

Education Planning Obligations Policy – proposed amendments 2025

Summary of key changes proposed:

Increase to the rate of contribution required for Early Years provision:

In 2023 the government announced an expansion of the childcare programme to provide access to funded childcare for younger children and babies for working families and to extend 2-year-old funded provision.

In addition, and by September 2026, all parents and carers of primary school-aged children who need it should be able to access term-time childcare in their local area, so that parents can access employment and improve labour market participation.

These changes mean that the demand for Early Years provision has increased, and more places are required – the total provision required from September 2025 has effectively doubled (in total hours available).

The policy amendment proposed is a change to the formulae used to calculate the number of Early Years places required for under-fives for each additional dwelling.

Existing: 0.11

Proposed: 0.22

Increase to the rate of contribution required for provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND):

The proportion of children and young people in Worcestershire who require specialised support to meet their Special Educational Needs continues to increase. In January 2024, 4.9% of pupils living in Worcestershire had Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs), which specify what type of specialist educational support the pupil needs and the appropriate provision for them.

This enhanced provision is more expensive than mainstream school places, and accordingly the contribution required from housing growth to create additional specialist provision is greater. The calculation of any contribution required is based on the percentage of children who will live in the new housing who are expected to have EHCPs.

Existing: 3%

Proposed: 4.9%

Detail of changes in the 2025 version compared to the 2019 version

p1	Date, Date edited, Directorate name updated, email address
p3 onward	CIL amendments
p3	1.2 SEN duty, 1.3 Early Years duty, 1.4 detail on housing growth,
p4 onward	NPPF reference updates
p4	1.5 detail on SEN changes, 1.6 expanded, 1.8 DfE guidance update, 1.9 applicability
p6	Number of EPAs updated
p9	3.3 updated and expanded, figure 2 updated
p10	Table 1 Pershore EPA change, 3.5 EPA detail amended, 3.6 DfE governance update
p11	Early Years provision updated, SEND provision added
p12	4.2 Added reference to SEND, 4.4 Added exemptions (repeat of detail included later in document), 4.5 added new eligibility detail, 4.6 and 4.7 updated in line with new guidance
p13-15	Formulae updated, eligibility data updated, terminology updated
p16	5.5 clarification on consideration of smaller developments, 5.6 exclusions from calculation of yield (repeat of detailed included later in document), 5.7 treatment of demolitions added, 5.8 multiple developments impact added
p17	5.9 expanded, 5.10 updated and expanded, Table 4 Early Years product ratios updated
p18	5.16 expanded, 5.17 reference to wholly flatted developments added, 5.18 number of EPAs updated
p19	Recirculation information expanded
p20	5.27 Clarification about other approved applications added, 5.29 clarity about independence of academies and free schools added, 'Objections to planning applications' added
p21	6.2 Clarification about Early Years multiplier amended, 6.6 Duty to have sufficient childcare provision added Added 'Requirements for post-16 provision' Added 'School Transport provision'
p22	Requirements for SEND provision expanded, requirements for post-16 provision and school transport contributions added
p23	Building cost multiplier - date and rates updated and indexation clarified Formula updated
p24	Working example - building cost multiplier rates and contribution totals updated
p25	6.19 exclusions from calculation of yield updated, 6.21 expanded to clarify exemptions, 6.22 updated to clarify post-16 contributions requirement
p26	'Other forms of contribution' added
p27	Sections expanded to clarify
p29	8.1 reference to formulae added
p30	9.3 Requirement for flexibility over spend added
p31	Contact details updated, revisions audit trail included