

# CHESHIRE EAST

## Cabinet

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**Date of meeting:** 7 October 2008  
**Report of:** Joan Feenan – Director of Children’s Services  
**Title:** **TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC) :  
EMERGING ISSUES FROM LOCALITY REVIEW FOR  
ALSAGER, CONGLETON, SANDBACH AND HOLMES  
CHAPEL**

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### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to draw Members’ attention to the outcomes of the informal consultations held on the options identified by the Locality Review and the subsequent recommendations.

1.2 In accordance with Rule 13.1 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee has been consulted and has agreed that this item is urgent and is, therefore, exempt from the call-in procedure.

### 2.0 Decision Required

**2.1 Members are asked to endorse the proposed actions by the County Council in respect of the Alsager, Congleton, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel TLC Review, following the recommendations made by Cheshire County Council’s School Planning Select Panel on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 which are:**

- To authorise statutory public consultation on the possible closure of Church Lawton Primary School with effect from September 2009;
- To authorise statutory public consultation on the reduction in the net capacity of Offley Primary School to 315 places located in a single building, and the alternative use of the premises of the former Offley Infant School as a centre for delivering 14-19 education for the locality to be investigated; the reduction in the net capacity of Sandbach Primary School to 105 places with the Children’s Centre for Sandbach and co-located Children’s Services in the released accommodation;
- To authorise to invite the Chester Diocesan Board of Education and the Governors of Chelford CE Primary School to develop proposals for the revision of the school’s net capacity to 60 by re-designation of the use of one classroom in such a way that future potential use

of the building for an expanded Chelford CE Primary School, should this become warranted, is not compromised;

- To submit to the Cheshire East Unitary Authority information relating to pupil numbers in the Holmes Chapel area together with the proposed means for reducing capacity at Holmes Chapel Primary School should this be warranted at a future date;
- To authorise consultations and to request officers to develop proposals in respect of the group of schools identified for potential Federations, as described below:

Chelford CE VC, Peover Superior Endowed, Lower Peover CE VA, Marton and District CE VA, Brereton CE VA, Smallwood CEVC, Astbury St Mary's CE VA, Scholar Green, Woodcocks' Well CE VC and Goostrey Community;

- To authorise statutory consultation as part of the admission arrangements for September 2010 in respect of changes in Published Admission Numbers:

<b>School</b>	<b>Current Net Capacity</b>	<b>Proposed Net Capacity</b>	<b>Current PAN</b>	<b>Proposed PAN</b>
<b>Haslington Primary</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Brereton CE</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Sandbach Heath St John's</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Marlfields Primary</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Buglawton Primary</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Astbury St Mary's CE</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Scholar Green</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Alsager Highfields</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Smallwood CE</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Woodcocks' Well CE</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Goostrey Primary</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Black Firs Primary</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2179</b>	<b>2230</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>320</b>

Note: these are changes needed to align net capacity and PAN in the light of current use of accommodation

- To authorise consultation as part of the admission arrangements for September 2010 on reduction in the published admission number for Cranberry Primary School from 45 to 30, and to ask officers to develop proposals for the use of the released former infant school building which retained it for use as a nursery and which enable the development of co-located Children's Services in such a way that future potential use of the building for an expanded Cranberry

Primary School, should this become warranted, is not compromised;

- To authorise consultation as part of the admission arrangements for September 2010 on the reduction in the published admission number for Daven Primary School from 60 to 30 to give a capacity of 210, with the released accommodation becoming available as a centre to support multi-agency working in the Congleton locality. There should be a review of the operation of primary school catchment areas in and around Congleton.

### **3.0 Financial Implications for Transition Costs**

3.1 None.

### **4.0 Financial Implications 2009/10 and beyond**

#### **Revenue – Dedicated School Grant (DSG)**

- 4.1 The proposal to close Church Lawton Primary School on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2009 would result in a DSG saving of approximately £58,000 in 2009-10 and an annual DSG saving of approximately £100,000 thereafter.

#### **CAPITAL**

- 4.2 There may be a need for capital expenditure in relation to adapting buildings for their future use in some of the options and this would need to be considered as part of the draft capital programme.

### **5.0 Risk Assessment**

5.1 There are risks associated with further delay in proceeding with the TLC reviews to do with a failure on the part of the Local Authority to have in place mechanisms to manage the supply of school places. There are also implications to do with effective deployment of resources and Best Value if school place provision and pupil demand are not well matched.

5.2 This locality review was launched in November 2007 and the emerging proposals were shared with the communities in the locality over the summer term. Any delay in the commencement of the next stage of the process is likely to result in increased uncertainty in the locality and can lead to some schools becoming destabilised through parental anticipation of the outcomes.

## **6.0 Background**

### **6.1 The Alsager, Congleton, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel (ACS&HC) Review**

This locality review was launched in November 2007 through a Stakeholder Conference. Informal consultations on the emerging options were held in Alsager, Sandbach and Congleton in June/July.

- 6.2 The School Planning Select Panel paper attached, presented to members on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008 details the outcomes and the responses of the communities that took part in the informal consultation as part of the locality review.

## **7.0 Options**

- 7.1 In light of the outcomes of the informal consultations, Members are invited to offer advice on whether to proceed to formal consultations on any or all of the options identified previously and to consider the possibility of amending the initial options in the light of representations made and the latest knowledge of projected pupil numbers presented in this report.

## **8.0 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 8.1 To allow the County Council to continue to make progress with the Alsager, Congleton, Sandbach and Holmes Chapel (ACS&HC) TLC Review and the need to move to formal statutory consultation.

### ***For further information:***

*Portfolio Holder: Councillor P Findlow*

*Officer: Joan Feenan*

*Tel No: 01244 972301*

*Email: [joan.feenan@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:joan.feenan@cheshire.gov.uk)*

### ***Background Documents:***

*Documents are available for inspection at:*