



Wirral's Children
Phase 3

Consultation in South Wallasey
January-March 2007

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The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect this school
- Your comments


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The Primary Places Review:

September 2004
Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

October 2004
Council begins reviewing North, South, Central Birkenhead and Beechwood

October 2005
Proposals published for North Birkenhead, Beechwood and South Birkenhead

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The Primary Places Review:

October 2005
Council begins reviewing Bebington, Spital, Thornton Hough, Bromborough and Eastham

December 2005
Children's Services inspection says

- there are too many surplus places in the primary sector
- progress in reducing surplus places has been slow, but a clear strategy is now being implemented which is likely to involve some school closures


April 2006
Proposals published for Bromborough Pool Primary
Proposal for St Mary's CE (Eastham) published January 2007

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The Primary Places Review


October 2006
Council begins reviewing Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe, South Wallasey, North Wallasey, Greasby and Upton

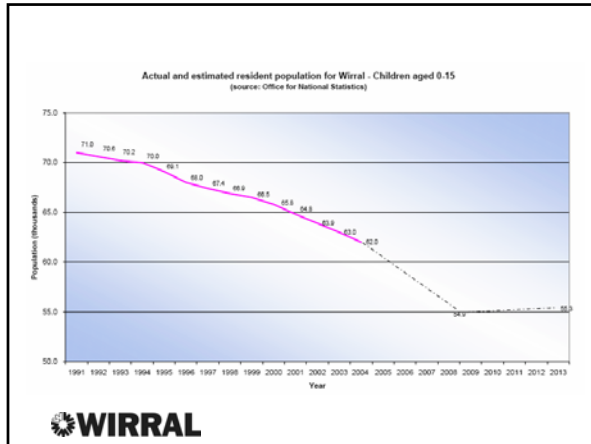
January 2007
Consultation begins on options for Pensby and Thingwall, Leasowe and South Wallasey

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Important to:

- Focus on the needs of children not schools
- Think about the next generation
- Share information
- Trust one another
- What will work, and what will not work?

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Falling birth rate - Nationwide

Children per woman

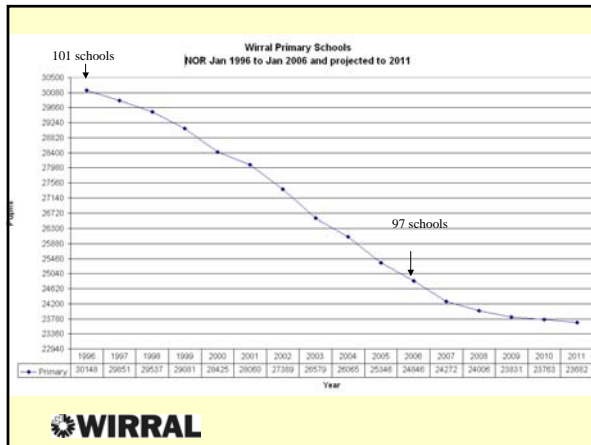
The average family should settle at 1.7 children

Right now, 60% of 30-35 yr olds have no children

1981	2001
Average age to have first child	
24	→ 27
Women who never have children	
10%	→ 20%

Source: Office for National Statistics

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Surplus places in Wirral

In 2006
12% empty places

Spending £4.2 million pounds or £165 per primary pupil on empty spaces

By 2011
16% surplus places

1 in 4 schools will have more than 25% surplus places

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Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission says **surplus space** in schools should be **between 5% and 10%**
- Above 10%, wasting money supporting empty classrooms
- 4%-5% allows degree of parental choice
- No school should have more than 25% surplus – annual return to Government

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Creative removal of surplus

LA and Schools have created:

- ICT suites
- Libraries
- Parents rooms
- Pre-school playgroups
- Afterschool/Breakfast clubs
- Adult Learning facilities
- Bases for other services

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles

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Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- Standards
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues



How small is small?

- School Organisation Plan (2003) says under 210
- Wirral Policy (2005) says under 180
- DfES (2005) says under 150



Small Schools

- Financial – maintaining small school is at the expense of all children
- Organisational issues – mixed age classes
- Additional burden on staff
- Curriculum issues



What has happened so far

120 classroom equivalents removed without closing any schools

Phase 1 - Birkenhead and Beechwood

- Amalgamation of Prenton Infant and Junior
- Amalgamation of St Oswald's CE and Vyner Primary
- Closure of The Dell Primary

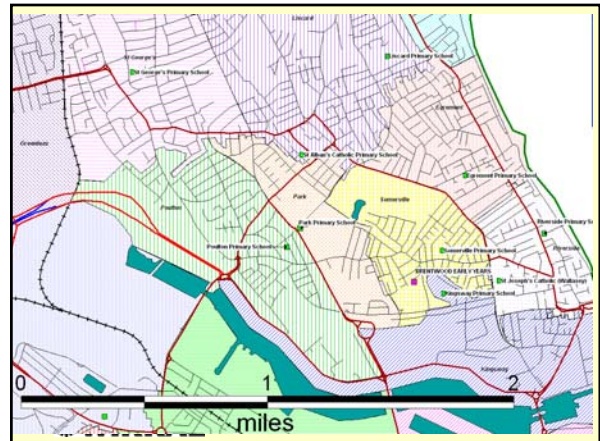
Phase 2 - Bromborough, Eastham, Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

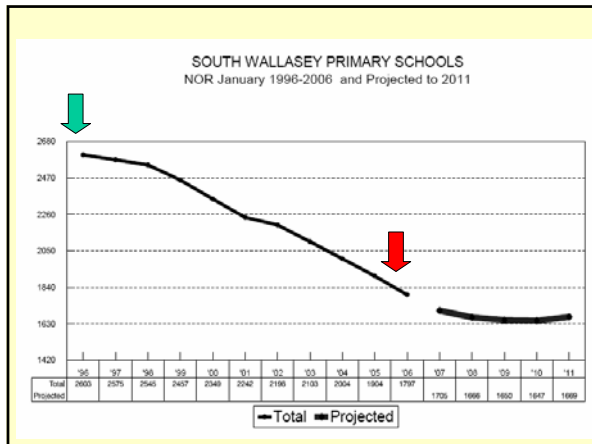
- Closure of Bromborough Pool Primary (Summer 2007)
- Also, mobile removal, pre-school re-location
- Proposed closure of St Mary's CE (Eastham)



South Wallasey

- Egremont
- Kingsway
- Park
- Poulton
- Riverside
- Somerville
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary
- Brentwood Early Years



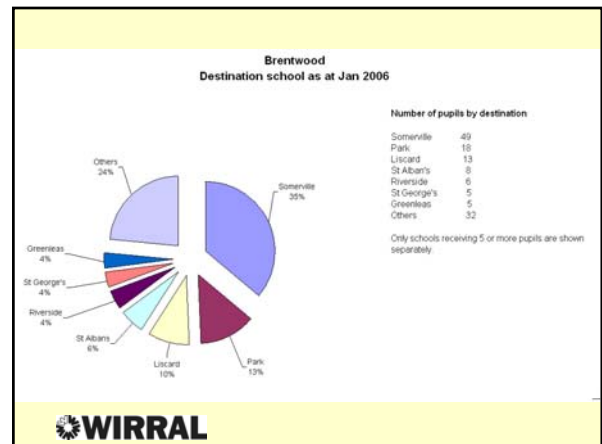
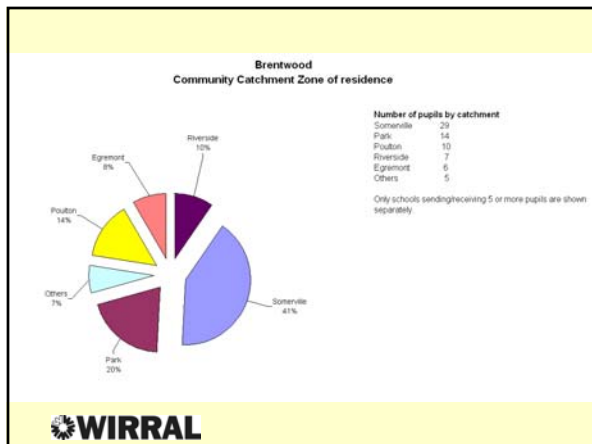
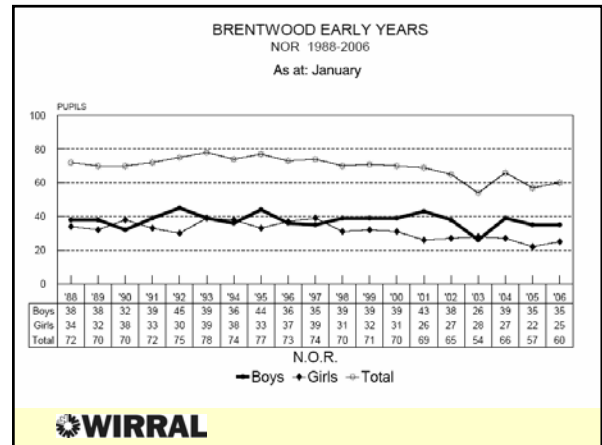
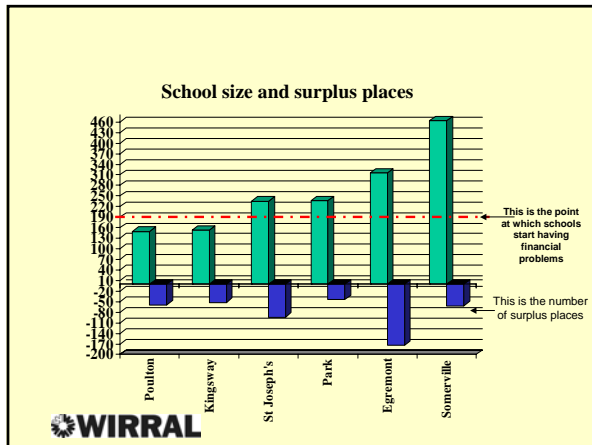


Surplus places in South Wallasey Area

In 2006
23% surplus places

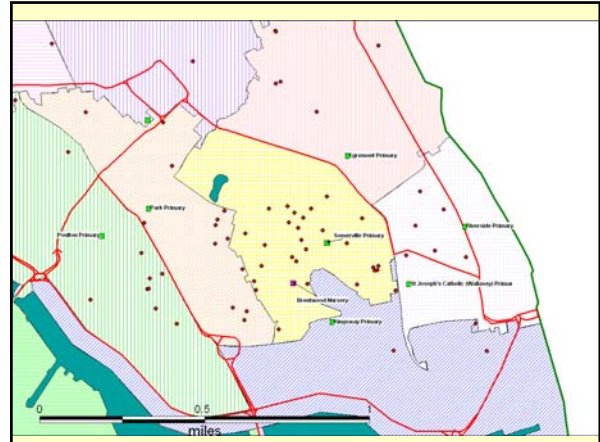
By 2011
29% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places



What Ofsted said about Brentwood (2003)

- Teaching and learning are good and children achieve well in most areas of learning
- Leadership and management are good
- There is a very good ethos for learning, relationships are very good and children have very good attitudes
- There are very good links with parents and the community, other schools and colleges
- The school makes good provision for pupils with special educational needs
- Planning does not always ensure that sufficient attention is given to children's mathematical development
- The school improvement plan does not show how checks will be made on how well things are going
- The governing body is not sufficiently involved with long-term development planning



Possible options for South Wallasey

- A: Closure of Poulton Primary School
- B: Amalgamation of Park Primary and Poulton Primary at either site
- C: Closure of Brentwood Early Years AND open F1(nursery)classes at local schools



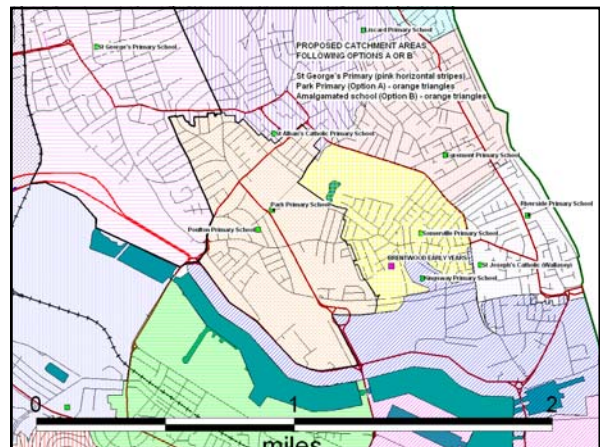
A – Closure of Poulton Primary

- Small school
- 66% of children in the catchment already attend other schools, mainly Park and St George's
- Park and Poulton 300 metres apart
- 27 other primary schools within 2 miles
- Building improvements would be made to receiving schools
- Catchments rezoned



B – Amalgamation of Park and Poulton at either site

- Combined school at either site
- Pupil populations overlap
- Two sites 300 metres apart
- Building improvements would be made
- Catchments rezoned



C – Closure of Brentwood EYC and create F1 classes at local schools

- Children's Centre based at Seacombe Family Centre
- Majority go on to attend Somerville
- Create F1 classes at Park and Somerville
- "Half" nursery at Kingsway and Poulton could be expanded
- Extended schools provision



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What happens next?

March 2007

Consultation ends

April/May 2007

Recommended options report goes to Cabinet

June/July 2007

Statutory notices published, representation period begins

August/September 2007

Proposals to SOC (current regs) and/or to Adjudicator

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What will happen after the review

- Places for all the children in local schools
- Parents say which school they would prefer their child to attend
- Admissions criteria place the children
- Children move together so will have friends in their new school
- Enhancements to receiving schools
- Community/controlled catchment areas revised
- Staff redeployed
- Council decide future of any closed community site

Earliest date for any option is September 2008

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Remember:

- The Council must address these issues
- A decision has not yet been made
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- It is about spending money more wisely
- We must find sensible and effective solutions based on all the factors involved.

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