

Holmes Chapel Primary School

Director of Children's Services
Cheshire County Council
County Hall
Chester
Cheshire
CH1 1SQ

To
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25 JUL 2008

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOL PLANNING

& ENVIRONMENT

25 JUL 2008

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Dear Sir/Madam,

11th July 2008

TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC) Holmes Chapel locality : Options for Change

The Governing Body of Holmes Chapel Primary School wish to contribute to the above review and consultation process in relation to the impact on our school should the suggested option, outlined in your letter to Staff and Governors of 25 June 2008, of possible reduction in the net capacity from 420 pupils to 350 pupils, at a future date, should it become warranted.

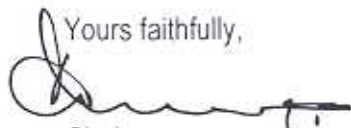
Holmes Chapel has two primary schools, at the present time, located within walking distance of each other. In addition, the schools serve the surrounding rural area where, for example, Cranage and Twemlow do not now have schools. Both schools in Holmes Chapel are expected to respect parental choice in the decision of which school to make application to when children reach school age.

For many years there has been expansion in the size of population so that Holmes Chapel is now on the verge of Town status and, indeed, is considered the next largest area in the Borough of Congleton after Alsager, Congleton Town, Middlewich and Sandbach. At the present time, this area is actively involved in Local Government Reorganisation and the split of Cheshire into two regions has had an impact on future planning, not least in ongoing developments which include a percentage input of affordable homes on two large sites within Holmes Chapel itself and other smaller but significant sites within the rural area. This will impact on the school's numbers within the next two/three years.

Another factor is that Holmes Chapel Primary School has a large area of land which would be better utilised for expansion or amalgamation, rather than reduction of places, whereas the other primary school site is restricted access and surrounded by development on all sides.

We note that no decisions have yet been made, but we would urge that ongoing planning issues affecting this large village and the surrounding rural area, at the present time, are given further consideration before any final decision is taken.

Yours faithfully,



Chairman,

Governing Body, Holmes Chapel Primary School

