

Statement of Common Ground EDUCATION

LAND NORTH OF HEMINGFIELD ROAD, HEMINGFIELD, BARNSELY

Planning Application Reference:

2024/0122

Planning Appeal Reference:

APP/R4408/W/25/3359917

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THIS STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND HAS BEEN AGREED BY:

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Signed 

Name **Richard Waterhouse**
School Place Planning Manager
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

Dated 30th May 2025

**HARGREAVES LAND LIMITED, G. N. WRIGHT, M. M. WOOD, M. J. WOOD, AND
J. D. WOOD**

Signed 

Name **Ben Hunter**
Associate Director – Education and Social Infrastructure
EFM Ltd
(on behalf of Hargreaves Land Limited, G. N. Wright, M. M. Wood,
M. J. Wood, and J. D. Wood)

Dated 30th May 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Statement of Common Ground (“**SoCG**”) has been prepared jointly by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (“**BMBC**”) and EFM on behalf of Hargreaves Land Limited, G. N. Wright, M. M. Wood, M. J. Wood, and J. D. Wood (“**the Appellants**”). This statement concerns an appeal (“**Appeal**”) in relation to Land North of Hemingfield Road, Hemingfield, Barnsley (“**the Site**”).
- 1.2. This SoCG sets out a written statement of factual information about the Appeal, which is agreed between the Parties. The SoCG concludes that there are no areas that remain in dispute between the Parties.

2. RELEVANT GUIDANCE

- 2.1. The Department for Education (“**DfE**”) published guidance on “Securing Developer Contributions for Education” (August 2023) setting out under paragraph 7:

“It is important that the impacts of development are adequately mitigated, requiring an understanding of:

- The education needs arising from development, based on an up-to-date pupil yield factor;
- The capacity of existing schools that will serve development, taking account of pupil migration across planning areas and local authority boundaries;
- Available sources of funding to increase capacity where required; and
- The extent to which developer contributions are required and the degree of certainty that these will be secured at the appropriate time.”

- 2.2. The document Securing Developer Contributions for Education is included as Core Document and its contents are a matter of common ground.
- 2.3. BMBC have a supplementary planning document (“SPD”) entitled “Financial Contributions to Schools” (May 2019). This document is also a Core Document.

3. MATTERS AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES

- 3.1. The Parties agree that BMBC is the (Upper Tier) Local Authority (Education and Children’s Services Authority) and is the strategic planner for schools and school places with a statutory duty to secure sufficiency and diversity of provision for its area. The Local Authority as Strategic Commissioner of Education Provision has a key role in securing funding to provide sufficient education provision in the Borough,

particularly in schools. The cost of providing additional school places is predominantly met from Government Basic Need Grant, monies secured via developer contributions, and prudential borrowing.

- 3.2. BMBC initially requested funding towards additional primary and secondary school places in an email of 15th March 2024. The consultation response was updated on 8th May 2025 with revised figures. As agreement had not been made between BMBC and the Appellants prior to the deadline for Proofs of Evidence, EFM submitted an Education Proof of Evidence dated 6th May 2025 outlining why EFM considered that planning obligations were not necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms. This included an assessment of the whole of the SL6 site and not just the Appeal site.
- 3.3. EFM and BMBC met in a meeting on 9th May to discuss the need for education development mitigation. Following on from this meeting, BMBC confirmed in an email of 23rd May 2025 that BMBC would not be seeking Education Contributions from this site (see below). This is on the basis that there is forecast to be sufficient surplus capacity in the primary and secondary phases to accommodate the entirety of the child yield of this development and the whole of the SL6 land, based on the most recent projections produced by BMBC, at the point that children are expected to be resident in the new houses.



Bennett , Laura (SPATIAL PLANNING PROJECT MANAGER)

RE: Planning Application 2024/0122 - Hemingfield Road Public Inquiry

To: Ben Hunter, Cc: Waterhouse , Richard (SCHOOL PLACE PLANNING MANAGER), Craig Woolmer

Inbox - efm-ltd.co.uk 23 May 2025 at 11:42

[Details](#)

Hi Ben

I've spoken with Garry this morning and we won't be requesting Education Contributions for this site.

Thanks

Laura Bennett
Spatial Planning Project Manager (Outer Area)
Development Management
Growth and Sustainability
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

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- 3.4. On the basis of the revised response from BMBC, there are no outstanding matters of disagreement between the Appellants and BMBC in relation to education development mitigation.

4. MATTERS NOT YET AGREED BETWEEN THE PARTIES

- 4.1. None.