

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1ST JUNE 2011

SUBJECT:	SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES – DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR SHEILA CLARKE
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 At it's meeting of 15th March 2011 Committee asked the interim Director for a update report on current and projected changes in the roll of Wirral's secondary schools. This report also discusses the potential implications of the falling roll, with particular reference to budgetary and staffing implications in the current year.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That Committee note the new demographic information in relation to Wirral secondary schools.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 Information requested by Committee.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 There are four elements in looking to plan future secondary school requirements across the Borough. These are, firstly, the numbers of children expected to enter school over the next seven years; secondly the capacity of the current stock of secondary schools, individually and in areas, thirdly the impact of school size on standards, and finally a series of factors with implications for place provision. These include developments within the Education System: for example, those arising from the Children Act and Extended Schools, availability of capital funding and the need for diversity in school provision, the duty to respond to parental preference, and external factors which impact on secondary school numbers; for example, Housing Market Renewal and new housing developments.

4.2 A report on the demographic projections for secondary schools in Wirral was taken to Cabinet on 29th November 2007. At this point in time the falling roll in primary age pupils had already begun to impact on secondary schools, with 1,300 fewer pupils in 2007 than there had been in 2003. Projections indicated a reduction of approximately 3,000 pupils aged 11 to 16 over the next seven years (to 2014). The impact of rising numbers of surplus places, and on the financial and educational implications of the falling roll and school size were discussed. Cabinet instructed officers to begin a

review of secondary school provision, beginning with Phase 1 comprising schools in Birkenhead and Wirral South.

- 4.3 A demographic update on secondary schools in the Phase 1 Review area was provided to Cabinet on 26th June 2008.
- 4.4 Following an extensive period of consultation, reporting and scrutiny, the culmination of Phase 1 of the Secondary Places Review was that on 2nd September 2010 Cabinet gave conditional approval to proposals for the closure of Park High School and Rock Ferry High School in order that an Academy should be established on 1st January 2011. Following Secretary of State approval, the University Academy of Birkenhead has now been established, initially located on both existing sites, moving to occupy solely the former Park High site by September 2011. The University Academy is sponsored by the University of Chester (lead), University of Liverpool, Birkenhead Sixth Form College, Wirral Metropolitan College and Wirral Council.
- 4.5 An amendment to the previously indicated 2007 and 2008 projections is the introduction of state funded/maintained secondary (and primary) school places from September 2009 at Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls, formerly a fee-paying independent selective school for girls.
- 4.6 On 27th July 2010, the Academies Bill was passed announced changes to the previous administration's Academy programme, removing the requirement for a sponsor. All schools with an Ofsted outcome of "outstanding" were initially invited to apply to become what is generally known as a "new-style" Academy, an offer which has now been extended to all schools. Any primary, secondary or special school can apply to become an Academy. A number of Wirral primary and secondary schools expressed an interest initially, and so far eight secondary schools have continued with the process with a view to becoming academies within the next 6 to 12 months.
- 4.7 Projections indicate a falling secondary school roll across the Borough until at least 2016, followed by a projected partial recovery. However, there are still expected to be 3,845 fewer 11 to 16 pupils in 2018 than in 2004. The levels of reduction are not evenly distributed between areas, or between individual schools within areas. Post 16 numbers in mainstream schools peaked in 2010. This has, to an extent, provided some protection to the overall roll in those schools with sixth forms, but as rolls falls this protection will reduce.
- 4.8 The reduction in pupil numbers and funding will lead to a reduction in teachers and support staff in schools and a consequent increase in redundancy and severance costs. The financial implications in the current year are described in the report to the Schools Forum on 12th April 2011 and are attached as Appendix A. In addition there are an increasing number of secondary schools that are discussing deficit recovery plans.

5.0 PROJECTIONS

- 5.1 The projection method for Years 7 to 11 in secondary schools is as follows. In order to calculate the Year 7 intake for each future year, the actual number of pupils in Wirral primary schools in the Spring Census is rolled forward to their equivalent Year 7 intake year, then multiplied by 101.7 to reflect a historical increase at this transition point which is related to movement to the maintained sector from independent schools. Individual school Year 7 intakes are then based on the previous three years Year 7 intake figures. Years 8 to 11 at each individual school are simply rolled forward.
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5.2 For post-16 projections, Year 12 pupil numbers are calculated from Year 11 actual numbers at individual schools (excluding schools without sixth forms), to which the individual school's historical staying on rate is applied. In a similar manner, Years 13 and 14 are calculated from the actual number on roll for the previous year, using the historical staying on rate. It should be noted that the Young People's Learning Agency use standard learner numbers obtained annually from the Autumn Census for funding purposes.

	Year	11 to 16	Change	Post-16	Change	Overall Change
ACTUAL	2004	21717		3510		
	2005	21313	-404	3479	-31	-435
	2006	20926	-387	3410	-69	-456
	2007	20384	-542	3633	+223	-319
	2008	19757	-627	3718	+85	-542
	2009	19055	-702	4053	+335	-367
	2010	18573	-482	4283	+230	-252
	2011	18412	-161	4006	-277	-438
PROJECTED	2012	18072	-340	3871	-135	-475
	2013	17725	-347	3854	-17	-364
	2014	17346	-379	3837	-17	-396
	2015	17265	-81	3762	-75	-156
	2016	17284	+19	3718	-44	-25
	2017	17609	+325	3661	-57	+268
	2018	17872	+263	3604	-57	+206

The numbers set out above are for secondary age and post-16 pupils in mainstream schools, e.g. not including pupils in special schools or non-school based post-16 provision. Actuals are as at the January 2011 Census. Academies are included in all years (including backdated data for Birkenhead High School Academy (BHSA)), however there are unresolved data sharing issues in relation to Academies, consequently May 2010 Census has been used as a proxy for January 2011 Census for BHSA only.

5.3 The above figures illustrate a falling secondary school roll across the Borough until at least 2016, followed by a projected partial recovery. However, there are still expected to be 3,845 fewer 11 to 16 pupils in 2018 than in 2004. The levels of reduction are not evenly distributed between areas, or between individual schools within areas. The table below shows 11 to 16 numbers on roll at January 2011, and projected to 2018, by area.

	2011	2018	% Projected Fall
Birkenhead	3439	2793	19%
Wallasey	4828	4539	6%
South Wirral	4424	4402	<1%
West Wirral	5727	5532	3%

The numbers set out above are for secondary age pupils (11 – 16 only) in mainstream schools, e.g. not including pupils in special schools or maintained sixth form provision. Actuals and Wirral areas are as at the January 2011 Census. May 2010 Census has been used as a proxy for January 2011 Census for BHSA only.

5.4 Pupils attending Wirral secondary schools over the next seven years already exist in Wirral primary schools. Migration is minimal, and while individual school rolls may vary, it seems reasonable to conclude that by 2018 at least 3,800 fewer pupils will require 11 to 16 mainstream school provision than in 2004.

5.5 Post 16 numbers in mainstream schools peaked in 2010. This has, to an extent, provided some protection to the overall roll in those schools with sixth forms, but as rolls fall and smaller cohorts move through the school system this protection will reduce.

6.0 South Wirral Area

6.1 There are five 11 to 18 secondary schools located in this area – two are single sex selective Foundation grammar schools, one is a Voluntary Aided Catholic school, and two are Foundation secondary schools, one of which is a Trust school (Bebington High School). The Governing body of Wirral Grammar School for Girls are intending to convert to new-style Academy status by September 2011. Wirral Grammar School for Boys has also applied to become a new-style Academy.

6.2 The following table shows the current position in terms of capacity, number on roll and surplus places, as well as the pupil projections to 2018. Schools with 25% surplus places are shaded.

	Bebington	St John Plessington	South Wirral	Wirral Boys	Wirral Girls
School type	Trust	Aided	Foundation	Foundation/ Academy	Foundation/ Academy
2010 Net Capacity	1256	1442	1189	1194	1159
2011 NOR	869	1400	1131	1031	1093
2011 Surplus place %	30.8	2.9	4.9	13.7	5.7
2018 NOR (projected)	862	1427	983	1031	1108
2018 Surplus place % (projected)	31.4	1.0	17.3	13.7	4.4

Number on roll (NOR) includes all pupils (11 to 18). 2011 actuals are as at the January 2011 Census.

6.3 Bebington High School is already demonstrating high levels of surplus places, and this is not projected to improve over the next few years. The sixth form at Bebington High is relatively small.

6.4 Surplus places at South Wirral High School are expected to treble. South Wirral also has a relatively small sixth form department, with the post-16 pupils comprising 13% of the total school, compared with the Wirral non-grammar school average of 20% (22% with grammar schools).

6.5 As reported in Section 4 of the November 2007 Cabinet report, the Wirral working group agreed that a definite size beyond which a school was no longer viable was impossible to determine in Wirral. However, the discussion group did agree that compromises became increasingly difficult for cohorts approaching 100 pupils. National research on secondary school size has been scarce, but a study carried out in 2002 suggests that the optimum cohort size for a comprehensive school is between 175 and 200 pupils. For an 11 to 16 secondary school, this would result in

between 875 and 1000 total pupils. The current and projected average cohort size at each school is shown in the table below.

Average Cohort size	Bebingt on	St John Plessington	South Wirral	Wirral Boys	Wirral Girls
2011 11 to 16	147	228	198	152	160
2018 11 to 16 (projected)	155	237	175	152	161
Difference	+8	+9	-23	0	+1

6.6 In terms of size, South Wirral High School is projected to experience the greatest fall in average cohort size over the next seven years in this area. Bebington High School, despite a small rise in the average cohort size, is projected to remain below the optimum cohort size for a comprehensive school.

7.0 Birkenhead Area

7.1 Within this area there are three 11 to 16 secondary schools (one girls Foundation, one mixed Foundation, one mixed Academy), and two 11 to 18 secondary schools (one girls and one boys). The boys school is a Voluntary Aided selective grammar school, St Anselm's, which is intending to convert to Academy status by September 2011. The girls 11-18 school is an all-through Academy, formerly a fee-paying independent school. Prenton High School for Girls and Ridgeway High School have both applied to become new-style Academies.

7.2 The following table shows the current position in terms of capacity, number on roll and surplus places, as well as the pupil projections to 2018. Schools with 25% or more surplus places are shaded.

	Birkenhead High Academy	Prenton	Ridgeway	St Anselms	University Academy Birkenhead
	Academy	Foundation/ Academy	Foundation/ Academy	Aided/ Academy	Academy
2010 Net Capacity	866 *	790	885	981	1250***
2011 NOR	450 **	661	686	845	1097
2011 Surplus place %	48.0	16.3	22.5	13.9	12.2
2018 NOR (projected)	500	747	622	803	750
2018 Surplus place % (projected)	42.3	5.4	29.7	18.2	40.0

Number on roll (NOR) includes all pupils (11 to 18). 2011 actuals are as at the January 2011 Census. * BHSA is subject to a £10.5 million refurbishment of the primary and secondary school provision which is expected to significantly increase the capacity for future years once completed. ** January 2011 Census data not available for BHSA – May 2010 Census is used as a proxy. *** Currently operating on two sites with combined capacity 2,482 places – capacity given here only for former Park site.

7.3 Several schools are expected to demonstrate high levels of surplus places. All four non-selective schools are below the optimum cohort size (see para 6.5).

Average Cohort size	Birkenhead High Academy	Prenton	Ridgeway	St Anselms	UAB
2011 11 to 16	68	132	137	131	219
2018 11 to 16 (projected)	100	149	125	123	150*
Difference	+32	+17	-12	-8	

* University Academy of Birkenhead (UAB) was formed by the amalgamation of two schools. The projected decline in the cohort size is related to the admission number for the combined school (see below).

- 7.4 Over the next seven years, average cohorts at Prenton High and Birkenhead High School Academy are projected to grow in size, while average cohorts at the remaining schools are likely to experience a significant fall. The expected average cohort size of 150 at University Academy of Birkenhead is based on the Academy's admission number, which was set in line with expectations for the falling roll. Proposals to absorb the surplus places at the former Park site with co-located services are currently under discussion with the Academy Trust.
- 7.5 It should be noted that the admission number of 100 at Birkenhead High School Academy has been set by the Academy Trust and does not attempt to match the Net Capacity of the building (now or following the upcoming redevelopment).
- 7.6 The projected increase in take-up of places at all-girls schools, without a matched boys school (St Anselms being a selective grammar), is expected to further increase existing gender disparities in the remaining mixed sex secondary schools in this area.
- 7.7 Two schools in this area are "old-style" academies with sponsors. The three remaining schools have all indicated that they wish to pursue Academy status. If followed to conclusion, all secondary schools in the Birkenhead area will be academies within the next two years.

8.0 Wallasey Area

- 8.1 Five 11 to 18 secondary schools are located in this area. Two are mixed sex community schools, one is a mixed sex Catholic Aided school, and the remaining two are a boys Community school and a girls Foundation school. Oldershaw School has applied to become a new-style Academy.
- 8.2 The following table shows the current position in terms of capacity, number on roll and surplus places, as well as the pupil projections to 2018. Schools with more than 25% surplus places are shaded.

	Mosslands Community	Oldershaw Community/ Academy	St Marys Aided	Wallasey Community	Weatherhead Foundation
2010 Net Capacity	1573	1182	1850	1455	1656
2011 NOR	1107	747	1679	1047	1531
2011 Surplus place %	29.6	36.8	9.2	28.0	7.6
2018 NOR (projected)	874	640	1673	807	1561
2018 Surplus place % (projected)	44.4	45.9	9.6	44.5	5.7

Number on roll (NOR) includes all pupils (11 to 18). 2011 actuals are as at the January 2011 Census.

8.3 Both community mixed schools and the community boys school are expected to demonstrate high levels of surplus places. These three schools are also expected to experience a significant drop in the average cohort size, to below the optimum cohort size for a comprehensive school (see para 6.5).

Average Cohort size	Mosslands	Oldershaw	St Marys	Wallasey	Weatherhead
2011 11 to 16	177	121	267	172	228
2018 11 to 16 (projected)	148	109	267	141	243
Difference)	-29	-12	0	-31	+15

8.4 In terms of post 16 provision, Oldershaw has the smallest sixth form in terms of number of pupils, but as a proportion of the total roll (19%) this is close to the average for non-selective schools.

9.0 West Wirral Area

9.1 Six 11 to 18 secondary schools and one 11 to 16 secondary school (Woodchurch High) are located in this area. The Governing body at Woodchurch High School are intending to convert to Academy status later in 2011, and are also intending to expand the school's age range to 18. West Kirby Grammar School has also applied for Academy status.

Three are single sex selective grammar schools (one boys, one girls, one Catholic Aided girls). Two are single sex federated community schools, and one is a mixed sex Trust school.

9.2 The following table shows the current position in terms of capacity, number on roll and surplus places, as well as the pupil projections to 2018.

	Calday Grange	Hilbre	Pensby Boys*	Pensby Girls*	Upton Hall	West Kirby	Woodchurch
	Trust	Trust	Community	Community	Aided	Foundation/ Academy	Trust/ Academy
2010 Net Capacity	1568	1048	870	890	965	1249	1547**
2011 NOR	1456	1044	536	732	954	1150	1334
2011 Surplus place %	7.1	0.4	38.4	17.8	1.1	7.9	13.7
2018 NOR (projected)	1256	1025	391	645	949	1142	1390
2018 Surplus place % (projected)	19.9	2.2	55.1	27.5	1.7	8.6	10.2

Number on roll (NOR) includes all pupils (11 to 18). 2011 actuals are as at the January 2011 Census. * Pensby Boys and Pensby Girls are in a "hard federation" under a single governing body. ** Net capacity based on new building, opened in September 2010.

9.3 The greatest impact in this area is on the two Pensby schools. Both are also individually below the optimum cohort size for a comprehensive school. These two schools entered into a hard federation under a single governing body in May 2010. Whilst having no impact on surplus places, federation should enable the two schools

to maximise budgetary and staffing efficiencies to reduce the impact of the falling roll on teaching and learning.

Average Cohort size	Calday	Hilbre	Pensby Boys	Pensby Girls	Upton Hall	West Kirby	Woodchurch
2011 11 to 16	181	178	89	122	143	166	266
2018 11 to 16 (projected)	163	177	66	111	142	168	278
Difference	-18	-1	-23	-11	-1	+2	+12

- 9.4 In post-16 terms, the largest is 38% of the total roll at Calday Grange Grammar School, partly because this boys school accepts substantial numbers of girls at post-16. In 2011, a quarter of sixth form pupils were girls, comprising 10% of the total school population. Surplus places at Calday are expected to more than double over this period. Pensby Boys, Pensby Girls and Hilbre operate collaborative arrangements for sixth form provision which enhance course viability and therefore choice as well as value for money and other benefits of co-operation.
- 9.5 Woodchurch High School has indicated that as part of the application to become an Academy, the governors would wish to extend the age range to include a sixth form. If approved, this is likely to have implications for other schools with sixth form provision, and also for Birkenhead Sixth Form College.

10.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 10.1 The growth of Academies among Wirral's school provision has a potentially significant impact on the Authority's ability to produce full and accurate demographic projections for Wirral pupils. Academies are independent maintained schools who submit census and other pupil information directly to the Academies and Specialist Schools division of the DfE, rather than via the Local Authority. Officers are in the process of drawing up a data sharing agreement for use with schools converting to Academy status which will allow the Authority access to pupil data in line with all other school types.
- 10.2 So far, there have been no formal applications to the DfE for "free schools" in Wirral. Officers have recently received an informal enquiry from a private provider who wishes to establish a 14 to 19 free school offering a reduced academic curriculum with vocational subject choices located in the Birkenhead area. If approved, the implications of this additional provision could increase pressure on secondary school rolls.
- 10.3 As rolls fall, there is likely to be increased competition between neighbouring schools for their share of the smaller cohort with implications for existing collaborative arrangements between Wirral schools which will need to be monitored. There are financial pressures (see Appendix A) which are already resulting in reductions in staffing at some Wirral schools. Some schools will need to consider how their curriculum will be maintained and improved with a smaller budget as rolls fall.
- 10.4 As well as reductions in funding for 11 to 16 pupils, school sixth form funding is expected to reduce by 20% over the next three years to bring it in line with sixth form college and further education college funding levels. This coincides with a projected fall in the number of pupils attending school sixth forms.

11.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

11.1 None required.

12.0 CONSULTATION

12.1 None required.

13.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

13.1 None arising from this report.

14.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

14.1 School funding is pupil led. The falling roll will continue to impact on secondary schools over the medium term until 2016. Over the 6 year period from 2010 the total pupil numbers may decline by 1,870 (about 8%). Each pupil attracts Dedicated School Grant (or 6th Form funding) of about £5,000. This change therefore may result in a grant reduction in excess of £9 million. A typical secondary budget is £5 million.

14.2 In addition to the above, the indications are that funding for school sixth forms will reduce by a further £3 million over the next three years.

14.3 The reduction in pupil numbers and funding will lead to a reduction in teachers and support staff in schools and a consequent increase in redundancy and severance costs. The financial implications in the current year are described in the report to the Schools Forum on 12th April 2011 and are attached as Appendix A. In addition there are an increasing number of secondary schools that are discussing deficit recovery plans.

14.4 Land and asset implications in general terms of schools changing status are included in the Cabinet report of 13th March 2008.

15.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15.1 None arising directly from this report.

16.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

16.1 None arising from this report.

16.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

17.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

17.1 None arising from this report.

18.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

18.1 None arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A – Staffing implications in Wirral secondary schools (Andrew Roberts)

Appendix B – Post 16 and status information on Wirral secondary schools

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Annual School Census January 2011

Demographic projections (CYPD)

NHS birth data

www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies

readingroom.lsc.gov.uk/lsc/National/School_Sixth_Form_Guidance_2009_10.pdf

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet - OUTCOME OF PROPOSALS FOR THE CLOSURE OF TWO SECONDARY SCHOOLS	2 nd September 2010
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES: REPORT ON OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROCK FERRY HIGH SCHOOL AND PARK HIGH SCHOOL IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN ACADEMY	27 th May 2010
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES: PROVISIONAL REPORT ON OUTCOME OF CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSAL TO CLOSE ROCK FERRY HIGH SCHOOL AND PARK HIGH SCHOOL IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH AN ACADEMY	15 th April 2010
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1 – MIXED ACADEMY	14 th January 2010
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1 – SITE FOR A POSSIBLE ACADEMY	9 th December 2009
Cabinet – CALL IN OF CABINET MINUTE 143 (01/10/2009) REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1	26 th November 2009
Cabinet – REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1	1 st October 2009
Cabinet - SECONDARY SCHOOL REVIEW: AMENDED CONSULTATION OPTION FOR PHASE 1 SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL STATUS UPDATE	19 th March 2009
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1 - UPDATE	6 th November 2008
Cabinet - REVIEW OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES PHASE 1: AREA REVIEWS OF BIRKENHEAD AND BEBINGTON	26 th June 2008
Cabinet – SCHOOL CATEGORIES AND CHARACTERISTICS	13 th March 2008
Cabinet - PROVISION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES – FUTURE STRATEGY	29 th November 2007