



LOCAL AUTHORITY CONSULTATION ON LAUNCH OF A FREE SCHOOL PRESUMPTION COMPETITION REGARDING A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL IN THE EAST LEAKE PLANNING AREA, FAIRHAM PASTURES

This consultation is non-statutory and is a means of gathering local views on the proposal outlined below.

Context

By law, all new schools in England must be opened as Free Schools, set up and run by Multi-Academy Trusts. The process by which local authorities establish a new Free School, and the Secretary of State appoints a Multi-Academy Trust to run it, is known as the Free School Presumption.

Before embarking on the launch of a Free School Presumption competition, local authorities are encouraged by the Department for Education to conduct local consultation. The aims of this are twofold:

- i. to publicise the need for a new school among the local stakeholder community and potential sponsors
- ii. feedback gathered through consultation will be valuable and contribute to formulating and finalising the Local Authority's specification for a new school before its publication.

Nottinghamshire County Council is therefore conducting a local consultation prior to the initiation of a Free School Presumption. This consultation is in accordance with the Department for Education advice as published in '*Establishing a new academy: the free school presumption route*, (p.8), DfE, May 2024. See:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/844346/Free_school_presumption_051119.pdf

Please find below information about a proposed new primary Free School in your area. We are seeking the opinion of local stakeholders, including residents, on a proposal to open a new primary school within the Fairham Pastures housing development.

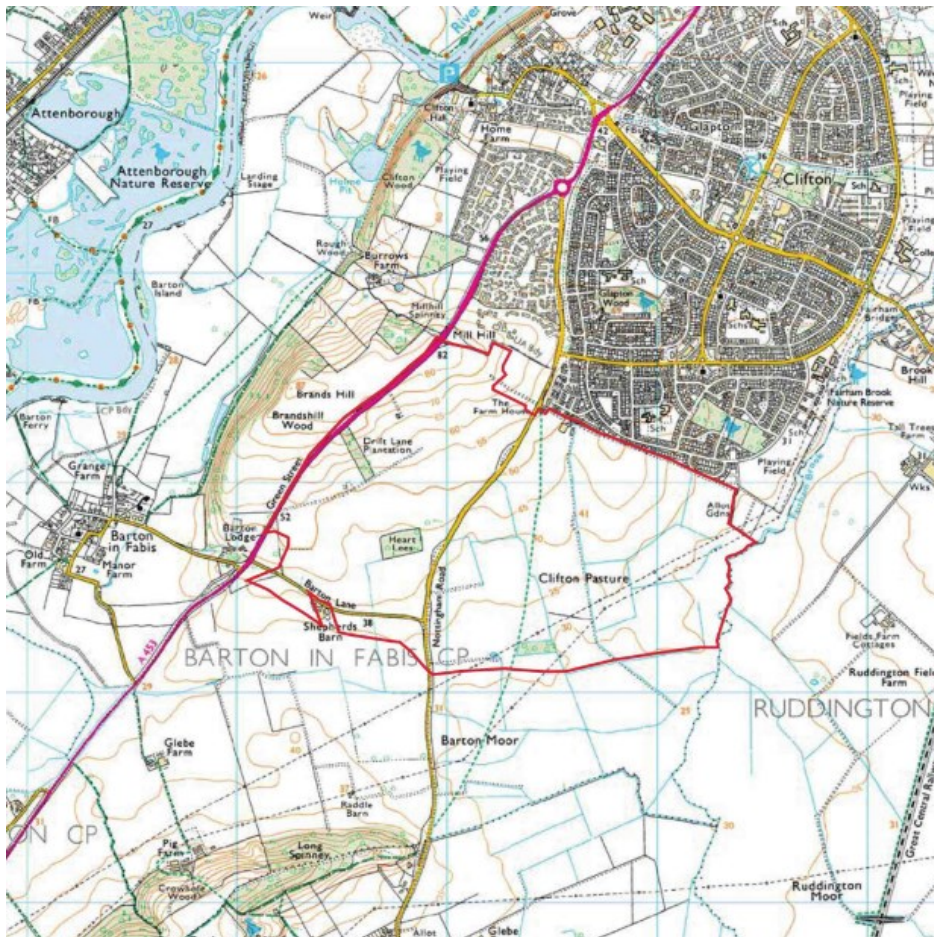


Background

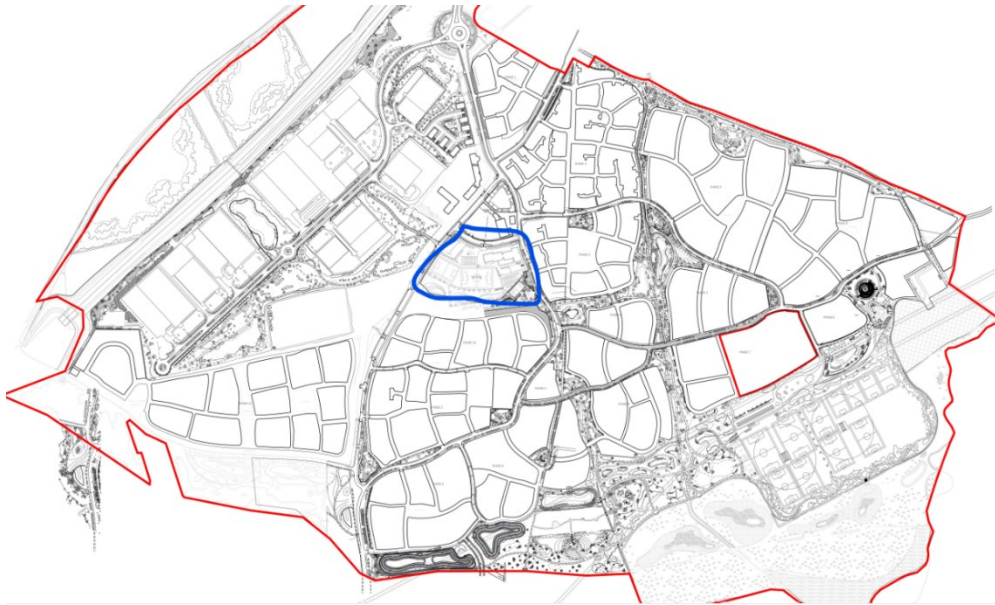
In May 2019, Rushcliffe Borough Council approved outline planning application to build up to 3,000 houses on land south of Clifton. The development is bordered by the A453 Remembrance Way to the west and the town of Clifton and the Nottingham City boundary to the north. There is a Section 106 Agreement* associated with the planning application which identifies the developer's commitments to deliver infrastructure for the area.

*A Section 106 agreement is a legal obligation entered into by a housing developer and a local authority, through which a developer contributes financially to reduce the impact of a development proposal by providing local services; in this case, a new school.

Location of the Fairham Pastures development



Indicative location of the new school



Housing development at Fairham Pastures

It is projected that the 3,000 dwellings proposed for the Fairham Pastures site are likely to yield 630 primary-aged pupils who will require school places in the local area. The developers have provided the housing occupation trajectory for the development for the next 10 years (i.e., from 2023/24), shown in Table 1:

Table 1

	Year of completion									
	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Forecast annual cumulative legal completion	12	156	489	884	1240	1548	1855	2127	2386	2632
Cumulative projected pupil yield	3	33	103	186	260	325	390	447	501	553

The construction of the development is expected to continue for a further three years, as follows in Table 2:

Table 2

	Year of completion		
	2033	2034	2035
Forecast annual cumulative legal completion	2889	2978	2998
Cumulative projected pupil yield	607	625	630

Primary Schools in the East Leake primary planning area

The map below shows the position of the five existing primary schools in the East Leake Planning Area, and the location of the Fairham Pastures housing development.

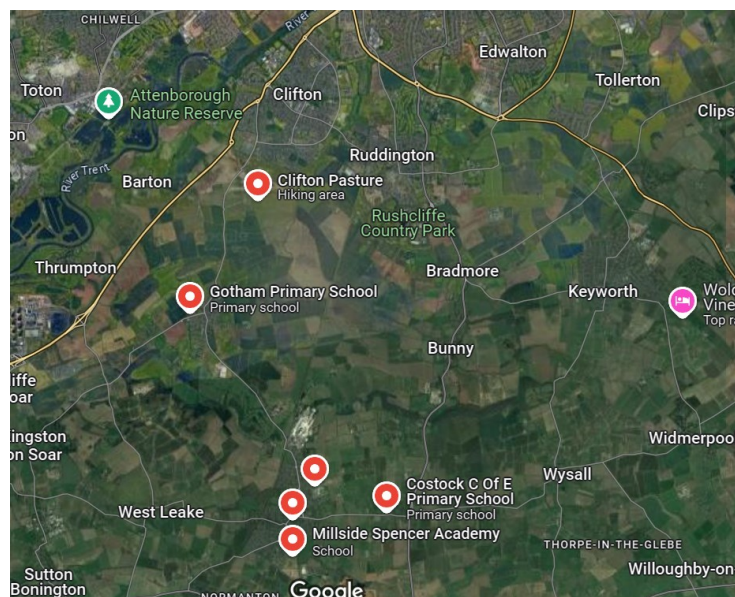


Table 3 shows East Leake planning area primary schools – capacity and number of pupils on roll (statutory school places):

Table 3

School	PAN*	Net Capacity**	Number on roll (NoR) Oct 2024	Forecast NoR Sept. 2025
Brookside Primary School	45	315	307	296
Costock C of E Primary School	15	105	86	77
Gotham Primary School	30	210	145	190
Lantern Lane Primary School	60	420	388	381
Millside Spencer Academy	45	315	146	180

**Published Admission Number (PAN): this is the number of places made available each year to applicants*

***This is the number of places that a school's building can reasonably accommodate*

New Primary School on the Fairham Pastures Development

As part of the Section 106 agreement for the development of the Fairham Pastures site, developers are committed to deliver supporting infrastructure to the area and they have agreed to the allocation of a school site of 3 hectares for a new 3-form entry, 630-place primary school for children aged 5 to 11 with a 39-place nursery. As the full 3-form entry (FE) will not be required from the start, the new school will be built as a 2FE with the ability to expand by a further 1FE as housing on the development becomes built and occupied.

The new school will be procured by NCC, built to the agreed DfE specification (Building Bulletin 103), and commissioned by NCC. The project will be assessed and monitored by Nottinghamshire County Council's property partners, Arc.

Admission arrangements, which may include a catchment area for the new primary free school, would be decided by the sponsoring Multi-Academy Trust. The trust that will operate the school will be selected through the Free School Presumption process.

The consultation process and indicative timeline for opening a new primary free school

The consultation will run for six weeks from **Tuesday 18th March to Tuesday 29th April 2025**.

Nottinghamshire County Council (the Council) will welcome responses to the consultation during this period.

The outcome of this initial consultation will be reported through the Nottinghamshire County Council governance process and a decision will be taken about whether to proceed with a Free School Presumption process. If this option is chosen, the Council would invite Multi-Academy Trusts to apply during Summer Term 2025 for selection to operate the new primary school.

Once proposals are received and have been evaluated, the Council will recommend a sponsor to the Regional Department for Education (DfE) Directors who will make the final decision. The Council will then work with the successful sponsor and the housing developer to open the new school.

Other Options Considered

Consideration was given to the expansion of existing sites, but there is limited capacity at other schools. Other schools in the locality are too distant from the housing development.

Reason for Recommendation

Projections evidence that the Fairham Pastures development is likely to increase the need for primary school places by approximately 630 pupils. Nottinghamshire County Council is committed to supporting children to access education in their own localities wherever possible and consequently would like to consult with interested parties about the possible development of a new school in this planning area.

Statutory and Policy Implications

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Public Sector Equality Duty Implications

As part of formulating and finalising the Council's specification for the new school, the Council will undertake an assessment of the proposals both on existing educational institutions locally and in terms of the impact on groups of pupils and others from an equalities perspective. This will form part of the information provided to the DfE.

Implications for Residents

As part of formulating and finalising the Council's specification, the impact on residents will be considered and assessed. Should the proposals proceed, the impact on local residents will also be taken into account through the planning permission process.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

The implications for sustainability and the environment of the new free school will be considered in depth during the construction projects detailed design stage. Considering both the building itself and its operation, the new school will be carbon neutral.

At the end of this document there is a Consultation Response Form.

If you wish to respond to the consultation on this proposal, please send written comments to:

- The Corporate Director of Children and Families,
(for the attention of Pupil Place Planning),
Education, Learning and Skills,
County Hall, West Bridgford,
Nottingham, NG2 7QP

or by email to place.planning@nottscc.gov.uk

- Comments may also be submitted online at [Nottinghamshire County Council - Citizen Space - \(consultation\)](#)
(see **View our consultations**)

To be received no later than 23:59 hrs on Tuesday 29th April 2025

Consultation Response Form

CONSULTATION ON LAUNCH OF A FREE SCHOOL PRESUMPTION COMPETITION

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If you wish to respond to the consultation you can share your views by:

- Completing the online survey on Nottinghamshire County Council's consultation hub <https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk> - <https://consult.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/children-and-families-services/consultation-regarding-a-new-primary-school>
 - Emailing Nottinghamshire County Council at place.planning@nottscc.gov.uk
 - Requesting a paper copy of this consultation from:
Pupil Place Planning, Education Learning and Skills, Children and Families Services, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, NG2 7QP - to which your response should be returned.
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Question 1.

Do you think that a new primary school with 630 place (420 initially) should be built at the Fairham Pastures development?

- Yes
 No
 Neither agree or disagree

Question 2

Do you think that a new school should open on the Fairham Pastures development in September 2027?

- Yes
 No
 Neither agree or disagree

Question 3

Do you have any further comments?

It will help us to analyse responses if we know more about you.

Please complete the following details:

(Please tick and complete all boxes that apply)

I am a:

Parent / Carer	Which school / academy do(es) your child(ren) attend?
Governor	At which school / academy?
Member of Staff	At which school / academy?
Pupil	At which school / academy?
Other	Please specify (e.g. resident)
What is your post code?	

Responses should be returned to:

- Nottinghamshire County Council at place.planning@nottscc.gov.uk or
- *Pupil Place Planning, Education Learning and Skills, Children and Families Services, Nottinghamshire County Council, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottinghamshire, NG2 7QP*

by 23:59hrs on Tuesday 29th April 2025