1.0 INTRODUCTION
1.1 This Planning Statement has been prepared to accompany a planning application submitted to Northamptonshire County Council in support of an application for the erection of a new Kettering Science Academy building to replace the existing secondary school building.
1.2 The Kettering Science Academy replaced Ise Community College which was an 11-18 secondary school and the Henry Gotch Primary School.
1.3 The sponsor for this Academy is Brooke Weston, who operate two other successful Academies in the location area; the Brooke Weston Academy and the Corby Business Academy. They began managing the Kettering Science Academy in September 2009.

The Application Site
1.4 The Kettering Science Academy is located to the south east of Kettering Town Centre. Kettering Science Academy is located off Deeble Road, Kettering to the east of its junction with Windmill Avenue. The site is bisected by Deeble Road with the school buildings being located to the south of the road and land to the north being used as playing fields. Residential development off Deeble Road and Southgate Drive adjoins the site to the north. To the south the site adjoins residential development off Greenbank Avenue/Cheyne Walk. The primary school’s building is located at the western end of the site behind which is located residential development off Windmill Avenue.
1.5 The underlying characteristic of the site is that it slopes downwards from Windmill Avenue in the west towards Ise Brook in the east. The landform has been adjusted to form three plateaux to accommodate the existing school buildings and playing fields.

The Proposed Development
1.6 Planning permission is sought for a new building to accommodate the secondary phase of the Academy which will replace the existing building.
on the same site (formerly the Ise Community College). The existing primary school building will be retained. The new secondary phase will accommodate 1,100 students form Years 7-11, with a further 250 sixth form students.

1.7 The proposed development is described in detail in the Design and Access Statement prepared by Nicholas Hare Architects. The proposed development incorporates a direct link between the primary school courtyard and the secondary entrance in the form of a “science avenue”. On the south side of the “science avenue” will be placed the Multi Use Games Area and to the north of the “science avenue” the car parks, both of which serve both parts of the Academy.

1.8 The main entrance to the building is at first floor level responding to the levels across the whole site with people entering the building across a bridge which is a continuation of the “science avenue”. The facilities of the secondary school are to be arranged in wings taken off a central courtyard.

1.9 The proposed building is predominantly two storeys. The building is described in the Design and Access Statement “as a series of simple, geometric forms with a regular arrangement of glazing set into robust panels of masonry. This rigorous framework will then be softened by landscape externally and enhanced internally by the quantity of glazing and daylight, and the quality of the finishes”.

1.10 The new Academy is proposed to be clad in brick interspersed with sections of curtain walling, windows and louvered panels.

1.11 A new car park for the school is proposed with access off Deeble Road providing spaces for some 227 cars with disabled parking provided at two locations close to both the primary phase and the secondary phase. The bulk of the car parking will be for staff with some provision for visitors. The car parking layout makes provision for drop-off parking for temporary use, this will also accommodate coaches bringing children to the site. Turning facilities are provided to enable buses and coaches to enter and leave the site in a forward gear and reduce the need for dropping off
pupils around the adjacent residential area. Extensive areas of cycle parking are proposed.

1.12 A range of new sports facilities are proposed which will comprise a four court sports hall, dance studio, fitness studio and extensive hard and soft surface external pitches including a floodlit all-weather pitch and Multi Use Games Area.

1.13 The proposed building is to be sited immediately to the east of the existing building. When the new building is completed the existing secondary building will be demolished.

Public Consultation

1.14 4,000 leaflets (see Appendix 1) were distributed to neighbouring residents, local business and local feeder schools.

1.15 Plans and information were also made available at Kettering Library, Kettering Borough Council offices, Kettering Academy reception and also on the Academy website.

1.16 Respondees were invited to a public consultation evening on Wednesday 5th May 2010. 3.30pm – 7.30pm.

1.17 A number of plans, artist impressions and models were available for respondees to look at. An 8 minute fly through of the project was also running on a continuous loop for people to watch.

1.18 The results of the consultation exercise are summarised in the documents provided at Appendix 2.

Content of the Planning Application

1.19 The following reports are submitted in support of the planning application in addition to the Planning Statement:-

1. Design and Access Statement (Nicholas Hare Architects)
2. Ecology Report (Mott MacDonald)
3. Flood Risk Assessment (Cox Turner Morse)
4. Foul Sewerage Assessment (Cox Turner Morse)
5. Geotechnical Appraisal (Cox Turner Morse)
6. Landscaping Assessment and Details (Aedas)
7. Lighting Assessment (CJ Lawrence)
8. Transport Statement (WSP)
9. Playing Fields and Recreational Facilities (Plan4Sport)
10. Travel Plan (WSP)
11. Scheme Drawings and Visualisations (Nicholas Hare Architects)

Background to the Application

1.20 The Kettering Science Academy has replaced Ise Community College which is an 11-18 secondary school and Henry Gotch Primary School. Both Ise Community College and Henry Gotch Primary School were closed on 31 August 2009, Kettering Science Academy was then opened in the existing buildings on 1st September 2009.

1.21 The proposal is to create an all-through Academy for students aged 3-18 comprising of a 30 place nursery, two forms of entry primary (5-11) provision (420) and seven/eight forms of entry 11-16 provision (1100), with a 250 place sixth form, providing a total of 1746 places for students aged 5-18.

1.22 The Sponsor of the Academy is the Brooke Weston Academy Trust. The Trust has as its foundation sponsors the Garfield Weston Foundation and the de Capell Brooke family, the original sponsors of Brooke Weston City Technology College which became Brooke Weston Academy in September 2008. The Trust is also the sponsor of the Corby Business Academy, which replaced Corby Community College, and opened in September 2008.

1.23 The aim of the Brooke Weston Trust is to develop education for the public good. To provide education for young people matched to their needs, which, together with an ethos of high expectations, leading to high levels of achievement and personal development.

1.24 The Sponsor’s objectives are to create in Kettering Science Academy, a school that would not only serve the needs of its students but which would contribute to the regeneration of the locality by providing a range of
extended services designed to promote an aspirational, supportive and caring community. In order to provide the expertise needed to develop primary and early years provision of the highest quality the Sponsor would work together with its existing primary partner, ‘Woodnewton, A Learning Community’.

1.25 The Academy’s open admissions policy, based on banding, would ensure that local children of all ability levels would be able to attend the Academy.

1.26 The Sponsor is committed in each of its academies to creating a culture where students:-

- achieve extremely well and reach exceptionally high standards;
- work hard and make excellent progress in learning because of the challenging teaching they receive;
- have attitudes that are positive, shown in their willingness to take on board the challenges and responsibilities of being key members of the Academy community;
- are happy, friendly and polite, showing high levels of concern for others, both in the Academy and in the wider community, and whose behaviour is exemplary;
- are offered an outstanding range of opportunities to help them develop as mature young people well prepared for their future lives;
- are given high levels of support and guidance to ensuring that they get the most out of being in the Academy.

1.27 Kettering Science Academy would specialise in **Science and in Business and Enterprise**. In its **Science** specialism the use of experimentation to investigate scientific issues of interest to young people would form the basis of curriculum design. A full range of progression routes would be offered including single and double award GCSE science courses and separate science subjects. In the sixth form the core provision would initially be physics, chemistry and biology A-level.
1.28 The Academy would play a full part in contributing to the wider life of the community. An extended school day with arrangements for Academy students to arrive early and remain until 6.00pm each working day would provide the cornerstone of this provision. The range of existing weekend and holiday activities would be extended and would include sports coaching, catch-up classes, masterclasses for gifted and talented students and cultural activities designed to augment the core service. Help and support for parents would be designed to promote and support family and community cohesion.

1.29 Ise Community College has already built strong relationships with its community and with its stakeholders, for example the Kettering Perspective Trust founded by the school with a local church, ‘Christ the King’. The Academy would build upon and extend these links by providing a range of services tailored to support and extend the aspirations of the community operated in collaboration with other local agencies.
2.0 PLANNING POLICY

Development Plan

2.1 The Development Plan comprises the East Midlands Regional Plan, the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy, the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy and the Kettering Local Plan.

2.2 The East Midlands Regional Plan was adopted in March 2009. It sets out the Regional Spatial Strategy for the period up to 2026 and includes Northamptonshire. It replaces the majority of policies of the Northamptonshire Structure Plan and the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy with the exception of part (A) of the Strategy which remains extant. The main policies relevant to the consideration of the proposal are set out below.

East Midlands Regional Plan – March 2009

2.3 The Regional Spatial Strategy seeks to direct development and regeneration to those areas considered suitably sustainable for accommodating additional new growth. Major growth and economic activity is consequently directed towards the edge of and within existing Urban Areas. Regional Plan Policy 3 (Distribution of New Development) seeks to allocate significant levels of new development to the growth areas of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. This is reinforced in Regional Plan Policy 11 which seeks to strengthen the role of Kettering as a Growth Town. RP Policy MKSM SRS Northamptonshire 4 deals specifically with the Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough area; the Policy requires development to be maximised within the Urban Area of Kettering. With reference to the provision of social facilities, the Policy seeks to “expand and develop educational provision from primary to higher education in order to improve educational attainment and skill levels across Northamptonshire”.

Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy – March 2005

2.4 The Sub-Regional Strategy seeks to provide guidance on the scale, location and timing of development and infrastructure up to 2021. The Policy most relevant to consideration of this application is Strategic Policy 3 (Sustainable Communities) which sets out a list of principles by which development can contribute to the achievement of sustainable communities. Those of most relevance include:

- Improving skills levels, enterprise and innovation support;
- Providing social (education) and environmental infrastructure in accordance with current deficits and additional demands;
- Providing green infrastructure that can be used for formal and informal recreation and education purposes;
- Maximising the opportunity afforded by growth to facilitate the regeneration of deprived communities;
- Ensuring good accessibility and providing public transport and reducing the reliance on car based transport;
- Designing attractive cities towns and public places;
- Promoting the highest standards of environmental performance and taking advantage of development opportunities for renewable energy.

North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy – Adopted June 2008

2.5 Kettering Borough forms part of the wider North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Committee which is working together to prepare the North Northamptonshire Local Development Framework.

2.6 The North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy is a key component of the Local Development Framework. It replaces the current Structure Plan and some of the “saved” Kettering Local Plan Policies. Sustainable development underpins the Policies of the Core Spatial Strategy.
2.7 In order to achieve greater self-sufficiency for North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy. Policy 1 directs development towards the Urban Areas of the three Growth Towns of Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. Core Spatial Strategy Policy 9 (Distribution and Location of Development) seeks to direct development to the Urban Areas whilst strictly controlling new development in Open Countryside; priority will be given to the reuse of previously developed land and buildings within the Urban Area.

2.8 In order to create more sustainable communities, Policy 13 (General Sustainable Development Principles) comprises 17 specific criteria against which planning applications will be judged. The most relevant of these requires new development proposals to:

- c) Maintain and improve the provision of accessible local services and community services;
- f) Not lead to the loss of community facilities unless the facilities are being relocated and improved to meet the needs of the new and existing community;
- g) Not lead to the loss of Open Space or recreation facilities unless the site of equivalent quality and accessibility can be provided, serviced and made available to the community prior to the use of the existing site ceasing;
- a) Incorporate flexible designs for buildings and their settings;
- h) Be of a high standard of design, architecture and landscaping;
- l) Not result in unacceptable impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties or the wider area;
m) Be constructed and operated using a minimum amount of non-renewable resources including where possible the reuse of existing structures and materials.

2.9 In order to address the issue of climate change, Core Spatial Strategy Policy 14 (Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Construction) requires developments to meet the highest viable standard of resource and energy efficiency and reduction in carbon emissions. In particular, proposals for large developments are required to be compliant with a BREEAM rating of at least “very good” and that a target of at least 30% of the demand for energy will be met on site from a renewable source or a low carbon energy supply.

**Kettering Local Plan – January 1995**

2.10 The Kettering Local Plan now comprises those Policies “saved” by the Direction of the Secretary of State in September 2007. Those most relevant to the consideration of this application are listed below:

- Local Plan Policy 7 (Protection of Open Countryside) states that planning permission for development within the Open Countryside will not be granted except where otherwise provided for in this Plan.

- Local Plan Policy K3 (The Ise Valley) recognises the amenity, recreation and wildlife value of the Ise Valley such that the Local Planning Authority will seek to protect existing Open Spaces and allotments, make provision for footpaths/cycleway links as well as provision of new wildlife habitats and a heritage trail.
3.0 PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

Principle of Development

3.1 The application site is already in educational use and it is considered that the principle of the construction of a new school building in this location is acceptable.

3.2 The design and appearance of the proposed building is described in detail in the submitted Design and Access Statement. The buildings are of a contemporary design that are considered to be acceptable in this location and would secure a significant enhancement in the appearance of the site.

Highways

3.3 The highway implications of the proposed development are assessed in the Transport Assessment submitted as an application document. The site is to be provided with a new vehicular access to an extended car park area which will incorporate an on-site drop-off area. The new access arrangements will facilitate vehicular, pedestrian and cycle movements and minimise conflicts with the existing highway network. A Travel Plan has been produced so as to encourage non-vehicular use for staff, students and visitors. The Travel Plan will assist in reducing the vehicular impact of the development and facilitate a change in travel behaviour of staff and students.

3.4 The proposed development, as described in the submitted Transport Assessment, makes increased provision for off-site car parking. There will be provision for 227 spaces including disabled parking, for staff and visitors. In addition, there will be dropping off areas for parents and coaches. The new car park is to be accessed by a new vehicular access off Deeble Road. (The existing vehicular access from Deeble Road will be closed.) This will be gated when not in use and during school hours. It will be the sole means of vehicular access to the site for staff and pupils. As described in the Transport Assessment, the car park area is sufficient to meet the operational requirements of the proposed development and
therefore should not result in any significant amount of on-street car parking. The existing vehicular access from Cheyne Walk will be utilised for service vehicles only.

**Floodlighting**

3.5 The proposed all-weather pitch and Multi Use Games Area will be floodlit. Having regard to their proximity to dwellings in Greenbank Avenue/Cheyne Walk, the impact of the proposed floodlighting has been subject to an assessment by a lighting engineer, the results of which are submitted as an application document. The lighting system incorporates the latest technology in floodlighting design. Reflectors are used to ensure that the lights have a sharp cut off. As a consequence, glare and light spillage is minimised.

3.6 The proposed floodlighting has been assessed in accordance with the guidance notes for the reduction of light pollution prepared by the Institution of Lighting Engineers. These guidance notes provide Local Planning Authorities with advice on "environmental zones" for exterior lighting that should be incorporated into development plans. These guidance notes state that the maximum acceptable value of spillage on to the windows of any adjoining property should not exceed 10 lux within an urban location (Category E3 : Medium district brightness area) and should not exceed 5 lux within a small village location (Category E2 : Low brightness areas).

3.7 The application scheme has been assessed on the basis that it is within Category E2 : Low brightness areas. It is evident from the submitted Lighting Assessment that has been prepared that the 5 lux contour does not come within close proximity of any principal windows within any nearby dwellinghouse. As a consequence, the proposed floodlighting scheme is considered to be entirely compliant with the guidance notes provided by the Institute of Lighting Engineers. As such, there will be no material harm to the living conditions of nearby residential property by virtue of light incidents upon windows of surrounding properties. It is
therefore submitted that the proposed floodlighting system, although visible from the surrounding properties, would not unduly harm the use and enjoyment of any of the surrounding properties. Its impact will be localised and would be temporary in duration.

**Layout**

3.8 The proposed replacement building is to be constructed to the east of the existing school building which will, upon completion of the new building, be demolished. Although the proposed building will comprise two storeys, it has been specifically designed to take account of the falling levels across the site from west to east.

3.9 It is submitted that the proposed building, by virtue of its siting and degree of separation from existing residential properties would not have an unacceptable effect upon living conditions of adjacent properties and would not result in unreasonable living conditions being caused due to reduction in outlook or loss of privacy. The distance between the proposed building and those dwellings in Greenbank Avenue would be similar to that commonly found within residential areas where the rear of one dwelling faces the wall of another. The proposed development will be of sufficient distance from houses in Greenbank Avenue, even accounting for the slightly elevated position, to ensure that it would not be unacceptably damaging to their outlook, privacy or the amount of light they experience. Suitable boundary treatments could be provided to prevent any unacceptable overlooking of the houses or gardens.

**Planning Out Crime**

3.10 As described in the Design and Access Statement (see Section 1.12) the design rationale for the access to the site has been concerned with ensuring the safety of students and staff as pedestrians and with limiting the possibilities of unauthorised access both during and outside the normal school day. Nicholas Hare Architects undertook a preliminary consultation meeting with the local Crime Prevention Design Adviser so as to ensure
that the requirements of Secured by Design are met. The recommendations of the Crime Prevention Design Adviser have been incorporated into the application proposals. The proposals will ensure that the new site boundary is fully secured by a combination of existing and new security fencing. Access into the new school building will be by a single access point.

**Archaeology**

3.11 Pre-application discussions undertaken with Northamptonshire Council have indicated that there is not sufficient archaeological interest in the site to require mitigation measures. As a consequence, a Heritage Statement has not been prepared. There is no known archaeological interest in the site. It is however proposed that the site be subject to a watching brief during the construction phase. Such a watching brief can be secured through the use of appropriate conditions.

**Playing Fields**

3.12 In order to enable the existing school to continue during the construction of the proposed development, the new school building is to be sited to the east of the existing building on land presently laid out as playing fields. The proposed development does however envisage that the school’s existing playing fields north of Deeble Road will be enhanced to enable them to be used more intensively at present. The issue of playing fields is addressed in an application document prepared by Plan4Sport. The report demonstrates that the proposed development will secure new facilities both indoor and outdoor for sport and recreation. The retained playing fields will be improved. There will be improved access to, and security of, the retained playing field. The proposed development also makes provision for community use of the sporting facilities. It is submitted that the benefits to sport that will be derived from the proposed development outweigh the loss of playing fields as a result of the development. Sport England in its letter of 10th February 2010 (see Appendix 3) confirmed:-
“The information provided to date gives Sport England sufficient comfort to advise that an application based on the proposals referred to in the letter and on plan would be supported in principle.”

Flood Risk
3.13 A Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken which is submitted as an application document. There is a need to hold storm water on site to prevent down stream flooding using “sustainable drainage” principles. This will largely be done by underground water storage and permeable hard surfaces. Swales will augment the underground storage.

Ecology
3.14 The Ecological Statement, submitted as an application document, confirms the proposed development will not have an adverse impact upon any ecological interest; the proposed development provides an opportunity to enhance habitats within the application site. Such enhancements can be secured through the use of appropriate conditions.

Landscape
3.15 The site has a number of existing trees, these are mainly on the periphery and the embankment between plateaux. An Arboricultural Survey has been carried out to establish the value of the trees so that this could guide the design proposals from the outset. As described in the Design and Access Statement (Section 1.10) a new landscape framework is proposed to direct and control views. This will include specimen trees, hedges, native woodland, wetland and amenity grass. The proposed landscaping framework will also assist in increasing the ecological diversity of the site.
Sustainable Construction

3.16 The proposed development will utilise sustainable construction techniques. It makes provision for an on-site geothermal heating system which is linked to the buildings’ thermal mass. Photovoltaic cells will convert solar energy into electricity. Data screens throughout the school will display to students and users the energy usage of the building. The objective of the development is to achieve a “very good” BREEAM rating. The design team’s commitment to utilising renewable energy and responding to climate change is set out in the Design and Access Statement.

Community Use

3.17 The Kettering Science Academy presently accommodates a wide range of community activities within its existing premises. It is anticipated that the new building will enable the range of community activities to be enhanced. The new sports facilities will include a four court sports hall, dance studio, fitness studio and extensive hard and soft surface external pitches and will form an important part of the community provision.

Conclusions

3.18 The application site is already in educational use and it is considered that the principle of the construction of a new school building in this location is acceptable. It is considered that the proposals meet Planning Policy objectives with regards to design and appearance, consideration of traffic matters, archaeology and planning out crime. It is submitted that by virtue of its design and siting, the proposed development will not have an unacceptably detrimental impact on the living conditions of neighbouring properties.
3.19 The application buildings are of a contemporary design that is considered to be acceptable in this location. The siting and design of the development is such that it will not have an adverse effect on the living conditions of nearby properties. It is submitted that the proposed development is entirely consistent with Policy 13 of the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy.

CET/CMF/3659
18th May 2010
4.0 LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : Leaflet
Appendix 2 : Summary of Consultation Evening responses
Appendix 3 : Sport England letter dated 10th February 2010
The New Kettering Science Academy

Find out more.....

Wednesday 5th May 2010
3.30pm - 7.30pm
Kettering Science Academy, Deeble Road, NN15 7AA

Information on the project can be found at:
• www.ketteringscienceacademy.org
• The Academy Reception
• Kettering Borough Council Offices
• Kettering Library
If you want to contact anyone in the meantime:

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**Jeff Foster**  
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COMING SOON TO THIS FIELD

The New Kettering Science Academy

We are holding public consultation sessions in the old caretaker’s house on the Kettering Science Academy site, between the primary and secondary buildings.

The sessions will be Thurs 13th, 20th and 27th of May - from 3.30 to 7.30pm.

Information on the project can be found at: www.ketteringscienceacademy.org
Summary of Consultation Evening Responses
Kettering Science Academy Consultation

5th May 2010

Brief
Respondees were invited to a public consultation evening on Wednesday 5th May 2010, 3.30pm-7.30pm. 4000 leaflets were distributed to neighbouring residents, local business and local feeder schools.

Plans and information were also made available at Kettering Library, Kettering Borough Council offices, Kettering Academy reception and also on the academy website.

A number of plans, artist impressions and models were available for respondees to look at. An 8 minute fly through of the project was also running on a continuous loop for people to watch.

There were representatives from Brooke Weston Partnership, Northamptonshire County Council, Willmott Dixon Construction, Mott MacDonald and Nicholas Hare Architects.

Once respondees had looked round the plans and talked to individuals they were asked to complete a questionnaire that asked them whether they were in favour of the scheme, and to note any comments.
Results

Who Responded?
No of Questionnaires Completed: 36

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Concerns:
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Sport England letter
dated 10th February 2010
Scott Machin  
Project Manager  
Wilmott Dixon Construction Ltd  
Chantry House  
Coleshill  
Birmingham  
B46 3BP

10th February 2010

Dear Scott,

Our ref: EM/EM/NRC/2009/17450/5
Proposed Kettering Science Academy. Details of existing and proposed external sports facilities. (Submitted 5th February 2010)

Thank you for consulting Sport England on the above. In our original pre-application consultation response dated 27th July 2009 we advised that evidence should be submitted that demonstrates the case that; the new facilities proposed both indoor and outdoor, the improvement to the retained playing fields and the improved access to and security of the retained playing fields along with community access was of sufficient benefit to sport to outweigh the loss of playing fields as a result of the development. The submission of a case would allow Sport England to consider if the proposals would meet exception E5 of the playing fields policy outlined below.

The development will have an impact on playing fields. A playing field is defined in the 1996 Statutory Instrument No.1817 (as amended by 2009 Statutory Instrument No.433) as the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch. In accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 and its playing field policy, Sport England will object to the loss of any area within playing fields to development unless one of five exceptions is met. The exceptions relate to the following:

- E1 - A proven excess of provision.
- E2 - The use is ancillary to the playing field.
- E3 - The site is incapable of forming part of a pitch.
- E4 - Equivalent or better replacement will be provided elsewhere.
- E5 - An alternative sports use is proposed, outweighing loss

Sport England has considered the proposal in the light of its playing fields policy. The aim of this policy is to ensure that there is an adequate supply of quality pitches to satisfy the current and estimated future demand for pitch sports within the area. The policy seeks to protect all parts of the playing field from development and not just those which, for the time being, are laid out as pitches.

The existing sports provision plan outlines the current problems with the existing playing fields, this includes, flooding and drainage problems. The letter also advises that there are issues related to access, separation, security and quality of the playing field area which is divorced from the main school site.
The letter and plans detail how the provision of new facilities and improvements to the retained playing fields would in your assessment result in a significant enhancement of and increased access to sports facilities at the school following redevelopment. The provision of new task lit MUGA and All Weather Pitches along with improved access and parking arrangements result in indoor and outdoor sports facilities which are of benefit to sports use for both the students and the community. The improvements to drainage and access result in the ability of the school to manage access to the pitches to minimise the potential for over use. The plan of existing sports pitches, gives details of the current problems the school face with flooding and drainage issues which limit access to a significant area of playing field during the winter months. The creation of task lit All Weather Pitches adjacent to the retained Henry Gotch Primary school and easily accessible from the new parking areas enhance the sporting opportunities for students attending the primary school. The links between the primary school and the proposed academy support the shared use of sports and other facilities and aids the transition of students from the primary school to the Academy.

One of the main improvements proposed is the ability of the scheme to provide improved safe access to the divorced playing fields on the opposite side of Deebie Road to the main school complex. Further investigation into an improved control of the pedestrian crossing of the road is encouraged. Further evidence relating to existing club/team use (if any) and/or reasons why there is currently no such use, would be useful, along with expressions of interest from clubs/teams for future use of the facilities. In addition the application should be supported by information regarding how the community use of the facilities would be secured. Supporting evidence provided by the school on drainage, flooding and access issues would be useful. You advise that the new sports hall, which is proposed to be twice the size of the existing school facility, would be available for community use in addition to the provision of improved facilities for students. This new facility has the potential to be of a significant benefit to sport.

The information provided to date gives Sport England sufficient comfort to advise that an application based on the proposals referred to in the letter and on plan would be supported in principle. The new and improved facilities including improvements to the sports facilities accessible by the primary school students and the community have the potential to be of significant benefit to sport as to outweigh the loss of playing field. However, the proposal does result in the loss of part of the existing school playing field therefore any minor adjustments to the design which would result in a reduction in the loss of playing field area or an increase in the replacement of lost playing field in the would be encouraged.

Please note that the abovementioned advice is made on an informal basis and does not prejudice the position of Sport England as a statutory consultee on any planning application submitted.

Yours sincerely

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SPORT ENGLAND
Creating sporting opportunities in every community