



**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


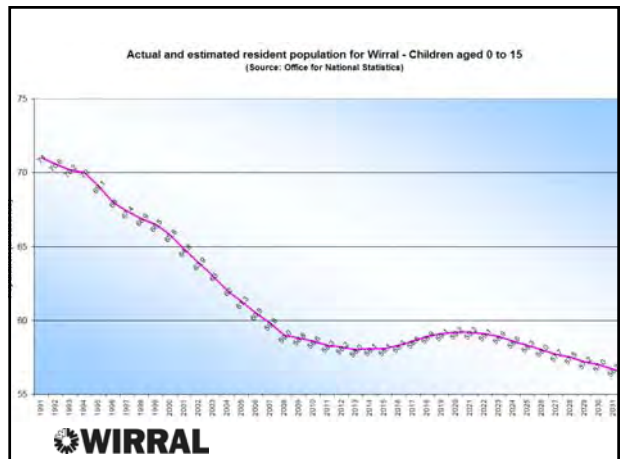
**October 2009**  
Council begins reviewing South Wallasey, North Wallasey, Greasby, Upton and Moreton

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

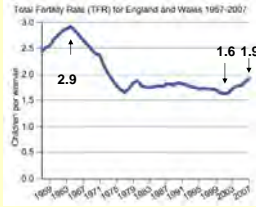


### Important to:

- 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



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

The average family should settle at 1.8 children

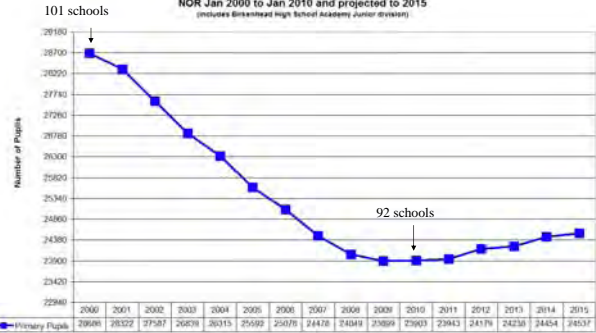
| 1981                            |   | 2008 |
|---------------------------------|---|------|
| Average age to have first child |   |      |
| 24                              | → | 30   |
| Women who never have children   |   |      |
| 10%                             | → | 19%  |



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** across 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
- DFE (2005) says under 150



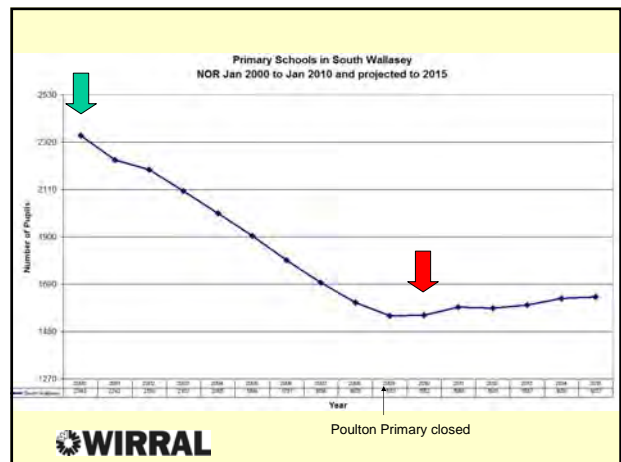
## Small Schools

- 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

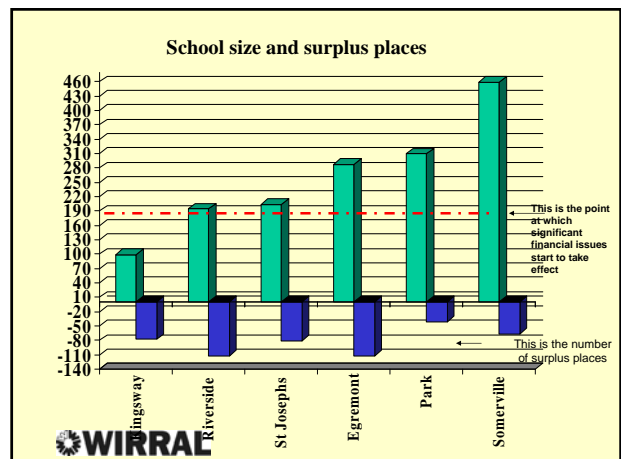


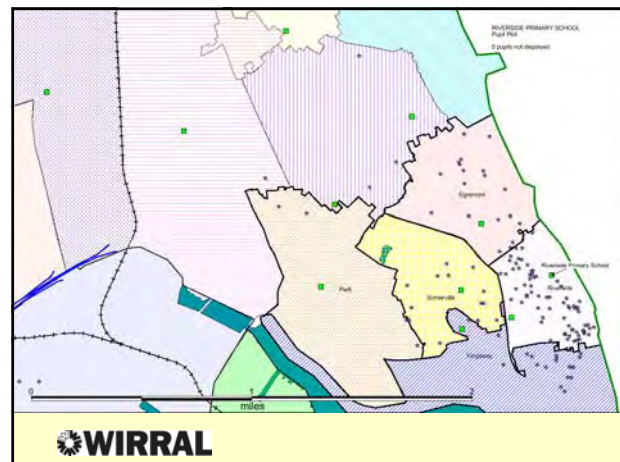
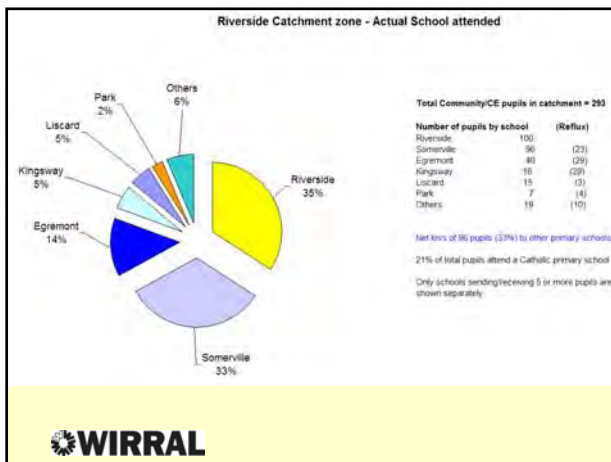
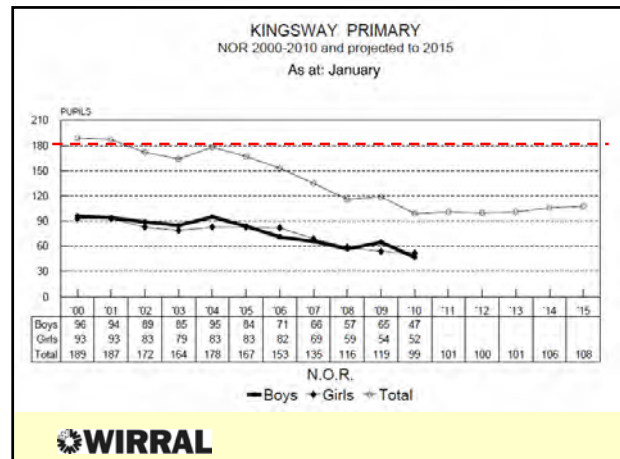
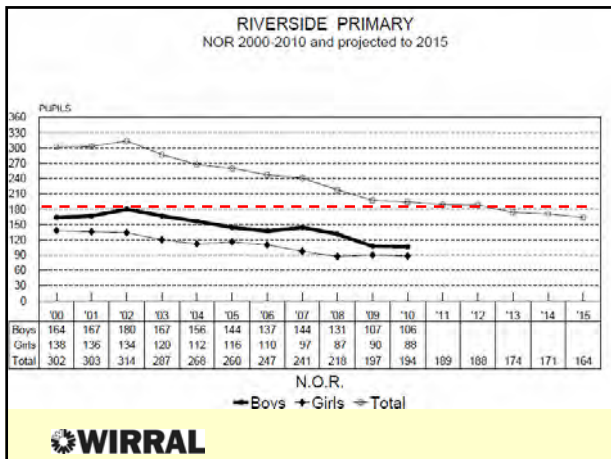
## Surplus places in South Wallasey Area

In 2010  
24% surplus places

By 2015  
20% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places further





## What Ofsted Said 2009

- ...provides a satisfactory and rapidly improving standard of education
- Leadership and management is now satisfactory and improving
- Overall pupils achieve satisfactorily and reach average standards by Y6 in english, maths and science
- Writing has improved but standards are still below average
- All pupils achieve well in science, but in other subjects more able pupils underachieve because they are not always sufficiently challenged
- Pupils personal development is good, pupils feel cherished and safe.
- Pupils behave well, have positive attitudes to learning and are open and friendly
- Many display a good understanding of the benefits of a balanced diet, regular exercise and how to avoid unnecessary risk
- Teaching and learning is satisfactory overall
- The curriculum satisfactorily meets pupils academic needs
- After school and lunchtime clubs promote pupils physical development well
- Very good quality pastoral care is a strength
- Very strong partnerships with external agencies and most parents
- Attendance is well below average

## 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

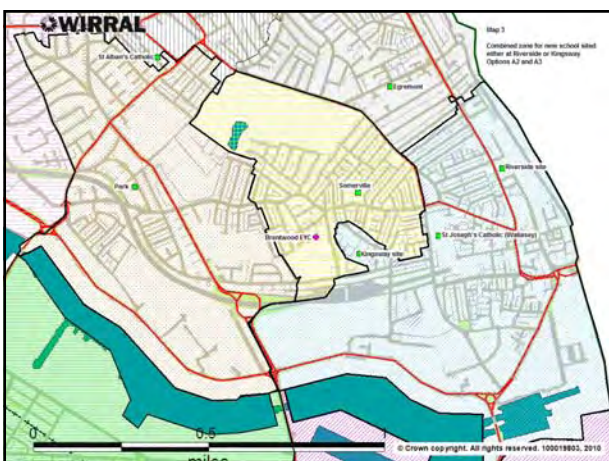
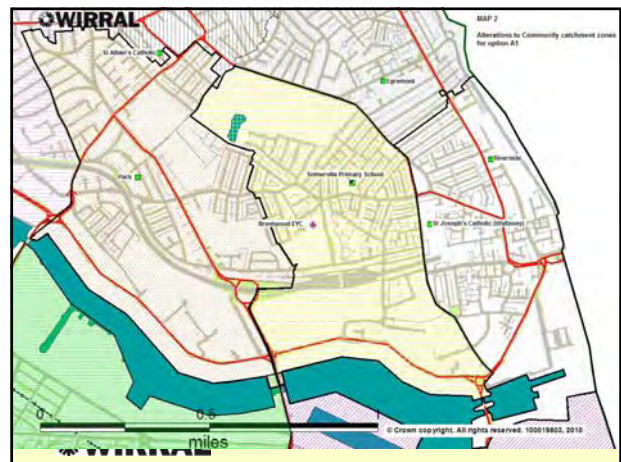
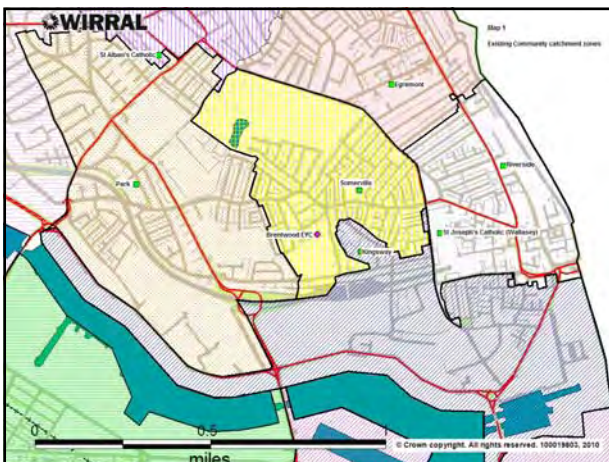
## A1 – Closure of Kingsway Primary

- 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
- Increased choice of nursery/preschool for parents in the area
- 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.

