

Email 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Mr. Chidwick,

Thank you for your email received on 24 January 2019 regarding the planning application for two new schools at Bearsted Road, Maidstone.

I agree whole-heartedly that the new schools should be planned with the need to encourage walking and cycling firmly in mind. This requires the provision of safe and attractive routes of access that connect to the wider networks.

I share your view that the proposals in their current form do not maximise the opportunities available. As part of the ongoing discussions with the applicants' consultants, we have highlighted how a route of access taken via the Kent Medical Campus (KMC) would offer considerable advantages to all road users. These include the scope to achieve direct connectivity to the dedicated pedestrian/cycle provision that already exists within KMC and that which will form part of the County Council's planned road improvements.

The applicant has indicated their willingness to amend the proposals in line with our advice. This is welcome news in how it raises the prospect of improved access arrangements.

My expectation is that the County Council, as Local Highway Authority, will submit its formal consultation comments on the planning application once the amended details have been the subject of careful and rigorous review.

I trust that the above provides a helpful update.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Carter". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Paul Carter, CBE**  
**Leader of Kent County Council**