

Growing Baldock

Environmental Statement Addendum Volume 1: Text
Chapter 13: Socio-Economic and Health



May 2026

Urban&Civic

Hertfordshire

13.1 SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECTS: INTRODUCTION

- 13.1.1 This chapter has been prepared by DLA and reviews the revisions to the proposed development in relation to any changes to impacts on socio-economic and health reported in the original ES; the subsequent ES Addendum submitted in February 2026; and further requests for additional information or amendments insofar as they relate to the socio-economic and health topic chapter, under Regulation 25 of the EIA Regulations.

13.2 RESPONSE TO REGULATION 25 REQUEST

- 13.2.1 Following the consultation response from Hertfordshire County Council Growth and Infrastructure Unit (HCC GIU), dated 28 November 2025, a series of regular meetings has taken place between the applicants and HCC GIU. These discussions have focused on matters relating to socio-economic and health considerations, with particular regard to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and childcare/nursery provision.

SEND Provision

- 13.2.2 During these meetings, HCC GIU confirmed that financial contributions towards SEND provision arising from the Growing Baldock development would be required to appropriately address SEND needs within Hertfordshire and to support the distribution of growth in accordance with the county's SEND strategy, rather than the previously requested on-site provision of a new SEND school on BA3.
- 13.2.3 Accordingly, the Proposed Development, as indicated in the updated Development Specification, will make a financial contribution towards SEND services within Hertfordshire, rather than providing SEND school places on site.

Nursery Provision

- 13.2.4 In addition, HCC GIU requested an increase in on-site nursery floorspace to reflect increased demand for places following government changes to childcare funding.
- 13.2.5 In response to this request, the Proposed Development includes an increased floorspace allowance for childcare/nursery provision (to up to 1,100m²). This is reflected in the updated Development Specification.

13.3 UPDATE TO BASELINE CONDITIONS / ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

13.3.1 No changes to the baseline from the original ES Chapter 13.

13.3.2 No changes to the assessment methodology have been made.

13.4 ASSESSMENT OF SCHEME AMENDMENTS

- 13.4.1 The only scheme amendments that are relevant to this chapter are the updated proposed education provision on site, including:
- Updated position of no SEND school provision on site; and
 - Increase in floorspace allowance for childcare/nurseries.
- 13.4.2 The SEND needs generated by the development will be fully met by a financial contribution to SEND school enhancements elsewhere within the District. This approach, and the level of financial contribution to be secured in the S106 agreement have been agreed with HCC Education and aligns with their wider strategy for improvements to SEND provision across the County.
- 13.4.3 The increase in floorspace for childcare settings strengthens the originally proposed development mix to ensure that the needs generated by the development for nursery age childcare can be met within the scheme itself, in convenient locations close to new homes.
- 13.4.4 As a result of these changes, it can be concluded that the development will have no significant environmental impacts on existing childcare and SEND education infrastructure and that the needs of the development will be met via offsite provision (SEND) and onsite delivery (nursery/childcare).
- 13.4.5 Overall, the scheme amendments to the Development Specification do not alter the conclusions in terms of socio-economic and health effects in the 2025 ES Chapter, as well as the first ES Addendum submitted in February 2026, which remain the same.

13.5 MITIGATION MEASURES

- 13.5.1 There are no proposed additional mitigation measures beyond those considered in the original ES and the first ES Addendum.

13.6 RESIDUAL EFFECTS

Construction Stage

- 13.6.1 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.

Post-Completion Stage

- 13.6.2 No changes to the effects reported in the original outline ES chapter are anticipated.