

## **Maldon District Plan**

### **Joint Response from Plume School and Maldon Primary School Governors**

Our response is focused on how the need for increased educational provision could impact on primary places and the Plume school.

Together with Maldon Primary School we share a vision of being an integral part in the future development of Maldon and providing outstanding nursery and educational provision for all young people in the District from 0 – 19 years. We believe that by working co-operatively with the District Council we can support the enhancement of community facilities and the development of a flourishing employment climate to the benefit of all young people. To this end both schools will exist under the sustainable legal entity of an Umbrella Trust called Maldon Educational Trust which will be established early in 2014.

The educational challenges we face include the following:

- Improving attainment on entry into education including ensuring a preparedness for the first stage of schooling
- Improving educational aspiration in young people and adults to expand horizons and prepare them for a globalised economy
- Ensuring that young people have appropriate opportunities for further and higher education, training, apprenticeships or employment
- Improving and refurbishing our current sports facilities at the Mill Road Campus
- Developing community use at the Mill Road Campus and providing additional classroom space as well as specialist facilities to cope with additional numbers
- Providing appropriate accommodation for an increasing number of sixth form students especially as the school leaving age will rise to 18 in 2015
- Maldon Primary School needs much refurbishment and will require ungraded pre-school facilities

We welcome the reference to Primrose Meadow in the Local Plan as having the potential for development. We believe that this would have enormous benefits in the short and long term for both the school and for the local community. Any receipts Plume School received from the disposal of Primrose Meadow would be used to develop and improve school based facilities to benefit the community of Maldon including the upgrading of sporting facilities at the Mill Road Campus.

We believe that such improvements early in the cycle of new housing developments will support our strategies to meet the challenges identified above, focus on ensuring young people have the skills for life which are aligned to local business needs, give an impetus to the enhancement of the District, and have a positive impact on the sustainability of a thriving and vibrant local community well regarded in national statistical tables.