

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 27 August 2009

Subject: Decision making model for primary schools 2009

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

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

- inform members of the results of the assessment of primary schools against the model for 2009; and
- request approval of necessary amendments to the model.

Alternative options considered and reason for selecting the one recommended: All primary schools have been assessed against the decision making model and the schools in the report are those identified as within the category 'Urgent review of provision required'.

Recommendation / decision: It is recommended that members request the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services to:

- continue the action agreed within the Primary Strategy for Change for School A;
- continue to monitor pupil numbers at school B closely; and
- amend the decision making model for future years to take into account the new DCSF floor targets.

Key Decision:

This report involves a key decision within ground 2.

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 8 September 2009

This item is included in the Forward Plan.

Risks / Implications:

Financial:	None
Staffing:	None
Policy:	Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings
Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted?	A diversity impact assessment is not necessary at this stage, however, equality and diversity implications have been considered when producing this report.
Wards affected:	All

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

No

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

No

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

No

Has the Service Director - Borough Solicitor confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? **Yes**

Has the Service Director - Corporate Services confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? **Not applicable**

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	

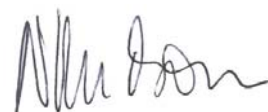
Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		27 August 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			School Place Commissioning Team, Children and Young People's Services, Progress House, Westwood Park Drive, Wigan and at www.wigan.gov.uk

Proper Officer



Date

12th August 09

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The local authority is under a duty to plan the provision of school places and to:
- ensure there are sufficient school places in their area;
 - promote high educational standards;
 - ensure fair access and equal opportunities; and
 - promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential.
- 1.2 Each year we must submit a surplus place return to the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) to report the amount of surplus places we have in our schools. We must explain what action we will take on individual schools which have more than 25% surplus.
- 1.3 The level of surplus is also reported annually in Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings.
- 1.4 In 2002 Cabinet adopted a decision making model for primary schools. A set of criteria is applied to each school and generates a point score. Some of these scores are weighted. The score determines whether a review of provision in a school or group of schools is necessary.
- 1.5 The model has been refined since 2002 and each change has been approved by Cabinet. The current version of the model is attached at appendix 1.
- 1.6 We have applied the model to all primary schools for 2009.

2 Findings 2009

- 2.1 In 2009, two schools are in the 'urgent review of provision category (37 points or less). The completed models for these schools are attached.
- 2.2 Scores for each of the schools;

School	Score	Appendix
School A	36	Appendix 2
School B	28	Appendix 3

Officers have visited the headteachers of the schools concerned and agreed the scores. The schools have not been named to avoid unnecessary speculation which creates instability in schools.

2.3 School A

- 2.3.1 School A's score is low because of high surplus places (42.66%). The level of parental preference compared to the current admission number of 60 is also low. The school scores better on pupil numbers because it currently has two forms of entry (potential number on roll 420)
- 2.3.2 Educational standards for English, maths and science fall in the mid range but the school received a rating of 'inadequate' for overall effectiveness from Ofsted.

2.3.3 The school building is in very poor condition and the suitability of the accommodation is also poor. The comparative running costs at the school are high.

2.4 School B

2.4.1 School B's score is low because of high surplus places (27.57%). The level of parental preference compared to the current admission number of 45 is also low. Projected pupil numbers in four years time are also low.

2.4.2 The school building is in poor condition and the comparative running costs at the school are high.

3 Amendments to the model for future years

3.1 The DCSF has changed the way floor targets for standards are measured. Previously schools were expected to reach the target of 65% of pupils achieving level 4+ in English and 65% pupils achieving level 4+ in maths.

3.2 The new measure is that 55% of pupils must achieve level 4+ in both English and maths

3.2 We are therefore proposing to change criterion F (e) to:

Floor target not met	0 points
Floor target met	1 point
Weighting	3

Schools meeting the target will therefore still achieve the previous maximum of 3 points and the total possible score will not change.

3.3 The proposed amended model is attached at appendix 4

4 Recommendations

4.1 School A

Members have already agreed that this school should be rebuilt and reduced to one form of entry as part of the Primary Strategy for Change. This will address the issues of surplus places and the condition and suitability of the buildings. Officers from Learning Improvement are working with the school to improve the quality of education.

No further action is therefore required at this school.

4.2 School B

This school has reduced from one and a half to one form of entry. Work will start early in 2010 to extensively remodel the school buildings to take account of this. This will address the condition at the school and also reduce running costs. It is hoped that improvements to early years provision will help to maintain pupil numbers.

No further action is required at present but pupil numbers and surplus places should be monitored closely.

4.3 Decision making model

It is recommended that the proposed amended decision making model be adopted for 2010 and subsequent years.

5 Conclusion

5.1 The number of schools in the lowest category has reduced from sixteen in 2002 to two in 2009. This is because the council, with the co-operation of the Diocesan authorities where appropriate, has taken action to address issues, particularly surplus places, at schools which have achieved consistently low scores.

5.2 The Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services will continue to monitor all schools against the decision making model and report the findings to members annually to ensure that we are using resources effectively and that the council is fulfilling its duty as commissioner of school places.

Appendix 1

DECISION MAKING MODEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL REVIEWS

In formulating the criteria the following sources of information have been used:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Draft Minutes 30/9/02
- 2) Guidance to School Organisation Committee when making decisions
- 3) BVPI on surplus places
- 4) Work by Primary School Places Working Group agreed by Cabinet and contained within School Organisation Plan
- 5) Cabinet notes of 17/10/02
- 6) Lifelong Learning notes on 7/11/02
- 7) Notes from Cabinet on 14/11/02
- 8) Notes from Cabinet on 17/11/05
- 9) Notes from Cabinet 21/09/06
- 10) Notes from Cabinet 13/03/08

CODE	CRITERIA	WEIGHTING	SCORE				MAX SCORE
			0	1	2	3	
A	*SURPLUS PLACES (BVPI measures nos of schools with >25% surplus)	5	> 25%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	15
B	PREDICTED SURPLUS PLACES IN 4 YEARS TIME	3	> 25%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	9
C	*PARENTAL PREFERENCES (1st preferences as % of planned admission number)	1	< 50%	50% - 74%	75% - 99%	100% +	3
D	NUMBER ON ROLL (exc Nursery) (absorbs unit costs) (absorbs mixed age teaching trigger of PSPWG)	3	105 or less	106-157	158-209	210 +	9
E	PREDICTED PUPIL NUMBERS IN 4 YEARS (includes allowance for new housing)	2	105 or less	106-157	158-209	210 +	6

F	*CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS		FFT percentile rank NC Overall Level 3 years combined				
	(based on previous 3 years Fischer Family Trust) percentile rankings)		100-80	79-50	49-20	19-1	
	a) KS2 English	2	0	1	2	3	6
	b) KS2 Maths	2	0	1	2	3	6
	c) KS2 Science	2	0	1	2	3	6
	d) OFSTED "overall effectiveness"	1	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding	3
e) DCSF Floor Targets			Target for KS2				
			65% Level 4+ English (E); 65% Level 4+ Mathematics (M)				
			<65%E and <65% M	<65%E or M and =65% M or E	<65% E or M and >65% M or E	> 65% E and > 65% M	
	1	0	1	2	3	3	
G	*DISTANCE TO ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	2	< 1.0 m	1.0 - 1.5 m	1.5 - 2.0 m	> 2.0 m	6
	(NB:LA must provide assistance if > 2 miles from home to nearest available primary school)						
H	*BALANCE OF PROVISION	2	Unaffected	Affected	Adversely affected	Adversely affected	6
	(Effects if school closed) (Includes balance of number of places available and need to provide children with appropriate faith/non faith provision of parents' choice)			in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools	in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools but in neighbouring area	in review area - pupils to attend different faith schools/ unwanted community school	

I	STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION						
	a) CONDITION BACKLOG	2	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	6
	Percentile rank on cost per sq metre						
	b) SUITABILITY	1	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	3
	Weighted impacts percentile rank						
	(Playing fields)	1	None on site	On site but too small	Shared with other school	On site + team game area	3
	(% building accessible - DDA Act)	1	<10%	10-44%	45-79%	>80%	3
	Deduction for split site school	no					-3
J	*SOCIAL EXCLUSION						
	% of free school meals eligibility	1	< 10%	10% - 24%	25% - 49%	> 50%	3
K	RUNNING COSTS	5	100-76	Cost per pupil, percentile rank			
	Based on non pupil-related CFR Headings			75-51	50-26	25-1	15

School Score **111**

TOTALS

37 or less

38 to 58

59 and over

ACTION

Urgent review of provision required

Investigation into viability

Take no action

NOTE:

* = decision maker must consider when taking decision

SCHOOL A

Appendix 2

DECISION MAKING MODEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL REVIEWS

In formulating the criteria the following sources of information have been used:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Draft Minutes 30/9/02
- 2) Guidance to School Organisation Committee when making decisions
- 3) BVPI on surplus places
- 4) Work by Primary School Places Working Group agreed by Cabinet and contained within School Organisation Plan
- 5) Cabinet notes of 17/10/02
- 6) Lifelong Learning notes on 7/11/02
- 7) Notes from Cabinet on 14/11/02
- 8) Notes from Cabinet on 17/11/ 05
- 9) Notes from Cabinet 21/09/06
- 10) Notes from Cabinet 13/03/08

CODE	CRITERIA	Weighting	SCORE				MAX SCORE	SCHOOL SCORE
			0	1	2	3		
A	*SURPLUS PLACES (BVPI measures nos of schools with >25% surplus)	5	> 25% 42.66%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	15	0
B	PREDICTED SURPLUS PLACES IN 4 YEARS TIME	3	> 25%	16% - 24% 17.61%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	9	3
C	*PARENTAL PREFERENCES (1st preferences as % of planned admission number)	1	< 50% 33.33%	50% - 74%	75% - 99%	100% +	3	0
D	NUMBER ON ROLL (exc Nursery) (absorbs unit costs) (absorbs mixed age teaching trigger of PSPWG)	3	105 or less	106-157	158-209 203	210 +	9	6
E	PREDICTED PUPIL NUMBERS IN 4 YEARS (inc new housing)	2	105 or less	106-157	158-209 173	210 +	6	4

F	*CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (based on previous 3 years Fischer Family Trust percentile rankings)	FFT percentile rank NC Overall Level 3 years combined							
		100-80	79-50	49-20	19-1				
	a) KS2 English	2	0	1	2	3	6	4	
	b) KS2 Maths	2	0	1	2	3	6	2	
	c) KS2 Science	2	0	1	2	3	6	2	
	d) OFSTED "overall effectiveness"	1	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding	3	0	
	e) DCSF Floor Targets		Target for KS2 65% Level 4+ English (E); 65% Level 4+ Mathematics (M)						
		1	<65%E and <65% M	<65%E or M and =65% M or E	<65% E or M and >65% M or E	> 65% E and > 65% M	3	2	
G	*DISTANCE TO ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (NB:LA must provide assistance if > 2 miles from home to nearest available primary school)	2	< 1.0 m	1.0 - 1.5 m	1.5 - 2.0 m	> 2.0 m	6		
H	*BALANCE OF PROVISION (Effects if school closed) (Includes balance of number of places available and need to provide children with appropriate faith/non faith provision of parents' choice)	2	Unaffected	Affected in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools	Adversely affected in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools but in neighbouring area	Adversely affected in review area - pupils to attend different faith schools/ unwanted community school	6	4	

I	STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION							
	a) CONDITION BACKLOG	2	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	6	0
	Percentile rank on cost per sq metre							
	b) SUITABILITY	1	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	3	2
	Weighted impacts percentile rank							
(Playing fields)	1	None on site	On site but too small	Shared with other school	On site + team game area		3	3
(% building accessible - DDA Act)	1	<10%	10-44%	45-79%	>80%		3	2
Deduction for split site school	no						-3	0
J	*SOCIAL EXCLUSION							
	% of free school meals eligibility	1	< 10%	10% - 24%	25% - 49%	> 50%	3	2
K	RUNNING COSTS			Cost per pupil, percentile rank				
	Based on non pupil-related CFR Headings	5	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	15	0
								School Score
								36
TOTALS		37 or less	38 to 58	59 and over				
ACTION		Urgent review of provision required	Investigation into viability	Take no action				

NOTE:

* = decision maker must consider when taking decision

SCHOOL B

Appendix 3

DECISION MAKING MODEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL REVIEWS

In formulating the criteria the following sources of information have been used:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Draft Minutes 30/9/02
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- 3) BVPI on surplus places
- 4) Work by Primary School Places Working Group agreed by Cabinet and contained within School Organisation Plan
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- 7) Notes from Cabinet on 14/11/02
- 8) Notes from Cabinet on 17/11/ 05
- 9) Notes from Cabinet 21/09/06
- 10) Notes from Cabinet 13/03/08

CODE	CRITERIA	Weighting	SCORE				MAX SCORE	SCHOOL SCORE
			0	1	2	3		
A	*SURPLUS PLACES (BVPI measures nos of schools with >25% surplus)	5	> 25% 27.57%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	15	0
B	PREDICTED SURPLUS PLACES IN 4 YEARS TIME	3	> 25% 41.42%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	9	0
C	*PARENTAL PREFERENCES (1st preferences as % of planned admission number)	1	< 50% 42.22%	50% - 74%	75% - 99%	100% +	3	0
D	NUMBER ON ROLL (exc Nursery) (absorbs unit costs) (absorbs mixed age teaching trigger of PSPWG)	3	105 or less	106-157 155	158-209	210 +	9	3
E	PREDICTED PUPIL NUMBERS IN 4 YEARS (inc new housing)	2	105 or less	106-157 123	158-209	210 +	6	2

F	*CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS (based on previous 3 years Fischer Family Trust percentile rankings)	FFT percentile rank NC Overall Level 3 years combined							
		100-80	79-50	49-20	19-1				
	a) KS2 English	2	0	1	2	3	6	2	
	b) KS2 Maths	2	0	1	2	3	6	4	
	c) KS2 Science	2	0	1	2	3	6	4	
	d) OFSTED "overall effectiveness"	1	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding	3	1	
	e) DCSF Floor Targets		Target for KS2 65% Level 4+ English (E); 65% Level 4+ Mathematics (M)						
		1	<65%E and <65% M	<65%E or M and =65% M or E	<65% E or M and >65% M or E	> 65% E and > 65% M	3	0	
G	*DISTANCE TO ALTERNATIVE PROVISION (NB:LA must provide assistance if > 2 miles from home to nearest available primary school)	2	< 1.0 m	1.0 - 1.5 m	1.5 - 2.0 m	> 2.0 m	6	0	
H	*BALANCE OF PROVISION (Effects if school closed) (Includes balance of number of places available and need to provide children with appropriate faith/non faith provision of parents' choice)	2	Unaffected	Affected in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools	Adversely affected in review area - pupils to attend same faith schools but in neighbouring area	Adversely affected in review area - pupils to attend different faith schools/ unwanted community school	6	2	

I	STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION							
	a) CONDITION BACKLOG	2	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	6	0
	Percentile rank on cost per sq metre							
	b) SUITABILITY	1	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	3	3
	Weighted impacts percentile rank							
(Playing fields)	1	None on site	On site but too small	Shared with other school	On site + team game area		3	3
(% building accessible - DDA Act)	1	<10%	10-44%	45-79%	>80%		3	2
Deduction for split site school	no						-3	0
J	*SOCIAL EXCLUSION							
% of free school meals eligibility	1	< 10%	10% - 24%	25% - 49%	> 50%		3	2
K	RUNNING COSTS			Cost per pupil, percentile rank				
Based on non pupil-related CFR Headings	5	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1		15	0
						School Score		28
TOTALS		37 or less	38 to 58	59 and over				
ACTION		Urgent review of provision required	Investigation into viability	Take no action				

NOTE:

* = decision maker must consider when taking decision

PROPOSED DECISION MAKING MODEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL REVIEWS

In formulating the criteria the following sources of information have been used:

- 1) Overview and Scrutiny Draft Minutes 30/9/02
- 2) Guidance to School Organisation Committee when making decisions
- 3) BVPI on surplus places
- 4) Work by Primary School Places Working Group agreed by Cabinet and contained within School Organisation Plan
- 5) Cabinet notes of 17/10/02
- 6) Lifelong Learning notes on 7/11/02
- 7) Notes from Cabinet on 14/11/02
- 8) Notes from Cabinet on 17/11/05
- 9) Notes from Cabinet 21/09/06
- 10) Notes from Cabinet 13/03/08

CODE	CRITERIA	WEIGHTING	SCORE				MAX SCORE
			0	1	2	3	
A	*SURPLUS PLACES (BVPI measures nos of schools with >25% surplus)	5	> 25%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	15
B	PREDICTED SURPLUS PLACES IN 4 YEARS TIME	3	> 25%	16% - 24%	8% - 15%	0% - 7%	9
C	*PARENTAL PREFERENCES (1st preferences as % of planned admission number)	1	< 50%	50% - 74%	75% - 99%	100% +	3
D	NUMBER ON ROLL (exc Nursery) (absorbs unit costs) (absorbs mixed age teaching trigger of PSPWG)	3	105 or less	106-157	158-209	210 +	9
E	PREDICTED PUPIL NUMBERS IN 4 YEARS (includes allowance for new housing)	2	105 or less	106-157	158-209	210 +	6

F	*CURRENT EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS		FFT percentile rank NC Overall Level 3 years combined				
	(based on previous 3 years Fischer Family Trust) percentile rankings)		100-80	79-50	49-20	19-1	
	a) KS2 English	2	0	1	2	3	6
	b) KS2 Maths	2	0	1	2	3	6
	c) KS2 Science	2	0	1	2	3	6
	d) OFSTED "overall effectiveness"	1	Inadequate	Satisfactory	Good	Outstanding	3
e) DCSF Floor Targets			Target for KS2				
			55% pupils achieving Level 4+ in English and maths				
			Floor target not met	Floor target met			
	3	0	1			3	
G	*DISTANCE TO ALTERNATIVE PROVISION	2	< 1.0 m	1.0 - 1.5 m	1.5 - 2.0 m	> 2.0 m	6
	(NB:LA must provide assistance if > 2 miles from home to nearest available primary school)						
H	*BALANCE OF PROVISION	2	Unaffected	Affected in review area	Adversely affected in review area - pupils to attend same	Adversely affected in review area	6
	(Effects if school closed)						
	(Includes balance of number of places available and need to provide children with appropriate faith/non faith provision of parents' choice)			- pupils to attend same faith schools	faith schools but in neighbouring area	- pupils to attend different faith schools/ unwanted community school	

I	STANDARD OF ACCOMMODATION						
	a) CONDITION BACKLOG	2	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	6
	Percentile rank on cost per sq metre						
	b) SUITABILITY	1	100-76	75-51	50-26	25-1	3
	Weighted impacts percentile rank						
	(Playing fields)	1	None on site	On site but too small	Shared with other school	On site + team game area	3
	(% building accessible - DDA Act)	1	<10%	10-44%	45-79%	>80%	3
	Deduction for split site school	no					-3
J	*SOCIAL EXCLUSION						
	% of free school meals eligibility	1	< 10%	10% - 24%	25% - 49%	> 50%	3
K	RUNNING COSTS	5	100-76	Cost per pupil, percentile rank			
	Based on non pupil-related CFR Headings			75-51	50-26	25-1	15

Maximum

School Score

111

TOTALS

37 or less

38 to 58

59 and over

ACTION

**Urgent review
of provision
required**

**Investigation
into viability**

Take no action

NOTE:

* = decision maker must consider when taking decision