

Harpenden Secondary

Question & Answers – 18th January 2016

1. What progress has the county council made in acquiring the site?

The county council exchanged contracts with the owners of the land at Lower Luton Road on the 15th January 2016.

2. What happens next now the land for the school site has been secured?

The county council will continue to support the EFA and the Harpenden Secondary Schools Trust with their planning application with the aim of a school opening in September 2017.

The new school will be built by the Education Funding Authority (EFA)

3. What are the timescales for submitting a planning application?

Subject to the EFA obtaining capital funding approval, it is anticipated that they will submit a planning application in Autumn/Winter 2016.

4. What are the contingencies for opening in 2017 if the school cannot be delivered in time?

The county council will ensure there are sufficient places for all children who need one. As a contingency arrangement, the county council has already agreed with Sandringham School that it will offer an additional 30 places for 2017, prioritising children from the Harpenden area; the relevant changes to the school's admission criteria can be viewed on the Hertfordshire.gov.uk website

5. As the DfE has approved the new school, what are the next steps?

The DfE has confirmed to the Harpenden Secondary Schools Trust (HSST) that its proposal can progress to the pre-opening phase. This means that the detailed planning for opening the school can now take place. The DfE has made the approval conditional on the county council agreeing to fund the necessary site acquisition in its entirety as well as leading on the negotiations for acquiring the site

6. Who is responsible for what in delivering the new school?

- ☐ The county council is responsible for acquiring the new school site
- ☐ The EFA is responsible for the school development plan, planning application and the construction of the new buildings
- ☐ HSST is responsible for the building (once constructed) and running of the new school