


**Wirral's Children**  
Phase 6

Consultation in South Wallasey  
Oct – Dec 2010



## The meeting

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



### The Primary Places Review:

**September 2004**  
Audit Commission report on Surplus Places

**October 2004**  
Council begins Primary Places Review

**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


This has resulted in a number of closures and amalgamations



### The Primary Places Review


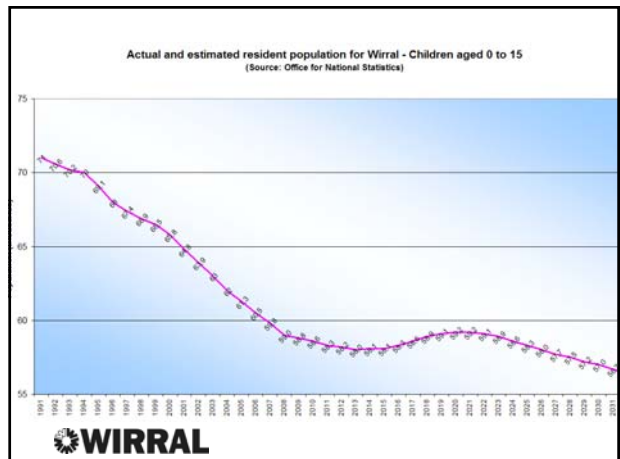
**October 2009**  
Council begins reviewing South Wallasey, North Wallasey, Greasby, Upton and Moreton

**October 2010**  
Consultation begins on options for South Wallasey

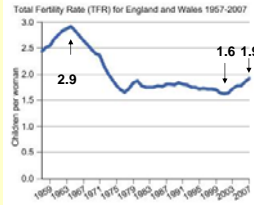


### Important to:

- Focus on the needs of current and future children not schools
- Use the opportunity to further improve learning environments, teaching and therefore standards
- Base decisions on clear evidence that is openly shared
- Trust that we all have the best interest of students at the heart
- Determine what will work, what is or isn't sustainable and what will not work

## Birth rate - Nationwide



The average family should settle at 1.8 children

Right now, a third of 30-35 yr olds have no children

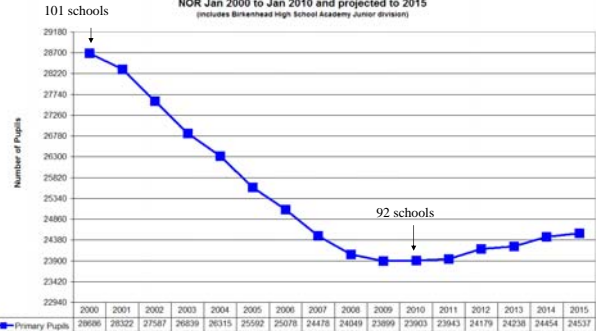
1981		2008
Average age to have first child		
24	→	30
Women who never have children		
10%	→	19%



Source: Office for National Statistics

## Wirral Primary Schools NOR Jan 2000 to Jan 2010 and projected to 2015

(includes Birkenhead High School Academy Junior division)



## Surplus places in Wirral

In 2010

**13% empty places**

- **By 2015 if we do nothing**
  - **10% surplus places in Wirral**
- **but**
  - **1 in 7 schools will still have more than 25% surplus places**



## Surplus places – why do we need to act?

- Audit Commission said **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



## 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
- Children's Centres

And removed:

- Temporary mobiles



## 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
- DCSF (2005) says under 150



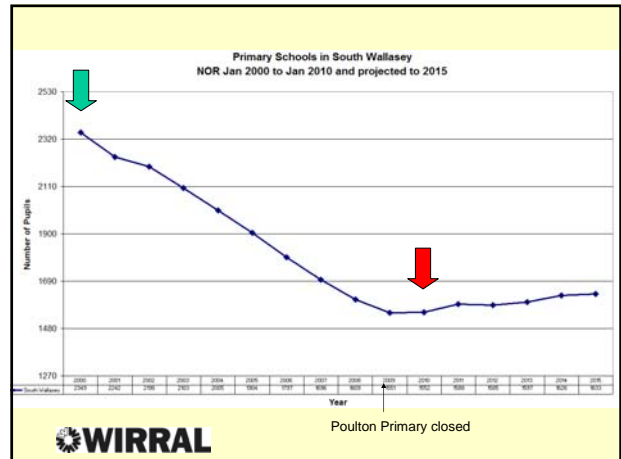
## Small Schools

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



## South Wallasey

Egremont Primary  
Kingsway Primary  
Park Primary  
Riverside Primary  
Somerville Primary  
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School  
and  
Brentwood Early Years Centre

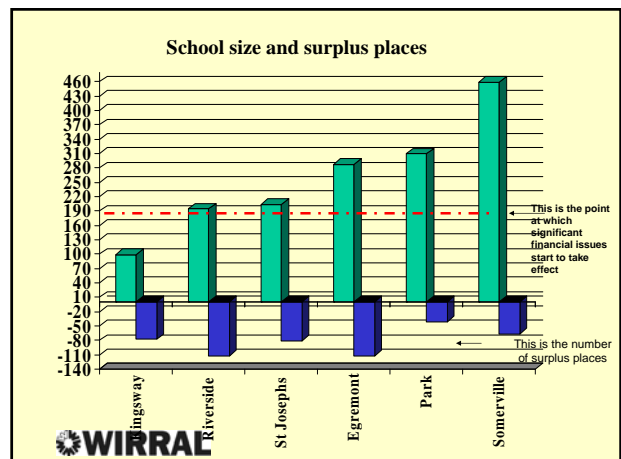


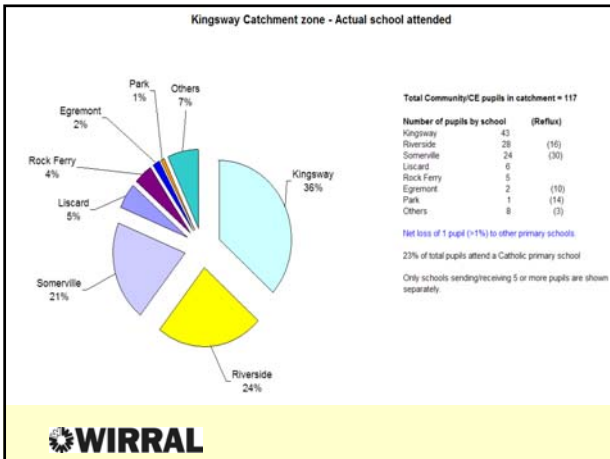
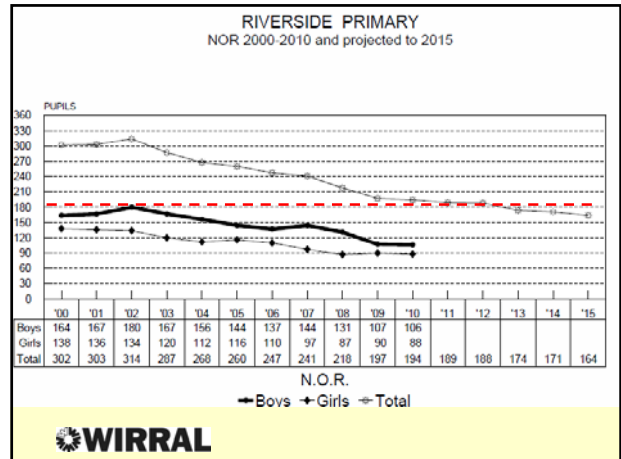
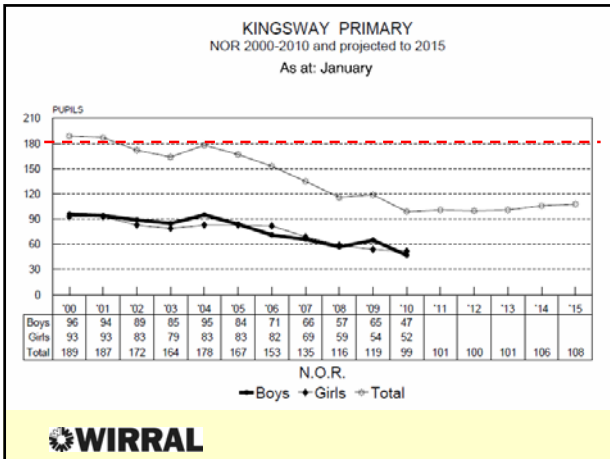
## Surplus places in South Wallasey Area

In 2010  
24% surplus places

By 2015  
20% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places further





### What Ofsted said (2008)

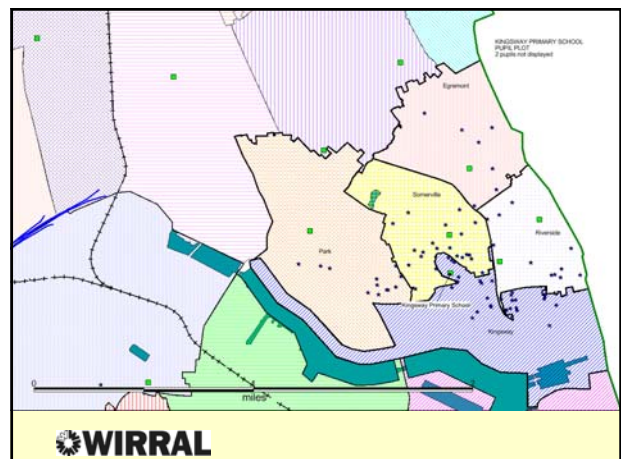
- The last inspection report included statements like:
  - ...satisfactory school
  - Pupils behave well and develop good cultural understanding
  - ...positive relationships with adults and each other
  - From a low start in Foundation pupils make satisfactory progress ... however this is inconsistent across subjects
  - Pupils achieve well in writing and maths... in reading and science standards are below average
  - Achievement in science is inadequate but improving
  - Pupils are happy, polite and courteous to visitors
  - Attendance is broadly average
  - ... curriculum is satisfactory but becoming more enriched and relevant to pupils interests
  - ... day-to-day care of pupils is good
  - ... teaching and learning are satisfactory overall
  - ... partnerships with parents and the wider community are satisfactory
  - ... management by schools leaders is satisfactory but governance is inadequate

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### Ofsted Monitoring visit 2010

- Attainment has improved in all subjects
- Children in Foundation are making much better progress
- Daily reading homework for all pupils
- Attainment in science by the end of Year 6 has shown year-on-year improvement.
- The quality of the Early Years outdoor area and resources are better, work still needs to be done to improve the quality of provision.
- Support from the headteacher and local authority has been particularly significant in improving governance.
- Communication with parents and carers is now regular and informative.
- The headteacher has been proactive in seeking support from the local authority. This has been focused and very effective. The school's progress and success in tackling the recommendations for improvement, particularly in relation to raising pupils' attainment and progress, reflect positively on its capacity for sustained improvement.

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## Possible options for South Wallasey

- A1: Closure of Kingsway Primary
- A2/A3: Amalgamation of Kingsway and Riverside Primary either on the Riverside site or the Kingsway site
- B: Closure of Brentwood EYC
  - B1 Maintain Brentwood site as F1 for Somerville
  - B2 New F1 built on Somerville site



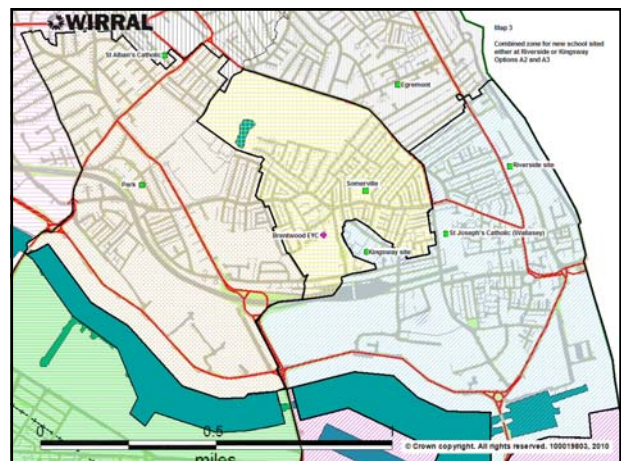
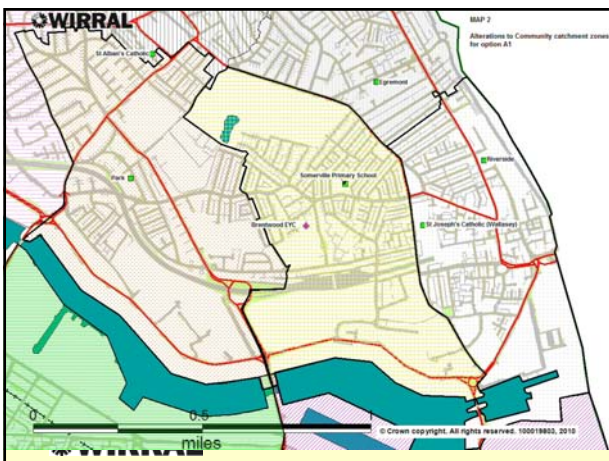
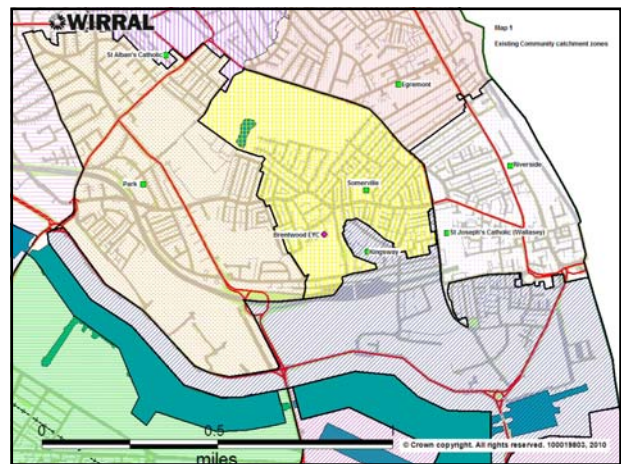
## A1 – Closure of Kingsway Primary

- Small school
- High surplus places
- 64% of children in the catchment already attend other schools, mainly Riverside and Somerville
- 28 other primary schools within 2 miles
- Building improvements would be made to receiving schools
- Catchments rezoned



## A2/A3– Amalgamation of Kingsway and Riverside

- Combined school at either site - 1.5 forms of entry
- Additional classrooms needed at Kingsway – none needed at Riverside
- Pupil populations overlap
- Two sites 0.5 miles apart
- Building improvements would be made
- Catchments rezoned



## B1 – Maintain Brentwood as Foundation 1 for Somerville

- Foundation 1 and daycare/creche continue on site, but managed by Somerville
- No change to location for F1 children or parents
- A third of Brentwood pupils go on to attend Somerville
- Two sites 0.3 miles apart



## B2 – New F1 at Somerville

- New building at Somerville for F1
- Opportunity to replace mobiles with new build



## Why include Brentwood?

- Falling numbers
- More choices of nursery/preschool for parents
- Foundation stage curriculum means continuity between F1 and F2 is important
- Half of infant/primary schools have an F1 class



## What happens next?

**December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010**

Consultation ends

**Jan 2011**

Recommended options report goes to Cabinet

**March 2011**

Statutory notices published, representation period begins OR

Competition process begins (for an amalgamation)

**April 2011 or November 2011**

Proposals to Council's Decision making body and/or to School's Adjudicator

OR

Nov 2011 if a Competition has been held

Note that if decision is for amalgamation to form a new school – this adds approx 6 months to the process as will likely require a statutory competition



## If any option for change is approved:

- 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 2012



## Remember:

- The Council must address these issues
- A decision has not yet been made
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- We must ensure schools are sustainable in order to secure the best in teaching, learning, curriculum and standards
- It is about spending money more wisely
- We must find sensible and effective solutions based on all the factors involved.

