

## Upper Dearne Valley Environmental Trust

### **Additional Comments and Observations Relating to the Dearne Valley Area: Document EX40: Education Infrastructure – Dearne and Holme Valley Primary Planning Note.**

We would like to make a number of observations and comments on this recently submitted document by the Council following the Inspector's request for evidence to show how the Council had arrived at its stated projections for education places in the Dearne Valley and other areas.

- Where are the projections for Emley, Clayton West, Scissett, Cumberworth, Upper Upper Denby and Bird's Edge?
- What 'new homes' figure has been used by the Council for the Dearne Valley area? 1300 new homes are planned or already have pp in the Dearne Valley Area until 2031. No doubt others houses will be added over time relating to smaller sites not in the LP.
- Even if one accepts the formula supplied by the Council, the calculated 'pupil yield' looks wildly inaccurate and far too small for the number of houses planned and often marketed at young, aspiring families.
- As an example of the above, currently 402 houses are planned for Clayton West alone. Using the Council's formula, these would generate the need for 84 primary school places (R-Y6)
- The remaining 900 houses planned for the Dearne Valley are likely to demand another 189 primary places alone.
- The above figures do not include potential yield from smaller sites not included in the PLP. These are also likely to add to the demand for pupil places.
- Total demand therefore, at primary level would be 273 places minimum at primary level and 130 places at secondary level (assuming the formula used for primary is still valid for secondary level) arising from the proposed housing allocations for the Dearne Valley area.

- Absorbing this level of demand into existing small village primary schools would be extremely difficult, especially in the Dearne Valley area where schools are operating at or near full capacity.
- Regarding secondary school demand, we are unaware of any national formula for calculating mobile intakes. School Governors we have contacted are equally mystified.
- We also believe there could also be greater external demands on pupil places in the Dearne Valley arising from extensive developments in surrounding areas e.g. Flockton. What account has the council taken of these in its table presented at Point 3?
- Far from adding clarity and transparency to how the Council arrived at school place projections, we believe the Council appear to be ill informed or in denial about the potential future level of demand for school places in the Dearne Valley area.
- We note the document quoted expires in 2018. What will replace it and how will actual demand based on PLP proposals be updated? These questions do not appear to have been answered.
- Given the above, we believe the Council's infra-structure plans should be indicating the need for school extensions and possibly the need for a new primary school with suitable land provision.

10 February, 2018 v.2