

Mr I Loughlin  
Senior Planner – Local Plan Team  
Sefton Council  
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**Date:** 12 August 2015  
**Our Ref:** IG/JC  
**Your Ref:**

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Dear Mr Loughlin

### **Local Plan and Schools**

With regard to the implications of the Local Plan on the school provision and the numbers of pupil places, I would like to make the following comments:

Sefton Council has a statutory duty to plan and provide adequate good school places within the Borough. The provision of pupil places is forecasted for a number of years and is submitted to the DfE on an annual basis.

These projections of pupils place demand are made not only for the whole of the Borough but for local areas. This then shows individual area demands which can then show capacity down to a school level. This allows the Local Authority to take a flexible approach within areas, where one school might have a full capacity of places and yet another might show surplus places. The overall flexible approach allows for any 'hot spots' to be forecasted in advance and for appropriate action to be taken if necessary.

Whilst being consulted upon the Local Plan, we have identified areas where both primary and secondary capacity will need to be adjusted. In certain areas can be easily accommodated within the existing provision or by reopening existing unused capacity, e.g. where a school has previously reduced its pupil numbers and classrooms can be brought back into use. There are only a few instances where this is not possible and these have been identified and a proposed adjustment identified.

Due to the Local Plan covering the period to 2030 we will continue to work closely with the Planning Officers in projecting and pre-empting when individual housing developments will be granted planning permission and implemented and the types of homes that will be provided. We will also work with house builders to as accurately as possible predict when the developments will be completed and when additional demand on the current places will occur.

Where specific individual developments warrant a major increase in school places, these sites have been identified, such as at Summerhill Primary in Maghull and we will work

closely with Planning colleagues to secure developer contributions to support the construction of additional pupil places.

Whilst some increased capacity in schools is likely, we feel that there is no need to reopen any former schools that have previously closed.

To conclude we are confident that we can meet the requirements of education provision as a result of the Local Plan proposals, either through existing places or by providing additional places where required. In some cases the proposals for new homes in the Local Plan may help secure the long term future of a number of schools.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ivan Guy".

**Ivan Guy**  
**School Organisation & Capital Programme Manager**