

1. When did it first become apparent that Ottery St Mary Primary School did not have enough places to take all the children from Ottery St Mary?

The need for additional primary places was recognised in the East Devon Local Plan 2013 – 2031 (Strategy 24), adopted in 2016 and requests for section 106 from housing development.

2. When was this information passed to Central Government?

Local Authorities are required to provide an annual return to Central Government known as the SCAP return, the return considers 'planning areas' not individual schools and the planning area for Ottery is the Local Learning Community (5 primary schools). Allocations are made on the basis of capacity vs projected numbers. Included in the return is the number of pupils estimated to be generated from housing development.

3. How much funding was requested or offered to build a new school or expand?

There is no mechanism to request individual funding through the annual return, the Government has confirmed it does not fund places generated by housing development. A direct meeting with the Secretary of State secured £750,000. It should be noted that a significant amount of the cost is not related to 'new' places but the replacement of existing capacity which is not supported by funding to provide additional places. In 2020-21, Devon secured a total allocation of £1.4m to provide additional pupil places across the whole County Council.

4. If 2 and 3 did not happen, then why not?

Answered above we believe

5. If 2 and 3 did happen, then why is no funding in place?

Answered above we believe

6. The proposed 150 houses are required under the current plan to fund the school. Can DCC confirm that if 2 and 3 had been followed as per the govt procedure then no new housing would be required?

DCC has exhausted Government funding opportunities hence the need to consider a mixed use proposal.

7. Why are the diocese involved in the planning of the new school? A school properly funded under the govt process would be a free school - under the DCC proposal there would be a new C of E school created with the C of E contributing around 1/7th of the cost. If the Diocese want to build a new C of E school, or relocate the existing C of E school why are they not being asked to fund the full cost of the school?

The Diocese are involved because the project is for the relocation of Tipton C of E Primary and not for its closure. The Church founded the school in 1843 and they provide support to the Governing Body in the running of the school. As a Voluntary Aided (VA) school some of the capital funding for the Governors for premises matters is routed via the Diocese. The school is a VA maintained school and therefore is funded by the State (with the exception of there being a Governing Body contribution of 10% to VA capital grant).

<https://www.newschoolsnetwork.org/sites/default/files/files/pdf/Differences%20across%20school%20types.pdf> provides a simple summary of different categories of schools

There is not sufficient need to warrant a new free school nor is there any certainty a direct bid free school would be approved (all new direct bid free schools are 420 place schools). I have been heavily involved in the free school programme since day 1 and am in no doubt that a new school in Ottery would not meet the current criteria which has changed significantly since the first wave, for example one key aspect is low academic standards, please see the attached which might be helpful

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/free-school-application-guide>

A presumption free school would require all funding to be secured by DCC and therefore not resolve the funding shortfall.

8. Does the involvement of the Diocese automatically rule out Central Govt funding?

No - the fact that it is a Church school does not affect that the school (as a maintained school) is funded by the State (with the exception of there being a Governing Body contribution to VA capital grant). The Church and State have always worked in close partnership in education. However, there are no funding streams currently available to support the relocation of schools.

9. When did the EA make the comment about a risk to life through flooding? Was this before the preventative work in 2017 and if so is that quote still valid? Could a report / officer / document be shared where that quote is made.

Please see attached, recent conversation with the EA has confirmed their position and we are seeking a formal letter confirming this.

10. What is the definition of a serious flood, and how many times has the school actually flooded? All schools get waterlogged fields and puddles in the car park, how many events at Tipton School have been classed as "serious".

Please see attached for flooding incidents, this does not record the early warning alerts. Clearly the school consider serious as potential risk to students/staff and parent collecting their children.

11. Who owns the flood risk at Tipton School? Who is ultimately responsible for the safety of the children - the Headmaster? Diocese? DCC?

The Governing Body is the employer of the staff and as such have the health and safety responsibilities in that regard. The Governing Body is also responsible for Health and Safety and premises matters at a VA School. They also have a duty of care to parents at pick up and drop off and also to visitors. The Local Authority has wider child protection responsibilities which includes their safety and wellbeing.

12. Does the diocese receive any grants or funding from DCC or Central gov't?

Some capital funding grant from the Government is routed to VA Church school via the Diocese and with the Diocese providing strategic oversight of the projects the funding is targeted at. In 2019, for Devon, the Diocese of Exeter received circa £800k to maintain 30 VA schools. The funding has to be spent to allocated projects in the year of allocation. Approximately £1m of VA grant, including a capital receipt will be contributed towards the project by the Diocese.

13. What other land and property owned by DCC has been considered for sale or development anywhere in Devon?

Please can you clarify whether this is relation to investing in Tipton or the general principle around selling land to build infrastructure.

14. Is there any legal restriction which means that the sold land or developed houses must be within a certain distance of the school?

Not that we are aware of no.