

## **TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC) – IMMEDIATE ISSUES**

### **BACKGROUND**

By 2010, integrated extended services will increasingly be led by the needs of children, working with families and their local community. Local authorities have a responsibility to provide a strategic overview and direction for children's services.

This has coincided with the need to manage the effect of significant demographic decline in its pupil populations which will lead to sharply falling school rolls. In 2005 there were 5% fewer 0-15 year olds than in 2001 and by 2021 some 25% fewer 0-15 year olds.

Therefore, TLC must be seen in the wider context of other major changes which are being implemented across the local authority and not as a separate, self-standing initiative. The elements of TLC which are to do with school rationalisation, the pattern and nature of provision and the effective deployment of resources are necessary pre-requisites which provide the platform for further development in respect of children's centres, 14 to 19 provision, SEN provision, educational sustainability of individual schools (size, budget, leadership, curriculum) etc.

Overall, the TLC process consists of three inter-related elements:

- The rationalisation of the pattern of school provision in order to match the supply of places with demand.
- The provision of a framework for the planning of the development of integrated extended services which will involve a range of local authority services and other providers in and around schools over the course of the next five years or so.
- 14 to 19 curriculum provision across a range of providers (Which involves extending entitlement and opportunities for young people in the roll out of the 14 new specialised diplomas, increased personalisation of the curriculum and a strengthened framework of planning with greater collaboration between providers).

In the longer term, it is very evident that in order for local authorities to carry out their responsibilities as commissioners of school places and to achieve value for money, processes for the active management and review of school organisation matters will continue to be required. In addition and as already clearly identified in the Primary Capital Programme and in Building Schools for the Future, all local authorities will need to have the mechanisms in place to be able to make the appropriate links between school organisation and capital investment on the one hand and the wider national and local agendas driving the development of Children's Services on the other.

Recently the TLC Programme has been the subject of review by the Scrutiny Committee. The Report of the Scrutiny Panel was received by the Full Council at its meeting of 15 May.

## **ALSAGER, CONGLETON, SANDBACH AND HOLMES CHAPEL**

In the primary schools in ACS&HC, there were 13.2% surplus places in January 2007 which are projected to rise to 18.5% by 2012. (National guidance indicates that 10% surplus is the point at which action is required to manage the supply of places). 11 out of the 36 primary schools in the locality have 20% or more surplus and this is projected to rise to 15 schools by 2012. 5 schools currently have pupil rolls of fewer than 100. The locality imports 300+ children from the rest of Cheshire and 300+ pupils from neighbouring local authorities.

In the secondary sector, there was a reduction by one school in Congleton in 2001. The continuing decline in primary pupil numbers will feed through to reduce school sizes in future. The locality imports 800+ pupils from the rest of Cheshire and 400+ from neighbouring local authorities. There are considerable opportunities to focus on the transformational aspects of TLC especially the 14 to 19 curriculum, personalisation and inclusion

As far as conduct of the review is concerned, visits to schools have now been completed along with the initial information gathering and options are being formulated. SPSP accepted the recommendation by officers that the announcement of the options be delayed until after the elections in May and after taking any views of the successor authority.

The proposed outline timetable is as follows:

Formal consultation – September and October 2008  
Publication of statutory notices – early December 2008 to mid January 2009  
Decisions on statutory notices – by end April 2009

The following are options were put forward for consideration on 25 June:

### **POSSIBLE CLOSURES OF SCHOOLS**

#### ***Church Lawton Primary School***

Closure of Church Lawton Primary School with effect from 1 September 2009 or 2010, with the school building being used either to re-house St Gabriel's RC Primary School or to support the delivery of broader Children's Services in the Alsager locality.

#### ***Sandbach Community Primary School***

Closure of Sandbach Community Primary School with effect from 1 September 2010, with the released school building becoming a shared resource for the delivery of 14-19 education in the locality.

### **POSSIBLE REDUCTIONS IN THE SIZE OF SCHOOLS**

***Chelford CE Primary School***

Reduction in the net capacity to 60 pupils.

***Cranberry Primary School, Alsager***

Reduction in the net capacity to 210 pupils with accommodation in one of the former school buildings only.

***Daven Primary School, Congleton***

Reduction in the net capacity to 210 pupils.

***Holmes Chapel Primary School***

Reduction in the net capacity to 350 pupils at a future date should this become warranted.

***Offley Primary School, Sandbach***

Reduction in the net capacity to 350 pupils with accommodation in one of the former school buildings only.

***POSSIBLE CHANGES IN PUBLISHED ADMISSION NUMBER (PAN)***

***Alsager, Highfields Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 40 to 37 in line with capacity

***Astbury St Mary's CE Primary School***

Increase PAN from 16 to 18

***Black Firs Primary***

Reduce PAN from 40 to 34 in line with capacity

***Brereton Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 30 to 21

***Chelford CE Primary School***

Reduce PAN in line with capacity

***Cranberry Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 45 to 30

***Daven Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 60 to 30 in line with capacity

***Goostrey Primary School***

Increase PAN from 26 to 30 in line with capacity

***Haslington Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 50 to 40 in line with capacity

***Holmes Chapel Primary School***

Possible future reduction in PAN

***Offley Primary School***

Reduce capacity and reduce PAN from 60 to 50

***Sandbach Heath St John's Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 30 to 25 in line with capacity

***Scolar Green Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 30 to 25 in line with capacity

***Woodcock's Well CE Primary School***

Reduce PAN from 15 to 12

## **POSSIBLE FEDERATIONS**

The Governing Bodies of the following schools to be invited to explore with the Local Authority and the Church of England Diocese the development of federated groupings of schools: Chelford CE Primary, Peover Superior Endowed (Cont) Primary, Lower Peover CE Primary, Marton & District CE Primary, Brereton CE Primary, Smallwood CE Primary, Astbury St Mary's CE Primary, Scholar Green Primary, Woodcocks' Well CE Primary, Goostrey Community Primary.

## **IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES STEMMING FROM COMPLETED REVIEWS**

These largely cover capital projects that have arisen from the TLC reviews. This represents a considerable workload as certain of the projects, Sir William Stanier, for example are very large and complex. The capital programme implications of TLC will extend well into the life of the new authority.

**Sir William Stanier High** (capital project – estimated completion – September 2009)

**Dean Oaks** (previously Oaklands Infant and Dean Row Junior) amalgamation (capital project required upgrade and to bring both schools into one – estimated completion September 2009 - subsequently a possible capital receipt)

**Vernon Infant and Junior** amalgamation (capital project required to upgrade and to bring both schools into one – estimated completion September 2010 - subsequently a possible capital receipt – awaiting finalisation of Business Case and appropriate member approval)

