

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 27 November 2008

Subject: Stage one proposal to permanently increase the size of St Peter's C E Primary School, Hindley

Report of: 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 consultation on the above proposal; and
- obtain member's response to the proposal.

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

Recommendation / decision: It is recommended that members:

- respond in favour of the proposal; and
- request that the Director of Children and Young People's Services inform the governing body of St Peter's C E Primary School, Hindley of this response.

Key Decision: This report does not involve a key decision. 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 9 December 2008

Risks / Implications:

Financial and Staffing

Should the proposal progress beyond the statutory notice stage, there will be financial and staffing implications associated with the expansion. These will be reported in full at the decision making stage.

Policy: Wigan's Strategy for School Places and Buildings
 Equal Opportunities - Has a Diversity Impact Assessment been conducted? No
 Wards affected: Hindley

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

Should the proposal progress beyond the statutory notice stage, there may be property implications associated with the expansion. These will be reported in full at the decision making stage.

If yes, have the property implications been agreed with the Corporate Property Officer?

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 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? **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
Monitoring	
Sharing for corporate understanding	

Discussion	
Decision	
Information	

Tracking/Process:

	Consultation	Ward Members	Partners
Panel	Overview & Scrutiny	Cabinet	Council
		27/11/2008	

There are no Background Papers to this Report within the meaning of Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Proper Officer



Date

10th November 08

1 Background

- 1.1 St Peter's C E Primary School, Hindley is a voluntary aided primary school for children age 4-11
- 1.2 The current admission number at the school is 35. The governing body of the school wish to expand the school so that it has an admission number of 45. Liverpool C E Diocese supports this proposal.
- 1.3 The Education Act 2006 places a duty on local authorities to increase parental choice and expand popular and successful schools. St Peter's C E Primary School, Hindley has good standards of education and is consistently oversubscribed.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 The governing body are conducting Stage 1 of the statutory consultation process (previously known as the informal consultation stage) in accordance with the Education Act 2006 and the most recent school organisation guidelines.
- 2.2 A consultation document has been produced (appendix 1) and circulated to all statutory consultees, which include the local authority.
- 2.3 Full details of the proposals and consultation process are included in the document.

3 Pupil numbers

- 3.1 The consultation document refers to numbers of pupils at St Peter's and other primary schools in Hindley. Current pupil numbers in the area are:

School	Admission No	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Total
St Peter's C E	35	35	35	35	35	35	35	34	244
St Benedict's Catholic	30	30	30	27	30	30	21	27	195
Hindley All Saints C E	30	30	32	28	25	31	30	29	205
Hindley J & I	30	30	30	30	32	30	30	29	211

- 3.2 Local authority roll projections based on births indicate that the demand for places in the area will continue at the current level for the foreseeable future.
- 3.3 There are a considerable number of appeals for Hindley schools, both for entry into reception class and for places in all year groups throughout the year as people move into the area. Children living in Hindley who cannot access a Hindley school are generally displaced to Hindley Green, Ince or Platt Bridge.
- 3.3 All schools in Hindley and Hindley Green have been consulted on the proposal.

4 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that members:

- respond in favour of the proposal; and
- request that the Director of Children and Young People's Services inform the governing body of this response

5 Conclusion

5.1 If, following this consultation, the governing body decides to proceed to Stage 2 of the statutory process (publication of notices), the final decision on the proposal will be made by Cabinet. At this stage, the full proposals will include information on future roll projections, standards, diversity, impact on the community and travel for Cabinet to consider prior to making its decision.



Proposal to increase the admission number from 35 to 45 at

**St. Peter's C of E Primary School
Kildare Street
Hindley
Wigan
WN2 3HY**

This booklet contains:

- reasons why the Governing Body of the school are proposing this increase;
- dates and times of meetings for parents, the public and the school's staff and governors; and
- information on how you can make your views known.

Introduction

This booklet gives you information about St. Peter's C of E Primary School and explains why the school governors want to increase the admission number of the school from 35 to 45.

The school

St. Peter's is one of four primary schools in Hindley and all four schools are full or nearly full. St. Peter's is a popular school and the number of applications for places is always more than the 35 places that the school can offer each year. For example, there were 58 first preference applications and 105 applications in total for the 35 places in Reception class in 2008. We do not have records of the total number of children born in the area, however, we do have records of the number of children baptised at St. Peter's. These records show a steady increase for the last 3 years, with the number of baptisms in the year 2006-7 being 74, 2007-8 being 75 and the year 2008 to date being 80. We feel that this will continue to be the case in the future. As baptism at St. Peter's is a criteria for admission to the school, we feel that this is a significant feature. More new houses are also planned to be built in the Hindley area and this may also increase the demand for school places.

The admission number of 35 is difficult for the school to manage as it means that the older children have to be taught in classes exceeding 30, the recommended number for best practice. The governors feel strongly that increasing the intake number to 45 would have a positive impact on the school. School could organise classes in a better way because there could be five Key Stage 1 classes of children and six Key Stage 2 classes of 30 children. This would improve learning and teaching at the school.

St. Peter's C of E Primary School has been judged to be 'consistently good with outstanding features' by OFSTED. SIAS (Society for the Inspection of Anglican Schools) consider that the school is 'outstanding' overall. The Diocese and Wigan Council are confident that any extra children admitted to the school will enjoy the same high standard of education that is already provided to all the existing children.

We would need to make some alterations and extensions to the school building to accommodate the extra children if the admission number is raised. The Diocese and the Wigan Council have agreed that, if this proposal goes ahead, a significant amount will be spent on the school buildings so that we are able to meet the needs of all the children properly. This will mean that some new teaching spaces will be provided and also that they working environment of the classes would be improved. Any building work that is carried out at the school will be planned in great detail so that any disruption to the life of the School is kept to an absolute minimum and the children will be safe at all times.

Proposal

It is proposed to increase the admission number of St. Peter's C of E Primary School from 35 to 45 from September 2010. The main reasons for this proposal are: -

- The school is popular and receives far more applications than the number of places available. Increasing the admission number means that more parents will get their first choice of school.
- The school is successful as shown by the inspections by both OFSTED and SIAS. This proposal would allow more children to benefit from the high standard of education already provided at the school.
- Moving to an admission number of 45 will help the school to organise teaching groups better than it can at the moment.
- The three other primary schools in Hindley all have an admission number of 30 so they can teach children in one class per year group.
- Proposed new housing in the area may create more demand for school places. Increasing the number of places at St. Peter's will increase the total number of places available.

Dates and times of meetings

We will hold meetings for everyone who may be affected by the proposal. At the meetings you will be able to talk to people from the school, the governing body, the Diocese and Wigan Council and ask any questions you have. We hope that you will be able to attend these meetings as your views are important. The views given at the meetings will be taken into account as part of the consultation.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Drop-in session	Date: Monday 20 th October Time: 1:00 – 3:00 pm 5:30 – 7:00 pm Venue: St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School	This session is open to everyone, but especially parents of children attending the school and those considering applying for a place in the future. If you wish to attend, please contact the school and they will allocate you a time.
Meeting for staff	Date: Monday 20 th October Time: 3:30-4:30pm Venue: St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School	All staff of the school
Meeting for governors	Date: Monday 20 th October Time: 4:30 – 5:30pm Venue: St. Peter's C. of E. Primary School	All governors of the school

Next steps

A clear legal process has to be followed to increase the admission number of a school.

The table on the next page gives the timetable we will follow to move the proposal forward. It includes the:

- consultation periods; and
- points at which decisions will be made.

If you want to make your views known, you must do so within the dates given and in the ways described. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, we cannot take them into account.

Proposed timetable

Event	Dates
<p>Consultation – during this time you tell us your views by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coming to the appropriate meeting as set out above. Notes will be taken at these meetings so there will be a proper record of the views expressed. ● Writing to or emailing the governing body, care of Wigan Council. ● Completing the response form at the end of this booklet <p>The address for correspondence is given at the end of the booklet.</p>	<p>10 October 2008 to 28 November 2008</p>
<p>Results of the consultation will go to the governing body and they will decide whether or not to continue with the proposal and move to the next stage.</p>	<p>December 2008</p>
<p>Representation period – if the governing body decides that it wants to go ahead with the proposal to increase the admission number, it must publish Statutory Notices. These are public notices that appear in a local newspaper, at the entrance to the school 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 governing body, care of Wigan Council, at the address at the end of this booklet. The address and the date by which written comments must be received will also be given in the public notice.</p>	<p>January 2009</p>
<p>Wigan Council takes the final decision on the proposal.</p>	<p>By the end of March 2009</p>

Certain organisations can appeal against the decision that is finally taken. Any such appeals must be received within four weeks of Wigan Council's decision.

If this timetable alters for any reason, the school, the governors or Wigan Council will let you know and give you the revised dates.

Address for correspondence

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

email: schoolprovision@wigan.gov.uk

Telephone: 01942 486028 or 01942 486029

www.wigan.gov.uk

6. Are you:
- | | |
|--|--------|
| A parent or carer of a child at St. Peter's C of E Primary School? | Yes/No |
| A parent or carer of a child at another school? | Yes/No |
| If yes, please state which school..... | |
| A member of staff at St. Peter's C of E Primary School | Yes/No |
| A member of staff at another school? | Yes/No |
| If yes, please state which school..... | |
| A Governor of St. Peter's C of E Primary School? | Yes/No |
| A Governor of another school? | Yes/No |
| If yes, please state which school..... | |
| Other member of the community | Yes/No |

Please return your completed form by Friday 28th November 2008 to:

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form.