

# CHESHIRE EAST

## Cabinet

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**Date of meeting:** 17 February 2009  
**Report of:** Linda Brown – Acting Director of Children's Services  
**Title:** **TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC) :  
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 formal consultations held on options identified by the Locality Review, and the subsequent recommendations which are being made to the County Council and the Children's Services Executive of the County Council.

### 2.0 Decision Required

2.1 Members are asked to note 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 26 January 2009, which are that:

- the Council on 12 February support, and that the Children's Services Executive on 17 February authorise the publication of statutory notices proposing the closure of Church Lawton Primary School in Summer 2009, subject to any further developments concerning the school's recovery plan;

and that the Children's Services Executive authorise

- the changes proposed in the net capacities of Sandbach Community Primary School (from 210 to 105) and of Offley Primary School (from 420 to 315) from September 2010, and;
- the change proposed in the net capacity of Cranberry Primary School (from 315 to 210) from September 2010 and;
- the change proposed in the net capacity of Daven Primary School (from 420 to 210) from September 2009.

### 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 will 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 2008. 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 2008, and formal consultations were held during December 2008 and January 2009.

6.2 On 26 January 2009, the School Planning Select Panel considered the outcomes and the responses of the communities who took part in the formal consultations as part of the locality review. The report, together with Appendices and supporting documents giving full details of the consultations, including summaries of the final stages of the consultation in relation to each proposal, as were presented to the School Planning Select Panel, are listed at the end of this Report as Background Documents which are available for inspection.

6.3 The County Council and Children's Services Executive will have met prior to today's meeting. However, the County Council's procedures allow,

either through a Notice of Motion to Council, or through the scrutiny procedure in relation to decisions of the Children's Services Executive, that one or all of these proposals be subject to the advice of the Children's Services Scrutiny Panel, which next meets on 3 March. It is unknown at the time of writing this report, but considered highly likely, that one (or both) of these procedures will be invoked within the County Council. In which case, the matter would be reconsidered by the Children's Services Executive on 16 March 2009.

## **7.0 Options**

7.1 In light of the outcomes of the formal consultations, Members are invited to offer advice on whether to proceed to the issue of Public Notices in the case of Church Lawton Primary School, and whether to authorise the proposed changes in net capacity to Sandbach Community Primary School, Offley Primary School, Cranberry Primary School and Daven Primary School.

## **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,

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

*Portfolio Holder: Councillor P Findlow*

*Officer: Linda Brown, Acting Director, Children's Services*

*Tel No: 01244 972301*

*Email: [Linda.brown@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:Linda.brown@cheshire.gov.uk)*

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

***Internal Discussion Paper to School Planning Select Panel 26 January 2009: TRANSFORMING LEARNING COMMUNITIES (TLC): REPORT OF THE OPTIONS IDENTIFIED BY THE LOCALITY REVIEW FOR ALSAGER, CONGLETON, SANDBACH AND HOLMES CHAPEL;***

***Appendix 1: Decision of the Children's Services Executive on 13 October 2008;***

***Appendix 2A: Proposed closure of Church Lawton Primary School: Summary of Formal Consultation Event;***

***Appendix 2B: Summary of the consultation meeting with the staff of Church Lawton Primary School;***

***Appendix 2C: Summary of the consultation meeting with the Governors of Church Lawton Primary School;***

***Summary of the consultation feedback received on the proposed closure of Church Lawton Primary School;***

***Letter dated 22 January 2009 to County Councillor D Rowlands from the Governing Body of Church Lawton Primary School;***

***Two – year Recovery Plan submitted by the Governing Body of Church Lawton Primary School;***

***Revised Two – year Recovery Plan submitted by the Governing Body of Church Lawton Primary School;***  
***Appendix 2F: Proposed reduction in the net capacity of Offley Primary School & Sandbach Community Primary School: Summary of Formal Consultation Event;***  
***Summary of the consultation feedback received on the proposed reduction in the net capacity of Sandbach Community Primary School;***  
***Summary of the consultation feedback received on the proposed reduction in the net capacity of Offley Primary School;***  
***Appendix 2G: Summary of the consultation feedback received on the proposed reduction in the net capacity of Daven Primary School & Cranberry Primary School;***  
***Proposed reduction in the net capacity of Cranberry Primary School: Summary of Formal Consultation Event;***  
***Summary of the consultation feedback received on the proposed reduction in the net capacity of Cranberry Primary School;***

***Documents are available for inspection at:***

Westfields, Middlewich Road  
Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1HZ