

**Report to:** Children and Young People's Panel      Cabinet

**Date:** 17 January 2008      24 January 2008

**Subject:** Proposal to temporarily extend Tyldesley Primary School

**Report of:** Director of Children and Young People's Services

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**Purpose / summary:** To inform members about the responses to the consultation on the proposal to temporarily extend Tyldesley Primary School and to request that a decision be taken on the next stage of the process.

**Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended:** These are contained within paragraph 4.

**Recommendation / decision:** Members are recommended to:

- consider the responses to the consultation exercise; and
- request that the Director of Children and Young People's Services publish statutory notices to extend Tyldesley Primary and increase the admission number from 30 to 45 for 2009/10 and 2010/11 only.

**Key Decision:** This report involves a key decision within ground(s) 1.

The decision made as a result of this report will be published within **48 hours** and cannot be actioned until **seven working days** have elapsed, i.e. before 5th February 2008

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

**Risks / Implications:**

Financial:	To be contained within the existing capital programme
Staffing:	Subject to governing body decision
Policy:	Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	Legislation requires the local authority to promote choice and diversity when planning school place provision. This proposal attempts to do this by taking account of parental preferences for schools in the Tyldesley area.
Wards affected:	Astley and Mosley Common

**Property Implications– Does the proposal involve a reduction, addition or change to the Council's asset base or its occupation?**

Yes

**If yes have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property officer?**

Yes

**Does this proposal have significant implications for the Council and the local population?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

**Does this proposal involve a new policy or procedure or significant changes to an existing policy or procedure?**

A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.

Has the Director of Legal and Property Services confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	<b>Yes</b>
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Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	<b>Yes</b>
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Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	<b>No</b>
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**For Cabinet reports only :**

Categorisation of the report:	
Discussion leading to a decision	<b>X</b>
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

**Tracking/Process:**

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
17 Jan 2008		24 Jan 2008	

List of Background Papers in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Document	Date	File Reference	Place of Inspection
Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings	2007/08		CYPS Progress House Westwood Park Drive Wigan
Tyldesely area review files	2007		

Proper Officer Nick Hudson

Date December 2007

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 On 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> September 2007 respectively, Children and Young People's Panel and Cabinet considered a report on the need for additional primary school places in Tyldesley. The report contained options for expansion of schools in the area and Cabinet agreed that consultation should be held on a proposal to extend Tyldesley Primary for 2009/10 and 2010/11 only.
- 1.2 All interested parties have now been consulted on the proposal, as required by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) non-statutory guidance. The results of the consultation are provided at 2 below.

## **2. Consultation**

- 2.1 Consultation was held from 8<sup>th</sup> October to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The consultation document attached at Appendix 1 was sent to governors, staff and parents of pupils at Tyldesley Primary; other schools in Tyldesley; Early Years groups in the area; the Manchester CE Diocese and Liverpool Catholic Archdiocese; local Elected Members; the Member of Parliament; Trade Unions and Professional Associations; and Salford City Council. The document was also placed on the Wigan Council web site.
- 2.2 Meetings were held for staff, governors and parents on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2007. The notes of the meetings are attached at Appendix 2.
- 2.3 A total of 68 written responses were received by the consultation closure date. The majority of respondents were parents. Staff of Tyldesley Primary; governors of other schools; residents; the Dioceses; Tyldesley Primary Governing Body; and pupils of Tyldesley Primary also responded. All the responses are summarised in Appendix 3.
- 2.4 Tyldesley Primary Governing Body has registered its strong objection to the proposal, mainly on the grounds of practical accommodation difficulties. A copy of the Governing Body response is attached at Appendix 4. A response from pupils at the school is attached at Appendix 5.
- 2.5 Around one third of parents supported the proposal and the remainder were against it. A wide range of reasons were given for rejection of the proposal, the main ones being accommodation difficulties; a concern that standards would be affected; and the safety and welfare of the children.
- 2.6 Whilst prospective parents were targeted by the consultation document very few have responded. Those that did were in favour of the proposal.
- 2.7 The Liverpool Archdiocese and Boothstown Holy Family Catholic School are concerned that the proposal would have a detrimental effect on Holy Family's pupil numbers.
- 2.8 The Manchester CE Diocese does not oppose the proposal and some governors of Tyldesley St George's Central CE support it.
- 2.9 Local residents that live opposite the school are concerned about the increase in traffic that may result from the increase in pupil numbers. They are also concerned that the temporary accommodation should be sited away from houses.

### **3. Comments on the consultation responses**

#### **3.1 Accommodation**

- 3.1.1 Many respondents, including the Governing Body, were concerned about the temporary nature of the proposals and the ability of the main school premises, such as the hall and playground, to be able to cope with the increased number of pupils.
- 3.1.2 Cabinet has already considered the relative merits of a permanent and a temporary extension to the school and considered that a temporary extension was preferable at this stage because of the volatility in pupil numbers.
- 3.1.3 The school is built as a one form entry school and complies with DCSF guidance on room areas and layout. Whilst there is only one resource area, this is compensated for by classrooms that are larger than in many other schools. Guidance suggests that an additional 30 pupils would require the hall to be 16m<sup>2</sup> larger. Whilst an additional 30 pupils would undoubtedly cause pressure on internal shared facilities, to address these issues would cause disruption for little evident benefit. The playgrounds can be extended, if required, as part of the work to site the mobiles.
- 3.1.4 Other schools in Tyldesley would have the same, if not more severe, problems as Tyldesley Primary in accommodating the extra children.
- 3.1.5 Should the increase in numbers not be sustained, a permanent extension of two classrooms would cause the school to have 15% surplus places when the large year groups have worked through the school. Furthermore, a permanent extension at this stage could compromise any future development of the premises.
- 3.1.6 Planners have indicated that temporary classrooms would need to be situated away from neighbouring houses.
- 3.1.7 Officers' view is that the challenges foreseen in accommodating the extra children are not insurmountable and the school would be offered support in planning for the change.

#### **3.2 Standards**

- 3.2.1 Substantial research at National level indicates that mixed age teaching is not detrimental to pupil attainment and progress.
- 3.2.2 There is no evidence that one form entry schools perform better than larger schools or vice versa. The school budget will reflect the additional pupils so that both class sizes and pupil/teacher ratios can remain the same.

#### **3.3 Safety and welfare**

- 3.3.1 The school will not be overcrowded if the additional accommodation is provided for the extra pupils. Shared facilities will have more pressure on them than they currently have but management of lunch times and timetabling of the school hall can help to reduce this.

3.3.2 The problem of parking and increased traffic highlighted by the residents and some parents will be addressed at the planning stage, should the proposals be approved. A number of solutions can be explored with the school travel plan co-ordinator to ease congestion around the school.

### 3.4 Effect on other schools

3.4.1 Primary roll projections are difficult to predict. LAs are reliant on robust information from the health authority and relatively stable numbers in the area between birth and entry to school. Borough wide projections have proved to be extremely accurate in the past and projections for the Tyldesley area have had only a 2.5% margin of error.

3.4.2 On this basis, it is highly likely that the anticipated pupil numbers will materialise, therefore, all schools in Tyldesley are expected to fill to their admission numbers.

## 4. **Alternative options considered and reason for the recommended option**

4.1 Options to provide the additional places at other schools in the area were explored in the committee report presented to Panel and Cabinet in September. The reasons for recommending a temporary increase in places at Tyldesley Primary, rather than any other school in the area, remain the same.

4.2 Births information for 2006/07 has now been received and it indicates a decline in numbers for entry to Reception in 2011, suggesting that the additional places will no longer be required. However, births for 2007/08 and 2008/09 will be needed before a sound judgement can be made on whether the increase should remain temporary or whether consultation needs to begin on a permanent increase and extension.

## 5. **Conclusions**

5.1 Whilst a temporary expansion to Tyldesley Primary will cause some difficulties, they can be overcome through careful management. Furthermore, the issues raised by the respondents could equally be raised if the proposals concerned another school in Tyldesley.

5.2 Continual oversubscription of the school is proof of the school's popularity. Parental preferences, combined with good standards, are the overriding factors that should determine where additional school places are provided, when the need arises. A temporary expansion provides the possibility of the school reducing to its current numbers in the future and protects other schools in the area. Should the need for permanent additional places be identified, this would be the subject of a separate consultation exercise.





## Children and Young People's Services



### Proposal to Temporarily Extend

#### **Tyldesley Primary School**

Ennerdale Road

Astley

Tyldesley

M29 7PY

This booklet contains

reasons why the Local Authority is considering a temporary extension of Tyldesley Primary School

dates and times of meetings for parents, the public, schools' staff and governors and

information on how you can make your views known.

October 2007



## Introduction

This booklet gives you information on Tyldesley Primary School, other schools in Tyldesley and the predicted demand for primary school places in the area. It explains why the Local Authority (LA) is proposing to temporarily extend the school and increase its admission number for the September 2009 and September 2010 pupil intakes.

At the end of the booklet you will find a list of events with proposed timescales that the LA will follow in order to extend the school by the end of the summer term 2009. This includes details of how and when to make your views on the proposal known.

## Schools and current pupil numbers in the Tyldesley area

The map at the end of this document shows the location of the 7 primary schools in Tyldesley. Details of the schools and pupil numbers at January 2007 (the latest verified information) are provided below.

School	Type	Adm No	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
Garrett Hall	C	60	44	50	60	64	77	78	51	424
Tyldesley	C	30	32	30	29	30	29	31	28	209
St George's Central CE	VC	40	31	29	39	38	44	38	29	248
St John's Mosley Common CE	VA	22	19	15	19	12	9	13	12	99
St Stephen's CE	VA	30	30	29	29	33	36	22	33	212
Holy Family Catholic Boothstown	VA	30	23	24	25	27	32	32	30	193
St Ambrose Barlow Catholic	VA	30	30	30	29	30	30	30	27	206
<b>Total</b>		<b>242</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>210</b>	

Key: C = Community; VC = Voluntary Controlled; VA = Voluntary Aided

Currently, there are 242 Reception places available for 2008 and beyond. In recent years, this has been sufficient for the number of children wanting a primary school place in the area.

## **Predicted pupil numbers in Tyldesley**

The LA receives information on the number of children born in Tyldesley from the Health Service. This shows an increase from 270 in 2002/03 (these children started in Reception class in September 2007) to 301 in 2004/05 and 310 in 2005/06. These children are due to start school in September 2009 and September 2010 respectively.

Information on births beyond the 2005/06 school year is not currently available and it is not possible to accurately estimate the levels of births in future years.

Traditionally, some children living in the Tyldesley area attend school in Atherton. After taking into account the estimated available Reception places in the Atherton area in 2009 and 2010, it is predicted that an additional 15 places are needed in Tyldesley in these two years. These places are needed so that a school place can be offered to all Tyldesley children within a reasonable travelling distance from their home.

## **Proposal**

**It is proposed that the admission number of Tyldesley Primary School be increased from 30 to 45 for the 2009/10 and 2010/11 school years only.**

Good quality temporary buildings will be provided on the school site so that the school can accommodate the extra pupils. The premises will stay on the school site until the large year groups have left the school.

The reasons that the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary rather than another school in the area are that

- the school is popular and consistently receives far more applications than the places available

- the school is centrally located in Tyldesley and offers easy access for most children living in the area

- the school site is large and can easily accommodate additional premises.

Temporary, rather than permanent, accommodation is being proposed as future numbers of births are not known. The information on births will continue to be monitored so that the LA can take a decision as to future school place needs in Tyldesley. If it is considered that the additional places will be needed on a permanent basis a separate consultation exercise will be held in the future.

## Dates and times of meetings

Meetings will be held for those who are affected by the proposal. These meetings will give you more information on the proposal and you will be able to discuss any concerns or worries you may have with the LA. Please make every effort to attend these meetings as your views are important.

Meeting venue	Date and time	Who should attend
Tyldesley Primary School	Monday 12 November at 7.00 pm	This is a <b>public</b> meeting and is open to everyone, especially parents of children currently attending Tyldesley Primary and parents considering applying for a Reception place at the school in future.
Tyldesley Primary School	Monday 12 November 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm  5.30 pm – 6.30 pm	Tyldesley Primary School <b>Staff</b>  Tyldesley Primary School <b>Governors</b>

## Next Steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to extend a school.

Overleaf is a timetable of events which include periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken. If you want to make your views known, it is important that you do so within the consultation dates given below and in the ways described. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

## Proposed Timetable

Event	Dates
<p><b>Consultation</b> – during this time you can make your views known by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• attendance at the appropriate meetings detailed above (notes will be taken)</li> <li>• writing to or emailing the LA or</li> <li>• completing the response form at the end of this booklet.</li> </ul> <p>The address for correspondence is given overleaf</p>	<p>Monday 8 October 2007 to Friday 30 November 2007</p>
<p>Results of consultation will go to Elected Members and they will decide whether or not to carry on with the extension proposals.</p>	<p>Thursday 24 January 2008</p>
<p><b>Representation period</b> - if the LA decides that it wants to carry on with the proposals, statutory notices have to be published. These are public notices that appear in a local newspaper, at the entrance to Tyldesley Primary and in another public place in the area, such as a community centre or library. You can make your views known at this stage by writing to the LA at the address at the end of this booklet. This address and the date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p>	<p>Thursday 7 February 2008 to Wednesday 5 March 2008</p>
<p>The LA takes its final decision on the proposal.</p>	<p>By 5 May 2008</p>

Certain organisations can appeal against the decision. Any such appeals must be received within 4 weeks of the LA's decision.

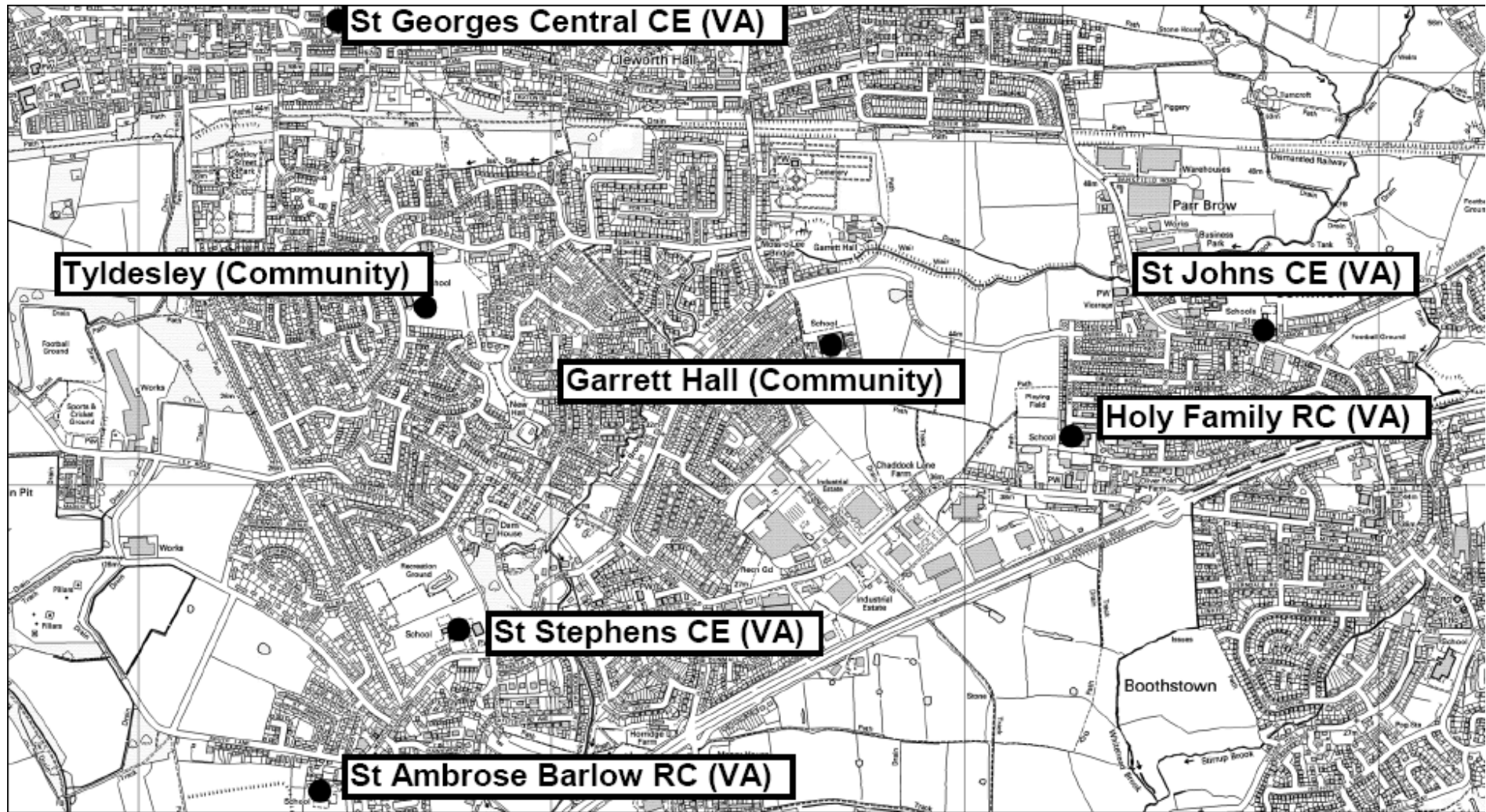
**Please note that this timetable may alter.** The LA, staff and governors of Tyldesley Primary School will be able to tell you if this happens and tell you of any new dates that we are working towards.

## **Address for correspondence**

School Places Team  
Children and Young People's Services  
Progress House  
Westwood Park Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 4HH

email: [schoolprovision@wiganmbc.gov.uk](mailto:schoolprovision@wiganmbc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029



## Response form

Please **read the booklet carefully** before making your response below. Please place a **X** in the box that most closely describes your views

1. Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary School?

Yes  No  Don't know

2. Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?

Yes  No

3. Do you think that Tyldesley Primary School should be extended?

Yes  No  Don't know

4. If you think that Tyldesley Primary School should **not** be extended, please say why you think this

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.....  
.....  
.....  
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.....

6. Have you any other comments to make?

.....  
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.....

7. Are you

A parent or guardian of a child at Tyldesley Primary School

A parent or guardian of a child at another school  
please state which school .....

A member of staff at Tyldesley Primary School

A member of staff at another school  
please state which .....

A governor of Tyldesley Primary School

A governor at another school  
please state which .....

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form in by **Friday 30 November 2007.**

## **Wigan Council: Children and Young People's Services**

### **Meeting with Parents of Tyldesley Primary School**

**12 November 2007**

Present:        Approximately 42 parents  
                 Steve Robertson    CYPS  
                 Jill Clarke                    CYPS  
                 Lynn Mappin                CYPS

SR explained that the LA had a duty to continuously review school places across the borough. The main factor in Tyldesley is that the birth rate has defied both local and national trends. Following a dramatic fall in births in Tyldesley there has been a significant increase over recent years. It is difficult to know for certain at this stage whether the rise is the beginning of a trend or a blip, though the predictions are that the increasing trend will not continue into 2011/12.

In the short term there is significantly more demand in the area than has been anticipated. Based on projections, it is considered that around 249 places will be needed for the Reception intake in 2008 and there are just 242 available places in Tyldesley schools. It is not proposed to take any action for 2008 as schools in Atherton can take some of the pupils. However, in 2009, 265 children are estimated to want a place in a Tyldesley primary school and in the following year, the figure reaches 272. Because the neighbouring area will be able to accommodate some of these children, it is estimated that around 15 additional places will be required in Tyldesley in order to offer pupils a school place within a reasonable distance of their home.

Criteria were applied to the schools in Tyldesley to determine which school would best serve the needs of the community and the need for extra places:

- places could not be distributed amongst several schools because class size legislation effectively prohibits this;
- the schools in the Catholic sector were considered to have sufficient places between them and the LA cannot impose a change in admission numbers on voluntary aided schools;
- the LA considered expanding one school by more than 15 places and reducing another school's places but the amount of capital funding required ruled this option out;
- the LA does not want to expand schools beyond two forms of entry, as a general rule, and this means that one school is excluded from consideration;

- the additional places were required in the centre of Tyldesley as this is where most of the children live; and
- parental preferences are a crucial factor in determining which school to expand and Tyldesley Primary is an extremely popular school that is likely to fill up.

After long deliberations the optimal solution that emerged was to expand Tyldesley Primary on a temporary basis to one and a half forms of entry. Cabinet has considered a report on the matter and the LA is now required to consult on the proposal. The LA has just met with staff and governors to hear their views and this consultation is only the first stage in the process. Notes will be taken of the meeting and people also have the opportunity to write in, either individually or collectively. Cabinet will see the notes of the meeting before they take any further decisions on the proposal.

In order to accommodate the additional pupils it is proposed to place temporary accommodation on site. Mobile class bases are now much improved from past models and they offer good teaching accommodation. No detailed work has been undertaken on where the mobile should be located and this can be discussed in detail later in the process. The mobile will provide two classrooms, storage, cloaks and toilets and the internal layout can be altered to suit the needs of the school.

There are examples of mobile classrooms elsewhere in the authority and they prove to be very popular amongst staff as they are good teaching spaces. The mobile will stay in place until either the large numbers have worked through the school or more extensive permanent accommodation is needed.

At this stage, it was not known for sure whether there needed to be a permanent increase in places. It will be another two years before it can be determined whether the current numbers of births will remain stable or fall back down to previous levels. If a permanent extension is needed in the longer term the LA would need to replace the mobiles with permanent accommodation. This would include remodelling to increase the pressure on the supplementary areas such as the hall and playground.

The plan at the moment is to reduce the number and eventually remove the accommodation if the places are not needed after two years. The existing year groups will retain their admission number of 30 and only reception in 2009 and reception and Y1 in 2010 will have admission numbers of 45.

The meeting was opened for questions:

**Q How will the school be teaching? Will it be one large class of 45 or two of 22 and 23?**

**A** It is up to the school to decide how they want to organise classes. Schools tend to keep reception in classes of 22 and 23 and practice mixed age teaching in older year groups. Many Wigan schools had

odd admission numbers (not multiples of 15 or 30) so schools developed new methods of delivery in order to deliver class size legislation. Because it is only a temporary increase, this school could decide to teach both year groups in single age classes of 22 and 23, budget permitting.

**Q Why can't you predict the budget?**

A The school and LA can predict the budget but the school has the right to choose how it can spend the funding.

**Q What about extra pressure on spaces such as the dining facilities? There are lots of variables to take into account.**

A As a temporary solution, until we know if permanent accommodation is needed, all that will be added are two teaching spaces. There will be just 30 extra children for seven years. If a permanent need is established the school will need to be remodelled in order to provide additional support spaces. It is acknowledged that in the short term, some additional pressure will be placed on the school. However, extra pupils bring extra resources to the school.

**Q Garrett Hall used to have an adequate number of places in the past so why does the LA want to expand Tyldesley Primary?**

A Garrett Hall had temporary and very poor accommodation on site and it is now being phased out. The school's admission number has been reduced to 60 and this is as large as the LA wants schools to be. It was considered but ruled out.

**S Garrett Hall has the advantage of the staff having experience in dealing with a half form of entry.**

A The LA is confident that the staff here are well able to manage the curriculum change and there is plenty of support available from the LA.

**Q My son is in one of the years that would be affected. What happens to ensure that he will not be adversely affected by lots of children in the school?**

A The school will decide how best to use the accommodation. The proposals will not have a detrimental affect on pupils in the school.

**Q At which point will you release permanent funding?**

A In two year's time, if needed.

**S LAs have a history of putting in temporary accommodation at schools and then keeping it there permanently.**

- A Capital funding for primary schools is now far more generous than it ever has been. There are unprecedented levels of expenditure and, though the LA cannot promise that this will not happen, we are confident that it won't.
- S What made Tyldesley primary the best option is its popularity. How is the school going to be improved by putting mobiles on site or remodelling the building when it is currently an ideal building? The proposals will spoil the school.**
- A Extensions will be done sympathetically. No-one can say that it won't work as well as currently.
- S The LA could just as easily extend Garrett Hall.**
- A There are factors that mitigate against Garrett Hall.
- S There are lots of reasons why it should be Garrett Hall.**
- A Garrett Hall is already large. It would be more detrimental to the pupils of Garrett Hall to extend their school than it would be to extend this school. It is also more likely that the places will be filled here. The LA was also trying to ensure that places are as close as possible to where people live so that it will not generate lots of extra traffic. There is a planning process to go through that takes into account travel.
- Q Why is the linear movement from classroom to classroom around the school not important anymore?**
- Q How is the school going to squeeze another 15 children into the classrooms or are some children going to stay in the mobiles throughout all their primary education? There can't be classes of 45.**
- A How the accommodation is utilized is up to the school. The LA will take the decision where to put the extra places.
- S My eldest children were at Garrett Hall when it was three form entry. Why was it acceptable then but not now?**
- A It is acceptable but not desirable. Research indicates the two forms of entry is large enough. The curriculum has changed a lot over recent years. Some schools in other LAs are much larger than two forms of entry.
- S There has been a lot of new housing here as it is near to Manchester. The LA needs to do more work on demographics as many of the children in the bulge years will be first born children. The LA should build a permanent extension now.**

A Planning school places is an inexact science. The LA usually allows for 3 additional children per cohort for every 100 houses built and occupied. We cannot be clear at the moment whether the increase is sustainable and cannot justify spending £1.8 million at the moment on a permanent extension. The mobiles only cost £150,000 and it is better to waste this small sum in the longer term than it is to waste £1.8 million. A permanent extension also has the potential to create problems for other schools in the area if the numbers are not sustainable longer term.

**S This is a small friendly school. Can you give a 100% guarantee that the children's environment will remain unchanged?**

A No. Experience of other schools in similar situations was that such expansions can be achieved without detriment. This school can manage change. The staff are outward looking, progressive and can adapt. We have every confidence that they can make the change without detriment to the pupils.

**Q Are the staff confident that they can adapt? It will be down to them.**

A The staff's views will be taken into consideration.

A (Headteacher) Staff are not concerned about their ability to deliver; they have a very positive attitude. If it is going to happen the school will manage it. However, the staff are bothered about raising parental expectations for the future.

**Q Are you in favour of it then?**

A (Headteacher) We wouldn't see that it is necessarily beneficial for the school. The benefit is for people in the area that cannot get school places. We need time to consider everything that has been said and need to meet as a staff and governing body before we arrive at firm views. If it happens, we will do our utmost to ensure that it works.

**Q What are the timescales for the work?**

A The consultation ends in November. Cabinet will make a decision and there is a period of 12 months for planning for the change in terms of the curriculum and the building. The school will be able to influence the decision on build.

**Q What support will the LA be giving to the Headteacher and the staff? Why did the LA close the school at Shakerley?**

A There will be full support for the school from the Advisory service. There were very significant standards issues at Shakerley that were identified by OFSTED and falling pupil numbers. The school was not

sustainable. It is not just about having places, but about having them where people want them. The LA did carefully consider the viability of Shakerley before agreeing closure.

**Q Why can't the additional pupils go to St John's CE?**

A St John's CE cannot accommodate the extra children.

**Q Wouldn't it have been better to provide a permanent build at this school to encourage people to come here?**

A A permanent increase is one option that was looked at. The downside is that if too much accommodation is built without it being sustainable it would have an adverse impact on other schools in the area. Alternatively the accommodation would need to be mothballed which is a waste of resources.

**S People will not be encouraged to come to a temporary building.**

A A balanced view needed to be taken including consideration of other schools. Permanent action can be taken two years from now if numbers prove to be sustainable.

**S My children will be in the year groups affected.**

**S The LA is not considering the impact it will have on the school and its ethos. Children in the mobiles won't experience belonging to a school and they will feel isolated.**

A There are ways of managing the situation. The accommodation will be placed right near the school and could be linked by a covered way.

**Q If the LA chooses to go ahead will it compromise a permanent solution for the future?**

A No. If the numbers are sustainable the permanent solution would need to be implemented as the temporary solution would no longer be suitable. The temporary building will not stand in the way of a permanent building. The LA will work with the school as to where the building should be placed and people can think about this when siting it. The LA is used to this kind of work and does it all the time.

**Q What about the community and keeping children together? Is it physically possible to get all children in the hall? All parents can't fit into the hall.**

A The situation is managed by many schools. They often double up on events.

**Q Is there a guarantee that you will not be expecting the community room to be used for pupils? Why is St Stephen's not being extended?**

A There are no plans at all to use the community room for additional pupils. The extra accommodation promised will be sufficient. St Stephen's is not selected because of levels of parental preferences.

**Q Has there been pressure from the Dioceses?**

A No. There is no need for additional Catholic places. Tyldesley Primary came out as the best option. The growth in population is closer to Tyldesley Primary, not St Stephen's.

**Q Is the increased admission number of 45 capped or can it go up?**

A Admission numbers are never capped. They are always kept under review because demographics are always altering. If the LA wishes to increase the number beyond 45 it would have to hold a further consultation exercise.

**S Tyldesley Primary is being victimised – it is a victim of its own success.**

A The success of the school is one of the factors that have to be taken into account.

**Q Will my son, who will be in one of the bulge years, be taught in the mobile? There may be no transition through the school for some children. If the school has permanent building work there will be disruption.**

A The LA has lots of experience in dealing with building work and the management of children during that time. The LA has confidence that the staff will manage the change.

**Q Are there statistics about other schools that have gone through a similar process? Are the staff happy and have standards been maintained?**

A There is hard evidence that standards have not fallen at schools that have been through change.

**Q How much is this genuine consultation?**

A Everything that you tell the LA will go to Cabinet. All your views will be passed on.

**S If the consultation were to fail, there won't be any time to consult on anything else. It is not good to have mixed age teaching.**

**Greater Manchester is one of the areas that has the highest proportion of independent schools and I can understand why. Mobiles are not good.**

A We will have to agree to differ on mixed age teaching.

**Q Has the LA got views from children on being taught in mobiles?**

A They like them.

**S My daughter is in Y5. There were 62 applications in that year. I don't understand why being popular has to be a criterion. Places are either available at a school or they are not. If you put places at a less popular school parents would still have to send their children there as there would be no available places elsewhere.**

A Geography is an issue. The LA is not happy to force parents to travel a long way to school. For instance, across the whole Borough there are sufficient places.

**Q The whole issue seems to be based on locality but how is Tyldesley Primary more central than other schools?**

A A range of criteria have been applied, not just geography.

**Q Did you consult with other schools in the area before coming up with the proposal?**

A Advisers visit all schools once per month.

**S It feels that it is already decided. For the LA it is more financially viable to put a set of mobiles on another school.**

A If the LA has formed the view that Tyldesley Primary is the best school to extend temporarily it would be bizarre if a decision were subsequently taken to permanently extend a different school.

**S No-one can foresee the birth rate in the future. We need a guarantee that in a year's time the school will know whether it is getting a permanent extension.**

A The LA will know more in two year's time whether the current birth rate is sustained. Provision planning is an inexact science and it must be remembered that ultimately we could end up making the wrong decision as we cannot foresee the future.

**Q What is plan B then?**

- A A range of options were considered at the time and this emerged as the best option. If members choose not to proceed with this option there will need to be another proposal.
- Q A separate consultation exercise will be needed. If permanent accommodation is required will it take into account the prevailing factors at the time?**
- A Yes.
- Q It says in the document that certain groups can make an objection to the final decision. Who are these groups?**
- A This is the informal consultation stage. Cabinet will take a decision as to whether it wishes to proceed with the proposal after considering all the responses. If the decision is to proceed, the LA will need to publish statutory notices and there will be a representation period of six weeks where people can comment in writing about the proposals. At the end of this stage, Council will consider whether to implement the proposals. The governing body can object to the Schools Adjudicator after the final decision is made.
- S St George's Central CE has room. Their admission number is only 40.**
- A The school does not have room. The admission number matches the amount of accommodation currently available and the school is on a very confined site, so expansion would be difficult. The Tyldesley Primary site is easily big enough for two forms of entry.
- Q What happens next?**
- A The responses are aggregated and summarised and Cabinet will consider them before taking a decision on the next stage.
- Q Can anyone attend the Cabinet meeting?**
- A The public can attend Cabinet meetings. The meeting is scheduled for January.
- Q What about the views of residents? Why are Planners not involved at this stage?**
- A The consultation document is on the internet. There is no requirement to consult local residents as this is done as part of the planning process. We take your point though.
- S Because you are putting portacabins on site and forcing mixed age classes the preferences for the school could fall anyway.**

- A The best guess is that this won't happen.
- S But demographics alter. It could end up where there are no extra children.**
- A There is no evidence to suggest that this will happen.
- Q Is the birth rate comparable to those entering the school in future.**
- A Yes. It has been a consistent 88% of those born in Tyldesley that enter schools in the area four years later. The balance of parental preferences can also be predicted amongst the schools. The area based predictions are accurate.
- Q There are safety issues. The hall will be crowded at assembly times. Have the means of escape been looked at?**
- A The school will manage the safety issues. The LA's Health and Safety officer will check means of escape and a risk assessment will be done. The school has to do a risk assessment for all events it holds.
- S The roads get very busy and there will be road safety issues.**
- A Road safety will look into this if necessary.
- S The class size limit of 30 is one of the fundamental problems with this. Can the limit be lifted temporarily in the area? Why do appeals panels let pupils in?**
- A The class size limit cannot be lifted. It is the law. The LA makes a strong case to defend the school at appeal and pupils do not normally get let in.
- Q As a parent of a child who got in on appeal I can tell you that the extra funding comes with the child and the LA will fund an extra teacher.**
- S The planning of this seems out. Why did you not extend the school five or six years ago? The people here are mainly concerned about the temporary accommodation. If you go for permanent accommodation the proposal may be more popular.**
- A The issue has only arisen now because in the past there were enough places in the area.
- S You must have known that births were going up a couple of years ago.**
- A (Cllr Wilson) The school is on this site because of the falling birth rate 10 years ago. The schools was moved from Elliot Street and built new

here. In the last few years new house building has slowed down considerably. Despite taking many school places out of Tyldesley there were still more to take out four years ago so some schools had their admission numbers reduced. Garrett Hall was one of these schools and it has had a £2 million remodelling project. This was all planned on 280 births per year. However, for the past two years the birth rate has shot up, not just in Tyldesley but in Atherton and Wigan South also. Birth rates cannot be predicted and this proposal is not a done deal. Cabinet will consider all the responses and I will not guarantee what the decision will be. However, I do not know what the alternative could be. The births for 2006/07 were only received two weeks ago. We have to make the best guess for the future. There was a lot of new house building in the past and it did not generate extra children – only now have they materialised.

**Q What is your role in this process?**

A (Cllr Wilson) I am a governor of the school and I am also the Cabinet member for Lifelong Learning. I wear two hats on this proposal. I will ensure that your views are reported to Cabinet.

**S We expect you to be on the side of the school.**

A (Cllr Wilson) I will be acting as a Cabinet Member and not as a governor at the Cabinet meeting. I have to balance my role. You will be able to go to Cabinet to observe. Councillors like to make popular decisions but they can't always do that. They cannot shy away from difficult decisions.

**Q As a governor, do you think that the proposals have looked at the correct criteria? They have ignored the health and safety of the school.**

A (Cllr Wilson) I am confident that officers would not put forward proposals that would compromise the health and safety of the children. Officers have looked in detail at the proposal but we are constrained by law as we can't take places out of popular schools; there is the class size limit to adhere to; and we are meant to expand popular schools. I have respect for the professional opinion of officers.

**Q What is the class size limit for key stage 2 pupils? Could they be in classes of 45?**

A There are no class size limits at key stage 2 but there is no way that we would recommend 45 pupils in a class. It is up to school how they organise classes.

**S The school is likely to operate in 3 mixed age classes of 30.**

A This will be discussed with the school. There is no way that the teachers would teach a class of 45 children.

**Q Have the teachers got only one month to plan this change?**

A No. They have at least 12 months to plan for it. They have one month to decide their views on the proposal and make detailed plans thereafter.

**S I teach in a one and a half form entry school and I don't believe that it works. It does not have the same community spirit or caring that a one form entry school has. I chose this school for my child because it is a one form entry school.**

There being no further questions, the meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

**Wigan Council: Children and Young People's Services**

**Meeting with Staff of Tyldesley Primary School**

**12 November 2007**

Present: 26 members of staff  
Steve Robertson CYPS  
Jill Clarke CYPS  
Lynn Mappin CYPS

SR explained that the LA is required to consult on the proposal to temporarily extend the school and this consultation is only the first stage in the process. Notes would be taken of the meeting and people also had the opportunity to write in, either individually or collectively.

The main factor in the area is the birth rate that has defied both local and national trends. Following a dramatic fall in births in Tyldesley there has been a significant increase over recent years. It is difficult to know at this stage whether the rise is the beginning of a trend or a blip.

Based on projections, it is considered that around 249 places will be needed for the Reception intake in 2008 and there are just 242 available places in Tyldesley schools. It is not proposed to take any action for 2008 as schools in Atherton can take some of the pupils. However, in 2009, 265 children are estimated to want a place in a Tyldesley primary school and in the following year, the figure reaches 272. Because the neighbouring area will be able to accommodate some of these children, it is estimated that around 15 additional places will be required in Tyldesley in order to offer pupils a school place within a reasonable distance of their home.

Criteria were applied to the schools in Tyldesley to determine which school would best serve the needs of the community and the need for extra places:

- places could not be distributed amongst several schools because class size legislation effectively prohibits this;
- the schools in the Catholic sector were considered to have sufficient places between them;
- the LA considered expanding one school by more than 15 places and reducing another school's places but the amount of capital funding required ruled this option out;
- the LA does not want to expand schools beyond two forms of entry, as a general rule, and this means that one school is excluded from consideration;

- the additional places were required in the centre of Tyldesley as this is where most of the children live; and
- parental preferences are a crucial factor in determining which school to expand and Tyldesley Primary is an extremely popular school that is likely to fill up.

After long deliberations the optimal solution that emerged was to expand Tyldesley Primary on a temporary basis to one and a half forms of entry. In order to accommodate the additional pupils it is proposed to place temporary accommodation on site. Mobile class bases are now much improved from past models and they offer good teaching accommodation. The LA can arrange for staff to visit mobiles at other schools so that they can see them in operation.

At this stage, it was not known for sure whether there needed to be a permanent increase in places. If a permanent extension is needed the LA would need to replace the mobiles with permanent accommodation. There is now more capital funding available to LAs that could fund the development. The LA did consider whether to propose a permanent extension at this stage but if pupil numbers do not materialise longer term the increased admission number would have implications for other schools.

The meeting was opened for questions:

**Q Was the proposal to admit 45 pupils in Reception in 2009 and the following year? Was there an expectation that other year groups would have to admit 45 pupils?**

A The increased admission number would apply to Reception in 2009 and 2010 only. The 'older' year groups would not have to take more children.

**Q If the admission number is increased for two years it will make it difficult to drop it in future years because of parental preferences. What is the LA's view?**

A In taking the decision the impact on other schools would be carefully considered.

**Q When will the LA make a decision?**

A Within a couple of years the LA will have a much clearer idea of future need for places. Officers have looked at new housing development impacts but it is not considered that they will present any surprises. It is estimated that for every 100 houses built they yield three children per cohort.

**S Around 45 to 46 children apply for a school place each year at this school.**

- A It is acknowledged that once there are expectations in the area then the preferences may continue or even increase.
- Q With regard to the organisation of the extra children – is it up to the headteacher to do or will there be support from the LA?**
- A Both.
- S (Headteacher) The challenge is not in the delivery of the curriculum. Parents can be very demanding so it is likely that the pupils will be mixed according to age rather than ability in order to avoid difficulties. There will be consultation with staff before any decision is made.**
- A It is recognised that there will be parental concerns around mixed age teaching, more so than for the professionals who know that it can be done successfully. 51% of schools in Wigan have to practice mixed age teaching at some point. Many schools mix classes based on ability rather than age but it is up to the school to decide, bearing in mind the progress of the children. There has been research on mixed age teaching and the LA will send the school the research. The LA can also put the school in touch with other schools in a similar situation.
- S There will be implications for Hall space and the playground also.**
- A This is sometimes a concern. If needed, extra playground space can be added to the site and the school can negotiate the details of the build with the capital project officer. It is only in the case of permanent build that the LA would investigate all supplementary spaces to see if they can be remodelled.
- Q Was there any expectation that the school would need to utilize the community room for the additional places?**
- A No – there is no suggestion of this.
- Q By putting in temporary extra places, was a legal precedent being set? Could parents use the argument at appeal?**
- A No legal precedent would be set. The physical capacity of the school would be reduced once the larger numbers have worked through school so the school could not accommodate more pupils. It is acknowledged, however, that expectations are being raised.
- S Staff would be made redundant once they were not needed any more.**
- A There will be ample warning so that staff contracts could be properly drawn up. Human Resources will work with the school on this.

**Q At appeal would the school's case be weaker because the admission number is not a straight multiple of 30?**

A The LA does not hear the appeals. The LA will do a robust statement to try to ensure that additional pupils do not get in. Most LAs do not compensate schools if additional pupils get in on appeal and Wigan does - it is generous in this respect.

**Q What if all the 15 places are not taken up in the first year? Will you reduce the amount of available places in the second year?**

A It would not make sense to drop the admission number or remove the accommodation once the decision has been made.

**Q Won't there be objections from local residents due to 30 extra cars etc?**

A The planning process will deal with this. Part of the exercise is to provide places near to where people live so, in theory, people should not have to use their cars.

**Q Has the Gin Pit development been taken into account?**

A Yes. All housing information is obtained from the Planning Department.

**Q Will the mobiles be connected to the main building?**

A This can be negotiated. It needed to be remembered that if the mobiles were connected it could lead to a loss of internal space.

Any further queries should be directed to the school provision team. The contact number is on the consultation document.

The meeting ended at 4.50 pm.

## **Wigan Council: Children and Young People's Services**

### **Meeting with Governors of Tyldesley Primary School**

**12 November 2007**

Present: 7 Governors  
Steve Robertson CYPS  
Jill Clarke CYPS  
Lynn Mappin CYPS

SR explained that Cabinet had considered a report on the increase in the birth rate in Tyldesley and a proposal to create temporary additional places at Tyldesley Primary School. The LA is required to consult on the proposal and this consultation is only the first stage in the process. Notes would be taken of the meeting and people also had the opportunity to write in, either individually or collectively.

The main factor in the area is the birth rate that has defied both local and national trends. Following a dramatic fall in births in Tyldesley there has been a significant increase over recent years. It is difficult to know at this stage whether the rise is the beginning of a trend or a blip.

Based on projections, it is considered that around 249 places will be needed for the Reception intake in 2008 and there are just 242 available places in Tyldesley schools. It is not proposed to take any action for 2008 as schools in Atherton can take some of the pupils. However, in 2009, 265 children are estimated to want a place in a Tyldesley primary school and in the following year, the figure reaches 272. Because the neighbouring area will be able to accommodate some of these children, it is estimated that around 15 additional places will be required in Tyldesley in order to offer pupils a school place within a reasonable distance of their home.

Criteria were applied to the schools in Tyldesley to determine which school would best serve the needs of the community and the need for extra places:

- places could not be distributed amongst several schools because class size legislation effectively prohibits this;
- the schools in the Catholic sector were considered to have sufficient places between them and the LA cannot impose a change in admission numbers on voluntary aided schools;
- the LA considered expanding one school by more than 15 places and reducing another school's places but the amount of capital funding required ruled this option out;

- the LA does not want to expand schools beyond two forms of entry, as a general rule, and this means that one school is excluded from consideration;
- the additional places were required in the centre of Tyldesley as this is where most of the children live; and
- parental preferences are a crucial factor in determining which school to expand and Tyldesley Primary is an extremely popular school that is likely to fill up.

After long deliberations the optimal solution that emerged was to expand Tyldesley Primary on a temporary basis to one and a half forms of entry. In order to accommodate the additional pupils it is proposed to place temporary accommodation on site. Mobile class bases are now much improved from past models and they offer good teaching accommodation. The LA can arrange for governors to visit mobiles at other schools so that they can see them in operation. No detailed work has been undertaken on where the mobile should be located. The LA will send copies of the double mobile unit to the school so that staff and governors could look at them. The mobile would draw directly from services in the main building and the LA could look at extending the playground as part of the project.

At this stage, it was not known for sure whether there needed to be a permanent increase in places. If a permanent extension is needed in the longer term the LA would need to replace the mobiles with permanent accommodation. This would include remodelling to increase the pressure on the supplementary areas such as the hall and playground. There is now more capital funding available to LAs that could fund the development.

The LA did consider whether to propose a permanent extension at this stage but if pupil numbers do not materialise longer term the increased admission number would have implications for other schools. The plan is to reduce the number and eventually remove the accommodation if the places are not needed after two years. It is acknowledged that expectations will have been raised in the area by the temporary increase.

The meeting was opened for questions:

**Q Has planning permission been applied for? Residents back on to the school.**

A No. It is acknowledged that residents may have concerns but the LA is trying to put the additional places where people live so it should not generate much more traffic.

**Q Because the extra accommodation is for two years only would this put pressure on the school to make it permanent?**

A If the birth rate drops, the LA will not put pressure on the school as it will impact on the intakes of other schools. It is acknowledged that parental expectations may be created and this may cause difficulty with appeal panels. The LA would have to robustly defend the appeals. It is more likely that the school will pressure the LA to keep the admission number high rather than the other way around. The LA will have a clearer picture of future need within two years.

**S The Government expects LAs to expand popular schools.**

A The LA needs to take account of parental preferences but it also needs to balance provision in the whole area.

**Q Will the mobiles remain in good repair for 8 years?**

A They are robust buildings and an 8 year life span is easily achievable. The quality of mobiles has been much improved over recent years.

**Q The classroom sizes in the mobile are much smaller than they are in this school.**

A The external dimensions of the mobile are fixed but the internal configuration can be altered.

**S The school needs to decide how it is going to organise its classes and organise the pupils within the available accommodation.**

**Q Where do you envisage placing the mobile?**

A Near to the foundation and reception classes. If the mobile is linked in to the main school it will take internal space up in the mobile. It may be preferable to have a covered walkway.

**Q Are the mobiles secure? Are they flat roofed?**

A They are secure and flat roofed. The roofs are much better than previous ones.

**S The school has had problems with youths so it will need security fencing.**

**Q Where would the play area be?**

A The school and LA can get into detail later. It could present an opportunity to address some long standing issues for the school.

**Q When the bulge years go through the school the accommodation may not be flexible enough. Will the LA fund any necessary additional resources or will the school have to do it?**

A The school will need to decide how to split the classes first and where they will be located before decisions like this can be taken. An option is to use the mobiles for the older children.

**S Security is an issue for the younger children moving to and from the main building.**

A A capital project officer from the LA will work with the school on the details. The LA will research other schools to see if they have had the same issue to deal with.

**Q If the admission number needs to be increased for a third year will the school have to have another temporary mobile unit?**

A It will depend on timing. In two year's time the LA will have a better idea whether births will be sustained.

**Q Can't the school have a permanent building now instead? It would only cost another £1,000.**

A The LA will agree to investigate this but it is likely that too many extra places would be built into the system once the admission number has decreased. Two permanent classrooms may also compromise the design of a full one and a half form entry school if this is needed in the longer term.

The meeting ended at 6.30 pm.

## Appendix 3

### Analysis of consultation responses to the proposal to temporarily extend Tyldesley Primary School

A total of 68 responses were received to the consultation exercise. The responses have been analysed according to category of respondent. The majority of additional comments were supplied by those objecting to the proposal.

#### 1. Parents

A total of 49 responses were received from parents of children at Tyldesley Primary. 46 respondents completed the questionnaire response form and the results were as follows:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the booklet clearly explain why the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary School?	40	5	1
Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?	46	0	0
Do you think that Tyldesley Primary School should be extended?	16	26	4

A wide range of comments were received. All are reported below, together with the number of respondents that made the same or a similar comment. The comments have been placed in categories of concern, in so far as this is possible, though many apply to more than one category.

Comment	No. of similar comments
<b>Teaching/Learning and Standards</b>	
Standards will be adversely affected	15
There will be larger class sizes	8
Will more facilities/teachers/money be made available?	6
The expansion will spoil a successful school	6
There will be mixed age year groups	5
There will be unmanageable pupil/staff ratios	3
There will be an extra strain on resources and staff	3
There are no details about how the extra children will be taught or accommodated	2
Will there be more children in the Early Years' Unit – it is already very busy?	2
Will compromise the success of the Early Years space	1

<b><u>Buildings</u></b>	
Infrastructure of the school is not large enough – playgrounds / hall / library will be too small	18
Temporary buildings create feelings of isolation / inclusive environment ruined / some children may be taught in them for several years	8
Temporary buildings will look unsightly / shabby and / or may remain on the site permanently	5
Don't want my child taught in a mobile classroom	3
The school will be overcrowded	3
Mobile classrooms are a magnet for vandals	2
Mobile classrooms are unsuitable to conducive learning environment	2
Children will have to walk between buildings in bad weather	2
Disproportionately high running costs for a temporary classroom	1
Mobile classrooms will affect use of school playing field	1
Community room would end up being used as a classroom and community would lose out	1
<b><u>Ethos of school</u></b>	
Detrimental effect on ethos and running of school	5
Chose the school because it is a smaller school and now taking this away	5
Loss of effective parent / staff / child relationships	5
Loss of 'family' feeling / close-knit community lost	4
Will not be an inclusive environment, will deter parents with children with disabilities	1
School's good reputation will be lost	1
<b><u>Health and Safety</u></b>	
Standards of health, safety and welfare are threatened	10
Traffic problems will increase (need better traffic management on estate)	8
Parking difficulties / concerns for safety of children / environmental impacts	9
<b><u>Other schools in area</u></b>	
Garrett Hall has a much larger site than Tyldesley Primary	6
Garrett Hall is better located / previously has taken larger numbers	4
Other schools already have facilities in place to cope with extra children	2
Share the extra children out amongst all the schools in the area	2
St Stephens has larger grounds and is not in the middle of a housing estate	1
All schools are centrally located so could just as easily accommodate the pupils	1
Will put other schools at risk in the future	1

Shakerley Primary has only recently closed	1
Council should not have reduced places at other schools in the area when it knew that births were rising	1
Higher pupil numbers have been accommodated in the area in the past, why not now?	1
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
School is successful and should not be changed / a victim of its own success	5
If proposals go ahead will consider removing / will remove my children from school / will not apply for my younger child to start school	3
Population, location and school site appear to be more important than quality of education	2
There is a conflict of interest for the Governor who is also Cabinet Member	2
Headteacher is against it and she is the best person to judge	1
Where do the children born in the two large year groups live?	1

## 2. Governors

The Governing Body of Tyldesley Primary has registered a strong objection to the proposal and the letter is copied in full at Appendix 4. Four forms from governors of other schools were received: two from St George's Central CE; one from Boothstown Holy Family Catholic; and one not stated.

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the booklet clearly explain why the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary School?	4	0	0
Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?	4	0	0
Do you think that Tyldesley Primary School should be extended?	3	1	0

The one response against the proposal is from Boothstown Holy Family. Comments received were as follows:

Comment	No. of similar comments
Increasing the admission number at Tyldesley Primary will have a knock on effect at Boothstown Holy Family	1
Numbers are difficult to predict because of the transience of the population	1

Holy Family admitted 19 pupils into Reception in 2007 and has an admission number of 30	1
More beneficial to make Tyldesley Primary 2 fe and reduce St George's Central to 1 fe. 1½ fe schools do not work	1

### 3. Staff

Four members of staff at Tyldesley Primary responded to the consultation document. One is also a member of the local community; one is a governor and one is a prospective parent. The responses were as follows:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the booklet clearly explain why the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary School?	4	0	0
Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?	4	0	0
Do you think that Tyldesley Primary School should be extended?	1	3	0

The following comments were received:

Comment	No. of similar comments
How would the increased numbers be accommodated in the rest of the school / it will cause upheaval as the increased numbers move through school	2
The school's family ethos would be ruined, the children in the mobile would not feel part of the 'whole'	2
The school is already oversubscribed and if it were extended it would provide places for children in the surrounding areas rather than forcing them to travel	1
Will there be space for play areas?	1
How will the mobile unit be staffed?	1
The temporary mobile would be furnished for a particular group of children meaning that it would need to be used for the same age group all the time or new furniture would need to be bought	1
Mixed age teaching has negative implications for tailored learning, standards and self esteem of children	1
Major parking and congestion issues along Ennerdale Road at peak times	1

#### 4. Residents

Four forms and three email responses were received from residents. It is not clear whether the emails were from the same individuals that returned the forms. The responses on the forms were as follows:

Question	Yes	No	Don't know
Does the booklet clearly explain why the LA is proposing to extend Tyldesley Primary School?	2	1	1
Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?	2	2	0
Do you think that Tyldesley Primary School should be extended?	0	3	1

The comments received on the forms and the emails were as follows:

Comment	No. of similar comments
Residents should have been told about the proposals – they were not given the consultation document	4
Inconsiderate parking including blocking entrances to driveways	4
There will be an increase in traffic	3
Where will the temporary classrooms be sited? Need to be away from homes	3
House prices have already been adversely affected by the school / houses difficult to sell	3
Concerned about safety of children – they are taken out of cars on roadside	2
The lack of car parking spaces needs to be rectified	2
Traffic calming devices don't work	1
School is large enough	1
Is Council planning to reduce rates in area?	1
NIMBY	1
Should be a school bus or walk to school scheme	1
Understand need to provide additional places but ensure that quality of lives of residents is not made worse	1

#### 5. Response from Tyldesley Primary pupils

This is copied in full at Appendix 5.

## **6. Response from Dioceses**

The Manchester CE Diocese does not oppose the proposal. The Liverpool Archdiocese is concerned that the proposal may adversely affect pupil numbers at Boothstown Holy Family Catholic Primary School.

Tyldesley Primary School  
Ennerdale Road  
Astley  
Tyldesley  
Manchester  
M29 7PY



**Appendix 4**  
*Tel: 01942 882870 / 886632*  
*Fax: 01942 886634*

*E-mail: [enquiries@admin.tyldesley.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.tyldesley.wigan.sch.uk)*  
*Website: [www.tyldesley.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.tyldesley.wigan.sch.uk)*

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Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007

Dear Mr Jarman,

**Consultation on Proposal to Temporarily Extend Tyldesley Primary School**

The governing Body of the school has given detailed consideration to the above proposal which would mean a 50% increase in its admission number for 2009 and 2010. The considerable reservations of parents, staff and governors are such that we would wish to register our strong objection to the proposal.

Whilst it is appreciated that the council has a duty to ensure that there are sufficient places for the children of each area of the borough, we would request that the data and case for the proposal be re-examined. Not only should the basis of need be in no doubt but the level of detail in any reassessment should be such that there is a degree of certainty of exactly where the need is.

The principal reasons for this objection relate to the many building issues some of which result from the fact that the building was purpose designed for 210 pupils, with class sizes of 30, unlike the majority of other schools in the area. The layout comprises of a Foundation and Key Stage 1 wing to one side of the central core incorporating the Hall with the Key Stage 2 wing on the opposite side. The school was built to a very tight budget and as in its early years it had to accommodate classes of up to 39 there are no resource areas and the central facilities of the hall/ dining hall / gym are fitted out with storage based on the 210 pupils it was ultimately designed for. By contrast the majority of other schools in the area were designed in the era of larger class sizes and therefore have central/ core areas that were designed for larger numbers than they currently are required to admit.

The practical difficulties presented to the school by the proposal would be considerable and in fact are probably greater as a result of its temporary nature. The suggestion that a temporary two classroom mobile be sited adjacent to the Nursery end of the building may offer a reasonable answer to the problem in the first two or three years but would be wholly inadequate in future years. Clearly a building with sanitary facilities and resourced for the foundation stage would not be totally suitable for Key Stage 1 pupils and would be totally unsuitable for Key Stage 2 pupils. Similarly the fitting out and furnishings would not be sustainable over the eight years envisaged. The location itself whilst suitable for the Foundation Stage would again not be appropriate for its Key Stage 1 and 2 usage. The

main building could only be accessed by a significant external walk along one side of the building or by walking through the Foundation stage classroom, a totally unsatisfactory situation.

These practical issues would undoubtedly impinge on the effectiveness of teaching. This would be yet another additional challenge along with that of introducing mixed age teaching for the staff of the school to add to those they currently face; more challenging behaviour, more challenging targets and more challenging initiatives.

It should also be noted that the school is already oversubscribed in several year groups. These additional admissions usually related to the special educational needs of the children admitted on appeal, and have resulted in an abnormally high proportion of children with statements or other special needs criteria. Whilst we are more than confident that the staff would rise to such a challenge, we would question whether the proposal is not a burden too many for staff and against the interests of existing pupils.

The above concentrates very much on the building issues and we would hope we have demonstrated that the limited nature of the building work proposed will not produce a satisfactory outcome. There would clearly have to be considerably more capital investment than currently envisaged. In a similar vein there would be significant implications for the schools delegated budget. The changes envisaged would have disproportionate financial implications and would require special and specific additional funding if the pupils currently at the school were not to be disadvantaged compared to their peers.

The parents of the school have expressed their own considerable concerns regarding the affect of the proposal on the ethos and intimate atmosphere created within the current school environment both at the consultation meeting and subsequently. Not only that, but there are concerns that the proposal would be extended into other years and cause further instability to the education of their children. Any reassurance you could offer in this respect would be appreciated.

Yours faithfully

Mr P. Edge  
Acting Headteacher  
On behalf of the Governing Body

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**Appendix 5**  
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## School Council Response to the Temporary Extension Proposal Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2007

### Against the proposal:

- ⊙ School would be overcrowded.
- ⊙ Need more teachers, more space.
- ⊙ How would Reception children get into the Early Years playground?
- ⊙ More equipment needed otherwise children may fall-out over it.
- ⊙ Cooks would need to work harder to make more dinners - need more lunchtime equipment.
- ⊙ The playground isn't big enough.
- ⊙ Need more equipment for classes and dinner hall (nowhere to put this).
- ⊙ Need protection from weather when moving from classroom to school.

### For the proposal:

- ⊙ The children would have more friends to play with.
- ⊙ Small classes would be good because they would be easier to teach.
- ⊙ Bigger classrooms.
- ⊙ More people would be taught well.