

Report to: Children and Young People's Panel Cabinet

Date: 8 November 2007 15 November 2007

Subject: Projected Demand for Primary School Places in Wigan South and Atherton

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

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Purpose / summary: To inform members about the results of consultation on proposals to provide temporary additional primary school places in Wigan South and Atherton.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: These were discussed in a report to Panel and Cabinet dated 24 May and 31 May 2007 respectively.

Recommendation / decision: Cabinet is requested to approve a one year increase in admission number and additional accommodation for:

Marus Bridge Primary from 45 to 60 in 2008/09, in the event that the anticipated demand for places in the area materialises; and

Parklee Primary from 30 to 45 in 2009/10.

Key Decision: The 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 27 November 2007.

This item is included in the Forward Plan

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	To be contained within the existing capital programme
Staffing:	Subject to individual governing body decisions
Policy:	Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No
Wards affected:	Winstanley, Worsley Mesnes, Douglas, Pemberton and Atherton

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

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? **Yes**

Has the Director of Finance and IT confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **Yes**

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? **No**

* delete which applicable

For Cabinet reports only :

Categorisation of the report:			
Discussion leading to a decision		Discussion	
Monitoring		Decision	X
Sharing for corporate understanding		Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
8 November 2007		15 November 2007	

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

Proper Officer

DA Broulee

Date

24th October 2007

1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 24 May and 31 May 2007, Panel and Cabinet respectively considered a report on the need for additional primary school places in certain areas of the Borough.
- 1.2 The report indicated that extra places may be needed in the Wigan South area for one year in 2008/09, and that additional places would be needed for one year in 2009/10 in Atherton. The additional places for Wigan South are dependent on anticipated yield from new housing and it was proposed that the places would only be provided if children could not be made a sensible school place offer.
- 1.3 Neither of the proposals requires statutory notices or full public consultation as the additional places are for one year only.

2. **Consultation**

- 2.1 As both of the proposals are for one year temporary increases there is no requirement to publish statutory notices. The consultation has been conducted to gather views on the proposals prior to Cabinet taking its final decision.

- 2.1 The governing body of Marus Bridge Primary has been consulted on the proposal to:

- increase the admission number from 45 to 60 for 2008/09; and
- provide a demountable double classroom block and associated hard play space.

The additional premises would provide the school with the extra class base required for the large intake year and would address the school's current accommodation difficulties by altering some room usages.

- 2.2 The governing body of Parklee Primary has been consulted on the proposal to:

- increase the accommodation from 30 to 45 for 2009/10; and
- provide a permanent additional classroom and undertake internal remodelling to the building in order to relieve the school's current overcrowded conditions.

In addition to providing an extra class base for the large intake year, the building work would significantly improve the suitability of the accommodation and bring the premises up to the recommended guidelines for a one form entry primary school.

- 2.3 Both governing bodies gave a positive response to the proposals.

- 2.4 All the neighbouring schools to Marus Bridge and Parklee Primary have been consulted. No concerns have been raised by any of the surrounding schools to Parklee Primary.

- 2.5 The governing body of St Jude's Catholic Primary School is concerned at the impact that a decision to increase Marus Bridge Primary School's admission number would have on the intake to St Jude's.
- 2.6 As the admission number of Marus Bridge will not be increased unless all places are taken in the area, including places at St Jude's, the proposal will not have an adverse affect on pupil numbers at the school.

3. Proposals

3.1 Wigan South

- 3.1.1 Applications for Reception places for September 2008 in Wigan South and neighbouring area will be carefully monitored.
- 3.1.2 If all applicants cannot be offered a school place within reasonable travelling distance from home it is proposed that:
- the LA apply to the Schools Adjudicator for an in-year variation to increase the admission number of Marus Bridge Primary from 45 to 60 for one year only; and
 - the temporary accommodation be installed at the school.
- 3.1.3 If the anticipated demand does not materialise and all applicants can be offered a school place within reasonable travelling distance, it is proposed that no action be taken.

3.2 Atherton

- 3.2.1 It is proposed that:
- the LA consult on an admission number of 45 for Parklee Primary for 2009/10; and
 - the extension and alterations to the building be completed by September 2009.

3.3 Availability of Capital

- 3.3.1 As outlined in the previous report, both projects will be funded from the formulaic capital that is provided on an annual basis to LAs for capital works at schools. There is a report on the same agenda that provides details of formulaic allocations for Wigan for future years.
- 3.3.2 It is proposed that Cabinet:
- approve the necessary budget release to fund the works and authorise the obtaining of tenders; and
 - delegates to the Director of Children and Young People's Services authority to accept the most suitable tender.

4. **Conclusions**

- 4.1 The authority must meet its statutory obligation to provide sufficient school places for local residents. Both projects provide additional places at schools to suit local needs, represent a cost effective use of resources, and have not met with any opposition from consultees.

