



STATEMENT REGARDING ADJUSTMENT TO COMPLETION & TRANSFER DATE OF PRIMARY SCHOOL

Karen Curtin, Managing Director at Graven Hill Village Development Company, said:

“Due to the unintended consequences of COVID-19 we have suffered programme delays as a result of the site closure during lockdown, supply chain interruptions and a delayed transfer of Phase 2 land from the Ministry of Defence. Regrettably, this has affected the initial demolition and preparation of construction of the Graven Hill Primary School programme.

“The school opening date is also closely linked to the progress of the housing development which has also been hampered as a result of COVID-19. After discussing these setbacks with Oxfordshire County Council, it has been agreed by all parties that the school will be completed by the revised date of May 2022, with its first intake from September 2022.

“We remain committed to the delivery of the primary school and view it as a critical component of the Graven Hill community. We are actively working with all of our stakeholders to ensure that the school can be delivered within the revised timescale.”

County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale, Cabinet Member for Education and Cultural Services, said:

“A number of infrastructure and school projects have unfortunately been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. After considering the changes to the construction programme and reviewing likely pupil numbers, we have agreed with our partners, Graven Hill Village Development Company and Warriner Multi Academy Trust, that it would be appropriate to delay the opening until September 2022.

“The council would like to reassure the community that there will be enough places in existing primary schools in the area during the 2021/22 academic year and that the revised date gives certainty of where places will be available in time for the normal admissions applications round for 2021/22 this autumn, to help parents and carers in making the best choices for their children.”

Anabel Kay of Warriner Trust commented “We are all very disappointed about the delay to the opening of Graven Hill Primary school. We had everything in place ready for the September 2021 opening date. We will, of course, continue to do all that we can to support the revised opening date. We continue to be extremely excited about opening this school at the heart of this developing community.”