



Report to: Cabinet

Date: 2 April 2009

Subject: Proposal to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh and to establish a new primary school with nursery

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

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Purpose / summary: The purpose of this report is to:

- give details of responses received during the statutory representation period for the proposals; and
- request Cabinet to make the final decision on the proposals

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: These are provided within the report

Recommendation / decision: Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposals to:

- close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Leigh
- close St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh; and
- establish a new through age Church of England Primary School with nursery on the existing school sites.

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 31 March 2009

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	There is no capital cost associated with establishing the new school on the existing sites.
Staffing: Policy:	Subject to governing body decision Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	No
Wards affected:	Leigh West

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. The proposed amalgamation will potentially result in the creation of surplus Council land at the infant school site and a requirement to transfer additional land to the Diocese, at the junior school site, for school building purposes. An exit strategy needs to be agreed for any surplus land and the remodelling proposals at Leigh Street should have regard to any highway improvement reservations. It is recommended that a title investigation of the Leigh Road land is undertaken as a priority and that any unregistered land is given high priority in the programme for voluntary registration to better prepare the way for any future land transfers.

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 Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the

Yes

recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services 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**

For Cabinet reports only :

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

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		02/04/2009	

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

Title of document	Which meeting did it go to?	Date of meeting	Copy available from?
Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings		2008/2009	CYPS Progress House Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH

Proper Officer



Date

March 2009

1 Background

- 1.1 In March 2007 Panel and Cabinet considered a report requesting that the Director of Children and Young People's Services, in liaison with Manchester C E Diocese, commence informal consultation on options to merge St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh and form a primary school on the current sites. Cabinet authorised the informal consultation.
- 1.2 In May 2008 Cabinet also agreed the Primary Strategy for Change which includes the aim to combine infant and junior schools over the lifetime of the programme as part of Wigan's long-term strategic vision.
- 1.3 In April 2008 the governing bodies of the two schools and Manchester C E Diocese consulted the local authority and other statutory consultees at stage 1 of the proposals to close the two existing schools and establish a new primary school. Elected Members responded positively to the proposals.
- 1.4 Following stage 1 consultation, the governing bodies and Manchester C E Diocese published statutory notices on the proposals. The Diocese had already obtained permission from the Secretary of State to establish a new school without holding a competition because of the nature of the proposals.

2 Publication of notices and the representation period

- 2.1 On 8 January 2009 the governing bodies of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School and Manchester C E Diocese published linked statutory notices to close the existing two schools and nursery and to establish a new primary school with nursery. A copy of the linked notices is attached at Appendix A and copies of the complete proposals with their appendices are attached at Appendix B.
- 2.2 The statutory representation period is six weeks. The local authority received one letter making comments on the proposal by the closing date of 19 February 2009. This is attached at Appendix C.
- 2.3 The comment received expresses concern that the new school will be large, especially for younger children. Should the proposal be approved, the governing body and management of the new school, working with Manchester C E Diocese will be responsible for maintaining the ethos of the school for the benefit of all pupils.

3 Consideration of the proposals

- 3.1 The following information must be considered before a decision is taken:
 - 3.1.1 Has all the necessary information been provided?

Copies of the following have been provided:

- the public notice and full proposals;

- details of the Stage 1 consultation which are contained within the full proposals and their appendices; and
- a copy of the comment received.

3.1.2 Does the published notice comply with statutory requirements?

The governing bodies and Manchester C E Diocese consulted the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and Wigan Council Business Support Services – Legal and Democratic Division prior to publication to ensure that the notice complied with statutory requirements.

3.1.3 Has statutory consultation been carried out prior to the publication of the notice?

The full proposals attached at Appendix B cover the stage 1 consultation in detail.

3.1.4 Are the proposals linked to other proposals?

The proposals to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, close St Peter's C E Junior School and to establish a primary school with nursery are linked as shown in the published notice.

3.2 Further considerations

3.2.1 Cabinet should also consider a range of other issues including whether the proposals will contribute to raising standards: the impact on community and travel; and whether capital funding is available to implement the proposal.

3.2.2 The governing bodies and Diocese believe that the proposed change will contribute to raising standards as it will:

- ensure a consistent approach to teaching and learning;
- improve the tracking of how well children make progress from year to year;
- improve the planning of the curriculum across all classes; and
- reduce the number of times that children have to change school minimising disruption to their education.

3.2.3 There will be no effect on travel as the school will operate on the existing school sites. The proposals ensure that there will still be a primary school serving the community.

3.2.3 No capital funding is necessary to close the schools, establish a new primary school on the existing sites and fulfil the requirements of the notice. Capital for the single-siting of the new school is identified as part of year 2 of the Primary Capital Programme Strategy for Change.

4 Decision

- 4.1 Cabinet may approve the proposals; reject them; approve them subject to modification; or approve them subject to meeting a specific condition.
- 4.2 Cabinet must also provide the main reason for its decision.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the proposals.

Proposal to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh and to establish a New Voluntary Aided Primary School with Nursery.

Part 1

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB intends to discontinue St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit on 31 August 2010.

Pupils attending the school at the time of closure are guaranteed a place at the proposed new Church of England primary school with nursery for pupils aged 3-11 to be established on 1 September 2010 by Manchester Diocesan Board of Education. Further details and details of travel arrangements are given in Part 3

Part 2

Notice is given in accordance with section 15(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that the Governing Body of Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP intends to discontinue St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP on 31 August 2010.

Pupils attending the school at the time of closure are guaranteed a place at the proposed new Church of England primary school with nursery for pupils aged 3-11 to be established on 1 September 2010 by Manchester Diocesan Board of Education. Further details and details of travel arrangements are given in Part 3

Part 3

Notice is given that Manchester Diocesan Board of Education, Diocesan Office, Church House, Deansgate, Manchester, M3 2GH intends to establish a New Voluntary Aided School under section 10(2) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. The Secretary of State's consent has been obtained in order to publish this proposal.

It is proposed that the school will open on 1 September 2010.

The proposed school would be situated on the current Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School site at Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP. The new school would operate on split sites initially (the current St Peter's C E Junior School site and the site of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB) until the necessary building work at the junior school site is completed. The school will serve the area and communities already served by St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School.

The proposed ethos of the school will be Church of England. The educational philosophy is taken from the Statutory Duties of Diocesan Boards of Education (Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991): 'To promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese, being education which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'.

The proposed school will have a Church of England religious character and it is confirmed that the proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

The new school will cater for pupils between the ages of 3 and 11 and provide places for 420 boys and girls. In addition, 30 full time equivalent places will be provided for nursery pupils.

The admission number for the school on the opening date will be 60 in each year group.

Up to 60 children will be admitted to the nursery on a part-time basis.

Admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for the new school are likely to be the same as at present for the existing schools. The governing body of the new school will comply with the local authority co-ordinated admissions scheme. In the event that there are more applicants than places it is likely that the governing body will allocate places using the following criteria: 1. Looked after children 2. Children whose medical or social circumstances mean that their needs can only be met at this school 3. Children who will have an older brother or sister attending the school at the time of their admission. 4. Up to 12 places will be allocated to any children based on geographical proximity to the school. 5. Baptised children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are in regular attendance at any of the churches within the parish of the local Anglican Team Ministry. 6. Baptised or dedicated children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are in regular attendance at a church within the parish which is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, or a local Churches Together organisation. 7. Any other children.

The school will provide access to the core offer of extended services.

The proposed travel arrangements for the new school will be the same as for the existing schools of St Peter's C E Infant and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior as it will serve the same community and be based on the current junior school site. Pupils would continue to walk to school or travel by public transport or car.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposal have been complied with.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from: Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Places Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH and at www.wigan.gov.uk

Within six weeks from the date of publication of this proposal, that is by 19 February 2009, any person may object to or make comments on the proposal by sending them to Wigan Council, Children and Young People's Services, School Places Team, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan, WN3 4HH or by email to schoolprovision@wigan.gov.uk.

Signed: E Marshall (Chair of Governors)

Signed: Janet Cowley (Deputy Diocesan Director of Education)

Publication Date: 8 January 2009

Explanatory Notes

1. The proposed new primary school will have the same number of places as the nursery, infant and junior schools combined so all children attending the current infant and junior schools could be admitted.
2. The admission number for the new school is the same as the current admission number at the infant and junior schools so the same numbers of children will be admitted to the school in future.
3. It is envisaged that building work to increase the accommodation at the junior school site will be complete for September 2012. The school will then operate on a single site.

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

This proposal is linked to, and shares appendices with, the proposals to discontinue St Peter's C E Junior School and to open a new through age Church of England primary school with nursery.

Contact details

1. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

The Governing Body
St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit
Firs Lane
Leigh
WN7 4SB

Implementation

2. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is planned that the proposals will be implemented on 31 August 2010

Consultation

3. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows;

- adequate time was allowed: 8 weeks (6 weeks of which were outside school holidays);
- sufficient information was provided: in the consultation document, at a drop-in session for parents and the community and at meetings with staff and governors of the school;
- it was made clear in the document, on the local authority website and at the drop-in sessions and meetings how consultees could express

their views: in writing or by making comments at the meetings;

- all the views expressed were presented to the Governing Body when they made the decision to publish the proposals; and
- all parties specified in school organisation guidance were consulted.

4. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

(a) The following were consulted before the proposals were published in the Statutory Notice:

- The local authority – Wigan Council
- Staff and governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and at St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008
- Staff and Governing bodies of other schools in the area (Leigh Central Primary, Leigh C E Infants, St John's C E Infants Leigh, Leigh C E Juniors, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, Gilded Hollins Community School, Christ Church C E Primary, Leigh Westleigh Methodist Primary, Westleigh St Paul's C E Primary, Twelve Apostles Catholic Primary)
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area
- Elected Members
- MP for the area
- Trade Unions and other professional organisations
- Local Diocesan authorities.

(b) The minutes of all public consultation meetings are attached:
Meetings with parents and members of the community: appendix 1
Meeting with staff: appendix 2
Meeting with governors: appendix 3

(c) The views of all those consulted are summarised at appendix 4

(d) The consultation document is attached at appendix 5. This was made

available to all those named in 4 (a) above as follows:

- The local authority: copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system. Officers produced a report for Children and Young People's Panel and Cabinet informing them of the consultation and seeking the local authority's view.
- Staff of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh: sufficient copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked to distribute them to all staff
- Governors of St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh: copies were posted to governors' home addresses
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School: a copy was sent to each family by 'pupil post'.
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008: copies were posted to parents' home addresses.
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area: a number of copies were sent to nurseries in the area (voluntary and private providers) managers asked to place the them were they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Staff and governing bodies of other schools in the area: a number of copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked give one to the Chair of governors and to place the remainder were they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Copies of the document were posted to all other consultees.

In total, 1050 documents were distributed. The document was also available At Leigh and Wigan town halls, Leigh Library and on the Wigan Council website.

Objectives

5. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School to allow a new through age voluntary aided Church of England Primary School to be established.

Standards and Diversity

6. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

It is envisaged that standards will be improved by the proposal because separate infant and junior schools will be replaced by one through age school

which will:

- ensure a consistent approach to teaching and learning;
- improve the tracking of how well children make progress from year to year;
- improve the planning of the curriculum across all classes;
- ensure consistency of management; and
- reduce the number of times children have to change school and hence disruption to their education.

There will be no impact on the diversity of provision in the area because the school will be replaced by another voluntary aided Church of England school. However, parents of the infant school pupils would no longer need to apply for places at the junior school for Year 3 as they currently do.

The quality of education in the area will be enhanced by the capital investment which will be used to bring the extended and remodelled junior school building up to standard to support teaching and learning for the 21st century.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

7. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

8. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

All pupils attending the school at the proposed date of closure will be guaranteed a place at the proposed new through age primary school. The new school will have the same capacity as the current infant and junior schools combined.

Local authority roll projections, based on births and trends, indicate that the same number of places will be required in the area for the foreseeable future.

Projected Reception intakes (based on births and trends of parental preference) are:

2009/10 59

2010/11	60
2011/12	46
2012/13	60

9. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

The balance of denominational provision in the area and parental choice will not be affected by the proposal as the new voluntary aided Church of England Primary School, which would be established on the closure of St Peter's C E Infants and St Peter's C E Junior School, would be of the same denomination and have the same number of places.

Current School Information

10. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Number of pupils

The school provides 180 places and 30 full time equivalent nursery places. Current pupil numbers are:

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
45	60	47	54

Age range of pupils

The age range of the pupils is 3-7

Sex of pupils

The school caters for boys and girls

Special Educational Needs

The school does not have any specially resourced provision for special educational needs. There are no children with a statement of special educational needs which names St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit at present.

Boarding provision

There is no boarding provision at the school.

Displaced Pupils

11. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

All pupils attending the school at the proposed date of closure will be guaranteed a place at the proposed new through age primary school when it opens on 1 September 2010. The new school will have the same capacity as the current infant and junior schools and nursery combined.

12. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Not applicable

Impact on the Community

13. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The new school and nursery will serve the same community as St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit so there will be no adverse impact on the community.

Responses to the consultation from parents show that the community is positive about the proposal.

14. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Extended Services already provided such as out of school, breakfast and after school clubs should not be affected. They will continue as before utilising the same buildings until the new build is complete.

Both the infant and junior schools are part of the Westleigh extended schools cluster so there should be no loss of provision.

Travel

15. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

The new school will operate on a split site initially and the pupils will continue to attend school at the current infant school site.

The new school is expected to be operating on a single site (the current junior school site) from September 2012. The walking distance between the two sites is 0.2 miles

16. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Pupils would continue to walk to school or travel by public transport or car if necessary.

Many families currently have children attending both the infant and junior schools and must travel between them. When the new school is single-sited traffic between the two sites will decrease.

Related Proposals.

17. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to the following proposals published on the same day:

- Proposal by the governing body to discontinue St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP with effect from 31 August 2010
- Proposal by Manchester Diocesan Board of Education to establish a new Church of England voluntary aided primary school (age 3-11) with effect from 1 September 2010

Rural Primary Schools

18. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;

- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

19. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority’s assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

20. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL

This proposal is linked to, and shares appendices with, the proposals to discontinue St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and to open a new through age primary school with nursery.

Contact details

21. The name of the local education authority or governing body publishing the proposals, and a contact address, and the name of the school it is proposed that should be discontinued.

The Governing Body
St Peter's C E Junior School
Leigh Street
Leigh
WN7 4TP

Implementation

22. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is planned that the proposals will be implemented on 31 August 2010

Consultation

23. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows;

- adequate time was allowed: 8 weeks (6 weeks of which were outside school holidays);
- sufficient information was provided: in the consultation document, at a drop-in session for parents and the community and at meetings with staff and governors of the school;
- it was made clear in the document, on the local authority website and at the drop-in sessions and meetings how consultees could express their views: in writing or by making comments at the meetings;
- all the views expressed were presented to the Governing Body when they made the decision to publish the proposals; and

- all parties specified in school organisation guidance were consulted.

24. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

(a) The following were consulted before the proposals were published in the Statutory Notice:

- The local authority – Wigan Council
- Staff and governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and at St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008
- Staff and Governing bodies of other schools in the area (Leigh Central Primary, Leigh C E Infants, St John's C E Infants Leigh, Leigh C E Juniors, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, Gilded Hollins Community School, Christ Church C E Primary, Leigh Westleigh Methodist Primary, Westleigh St Paul's C E Primary, Twelve Apostles Catholic Primary)
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area
- Elected Members
- MP for the area
- Trade Unions and other professional organisations
- Local Diocesan authorities.

(b) The minutes all public consultation meetings are attached:

Meetings with parents and members of the community: appendix 1

Meeting with staff: appendix 2

Meeting with governors: appendix 3

(c) The views of all those consulted are summarised at appendix 4

(d) The consultation document is attached at appendix 5. This was made available to all those named in 4 (a) above as follows:

- The local authority: copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system. Officers produced a report for

Children and Young People's Panel and Cabinet informing them of the consultation and seeking the local authority's view.

- Staff of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh: sufficient copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked to distribute them to all staff
- Governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit: copies were posted to governors' home addresses
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School: a copy was sent to each family by 'pupil post'.
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008: copies were posted to parents' home addresses.
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area: a number of copies were sent to nurseries in the area (voluntary and private providers) and managers asked to place them where they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Staff and governing bodies of other schools in the area: a number of copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked give one to the Chair of governors and to place the remainder were they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Copies of the document were posted to all other consultees.

In total, 1050 documents were distributed. The document was also available at Leigh and Wigan town halls, Leigh Library and on the Wigan Council website.

Objectives

25. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School to enable a new through age voluntary aided Church of England Primary School with nursery to be established.

Standards and Diversity

26. A statement and supporting evidence indicating how the proposals will impact on the standards, diversity and quality of education in the area.

It is envisaged that standards will be improved by the proposal because separate infant and junior schools will be replaced by one through age school

which will:

- ensure a consistent approach to teaching and learning;
- improve the tracking of how well children make progress from year to year;
- improve the planning of the curriculum across all classes;
- ensure consistency of management; and
- reduce the number of times children have to change school and hence disruption to their education.

There will be no impact on the diversity of provision in the area because the school will be replaced by another voluntary aided Church of England school. However, parents of the infant school pupils would no longer need to apply for places at the junior school for Year 3 as they currently do.

The quality of education in the area will be enhanced by the capital investment which will be used to bring the extended and remodelled junior school building up to standard to support teaching and learning for the 21st century.

Provision for 16 -19 year olds

27. Where the school proposed to be discontinued provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on—

- (a) the educational or training achievements;
- (b) participation in education or training; and
- (c) the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Need for places

28. A statement and supporting evidence about the need for places in the area including whether there is sufficient capacity to accommodate displaced pupils.

All pupils attending the school at the proposed date of closure will be guaranteed a place at the proposed new through age primary school. The new school will have the same capacity as the current infant and junior schools combined.

Local authority roll projections, based on births and trends, indicate that the same number of places will be required in the area in the foreseeable future.

Projected Reception intakes for St Peter's C E Infant School (based on births and trends of parental preference) are:

2009/10 59
2010/11 60
2011/12 46
2012/13 60

The majority of pupils attending St Peter's C E Infant School currently transfer to the junior school at Year 3.

29. Where the school has a religious character, a statement about the impact of the proposed closure on the balance of denominational provision in the area and the impact on parental choice.

The balance of denominational provision in the area and parental choice will not be affected by the proposal as the new voluntary aided Church of England Primary School which would be established on the closure of St Peter's C E Infants and St Peter's C E Junior School would be of the same denomination and have the same number of places.

Current School Information

30. Information as to the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision is made at the school.

Number of pupils

The school provides 240 places.

Current pupil numbers are:

Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
48	45	57	59

Age range of pupils

The age range of the pupils is 7-11

Sex of pupils

The school caters for boys and girls

Special Educational Needs

The school does not have any specially resourced provision for special educational needs. There are 5 children with a statement of special educational needs which names St Peter's C E Junior School and. The needs of these pupils could be met at any mainstream school.

Boarding provision

There is no boarding provision at the school.

Displaced Pupils

31. Details of the schools or further education colleges which pupils at the school for whom provision is to be discontinued will be offered places, including—

- (a) any interim arrangements;
- (b) where the school included provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs, the alternative provision to be made for pupils in the school's reserved provision; and
- (c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by local education authorities other than the authority which maintains the school.

All pupils attending the school at the proposed date of closure will be guaranteed a place at the proposed new through age primary school when it opens on 1 September 2010. The new school will have the same capacity as the current infant and junior schools and nursery combined.

32. Details of any other measures proposed to be taken to increase the number of school or further education college places available in consequence of the proposed discontinuance.

Not applicable

Impact on the Community

33. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact.

The new school and nursery will serve the same community as St Peter's C E Junior School so there will be no adverse impact on the community. Responses to the consultation from parents show that the community is positive about the proposal.

34. Details of extended services the school offered and what it is proposed for these services once the school has discontinued.

Extended Services already provided, such as out of school, breakfast and after school clubs, should not be affected. They will continue as before

utilising the same buildings until the new build is complete.

Both the infant and junior schools are part of the Westleigh extended schools cluster so there should be no loss of provision.

Travel

35. Details of length and journeys to alternative provision.

There will be no change as pupils will be attending a school on the same site

36. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools including how they will help to work against increased car use.

Pupils would continue to walk to school or travel by public transport or car if necessary.

Many families currently have children attending both the infant and junior schools and must travel between them. When the new school is single-sited, traffic between the two sites will decrease.

Related Proposals.

37. A statement as to whether in the opinion of the local education authority or governing body, the proposals are related to any other proposals which may have been, are, or are about to be published.

The proposals are related to the following proposals published on the same day:

- Proposal by the governing body to discontinue St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB with effect from 31 August 2010
- Proposal by Manchester Diocesan Board of Education to establish a new Church of England voluntary aided primary school (age 3-11) with effect from 1 September 2010

Rural Primary Schools

38. Where proposals relate to a rural primary school designated as such by an order made for the purposes of section 15 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the local education authority or the governing body (as the case may be) considered—

- (a) the likely effect of discontinuance of the school on the local community;
- (b) the availability, and likely cost to the local education authority, of transport to other schools;

- (c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the discontinuance of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- (d) any alternatives to the discontinuance of the school,

as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006.

Not applicable

Maintained nursery schools

39. Where proposals relate to the discontinuance of a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out—

- (a) the consideration that has been given to developing the school into a children’s centre and the grounds for not doing so;
- (b) the local education authority’s assessment of the quality and quantity of the alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be discontinued and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- (c) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable

Special educational provision

40. Where existing provision for pupils with special educational needs is being discontinued, a statement as to how the local education authority or the governing body believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

Not applicable

MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 10 AND SECTION 11 PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH A NEW SCHOOL: Mainstream schools

This proposal is linked to, and shares appendices with, the proposals to discontinue St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School.

Contact Details

41. The name of the proposer or proposers and a contact address.

Manchester Diocesan Board of Education
Diocesan Office
Church House
90 Deansgate
Manchester
M3 2GH

42. Whether the proposals are being submitted independently or jointly with another proposer or proposers.

The proposals are being submitted independently

Category

43. The type of school that it is proposed be established (a foundation school and, if so, whether it is to have a foundation, a voluntary school or a community school) and, if required by section 10 of the EIA 2006, a statement that the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained to publication of the proposals.

It is proposed to establish a voluntary aided school.
The Secretary of State has consented to the publication of the proposals as required by section 10 of the EIA 2006. See appendix 6.

Consultation

44. A statement to the effect that all applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals have been complied with.

All applicable statutory requirements to consult in relation to the proposals were complied with as follows;

- adequate time was allowed: 8 weeks (6 weeks of which were outside school holidays);
- sufficient information was provided: in the consultation document, at a

drop-in session for parents and the community and at meetings with staff and governors of the school;

- it was made clear in the document, on the local authority website and at the drop-in sessions and meetings how consultees could express their views: in writing or by making comments at the meetings;
- all the views expressed were presented to the Diocesan Board when they made the decision to publish the proposals; and
- all parties specified in school organisation guidance were consulted.

45. Evidence of the consultation before the proposals were published including—

- (a) a list of persons and/or parties who were consulted;
- (b) minutes of all public consultation meetings;
- (c) the views of the persons consulted; and
- (d) copies of all consultation documents and a statement of how these were made available.

(a) The following were consulted before the proposals were published in the statutory notice:

- The local authority – Wigan Council
- Staff and governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and at St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008
- Staff and governing bodies of other schools in the area (Leigh Central Primary, Leigh C E Infants, St John's C E Infants Leigh, Leigh C E Juniors, Sacred Heart Catholic Primary, Gilded Hollins Community School, Christ Church C E Primary, Leigh Westleigh Methodist Primary, Westleigh St Paul's C E Primary, Twelve Apostles Catholic Primary)
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area
- Elected members
- MP for the area
- Trade unions and other professional organisations
- Local Diocesan authorities.

(b) The minutes all public consultation meetings are attached:

Meetings with parents and members of the community: appendix 1

Meeting with staff: appendix 2

Meeting with governors: appendix 3

(c) The views of all those consulted are summarised at appendix 4

(d) The consultation document is attached at appendix 5. This was made available to all those named in 5 (a) above as follows:

- The local authority: copies were distributed to all elected members via the council's internal mail system. Officers produced a report for Children and Young People's Panel and Cabinet informing them of the consultation and seeking the local authority's view.
- Staff of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh: sufficient copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked to distribute them to all staff
- Governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E junior School: copies were posted to governors' home addresses
- Parents of pupils currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School: a copy was sent to each family by 'pupil post'.
- Parents of children offered a place in Reception of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit for September 2008: copies were posted to parents' home addresses.
- Other parents of pre-school children in the area: a number of copies were sent to nurseries in the area (voluntary and private providers) and managers asked to place them where they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Staff and governing bodies of other schools in the area: a number of copies were sent to the schools and the headteachers asked give one to the Chair of governors and to place the remainder were they would be accessible to parents and staff.
- Copies of the document were posted to all other consultees.

In total, 1050 documents were distributed. The document was also available at Leigh and Wigan town halls, Leigh Library and on the Wigan Council website.

Objectives

46. The objectives of the proposal.

The objectives of the proposal are to establish a new through age (3-11) voluntary aided Church of England primary school with nursery on the closure of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP

Extended Services

47. Information on the extended services which it is envisaged will be provided on the site of the school.

Extended services already provided at the current infant and junior schools, such as out of school, breakfast and after school clubs, should not be affected. They will continue as before utilising the same buildings until the new build is complete.

The new school will continue to be part of the Westleigh extended schools cluster so there should be no loss of provision.

Pupil numbers and admissions

48. Information on—

- (a) the number of pupil places the school should provide;
- (b) the upper and lower age limits of the school;
- (c) where it is intended that it should provide sixth form education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- (d) where it is intended that it should provide nursery education, the number of pupils for whom it is intended that such education should be provided;
- (e) where it is intended that the school should provide for boarding pupils, the number of pupils for whom it is intended such facilities should be provided;
- (f) the number of pupils to be admitted to the school in each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals will be implemented or, where it is intended that the proposals should be implemented in stages, the number of pupils to be admitted to the proposed school in each stage that the proposals will be implemented;
- (g) whether it is proposed that the school should admit pupils of both sexes or boys or girls only and, in the case of a single sex school where it is intended to provide sixth form education, whether both sexes or boys or girls only are to be admitted to the sixth form.

- (a) The school will provide 420 full time school places and 30 full time equivalent nursery places
- (b) The school will provide for pupils aged 3-11
- (c) Not applicable
- (d) The school will provide nursery education for 30 full time equivalent pupils
- (e) Not applicable
- (f) There will be 60 pupils admitted to each relevant age group in the first school year in which the proposals are implemented
- (g) The school will admit boys and girls

Ethos/Religious Character

49. A short statement suitable for publication setting out the proposed ethos of the school, including details of any educational philosophy, which it is proposed that the school will adhere to.

The proposed ethos of the school will be Church of England.

The educational philosophy is taken from the Statutory Duties of Diocesan Boards of Education (Diocesan Boards of Education Measure 1991): 'To promote or assist in the promotion of education in the diocese, being education which is consistent with the faith and practice of the Church of England'.

50. If the school is to have a religious character, confirmation of the religion or religious denomination in accordance with whose tenets religious education will, or may be required to be provided at the school; and a statement that the proposers intend to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with such a religious character.

The proposed school will have a Church of England religious character.

The proposer intends to ask the Secretary of State to designate the school as a school with a religious character.

Area or community that school serves

51. The area or particular community or communities which the new school is expected to serve.

The school will serve the area and communities already served by St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School.

Admission Arrangements

52. An indication of the proposed admission arrangements and over-subscription criteria for the new school including, where the school is proposed to be a foundation or voluntary school or Academy which is to have a religious character—

- (a) the extent to which priority for places is proposed to be given to children of the school's religion or religious denomination; and
- (b) the extent, if any, to which priority is to be given to children of other religions or religious denominations or to children having no religion or religious denomination.

The admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria for the new school are likely to be the same as at present for the existing schools. The governing body of the new school will comply with the local authority co-ordinated admissions scheme.

(a) and (b) In the event that there are more applicants than places it is likely that the governing body will allocate places using the following criteria:

1. Looked after children
2. Children whose medical or social circumstances mean that their needs can only be met at this school
3. Children who will have an older brother or sister attending the school at the time of their admission.
4. Up to 12 places will be allocated to any children based on geographical proximity to the school.
5. Baptised children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are in regular attendance at any of the churches within the parish of the local Anglican Team Ministry.
6. Baptised or dedicated children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are in regular attendance at a church within the parish which is a member of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, or a local Churches Together organisation.
7. Any other children.

Grammar schools

53. Where the school is to be established in substitution for one or more discontinued grammar schools, a statement to this effect and a statement that the school may be designated as a grammar school for the purpose of Chapter 2 of Part 3 of SSFA 1998.

Not applicable

Schools with a religious character or particular educational philosophy – parental demand

54. Where the school is—

- (a) proposed to have a religious character, evidence of the demand in the area for education in accordance with the tenets of the religion; or
- (b) proposed to adhere to a particular philosophy, evidence of the demand for education in accordance with the philosophy in question that is not already met in other maintained schools or Academies in the area.

a) The proposed new school will have a Church of England religious character. The school will replace the current St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School so will not create any additional Church of England provision in the area.

The demand for Church of England education in the area is evidenced by the pupil numbers at the infant and junior schools (at October 2008):

St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit (school admission number 60, nursery 60 part-time places)

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Pupil numbers	45 (part time)	60	49	51

St Peter's C E Junior School (admission number 60)

	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Pupil numbers	47	43	57	58

In addition, there are few surplus places at other Church of England primary schools in the area.

b) Not applicable

Sixth Form Education

55. Where it is proposed that the school will provide sixth form education, how the proposals will—

- (a) improve the educational or training achievements;
- (b) increase participation in education or training; and
- (c) expand the range of educational or training opportunities,

for 16-19 year olds in the area.

Not applicable

Early Years Provision

56. Where the proposals are to include provision for pupils aged between 2 and 5, the following information must be provided—

- (a) details of how the early years provision will be organised, including the number of full-time and part-time pupils, the number of places, the number and length of sessions in each week, and the services for disabled children that will be offered;
- (b) how the school will integrate the early years provision with childcare services, and how the proposals for the establishment of the school are consistent with the integration of early years provision with childcare;
- (c) evidence of parental demand for additional provision of early years provision;
- (d) assessment of capacity, quality and sustainability of provision in schools, and in settings outside of the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school; and
- (e) the reasons why schools and settings outside the maintained school sector who deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage within 3 miles of the school and

who have spare capacity, cannot make provision for any forecast increase in the numbers of such children.

(a) The early years provision will initially be organised in the same way as it is at present:

- There will be 30 full-time equivalent places.
- These places will provide for 60 part-time pupils.
- There will be 10 sessions per week: 5 morning sessions and 5 afternoon sessions.

Early years provision will be inclusive as it is at present.

(b) Taking account of the imminent increase in the free entitlement from 12.5 hours to 15 hours for eligible three and four year olds, the school is due to participate in a pilot project regarding flexible delivery of the free entitlement. This will offer parents more choice than is currently available and, where space permits, will allow them to buy additional early years provision to meet parental need. Parents will have the flexibility to take their free entitlement during the school day, including the lunch time period.

The current out of school hours provision partnership at the existing infant and junior schools will be reviewed and could be brought under one management and governance body, potentially the new school governing body. Parents will be consulted about the demand to extend this provision to cover school holiday periods.

(c) The proposal will maintain, not increase, the level of early years provision currently available at St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit (30 full time equivalent places).

Parental demand is evidenced by the fact that there are 45 children accessing the current nursery provision.

(d) There are currently twelve settings from the private or voluntary sector and one maintained nursery class that are delivering the Early Years Foundation Stage within a one mile radius of the school. Of these settings, all but two have vacancies (at October 2008).

The Ofsted inspection outcomes of the above settings vary: nine have a good inspection outcome and three have a satisfactory inspection outcome for their early education. One of the settings has not yet been inspected.

Within a three mile radius there are a further twenty-five settings that offer the free early years entitlement. Six of these are maintained nursery classes and the remainder are from the private or voluntary sector. Out of the private or voluntary sector provision, ten have a good inspection outcome for their early education and the remainder have not been inspected.

(e) See 16(c) above. The proposal will not increase the level of provision in the area but simply maintain the existing level of provision.

Other than transport issues for parents, there is no reason why the settings

with vacancies could not accommodate the children who would attend the new school nursery. However, local knowledge indicates that parents are unlikely to travel to access alternative provision.

Specialisms

57. Whether the school will have any specialisms on implementation and whether the promoter intends to apply to the Secretary of State for the school to be a specialist school from implementation.

Not applicable

Effects on Standards and Contributions to School Improvement

58. Information and supporting evidence on:

- (a) how the school will contribute to enhancing the diversity and quality of education in the area; and
- (b) how the school will help to raise the standard of education in the area and contribute to school improvement.

(a)

Diversity:

The school will be a voluntary aided Church of England primary school and will therefore maintain the diversity currently provided by St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School. It is a stated objective in the Draft Primary Strategy for Change that Wigan Council wishes to continue to offer the current diversity of provision and denominational balance of school places across the local authority.

In addition, one of the criteria of Manchester Diocesan Board of education is that there should be an appropriate school place for every parent who wants a Church of England education for their child. The provision of a new Church of England school to replace the existing infant and junior schools will ensure this in the area.

Quality of Education:

The quality of education currently provided at the two existing schools will be enhanced by the extended and remodelled school building which will be designed and built to support 21st century learning and teaching in accordance with the objectives of the Primary Strategy for Change.

(b) The new school would contribute to raising standards of education and contribute to school improvement in the area because a through age primary school rather than separate infant and junior schools will:

- ensure a consistent approach to teaching and learning;
- improve the tracking of how children make progress from year to year;

- improve the planning of the curriculum across all classes;
- ensure consistency of management; and
- reduce the number of times children have to change school and hence disruption to their education.

59. Information and supporting evidence on how the proposals will contribute to enabling children and young people to be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution to the community and society, and achieve economic well-being.

The current infant and junior schools work with Wigan Council Children and Young People's services and Manchester C of E Diocese and other services to deliver the five outcomes in accordance with Wigan's Children and Young People's Plan.

The new school will continue this work. The proposal has been identified as one of the capital projects in Year 2 of the Primary Strategy for Change, and therefore the new school will contribute to delivering the vision for Wigan primary schools outlined in the strategy. That is the school will:

- be effective, inclusive and offer extended services that meet the needs of the community;
- meet the needs of all learners by facilitating personalised learning and teaching;
- be self evaluating, self managing and self determining, whilst acting in the best interests of the wider community and Borough as a whole;
- provide pupils with enhanced life chances, including the adoption of healthy life styles;
- promote citizenship, life skills, self worth and self discipline;
- form part of a collaborative working partnership with other schools and partner agencies;
- become a centre for the provision of other services for young people and their families;
- reflect population diversity in the local area and provide equal opportunities for all;
- have a distinctive ethos that embraces the local community;
- effectively respond to changes in the curriculum and changes in society; and
- be educationally and financially viable.

In addition, the fact that children will attend the same school from age 4 to 11 will assist pupil tracking and hence safeguarding.

Community Cohesion

60. The following information relating to the proposals—

- (a) how the school will promote and contribute to community cohesion;

- (b) how the school will increase inclusion and equality of access for all social groups; and
- (c) how the school will collaborate with other schools, and in relation to secondary school proposals how the new school will collaborate with colleges and training providers.

- (a) It is the policy of the Manchester Diocesan Board of Education that Church schools should be distinctive (by having a Church of England foundation) but also inclusive in that their purpose is to serve their communities.
- (b) The admission criteria of the school (section 12) will ensure that the inclusion and equality of access to all social groups provided by the current infant and junior schools is continued. Priority for admission is given to looked after children and those with particular medical and social needs and up to twelve places will be allocated to children living locally before the criteria relating to Church attendance are applied. As in all maintained mainstream schools, any child with a Statement of Special Education Needs that names the school will be admitted without consideration of the admission criteria.
- (c) The new school will continue the collaboration that already exists between the existing infant and junior schools and other primary and secondary schools in the Westleigh area.

Single sex or co-educational school

- 61.** Where the school is to admit pupils of a single sex—
- (a) evidence of local demand for single sex education and how this will be met if the proposals are approved; and
 - (b) A statement giving details of the likely effect the alteration will have on the balance of provision of single sex education in the area.

Not applicable

Location

- 62.** A statement about—
- (a) the location of the site (including, where appropriate, the postal address or addresses if the school is to occupy a split site);
 - (b) whether the school will occupy a single or split site;
 - (c) the accessibility of the site (or if the school is to occupy a split site the accessibility of the accommodation);
 - (d) the current ownership and tenure (freehold or leasehold) of the site and the proposed use of any buildings already on the site;
 - (e) details of the tenure (freehold or leasehold) on which the site of the school will be held, and if the site is to be held on a lease, details of the proposed lease including details of any provisions which could obstruct the governing body or the head teacher in the exercise of any of their functions under any of the Education Acts or place indirect pressures upon funding bodies;

- (f) whether the site is currently used for the purposes of another school which will no longer be required for the purposes of that school. If so, provide details as to why the site will no longer be required for the purposes of that school; and
- (g) the estimated costs of providing the site and a statement about how the costs will be met.

(a) The school will initially operate on a split site – the sites of the current St Peter’s C E Infant School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB and St Peter’s C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP.

(b) The current junior school accommodation at Leigh Street will be extended and remodelled and the new school will operate on that single site from 1 September 2012

(c) As the school will operate on the same sites initially, access to the site will not change.

When the current junior school is re-modelled, the opportunity to improve access will be taken in accordance with the Draft Primary Strategy for Change which states ‘The aim will be for all buildings to be physically accessible for pupils and adults. Sites will, wherever possible, be designed to allow pupils, staff and visitors with mobility restrictions access to the school entrance. All new builds and major remodelling projects will ensure full DDA compliance and will be able to cater for children with a range of special needs’.

(d) St Peter’s C E Infant School and Nursery Unit site:

The site is registered in the name of the Diocesan Board of Education as to part freehold with title number GM685665 and as to part leasehold with title numbers GM900905 and GM699112. The buildings on the site will be used temporarily for the purposes of the school accommodation until the merged single site accommodation is available on the Junior School site.

St Peter’s C E Junior School site:

The site is registered in the name of the Diocesan Board of Education with the title number GM684935 and is freehold. The buildings on the site will be used for the purposes of school accommodation.

Playing Fields

Wigan Council owns the majority of the playing fields

(e) The Diocesan Board of Education’s title to the junior school site is freehold.

(f) St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit site:

The site is currently used by St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery. It is proposed that this school close on 31 August 2010, prior to the establishment of the new primary school on 1 September 2010.

St Peter's C E Junior School site:

The site is currently used by St Peter's C E junior School. It is proposed that this school close on 31 August 2010, prior to the establishment of the new primary school on 1 September 2010.

(g) Any additional site required for new build on the Junior site should be on a statutory transfer from Wigan Council to the Board of Education at no cost to the Board.

Implementation

63. The date when it is planned that the proposals will be implemented, or where the proposals are to be implemented in stages, information about each stage and the date on which each stage is planned to be implemented.

It is planned that the proposals will be implemented and the new school established on 1 September 2010

The school will initially operate on a split site – the sites of the current St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School.

The current junior school accommodation will be extended and remodelled and the new school will operate on that single site from 1 September 2012.

64. Where the proposals are to establish a voluntary controlled or foundation school, a statement as to whether the proposals are to be implemented by the local education authority or by the proposers, and if the proposals are to be implemented by both,

(a) a statement as to the extent that they are to be implemented by each body, and

(b) a statement as to the extent to which the capital costs of implementation are to be met by each body.

Not applicable

Project Costs

65. A statement of the estimated capital cost of the proposals and the extent to which the costs are to be met by the proposers and/or the local education authority.

There are no capital costs associated with the closure of the infant and junior schools and the establishment of the new school as this will be implemented on split sites.

The estimated capital cost of single siting the schools is £2.5m. This will be met through Wigan Council Primary Capital Programme and the governors' 10% contribution.

66. A copy of a confirmation from the Secretary of State or local education authority or the Learning and Skills Council for England (as the case may be) that funds will be made available (including costs to cover any necessary site purchase).

Not applicable (see section 25)

67. Details of how it is proposed to fund the proposer's share of the capital costs of implementing the proposals (if any).

There is no initial capital implication as the new school will operate on the two existing sites at first.

The capital costs of amalgamating the two schools onto one site will be met through the primary capital programme and any sale proceeds.

Travel

68. The proposed arrangements for travel of pupils to the school.

There are no proposals to make arrangements for the transport of pupils to the school as it will serve the same community as the current infant and junior schools and be based on the same sites. This is within walking distance for most pupils. Other pupils travel by public transport or car.

The walking distance between the two sites is 0.2 miles.

The majority of pupils from the infants school currently transfer to the junior school site for key stage 2.

Federation

69. Details of any proposals for the school to be federated with one or more schools (by virtue of section 24 of EA 2002 and section 12).

Not applicable

Curriculum

70. Confirmation that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002 and an outline of any provision that will be in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002, in particular any 14-19 vocational education.

The Diocesan Board of Education confirms that the school will meet the general requirements in relation to the curriculum contained in section 78 of EA 2002.

There will not be any provision in addition to the basic curriculum required by section 80 of EA 2002.

Voluntary aided schools

71. In addition, where the school is to be a voluntary aided school—

- (a) details of the trusts on which the site is to be held; and
- (b) confirmation that governing body will be able and willing to carry out their obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

(a) The school shall be held on the usual statutory trusts applicable to a Diocesan Board of Education school.

(b) The governing body of the new school will only be formed if the proposal is agreed. However, Manchester Diocesan Board of Education confirms that the new governing body will be able and willing to carry out their financial obligations under Schedule 3 to SSFA 1998.

Foundation Schools

72. Where the school is to be a foundation school, confirmation as to whether the new school—

- (a) will have a foundation established otherwise than under SSFA 1998 and, if so, the identity of that foundation;
- (b) will belong to a group of schools for which a foundation body acts under section 21 of SSFA 1998; or
- (c) will not fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b).

Not applicable

73. Where the school is to be a foundation school which has a foundation—

- (a) the name of the foundation where known;
- (b) the rationale for the foundation and the particular ethos that it will bring to the school;

- (c) the details of membership of the foundation, including the names of the members;
- (d) the entitlement to appoint charity trustees and the number of trustees to be appointed;
- (e) the proposed constitution of the governing body;
- (f) details of the foundation's charitable objects;
- (g) where the majority of governors are to be foundation governors, a statement that a parent council will be established in accordance with section 23A of EA 2002;
- (h) a statement that the requirements set out in the School Organisation (Requirements as to Foundations) (England) Regulations will be met;
- (i) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of education at the school and how it is envisaged it will help to raise standards; and
- (j) a statement of how the foundation will contribute to the advancement of community cohesion and the impact the foundation will have on the diversity of school provision in the area.

Not applicable

Special educational needs

74. Information as to whether the school will have provision that is recognised by the local education authority as reserved for children with special educational needs and, if so, the nature of such provision and the proposed number of pupils for whom such provision is to be made.

The school will not have provision that is recognised by the local authority as reserved for children with special education needs.

75. Details of the proposed policy of the school relating to the education of pupils with special educational needs.

It is the policy of the local authority that all mainstream schools in Wigan will have a special educational needs policy which reflects:

- the current legislative and national policy framework;
- the provision mapping processes undertaken in school to identify pupils in need of additional support and the nature of the support programmes/staffing/time allocations to be provided;
- a commitment to ongoing continuing professional development, in accordance with the authority policy which outlines remits and responsibilities;
- identification of named members of staff who have specific

responsibility in respect of children and young people with special educational (additional learning) needs. The Authority's expectation is that this would be a member of staff who holds a teaching qualification;

- reporting arrangements to parents and pupils;
- degree and nature of inter-agency working;
- arrangements to ensure that pupils are as actively involved as possible in planning their learning;
- deployment of support staff, on a minimal intervention model, aimed at assisting pupils to achieve their potential, develop their self-esteem and become increasingly independent in their learning;
- monitoring arrangements for individual pupil progress; and
- evaluation of practice and provision.

The new school will comply with this requirement.

76. Where the school will replace existing educational provision for children with special educational needs

- (a) a statement on how the proposer believes the proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of educational provision for these children;
- (b) Details of the specific educational benefits that will flow from the proposals in terms of—
 - (i) improved access to education and associated services including the curriculum, wider school activities, facilities and equipment with reference to the local education authority's Accessibility Strategy;
 - (ii) improved access to specialist staff, both education and other professionals, including any external support and/or outreach services;
 - (iii) improved access to suitable accommodation; and
 - (iv) improved supply of suitable places.

Not applicable

Relevant experience of proposers

77. Evidence of any relevant experience in education held by the proposer, or proposers (other than a local authority) including details of any involvement in the improvement of standards in education.

The proposer is Manchester Diocesan Board of Education.

The Board of Education has extensive relevant experience in education as it is responsible for the current infant and junior schools which are both Church of England voluntary aided schools within the Manchester Diocese.

The Board of Education has responsibility for a total of 192 schools serving 50,000 children in the Greater Manchester area.

Planning permission

78. Where the establishment of the new school involves development for the purpose of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, a statement as to whether planning permission has been obtained and, if it has not been obtained, details of when it is anticipated that it will be obtained.

This is not needed at present. The school will operate on the existing sites initially.

Independent schools entering the maintained sector

79. A statement that the requirements of section 11 (3) of the EIA 2006 are met.

Not applicable

80. A statement as to whether the premises will meet the requirements of the Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 and, if not,

- (a) details of how the premises are deficient; and
- (b) details of how it is intended to remedy the deficiency.

Not applicable. The school will operate on the existing sites initially.

Consultation on the proposal to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School and to establish a new primary school with nursery

Stage 1 consultation

Drop-in session for parents and members of the public

Monday 14 July 2008 3.00 p.m. to 6.10 p.m. at St Peter's C E Infants School and Nursery Unit, Firs Lane, Leigh, WN7 4SB

Diocesan officers present (Manchester C E Diocese)

Janet Cowley Deputy Director Manchester Diocesan Board of Education

Will Leeson Diocesan Governor Support Officer

Lynn Wild Diocesan Building Officer

Local authority officers present (Wigan Council)

Steve Birtwistle Primary School Adviser

Chris Parry Principal Officer School Provision

Attendees

There were five attendees at the session in total:

- Four parents, two of whom had children at the infant school and two who had one child at the infant school and one at the junior school.
- One member of the local community with connections to St Peter's C E Church.

Issues raised by parents

Parent 1

This parent:

- generally sees the proposals as a very good idea, especially good for the children; and
- wanted some reassurance that the youngest children would not be asked to share a playground with much older children. (She was pleased to hear that this is something all primary schools consider, and for which they make suitable arrangements to ensure children's safety and enjoyment).

Parent 2

This parent:

- said the proposed amalgamation should take place “The sooner the better”;
- and
- felt that an amalgamation would provide consistency across both schools in terms of management, ethos, curriculum delivery and expectations.

Parent 3

This parent:

- thought the amalgamation was ‘a great idea’;
- felt amalgamation would mean consistency across the two schools;
- was concerned about security if the new school were based at the infant site because of proximity to the public park (It was explained that security issues would be addressed when looking at the options for the site and building);
- was concerned that disruption should be kept to a minimum whilst building work was in progress; and
- hoped that the new school would still have learning mentors as she felt that the introduction of learning mentors had had a positive impact at both schools.

Parent 4

This parent:

- wondered whether the new housing development that is planned for the area would generate additional pupils. (This will be taken up by the local authority at the appropriate time).

Issues raised by member of the community

The member of the community:

- felt that the proposal was a very good idea and not a new one;
- was concerned as to where the governors 10% contribution for the building work would come from as the church is not in a position to help financially. (The possible options were explained); and
- asked that, if the infant school site were the one sold, consideration could be given to provision of parking for the Church and some access issues. (Diocesan Officers explained they will investigate the land ownership in detail and consider the possibilities).

Consultation on the proposal to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School and to establish a new primary school with nursery

Stage 1 consultation

Meeting for staff of the two schools

Tuesday 15 July 2008 3.45 p.m. to 4.35 p.m. at St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP

Diocesan officers present (Manchester C E Diocese)

Janet Cowley	Deputy Director Manchester Diocesan Board of Education (Chair)
Will Leeson	Diocesan Governor Support Officer
Lynn Wild	Diocesan Building Officer

Local authority officers present (Wigan Council)

Janet Newton	Service Director Wigan Schools for the Future
Janet Baker	Strategic Manager Personnel and Governor Services
Chris Parry	Principal Officer School Provision

Attendees

The meeting was attended by 30 members of staff and union representatives in total.

Introduction

Janet Cowley welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose was to:

- consult the staff; and
- listen to their views on the proposal.

There are two stages to the consultation process:

Stage 1: The drop in session for parents held yesterday and today's meetings with staff and governors are part of this stage.

Stage 2: This will take place if it is decided to move on to the formal consultation period and to publish a statutory notice. The final decision on the proposal would then be taken by the local authority.

Question (union representative)

Could we please have some clarification on the language being used? The consultation document mentions amalgamation of the two schools but is the actual proposal to close the two schools and open one new one?

Response (Diocese and local authority)

The proposal is to close the infant and junior schools and open a new through age primary school.

The consultation document tries to make the proposal clear for parents and refers to amalgamation. The booklet explains that amalgamation means that the infant and junior schools must close and a new school open.

Comment (union representative)

It is important that staff are clear that their current employers will cease to exist and the governing body of the new school will be the new employer.

Comment (local authority and Diocese)

It may be helpful to put things into context.

If it is decided to go ahead with the proposal, a temporary governing body for the new school will be appointed. (This is often made up of existing governors from the two schools). The current governing bodies will continue to run the two existing schools.

The temporary governing body will decide the staffing structure of the new school and how the posts will be filled. As this proposal is to bring together an existing infant and junior school there will not be a significant impact on numbers of staff. There is no issue of surplus places and the staffing structure will have to provide for the same number of pupils as now.

It is very early in the process to give any definite answers. When we get to appropriate point, the local authority will draft a suggested procedure for the governing body, consult the staff and unions on its content and ask the governing body if they wish to adopt this procedure.

The governing body of the new school will be the new employer. There will only be one headteacher for the new school. There are statutory processes for appointing headteachers but there is some flexibility in a school reorganisation situation. The governing body must decide whether to:

- advertise nationally for the headteacher post;
- employ a deputy (the local authority always advocates that they do);
- ring fence the headteacher and deputy posts.

There is no statutory process for other posts and it is possible to have a ring-fencing arrangement in which the staff at the existing establishments are considered first.

The protocol will also look at arrangements for temporary staff.

The governing body must decide the way in which the ring-fencing operates which could be:

- all to apply and be interviewed;
- existing staff to be slotted in; or
- a mixture of the two.

This will be discussed with the governing body. An important consideration will be that there is not a falling roll situation at the schools so we are not looking for a significant reduction in staffing

Comment (union representative)

The situation here is very different than we have dealt with previously but in the past the process has always been a success with the local authority, governing body and unions working together. There have been few staff casualties.

It is encouraging that that this was one of the governing bodies' written questions as it shows that the governors are concerned about the staff. It will be an advantage for the staff that the workforce will be remodelled and will be appropriate for the number of pupils.

Although the governing body will have the final decision on the process to be used, it is hoped that they will opt to use tried and tested procedures.

Question (Diocese)

How are staff protected?

Response (local authority)

There are two aspects to this:

- the ring fencing arrangement which ensures existing staff are considered for posts first
- safeguarding if salary levels are lower than the current one. National conditions apply to teachers' protection which is for 3 years. Local conditions of service apply to support staff who have 2 years protection.

Comment (union representative)

For teachers protection is a fixed by government at a period of 3 years – not 3 years maximum.

Question (Diocese)

Don't headteachers and governing bodies reconsider the staffing structure every year anyway?

Response (LA)

A remodelled workforce is already in place at the two existing schools and the current staffing is fit for purpose so the structure should already be appropriate.

The new governing body may decide to appoint the headteacher as the first part of the process. The new headteacher would then be able to work with the governors on the detailed staffing structure for the remainder of the staff.

Question (Staff)

I am concerned about the timescale. It seems a long time between the decision being made and implementation. Could this not be reduced?

Response (Diocese and local authority)

There has to be a considerable lead in time to ensure that everything is done properly. This includes:

- agreeing the protocol and processes
- determination of the staffing structure
- advertising of posts
- interviews
- time for individuals to serve notice

Although the process should be relatively simple, implementation in September 2009 would be very tight.

Question

Can the proposals only be implemented at the start of an academic year?

Response (local authority and Diocese)

There is no reason why not but the start of the school year is the usual convention

Comment (union representative)

The union is not generally in favour of mid-year implementation. If some staff do not have a post in the new structure and are looking for alternative work, there are more opportunities at the beginning of the academic year.

Comment (staff)

The implementation date is published in the consultation document and people will have based their responses on this date. If the dates were change, individual responses may have been different.

Response (Diocese)

There is no proposal to change the dates at the moment and we have taken on board the staff and union comments

Comment (union representative)

The consultation is on all aspects of the proposal. If people want the dates to change, they should respond to the consultation with those comments.

Question (staff)

Will voluntary redundancy be offered?

Response (local authority)

This cannot be answered until the headteacher has been appointed and the staffing structure is known. If there was obviously going to be a reduction in the number of posts we would consider this earlier, but this is not the case with this proposal. There would have to be a genuine redundancy situation and there are no guarantees at this point.

Comment (union representative)

We do know that there will only be one headteacher. You cannot expect the other existing headteacher to simply accept a deputy's post. If an individual refuses an offer the test should be:

- is the job offered suitable?
- was there a good reason to refuse?

Response (local authority)

If the headteachers and deputies would like to discuss their individual circumstances, they can contact the local authority.

Question (staff)

If the schools close, what will happen to our years of service?

Response (local authority)

Your service goes with you and your continuity of service is not affected.

Question (Staff)

You have said that you know the number of pupils is not falling but what if it increases? A large housing development is planned for the area.

Response (local authority)

We do know about the planning proposals but do not act on these until houses are actually built as nothing is certain until then. However, experience has shown that

new housing does not always generate many pupils. It is the local authority's duty to monitor the situation and if more school places are needed they will be put in place. The staffing structures at schools will change to reflect pupil numbers, whether these rise or decrease.

Comment (local authority)

We need to emphasise that there is a lot of support from the local authority in these situations. As well as helping with procedures there will be a local authority support officer who will help individual members of staff. There is also a lot of support from the trade unions and the Diocese.

Conclusion

There were no further questions.

Janet Cowley brought the meeting to a close and emphasised the following:

- Everyone has received a consultation booklet and response form and are urged to respond in writing
- In September all responses will be forwarded to the Diocese
- The Diocese will take the responses to the individual Governing Bodies and discuss them before making the decision whether to go to the Statutory Notice stage.

Janet thanked everyone for their participation.

The meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.

Consultation on the proposal to close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School and to establish a new primary school with nursery

Stage 1 consultation

Meeting for Governing Bodies of the two schools

Tuesday 15 July 2008 5.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. at St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh Street, Leigh, WN7 4TP

Diocesan officers present (Manchester C E Diocese)

Janet Cowley	Deputy Director Manchester Diocesan Board of Education (Chair)
Will Leeson	Diocesan Governor Support Officer
Lynn Wild	Diocesan Building Officer

Local authority officers present (Wigan Council)

Janet Newton	Service Director Wigan Schools for the Future
Janet Baker	Strategic Manager Personnel and Governor Services
Chris Parry	Principal Officer School Provision

Attendees

The meeting was attended by 12 governors.

Introduction

Janet Cowley welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the purpose was to:

- consult the Governing Bodies; and
- listen to their views on the proposal.

It was clarified that the proposal is to close the infant and junior schools and open a new through age primary school.

Written comments submitted by the governing body would also be addressed during the meeting.

Comment (written)

Governors feel that nurturing is more effective and can be more focused in smaller units.

Response (Diocese)

Diocesan guidelines are that where there is an opportunity to amalgamate infant and junior schools it should be done. There are now very few separate infant and junior schools in the Diocese. The educational arguments in favour of through age primary schools are strong – they have one philosophy, one vision and one ethos from age three through to eleven. This is an opportunity. The Board understand that there can be opposition to this view but have looked at all the issues when they took the decision to support through primary schools.

Comment

I don't agree that small schools provide a better nurturing environment. In larger schools there are more staff who know the children's needs and are able to take care of them.

Comment

Nurturing depends on how the school is organised. One of the best nurturing environments I know is in a large secondary school.

Comment

Some parents may find a bigger unit intimidating. They are more comfortable in a small, family group type of situation. In some circumstances it is the whole family that needs nurturing.

Response (Diocese)

The last point is a valid one and this must be built into the new school. We won't know what parents say until the end of the consultation period. The Diocese will come back to the governing body in September and present the views received.

Comment

You may not get all parents' views as some would not attend the drop in sessions as they find it intimidating.

Response (Diocese)

In our experience large parents' meetings are dominated by the more vocal parents.

At drop-in sessions individuals are made welcome, as they were last night. Although only a small number of parents attended last night this is not unusual. That is why it is important that we make sure parents know how to respond.

Comment

I am hesitant to encourage parents to respond as I feel I have too much of an interest.

Comment

I consider it is important to encourage parents to have their say.

Comment (written)

Governors feel that a split-site will cause disruption and it will be more difficult for one headteacher to manage two sites.

Response (Diocese)

This is a management issue for the headteacher and governing body. It is not insurmountable and will only be for a limited period.

Question

Have you any experience of this having happened before?

Response

Diocese

A primary school came together in this authority several years ago and had one headteacher for several years. It is important that the school is regarded as one whole school and this relies on management.

In another authority a school is in the process of coming together. There is no headteacher designate yet but the all the staff are working together on the educational issues and this has helped reduce anxieties.

Local authority

I have experience of many schools operating on split sites, including secondary schools with over 1600 pupils, which are very popular and successful. It is really about joint planning and the staffing and curriculum.

There is experience in the local authority and Diocese to help. The situation here will be for a comparatively short time and the sites are relatively close to each other.

Question

At the moment we have two schools so have two headteachers and two deputies who are all doing as much as possible. How can things work so well with only one headteacher and one deputy?

Response

Diocese

There are different ways of management. For example, there may be one dedicated member of staff to manage nurturing across the whole school. There are always concerns about change but although change can be difficult it can also be good. We need all our ideas to come together for the benefit of the children.

Local authority

The team the headteacher has around them is important.

Comment

Cutting staff won't help.

Response (Diocese)

We have not said we will do this. There is more financial flexibility in a primary school as there is no need to equip two schools with everything. We need to look at the curriculum issues as well as the buildings.

Question

The proposal is to be implemented, and therefore the management structure will change, prior to the extension of the building. What is the advantage of this?

Response (Local authority)

All schools in my experience agree that it is an advantage to have the management structure in place beforehand so that the new management and governing body can be fully involved in designing and planning for the new school. It is also reassuring to parents that the culture and ethos of the new school is established as early as possible.

Question

If the proposal goes ahead, will the extension to the building definitely happen?

Response (Diocese)

This project is named as part of the Primary Capital Programme for Wigan, subject to the amalgamation of the two schools. If the amalgamation doesn't go ahead, the funding will go elsewhere. The statutory notices will refer to having one building.

Question

How was the decision taken for St Peter's to become a through primary school rather than one of the other infant and junior schools, for example where there are leadership vacancies?

Response (Local authority)

Wigan is a pathfinder authority for the Primary Capital Programme and we have developed a matrix to identify priorities under the programme. This considers suitability, condition, and sufficiency of buildings amongst other things. The schools which score most highly have been put forward. Many schools see this as an opportunity.

Comment

There is another separate infant and junior school in the area with a vacant headship and buildings issues such as no car park.

Response (Diocese)

There are three other single phase schools in the area. The situation here is simpler in that St Peter's Infants feeds into St Peter's Junior. At the other schools two infant schools feed into one junior. There are also site issues at the other schools. It would take longer to work through these issues at the other schools.

Comment

I haven't heard of the matrix before.

Response (Local authority)

The local authority is leading on it but all the diocesan officers are giving input. We are working collectively to develop it.

Comment (written)

Governors are disappointed that a complete new build is not an option.

Response (Diocese)

Under the Primary Capital Programme we must rebuild, remodel or refurbish as many primary schools as possible. If it would be cheaper to rebuild, we would. A new two form entry school would cost about £7 million. It will cost much less than this to enlarge one of the existing buildings.

Question

Has the site of the building been chosen?

Response (Local authority)

No. We will conduct an option appraisal with the Diocese on which building we should extend. This will take into account the condition and suitability of the existing buildings as well as issues such as highways and planning. We will also consult individually with the schools.

Comment

It has always been said that the decision has not been made but there was a query when we requested LCVAP funding.

Response

Local authority

We are only at the very start of the process.

Diocese

We will consider all the issues just mentioned before making a decision. We will also have to consult Sport England. Meanwhile, we can't invest heavily in either school but must still maintain them.

Question

When will the decision be made?

Response (Diocese)

It is the responsibility of the temporary governing body to make the decision in collaboration with the consultants they appoint, the local authority and the Diocese. We would also expect the adviser to look at the two schools and present a recommendation and would also involve the children.

No decision can therefore be taken until the temporary governing body is in place and this is another reason to bring the schools together before the building is extended.

Comment (written)

Governors are concerned about the delay between the start of the consultation (June 2008) and the move to a remodelled building (2012)

Response

The Primary Capital programme funding will not be available any earlier unless another project slips.

Comment (written)

Governors are concerned that the children's education will suffer

Response (Diocese)

The headteacher designate and the whole school working together will decide on the best way to deliver education in the area

Comment (written)

Governors are concerned about job security fears of staff.

Response (Local authority)

It is good that the governors have raised this. We spent most of the last meeting discussing staffing issues. I hope that the staff were reassured that local authority support will be available.

The staffing structure and process for filling posts at the new school will be decided by the temporary governing body (probably many existing governors), guided by the headteacher designate.

The governing body will also decide on the measures to support existing staff such as ring fencing, whether there will be slotting into posts where there is no competition and the protocol for selection where appropriate.

In Wigan there have been a number of reorganisations and we have a good record of securing reasonable, alternative employment where necessary, even in situations where there is more risk than here. There will be the same number of children here and rolls are not falling.

Question

How is the membership of the temporary governing body decided?

Response (Diocese)

In the past governors from the existing schools have made up the temporary governing body but there is a maximum limit of twenty governors. If all existing governors cannot be accommodated, there should be an equal representation from both existing schools. The composition of governing body should also reflect that the school is in the aided sector so there will be a majority of foundation governors. The Diocese and local authority will present possible models to the governors.

If all existing governors do not have a place on the temporary governing body, they will still be governors of the existing schools and therefore be involved in the process.

Question

What about staff governors?

Response (Diocese)

They would still be needed but would have to declare an interest where appropriate.

Question

What about the headteachers?

Response (Diocese)

The temporary governing body will decide on the process and appoint the head designate of the new school. The head designate would join the governing body on appointment.

Comment (Diocese)

Projects under the Primary Capital Programme are not exempt from the governing body 10% contribution. This will need careful consideration as a temporary governing body cannot fund raise.

The DCSF have made some concessions on the sale proceeds of land subject to the agreement of all partners. This would not affect the site chosen. The Diocese will work with the local authority on this issue.

There were no further questions.

Conclusion

Janet Cowley explained that the Diocese would bring the results of the consultation to each governing body individually in September and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

Consultation responses to the proposal to amalgamate Leigh St Peter's CE Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's CE Junior School and establish a new through age (4-11) primary school with nursery

A total of 45 consultation response forms were received to the consultation exercise. The responses have been analysed according to category of respondent.

Question	Yes	No	Don't Know
Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to amalgamate?	43	1	1
Do you understand how and when to make your views on the proposal known?	45	0	0
Do you think that the schools should be amalgamated?	41	1	3

The consultation response forms have also been counted according to category of respondent.

Parent of child at Infant or Junior school	Parent of nursery child	Member of Staff	Governor	Member of community	Not stated
22	2	9	6	5	1

Two response forms were received after the close of consultation.



Proposal to amalgamate St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh and establish a new through age (4-11) primary school with nursery

This booklet contains:

- reasons why the governing bodies of the schools and Manchester C E Diocese are proposing to amalgamate the two schools;
- dates and times of meetings for parents, the public, schools' staff and governors; and
- information on how you can make your views known.

June 2008

Introduction

This booklet gives you information on:

- the proposal to amalgamate St Peter's CE Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's CE Junior School and open a new through age primary school and nursery;
- why the governing bodies, Manchester Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority (LA) support the proposal;
- how the proposal will affect pupils;
- the benefits of amalgamating infant and junior schools;
- how you can get more information and make your views known; and
- the proposed timetable for the amalgamation.

The Proposal

The proposal is to amalgamate St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School and to establish a through age (4-11) primary school with nursery.

This means we must:

- close St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School; and
- establish (open) a new Church of England voluntary aided primary school (age 4-11) with nursery

The new school and nursery will continue to operate on the existing sites at first and will have:

- places for 420 pupils (60 in each year group)
- 30 full-time equivalent nursery places

After the new school has been established, one of the existing St Peter's sites will be remodelled and extended to provide one building for the whole school.

Why do Manchester C E Diocese and the Local Authority support the proposal?

- The governing bodies of both schools have agreed that this proposal should go to consultation.
- Manchester Diocesan Board of Education has an agreed policy that the Board will promote the amalgamation of infant and junior schools where there is an opportunity to do so because it feels this improves the consistency and quality of education for the children.
- Wigan Local Authority also has a policy to amalgamate infant and junior schools when possible because of the advantages for the pupils' education.

How will the proposal affect the children at the Infant and Junior Schools?

The proposed new school has the same number of places as St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School together (420 places in school and 30 full-time equivalent nursery places) so there will be enough places for all the children who attend the Infant and Junior Schools.

Children already attending the Infant and Junior Schools are guaranteed a place at the new school if their parents want it.

How will the proposed change benefit the children?

The proposed change will:

- ensure a consistent approach to teaching and learning;
- improve the tracking of how well children make progress from year to year;
- improve the planning of the curriculum across all classes;
- reduce the number of times that children have to change school; and
- mean that pupils from the Infant School will not need to apply for places at the Junior School for year 3.

How can I make my views known?

Meetings will be held for those who are affected by the proposal. This will give you an opportunity to talk to people from the Diocese of Manchester and the local authority and ask any questions you have. Views given at the meetings will also be taken into account as part of the consultation.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in event	Date: Monday 14 July 2008 Time: 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Venue: St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit Firs Lane Leigh WN7 4SB	This is open to everyone, but especially parents of children currently attending St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School and parents considering applying for a Reception or year 3 place at the schools in future.
Meeting for staff	Date: Tuesday 15 July 2008 Time: 3.45 p.m. Venue: St Peter's C E Junior School	All staff at St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School
Meeting for governors	Date: Tuesday 15 July 2008 Time: 5.00 p.m. Venue: St Peter's C E Junior School	All governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School

You can also make your views known by writing or emailing them or by completing and returning the form at the end of this booklet.

Next Steps

Strict legal procedures have to be followed to open and close schools.

We have given a timetable of events which includes periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be taken on the next page. 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>Consultation – during this time you can make your views known by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attending the drop-in event (notes will be taken) • writing to or emailing the local authority or • completing the response form at the end of this booklet. <p>The address to write to is given on the next page.</p>	Monday 9 June 2008 to Friday 1 August 2008
Results of the consultation will go to the governing bodies of both schools and the Diocesan Board of Education. They will decide whether or not to carry on with the proposals.	September 2008
<p>Representation period - if it is decided to carry on with the proposals, we must publish statutory notices. These are public notices that appear in a local newspaper, at the entrances to the schools 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 local authority 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>	October to November 2008
The local authority makes the final decision on the proposal.	Within 2 months of the end of the representation period.
The new through age (4-11) primary school with nursery will open (on the existing sites initially)	September 2010
Remodelled and extended school building ready to accommodate all the pupils	September 2012

The following can appeal against the Local Authority's decision:

- local Church of England diocese
- Bishop of the local Roman Catholic diocese
- governing body of a school proposed for closure

Any such appeals must be received within 4 weeks of the local authority's decision.

Please note that this timetable may alter. The Local Authority or the staff and governors of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and Leigh St Peter's C E Junior School will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know any new dates that we are working towards.

Address for correspondence

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

Email: schoolprovision@wigan.gov.uk

Phone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029

Response form

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

1. Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we are proposing to amalgamate St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's C E Junior School, Leigh?

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 the schools should be amalgamated?

Yes No Don't know

4. If you think that Leigh St Peter's CE Infant School and Nursery Unit and St Peter's CE Junior School should **not** be amalgamated, please tell us why you think this

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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 school age child at St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit or St Peter's C E Junior School

Please say which school.....

A **parent or guardian** of a nursery child at St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit

A **member of staff** at St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit or St Peter's C E Junior School

Please say which school.....

A **governor** of St Peter's C E Infant School and Nursery Unit or St Peter's C E Junior School

Please say which school.....

Other member of the community

Please return your completed form by **Friday 1 August 2008** to

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

APPENDIX 6

Janet Cowley
Deputy Director of Education
Manchester Diocesan Board of Education
4th Floor
Church Huse
90 Deansgate
Manchester M3 2GJ

Direct line: 01325 391278

25 February 2008

Dear Ms Cowley

Thank you for your application, received 29 January 2008, for consent to publish proposals under Section 10 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (EIA 2006), to replace St Peter's CofE Infant & Nursery and Leigh St Peter's Junior with a new Primary school.

The Secretary of State has considered the application very carefully and in exercising the powers conferred on him by Section 10 of the EIA 2006, for reasons explained below, has decided to grant consent to publish the proposals for a new 3-11 VA CofE primary school.

Section 10 of the EIA 2006 does not constrain the exercise of the Secretary of State's discretion when determining applications for consent to publish proposals for new schools without holding a competition. This is subject, of course, to the usual public law and principles of reasonableness, rationality and procedural fairness.

Part B of the Department's guide "Establishing a New Maintained Mainstream School" states that a competition, as provided for by section 7 of the EIA 2006 and the School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2007, is expected to be the usual route by which most new schools will be established. However, the guide also confirms Ministers have indicated, during debates in Parliament, that they may be prepared to give consent, to publish without a competition, where the proposals are for the amalgamation of an infant and junior school and/or where schools with a religious character are to be replaced by schools with the same religious character.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State has looked very carefully at your application and in determining whether there is good reason to depart from the principle that a competition should normally be held, has considered the criteria as set out in paragraphs 9-10 of Part B of the guide. His conclusions are as follows:

1. The contribution the school would make to the levels of local diversity

Although the proposal will not increase local diversity of provision or parental choice, if the schools are amalgamated, parents will no longer need to apply for

a place in the junior school, but should still be allowed to select another school if they wish.

2. Views of interested parties

The majority of consultees appear to be in favour of the proposals.

3. Local standards

Amalgamation should improve standards by enabling greater staffing flexibility, the sharing of expertise across the full primary age range, and also a smooth transition between KS1 and KS2. The Secretary of State expects that the new school would build on the best practice and strengths in both schools.

In summary, taking into account all the above factors, the Secretary of State accepts that holding a competition would not be appropriate in the particular circumstances of this application.

You may now proceed to follow the statutory process as set out in section 10 of the EIA 2006. Further guidance and information is available on the Department's website www.dcsf.gov.uk/schoolorg.

I must emphasise that this consent does not provide approval for the establishment of the new school that you propose. The final decision on your proposals will be a matter for the Local Authority.

If you wish to discuss this letter further please do not hesitate to contact me as above.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Kerr

Diversity Impact Assessment Form

Section: Children and Young People's Services

Policy/Service Area: Commissioning of School Places

Person Completing Form: Chris Parry

Date: March 2009

Do any of the below groups suffer specific disadvantage (please indicate)

	Yes	No		Yes	No
Race		X	Disability		X
Ethnicity		X	Gender		X
Age		X	Religion		X
Class		X	Sexual Orientation		X

Is there evidence of disadvantage or associated problems?

The existing two schools serve a fairly deprived community as evidenced through entitlement to free school meals and measures of child deprivation. The proposal means there will still be a primary school and nursery located within this community.

There will be no additional travelling expenses for parents as a result of the proposal.

How was the information collected and/or who have you consulted with?

There has been consultation with parents, the community and staff and governors of the existing two schools at stage1 of the proposals and at the statutory notice stage. Details are contained in the full proposals at Appendix C of the report.

Action Plan – *What specific actions are planned to tackle any disadvantage identified?*

N/A

Is the policy in line with current equality legislation and relevant codes of practice?

N/A

Timescale	
Responsibility	
Comments	

Are the actions specified included in any other documents/plans?

Departmental Service Plan	
Section/Team Plan	
Other (Specify)	

Date for further review N/A

