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APPENDIX Q

CHURCH LAWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL - PROPOSED CLOSURE IN RELATION TO THE DECISION-MAKERS GUIDANCE

Guidance Para.	ISSUE / CONSIDERATION	CURRENT POSITION	IMPACT OF CLOSURE
	STANDARDS AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT		
4.19 & 4.20	Improvement of standards and opportunities for children	<p>The last Ofsted Inspection in September 2006 reported an overall Grade 3 (satisfactory) for effectiveness of the school. Standards are currently satisfactory.</p> <p>The number on roll has fallen. In September 2008 there were 46 pupils in school + 6 part time Nursery pupils.</p> <p>There were only 8 pupils who live in the Church Lawton 'catchment area' attending the school at that time.</p> <p>Due to the low numbers on roll there are now only 3 classes – Class 1 (the Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils are all taught in the same class), Class 2 (Year 3 and Year 4) and Class 3 (Year 5 and Year 6).</p>	<p>Places available in range of alternative schools providing good quality education and within reasonable distance for access.</p> <p>Rode Heath Primary, Alsager Highfields Primary and Excalibur Primary School were all given an overall Grade 1 (Outstanding).</p> <p>Scholar Green Primary School – Grade 2 'Good with Outstanding Features.'</p> <p>Cranberry Primary School – newly amalgamated therefore no Ofsted grades available - school has not yet been inspected.</p> <p>These and other "receiver" schools would be strengthened by additional pupils, become more cost-effective and in better position to deliver improved standards. (More diversity and subject expertise; more opportunities for professional development; more opportunities for pupils to work together in a range of groups/classes; more secure curriculum continuity and progression; more capacity to improve teaching and learning thereby raising standards).</p>
4.21	Impact on SEN issues	Children currently have their needs met within mainstream provision. There is one pupil with a Statement of Special Education Needs and one pupil receiving Individual Pupil Funding.	Children would similarly have their needs met within mainstream provision at other local schools, drawing on the same support mechanism currently in place deriving from the local Children and Young People's Plan.

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			The two pupils with additional needs will continue to receive support through Local Authority delegated funding, with appropriate amendment to the one statement of special educational need. Both the general provision of education and the progress which can be expected for children with special needs will be improved, based on the most recent Ofsted inspections of local schools.
4.20	Impact on underperforming groups	Not a significant issue.	Likely to be minimal.
4.20	Impact on race equality issues	Not a significant issue. The majority of pupils are from white British background with few from other ethnic backgrounds or at an early stage of learning English.	Likely to be minimal. All Cheshire Schools are prepared or are dealing with children who have English as a second language. There is a wide range of support for schools to establish this provision where it is not operational. This provision is monitored by the Authority. Translation of documents and provision of a translator were not required in the school.
4.28 & 4.29	Impact on Choice and Diversity	<p>Originally built as a 210 primary school with a maintained nursery. This has subsequently been reduced to a net capacity of 105 with 46 on roll at January 2009 PLASC.</p> <p>High surplus places and high unit costs would continue which perpetuate inefficient and uneconomic deployment of the public funds available to the LA and its schools.</p> <p>Based on the 2009/10 Section 52 budget statement, Church Lawton's cost per pupil is £4336 compared to the average for primary schools of £3112.</p>	Perceived by current parents as a reduction in choice particularly the village community. However there were 66 pupils living in the catchment area in January 2008, of which 15 attended the school. The remaining 51 children attended a number of schools in the surrounding area. In January 2009, there were 234 spare places at 7 schools within a 2 mile radius of Church Lawton Primary School.
4.30 & 4.31	Impact on faith provision	Little or no impact. Not a faith school.	No significant impact.
4.32	Contribution to ECM	Children's ability to enjoy and achieve, to make a positive contribution and to achieve economic well-being in later life are dependent on schools being able to provide a full and high-quality education; this is at risk because the school is facing a future of extremely low pupil numbers.	Local schools to which children are likely to transfer will be able to provide access to better educational provision on a more sustainable basis, making support for them achieving their potential through these ECM outcomes significantly improved.

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	NEED FOR PLACES		
4.34 & 4.35	Match of supply and demand in respect of places (surplus places)	Taking the primary schools in the area of Alsager as a group, the % surplus places in summer 2008 was 18.68%. This is projected to be 11.8% by 2013 because of changes to other schools.	Closure of Church Lawton Primary School in addition to changes agreed to other schools in the area will bring the level of surplus places in the area to 9.6% in 2013
4.33	Match of provision with future demand	See above	See above
4.33	Match of supply and demand in respect of pupil and parents needs and wishes	See comments above about current relationship between Church Lawton Primary School and its catchment area.	Given the existing high level of choice in favour of other schools, and the projected level of surplus places in nearby schools, closure will have only a minimal impact in relation to parental wishes.
	COMMUNITY AND TRAVEL		
4.36	Impact on community	Some community activities currently occur at the school or are sponsored by it.	The school has developed a range of extended services and it is considered highly likely that these would be available on a comparable basis at alternative schools.
4.38	Impact on community cohesion and race equality	Not a significant issue.	.
4.39 & 4.40	Impact on travel and accessibility for all	<p>In order to examine the impact on travel and accessibility for all, the existing journey to school of pupils attending Church Lawton Primary School and living in Cheshire East have been examined. The analysis has not included the out of County pupils or nursery pupils.</p> <p>The children's existing journey has been compared with the journey pupils will take, assuming that they will be attending their nearest appropriate primary school.</p> <p>Currently pupils 21 are driven to school, 5 pupils walk and 8 children car share.</p>	<p>Using the recommended figure* that it is acceptable for primary age pupils to walk up to 1 mile to and from school, then of the 21 pupils who currently are driven 19 could walk to their nearest school and 2 would need to be driven. 1 pupil who currently walks could continue to use this mode of travel and of the 8 pupils who car share could walk to school. 4 children who currently walk will need to travel over 1 mile to their nearest school three of the walking journeys can be classed as unpleasant as they either have to walk adjacent to or have to cross a major road with a national speed limit. The 4th child is on a hazardous route and may require transport to be funded</p> <p>*Yellow School bus commission September 2008 As the majority of pupils are currently driven to Church Lawton Primary School it is unlikely that there would be a significant impact. If the school were to close and subject to parental preference for an alternative school, it is possible</p>

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			that there may be an increase in pupils walking to their local school
4.41	Equal opportunities: sex, race, disability	Currently no issues	Likely to be minimal. All Cheshire Schools have policies, training, provision and support to ensure requirements are met. The Local Authority monitors these policies.
4.42 & 4.43	Rural Schools and sites: Alternatives to closure Transport implications Impact on community	N/A – Church Lawton Primary school is not designated a rural primary school under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) 2008	N/A
	SPECIFIC AGE PROVISION ISSUES		
4.46 & 4.47	Impact on early years and nursery provision	Maintained nursery provision currently available at the school. Uptake of places (at 01/09) – 11/52	Sufficient alternative places in maintained, voluntary and independent sectors within a 2 mile radius of the school. See the attached report and map.
	OTHER ISSUES		
4.62	Views of interested parties	Opposed by parents and governors who have challenged the proposal on the grounds of possible future changes in local demographics, loss of a community focal point, procedural failings and the production of a two year recovery plan that governors believe would address the issues facing the school.	The Local Authority response to the objections (attached) responds to the key issues raised by the objectors.