

## **Consultation to reduce school places in the Shevington area**



## **Background**

We have a statutory duty to make sure there are enough quality school places. We want our schools to provide our children with the best educational opportunities to enjoy and achieve.

School places are funded by the number of children on roll. Therefore low numbers can impact on the staff a school can employ and limits resources for teaching and learning which in turn can impact on educational standards and outcomes for children.

The number of places needed in the Shevington area is falling.

On 21 April 2016 Cabinet gave approval for officers to undertake a review of school place provision in the Shevington area. This has now taken place and permission has been given to consult on options to reduce the number of surplus places in the area.

### **What is this consultation about?**

This consultation is about seeking your views on options to reduce surplus places in the Shevington area.

This booklet sets out the factors we have taken into account and a number of options for consideration. We want to know your views before we decide to consult on any school organisation proposals to reduce surplus places.

## Current school place provision in the Shevington area

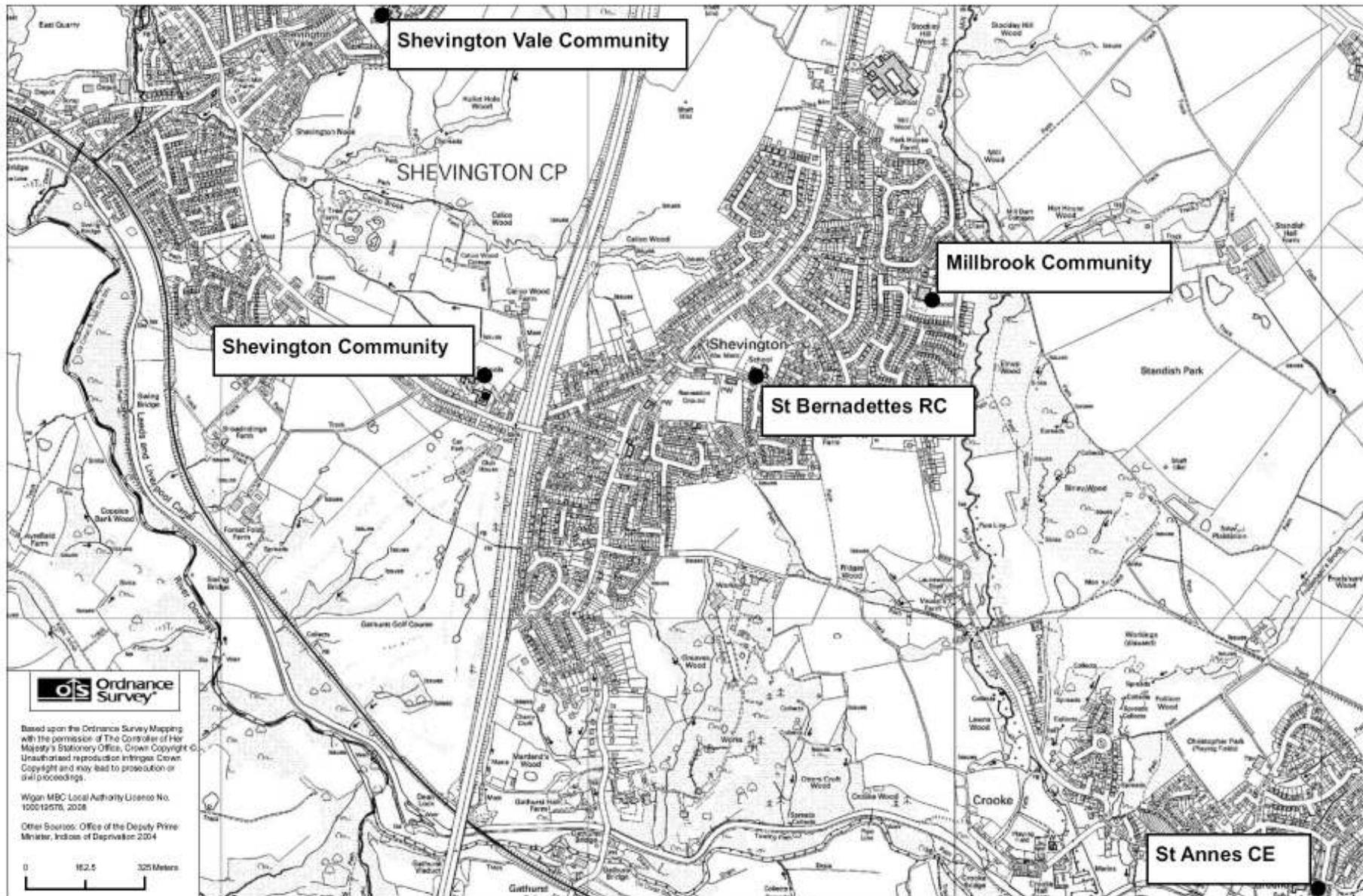
There are 5 schools that are situated in the Shevington school place planning area. These are as follows:

Shevington & Standish Lower Ground											
	OFSTED Grading	Published admission number	Rec Intake 2016	Current pupil numbers by year group							
School				R	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Shevington St Anne's CE Primary	Good	20	21	20	20	13	19	19	21	17	<b>129</b>
St Bernadette's Catholic Primary	Good	30	29	29	30	29	16	28	29	28	<b>189</b>
Shevington Community Primary	Outstanding*	30	7	8	17	14	14	16	19	13	<b>101</b>
Shevington Vale County Primary	Good	30	24	28	24	10	16	18	29	15	<b>140</b>
Millbrook Community Primary	Good	30	30	30	28	30	30	29	30	30	<b>207</b>

\*This is the new judgement from Ofsted as at 16 June 2016.

This map shows the location of the schools.

## SHEVINGTON (WN6-8 & WN6-9)



**St Anne's CE Primary at Standish Lower Ground** has an admission number of 20 and is almost full to capacity. It serves the community of Standish Lower Ground and is not easily accessible by walking route to central Shevington. Projections indicate places are needed at this school.

**St Bernadette's Catholic Primary** has healthy pupil numbers and primarily provides school places for those who are Catholic and live in the Shevington area. The school is full in almost every year group and projections indicate these places are needed for the future.

**Shevington Community Primary, Shevington Millbrook and Shevington Vale (The Shevington Federation)** are all community schools located centrally within the Shevington area and have a shared governing body that federated some years ago. The numbers are low across two of the three schools especially Shevington Community Primary. The school is currently operating at less than 50% of its capacity with many classes being taught in mixed age teaching groups. The current number on roll is currently 101. 13 children are due to leave at the end of this academic year and there are just 7 children due to start in September 2016. This means that the school is expected to have 95 children on roll for September 2016. This trend is expected to continue which means should the school to remain open, there will be even fewer children on roll.

The Shevington Federation have proved over the years that economies of scale provide the opportunity to negotiate for resources really benefit our children. This means they can pool together their funding to organise school activities, staff training etc. This has been the case particularly for the two schools with lower pupil numbers namely Shevington Community Primary and Shevington Vale.

### **Other local factors**

Demographics of the Shevington area show that the projected population growth is weighted towards older age groups.

The birth rate in the area has been low for a number of years and this has had a negative impact on pupil numbers in the area. Our projections show that for the foreseeable future numbers are expected to remain low.

<b>Year of Birth</b>	<b>Total Number of Births</b>	<b>Reception Intake Year</b>
2010-11	82	15/16
2011-12	76	16/17
2012-13	56	17/18
2013-14	70	18/19
2014-15	67	19/20

Reducing the number of school places available by 30 will still allow sufficient school places for future demands.

As the capacity issues are around schools within the Shevington Federation, options to reduce places have been focused around these schools.

We know that any disruption to a child's education is of concern and we consider this very seriously when making any changes to school provision. However, we are in a position where it is not viable to continue to maintain all three schools. Once an option is determined to reduce provision, we can confirm the transition of any displaced pupils and how they will be supported.

### **Options to reduce surplus places across the three schools within the Shevington Federation**

Each of the current school bases has capacity to expand to accommodate displaced children. Reducing school places could be achieved as follows:

#### **Option 1**

- Close Shevington Millbrook and displace the children to Shevington Vale and / or Shevington Community Primary

#### **Option 2**

- Close Shevington Vale and transfer all the children to Shevington Community Primary

#### **Option 3**

- Close Shevington Community Primary and transfer the children to Shevington Vale

#### **Option 4**

- Close Shevington Community Primary and retain the school buildings. Then transfer all the children from Shevington Vale to the Shevington Community Primary School site.

To clarify:

- Close either Shevington Primary or Shevington Vale School 'in name'
- Use the buildings at either site to accommodate children from both schools. This would mean children from both Shevington Vale and Shevington Primary will come together in one school utilising one of the school sites.

### **Early Years Provision**

We have a responsibility to ensure there is sufficient early years provision available and we carefully monitor changes in demand. There is nursery provision available on all 3 school sites albeit the provision on Shevington Primary School has very low numbers. Early years provision will be considered alongside any future school organisation proposals.

## Consultation process

We will hold meetings to answer any questions you may have on the above options and to record your views.

Meeting	Date, time and venue	Who should attend
Meeting for staff	Date: 14 June 2016 Time: 3.45 pm Venue: Shevington Community Primary School	All staff of the Shevington Federation
Meeting for governors	Date: 14 June 2016 Time: 5 pm Venue: Shevington Community Primary School	All governors of The Shevington Federation
Consultation sessions	Date: 20 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 Time: 3 pm until 7 pm Venue: Shevington Community Primary School	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils attending Shevington Community Primary or those who may have children who will attend in the future.</p> <p>If you wish to attend this session, please contact Shevington Community Primary School either in person or by phone on 01257 252859 and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Consultation sessions	Date: 21 <sup>st</sup> June 2016 Time: 3 pm until 7 pm Venue: Shevington Vale Primary School	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils attending Shevington Vale Primary or those who may have children who will attend in the future.</p> <p>If you wish to attend this session, please contact Shevington Vale Primary School either in person or by phone on 01257 253559 and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>
Consultation sessions	Date: 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2016 Time: 3 pm until 7 pm Venue: Shevington Millbrook Primary School	<p>This session is open to everyone but especially to parents of pupils attending Shevington Millbrook Primary or those who may have children who will attend in the future.</p> <p>If you wish to attend this session, please contact Shevington Millbrook Primary School either in person or by phone on 01257 404552 and you will be allocated a time to attend.</p>

## The consultation process

This current process is non statutory pre-consultation. The information provided here and at the consultation sessions should be enough to enable people to form an initial view on the options for consideration. Information gathered via this consultation will be fed back to Cabinet who will then decide whether to proceed to the next stage of consultation, that is, publishing a school organisation proposal to make a change or close a school.

We are sorry that due to the volume of responses we receive when consulting on options we will not be able to acknowledge written responses nor enter into correspondence with interested parties during or after the consultation period.

Please note that all responses to this consultation will be made available to Elected Members (councillors) for decision making purposes.

## Next steps

We must follow strict legal procedures when consulting on school organisation proposals. The timetable below shows the periods of consultation and dates when decisions are expected to be made. If you make your views known outside of these periods, or in any other way than described, they cannot be taken into account.

Event	Dates
Consultation – during this time you can make your views known by <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attending the open consultation sessions (notes will be taken);</li><li>• writing to or emailing the council; or</li><li>• completing the response form at the end of this booklet</li></ul>	13 June to 24 July 2016
Results of the consultation will go to the Cabinet of the council. Cabinet will decide whether it wishes to move on to the next stage of consultation	25th August 2016
Representation period – Statutory notices are published. These are public notices that appear in the local newspaper, at the entrances 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 or emailing the council at the address on page 10. The address and date by which you must send written comments will also be given on the public notice.	8 September to 6 October 2016
The council makes the final decision on the proposal*	24 November 2016
Proposal to be implemented by	1 September 2017

\*The following can appeal against the council's decision: the Bishop of the Liverpool Archdiocese; the Diocese of Blackburn; and the governors of schools effected by the proposals. Please note that the timetable may alter. The council will be able to tell you if this happens and let you know the new dates we are working towards.

## Circulation list

We are consulting the following:

- Parents and prospective parents of children attending Shevington Community Primary, Shevington Vale and Shevington Millbrook
- Pupils at Shevington Community Primary, Shevington Vale and Shevington Millbrook
- Early years providers in the Shevington area
- Governors and staff of The Shevington Federation
- Diocesan authorities
- Other primary schools in the Shevington school place planning area
- Trade Unions and Professional Associations
- Elected Members (councillors)
- The local Member of Parliament
- The local community (via web site, placing of document in local community settings and in early years settings)
- Voluntary groups that use the school premises at the schools
- Lancashire County Council

Address for correspondence:

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children and Families  
School Organisation Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Waterside House  
Waterside Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 5AZ

## Response to consultation on options for reducing school place provision in the Shevington area

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

a) Do you think that the booklet clearly explains why we need reduce school place provision in the Shevington area?

Yes

No

b) Do you understand how and when to make your views known?

Yes

No

c) Please state your preferred option:

**Option 1:** Close Shevington Millbrook and displace the children to Shevington Vale and / or Shevington Community Primary

**Option 2:** Close Shevington Vale and transfer all the children to Shevington Community Primary

**Option 3:** Close Shevington Community Primary and transfer the children to Shevington Vale

**Option 4:** Close Shevington Community Primary and retain the school buildings. Then transfer all the children from Shevington Vale to the Shevington Community Primary School site.

To clarify:

- Close either Shevington Primary or Shevington Vale School 'in name'
- Use the buildings at either site to accommodate children from both schools. This would mean children from both Shevington Vale and Shevington Primary will come together in one school utilising one of the school sites.

Please use this box for comments on your chosen option:

**Other:**

**Please state what you feel another option would be:**

**Please tell us who you are:**

a) A parent of a pre-school child:

b) A parent or guardian of a child attending:

Shevington Millbrook

Shevington Community Primary School

Shevington Vale

Other, please state:.....

d) A member of staff at:

Shevington Millbrook

Shevington Community Primary School

Shevington Vale

Other, please state:.....

g) A governor at the Shevington Federation:

- i) A governor at another school (please state):.....
- j) A member of the community:
- k) Other:.....

Please provide your name and address below (this information is for identification purposes only and will not be shared beyond the council)

Please return your completed form no later than **24 July 2016** to:

Wigan Council  
People Directorate: Children and Families  
School Organisation Team  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Waterside House  
Waterside Drive  
Wigan  
WN3 5AZ

The questionnaire can also be completed online at: [www.wigan.gov.uk](http://www.wigan.gov.uk) / Education and Families / School Admissions / Consultations