Call-In Request

Re: Cabinet meeting of 14 October 2026 – Request for further consideration of a call-in relating to Milton Road, Radcliffe

Further to my previous correspondence regarding the call-in request concerning Item 11, *Objections to the proposed disposal of Public Open Space – Land on the North Side of Milton Road, Radcliffe*, I wish to raise additional concerns relating to Item 12, *New Ash Grove Additional Provision Academy*.

Although these items were considered at the same Cabinet meeting and relate to the same site, they concern distinct decisions. I therefore ask that the decision under Item 12 be considered separately for call-in, subject to the applicable constitutional procedure and timescales.

https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s52313/5.%20Cabinet%20report%20-%20New%20Ash%20Grove%20Alternative%20Provision%20Academy.pdf

Having reviewed the accompanying *Planning Consultants Public Consultation Report*, dated 30 September 2026, I believe there are substantive issues that warrant further scrutiny before the decision is progressed.

https://councildecisions.bury.gov.uk/documents/s52309/16.2%20Planning%20Consultants%20Public%20Consultation%20Report.pdf

The report records that 62 individuals attended the public consultation on 29 September 2026 and that 32 representations were received. The concerns recorded are significant and extend beyond general objections to the loss of open space.

In particular:

- **Loss of green space and community wellbeing:** This was the most frequently recorded concern, appearing in 21 representations (66%). Residents identified the land's use for informal recreation, walking, children's play and community activities, as well as its contribution to mental health and wellbeing.
- **Crime, anti-social behaviour and drugs:** Seventeen representations (53%) raised concerns about existing problems in the surrounding area and the potential implications for vulnerable pupils attending the proposed provision. Further scrutiny is warranted to establish whether these risks have been adequately assessed and what safeguarding and preventative measures are proposed.
- **Traffic, parking and highway safety:** Seventeen representations (53%) raised concerns about existing congestion, school drop-off and collection activity, parking pressures on Milton Road and the potential impact of additional development. I would welcome confirmation of the traffic and highway evidence

considered and whether the cumulative effects on neighbouring schools and residents have been fully assessed.

- **Suitability of the location and alternative sites:** Ten representations (31%) questioned the suitability of the proposed location. The report identifies alternatives suggested by residents, including Derby High School on Bury Road, Cams Lane, Redvales, land adjacent to Newbank Garden Centre and expansion within an existing school. It is important to establish how these suggestions were assessed, what evidence informed their rejection or otherwise, and whether the reasons for selecting Milton Road remain justified.
- **Existing educational provision and the need for additional capacity:** Representations questioned whether sufficient provision already exists locally. Given the implications for the surrounding area, further scrutiny should establish the evidence of need, the capacity of existing facilities and the rationale for the proposed location and scale of the development.
- **Environmental considerations and the community garden:** The report records concerns about wildlife, biodiversity, pollution, historic coal mining and responsibility for maintaining the existing community garden. I request confirmation that the relevant environmental, ground-condition and maintenance issues have been investigated adequately and that appropriate mitigation and long-term arrangements have been identified.
- **Impact on neighbouring residents:** Representations also raised concerns about noise, residential amenity and potential effects on property values. While these matters may carry different weight in the planning process, the evidence and any proposed mitigation should be clearly identified.

My concern is not simply that objections were received, but whether the issues raised have been investigated sufficiently, whether the evidence supports the chosen location, and whether Cabinet had all the relevant information necessary to reach an informed decision.

The consultation report summarises the representations but does not, in itself, demonstrate that every concern has been resolved or that all suggested alternatives have been subject to a sufficiently detailed comparative assessment. I believe scrutiny should establish what further technical assessments, safeguarding considerations, highway investigations and environmental enquiries have been undertaken, and whether any outstanding matters could materially affect the decision.

I therefore respectfully ask that:

1. The decision under Cabinet Item 12 be considered for a separate call-in, with confirmation of the applicable procedure and deadline.

2. The relevant officers provide a clear account of how the consultation representations informed the decision and identify the evidence supporting the proposed location.
3. The assessment of alternative sites, existing educational capacity, highway and parking impacts, safeguarding risks, environmental matters and effects on neighbouring residents be examined.
4. Any outstanding investigations or material concerns be identified, together with clarification of whether the decision should be reconsidered before further commitments or implementation

I recognise the importance of ensuring appropriate educational provision for children and young people who need it. However, that objective must be supported by a robust, evidence-based assessment of the location, the implications for vulnerable pupils and the wider community, and the reasonable alternatives available.

Given the connection between Items 11 and 12, I believe it is particularly important that scrutiny considers both the proposed disposal of the land and the separate decision to develop it for the academy, rather than allowing the underlying questions about the suitability of the site to be examined in isolation.

I would be grateful for urgent consideration of this request and written confirmation of the next steps.