of the DfE publication it says, *“Special schools require more space per pupil than mainstream schools, and this should be reflected in the assumed costs of provision. We recommend that developer contributions for special or alternative school places are set at four times the cost of mainstream places, consistent with the space standards in Building Bulletin 104. You can also refer to the National School Delivery Cost Benchmarking report for the costs of delivering SEN school places”*.
- Temporary classroom costs – minimum cost of £250,000.
- School transport costs – annual school transport cost per pupil is £960, with a minimum of 7 years for primary-age pupils and a minimum of 5 years for secondary age (11 – 16) pupils.

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