

The meeting

- Short presentation about:
 - The Review process
 - The Options which affect schools in this area
- 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

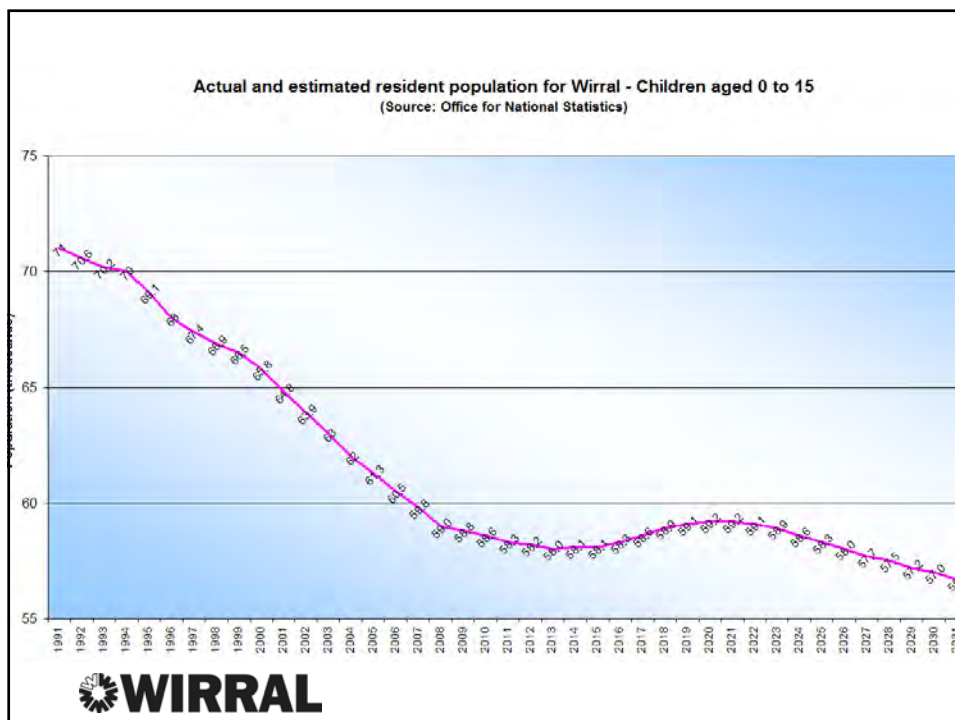
October 2010

Consultation begins on options for South Wallasey

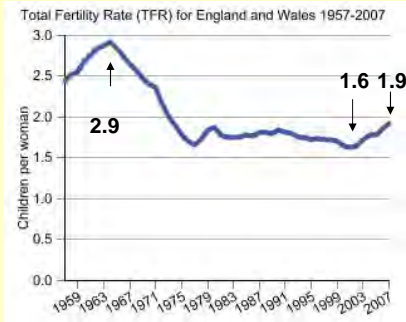


Important to:

- 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

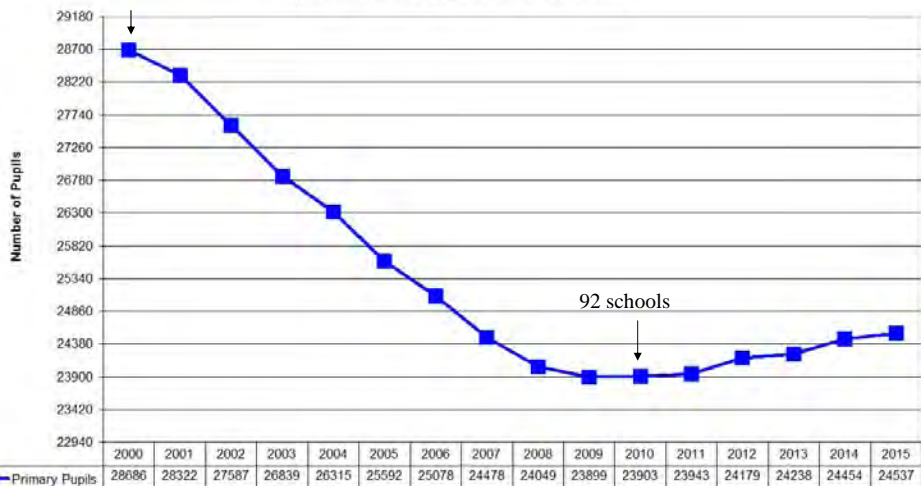
Right now, a third of 30-35 yr olds have no children

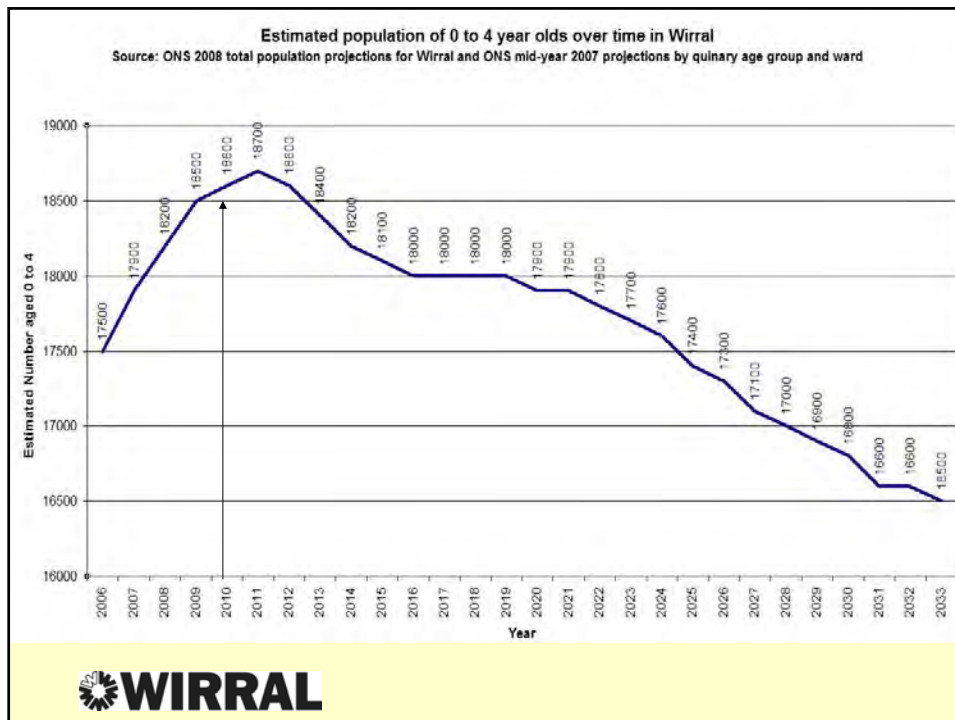
1981		2008
Average age to have first child		
24	→	30
Women who never have children		
10%	→	19%



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)





Primary Surplus places in Wirral

In 2010
13% surplus places

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

WIRRAL

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



Surplus and Empty places

- Primary and secondary schools have an official Net Capacity based on the admission number and number of classrooms
- Sometimes in documents, “empty” is used instead of “surplus” – otherwise it gets very repetitive!
- Net Capacity does not apply to Nursery (or Special) schools
- However, a Nursery school may still have empty places
- For example – Brentwood has 80 funded places – if there are 52 pupils, 28 places are empty



Creative use of empty/surplus space

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

- Places
- Small schools
 - Maintaining small schools is at the expense of all children
- Standards
- Location
- Where parents choose to send their children
- Value for money
- Catchment zones
- Housing changes
- Traffic and transport
- Denominational issues (faith schools)



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 primary schools

In 2010

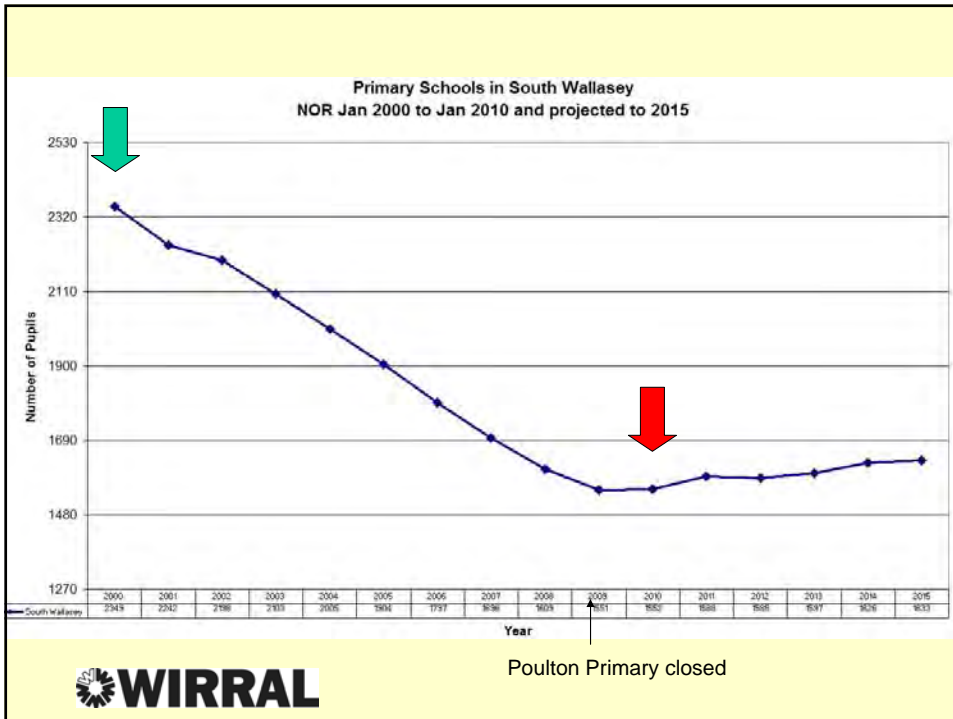
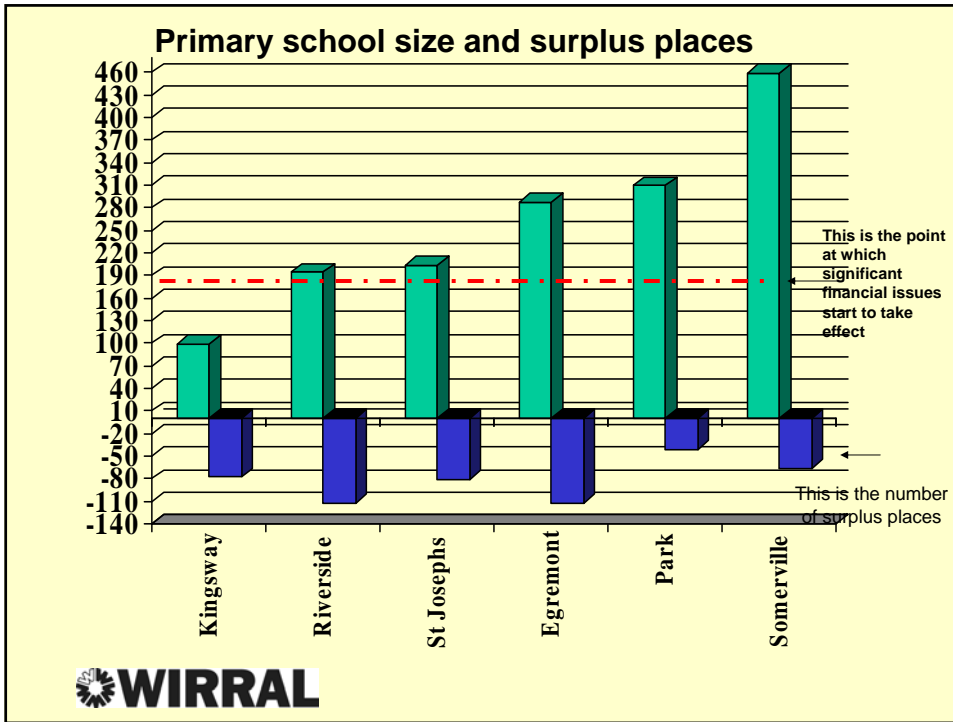
24% surplus places

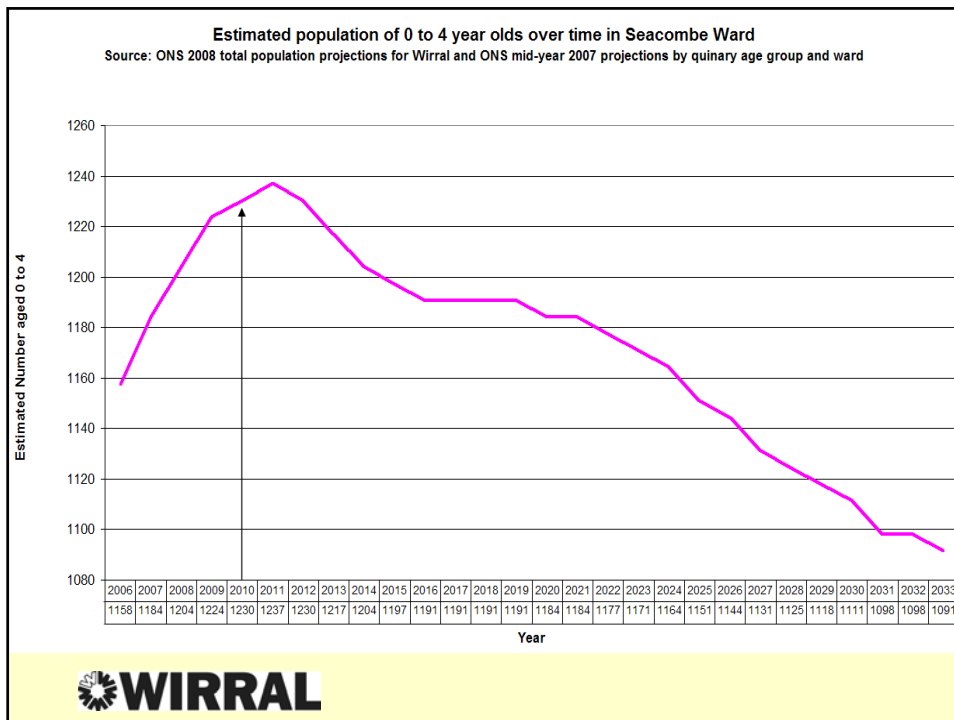
By 2015

20% surplus places

We must act to reduce surplus places
further







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**

WIRRAL

Why include Brentwood?

- Numbers and viability
- More choices 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



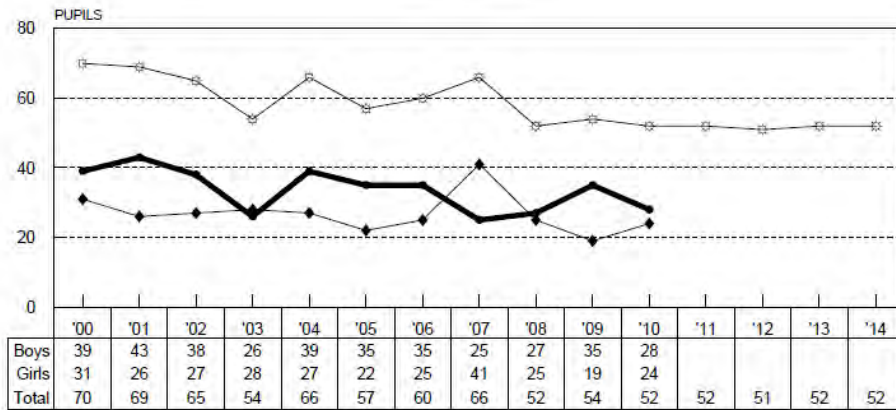
Guidance on closure – Nursery schools

- a) Is the LA consistently funding numbers of empty places?
- b) Are there reasons why it cannot be a Children's Centre?
- c) Will alternative provision be at least equal in quantity and quality?
- d) Is replacement provision more accessible and more convenient for local parents?



BRENTWOOD EARLY YEARS
 NOR 2000-2010 and projected to 2014

As at: January



N.O.R.

— Boys — Girls — Total



Funding formula changes

- National changes to Early Years funding
- Brentwood currently funded for 80 places for the full year
- New system means school will be funded termly for actual children, not on places – this is in line with other early years settings
- On average, Brentwood is 67% full across the year - this means overall funding will decrease...
- ...But fixed costs will not change



Why isn't it a Children's Centre?

- Two other nursery schools in Wirral – both are now SureStart Children's Centres
- Extensive community consultation in Seacombe area carried out in partnership with Liverpool John Moores
- Seacombe Family Centre chosen (with Oasis Church as satellite)
- Brentwood building not big enough, and not located in the target area



Brentwood -What Ofsted Said 2008

- A good nursery with several outstanding features
- A good standard of care and effective teaching ensure that all children make good progress
- Parents overwhelmingly support and value all that the nursery provides
- Children get along exceptionally well, care for each other and are eager to learn
- Achievement in personal, social and emotional development is outstanding
- Achievement in physical development is outstanding due to indoor and outdoor activities
- ...a rich curriculum that enables them to have fun while learning
- ...continuous provision curriculum that links with children's interests and reflects seasonal events and changes
- Teaching is good
- Positive teamwork
- Activities are carefully planned, helping children to be independent
- Good leadership, management and teamwork including improved governance
- Exceptionally good partnership with day-care providers.



Brentwood Daycare What Ofsted Said 2007

- **Helping children to be healthy - good**
 - Children are learning about appropriate personal hygiene
 - Staff works with parents to meet children's dietary requirements
 - Children make good use of the outdoor area, even when it is cold
- **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe – satisfactory**
 - Areas within the day nursery are maintained well
 - Parents and children are made welcome by friendly staff
 - Sufficient toilets and handwashing facilities, but toilet cubicles do not have doors, children's privacy is not respected
 - Effective policing of the system for arrival and collection means children can play safely and visitors are monitored
 - Staff supervise children well at all times both indoors and out
 - No written policy for if a child is not collected
- **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do – good**
 - Babies and young children receive cuddles... have good relationships with staff
 - Varied activities and resources offered to all children and staff interaction is positive
 - All staff have "birth to three matters" training
- **Helping children make a positive contribution – good**
 - Children's individual care needs are well met
 - Children develop their awareness of people from the wider community, such as Diwali, Christmas and the Chinese New Year
 - Children are well behaved and polite to staff, take turns and show concern for others. They use their manners well.
 - Children settle well because staff work closely with parents
- **Organisation – Satisfactory**
 - Robust recruitment and vetting procedures
 - Rooms are well laid out to maximise play opportunities
 - Meets the needs of the range of children for whom it provides

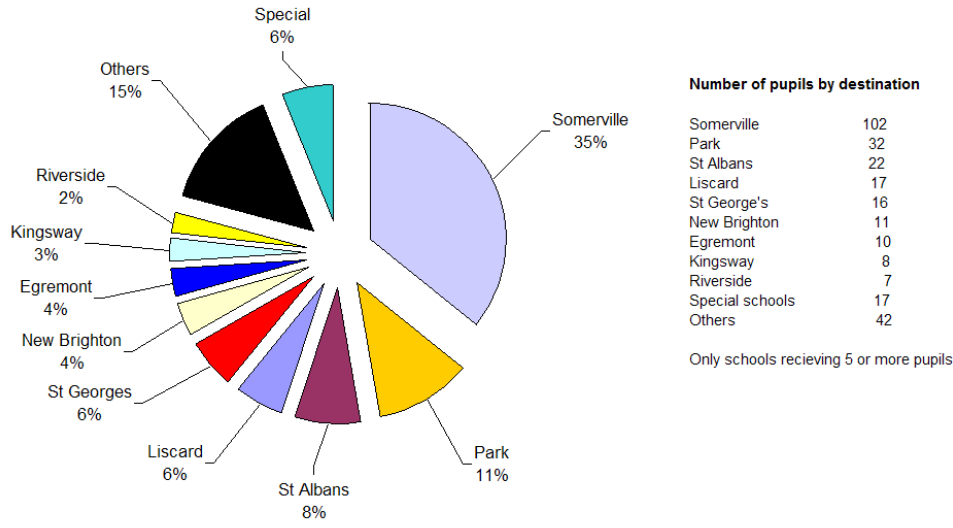


B1 – Maintain Brentwood as Foundation 1 for Somerville

- **F1 and daycare/creche continue on site, but managed by Somerville**
- **No change to accessibility of location for F1 children or parents**
- **Quality, quantity, expertise etc maintained**
- **A third of Brentwood pupils go on to attend Somerville**
- **Pre-school could remain at Somerville site**
- **Two sites 0.3 miles apart (five minutes walk)**



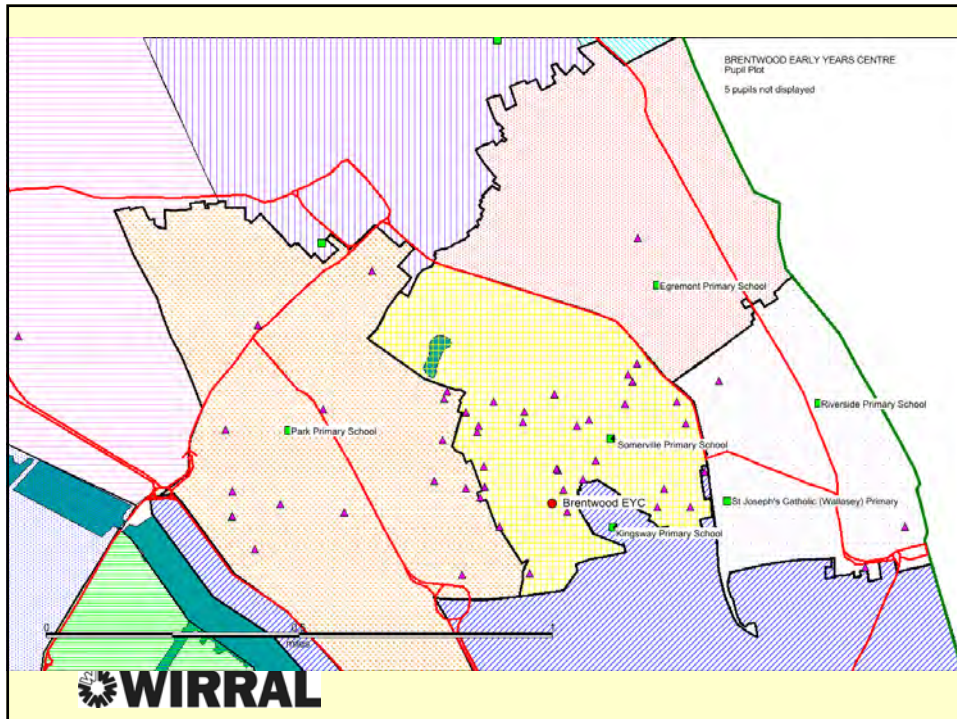
Brentwood - Destination school as at January 2010



Number of pupils by destination

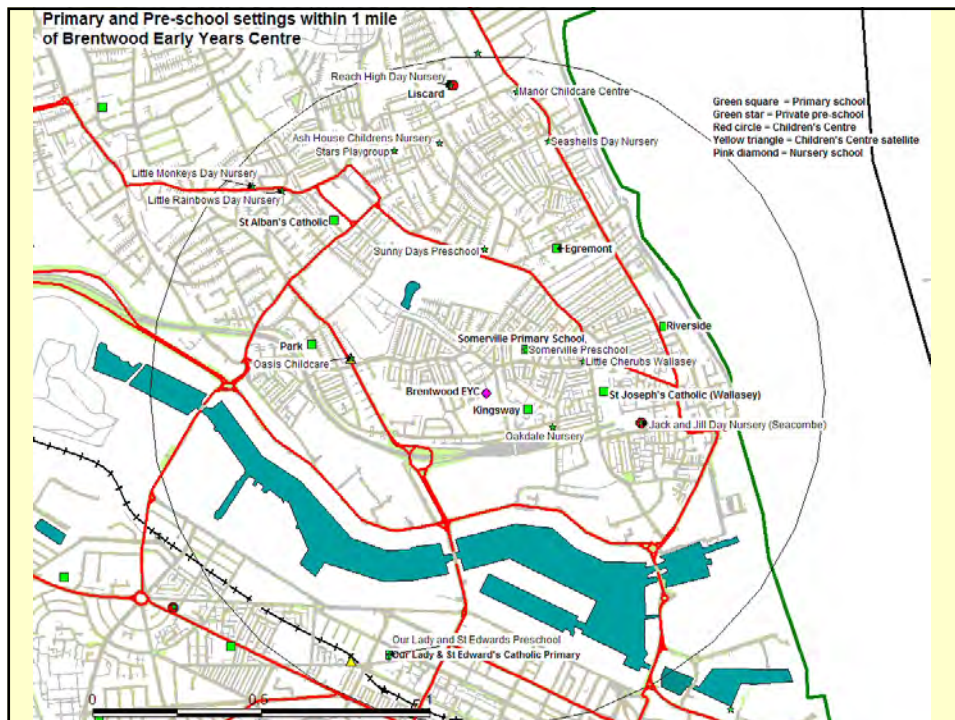
Somerville	102
Park	32
St Albans	22
Liscard	17
St George's	16
New Brighton	11
Egremont	10
Kingsway	8
Riverside	7
Special schools	17
Others	42

Only schools receiving 5 or more pupils



B2 – New F1 at Somerville

- New building at Somerville for F1
- Opportunity to replace all mobiles with new build – enhanced F1 facilities, on-site continuity with F2
- Two sites 0.3 miles apart (5 minutes walk)
- Preschool stays on Somerville site or rehoused locally



A1 – Closure of Kingsway Primary

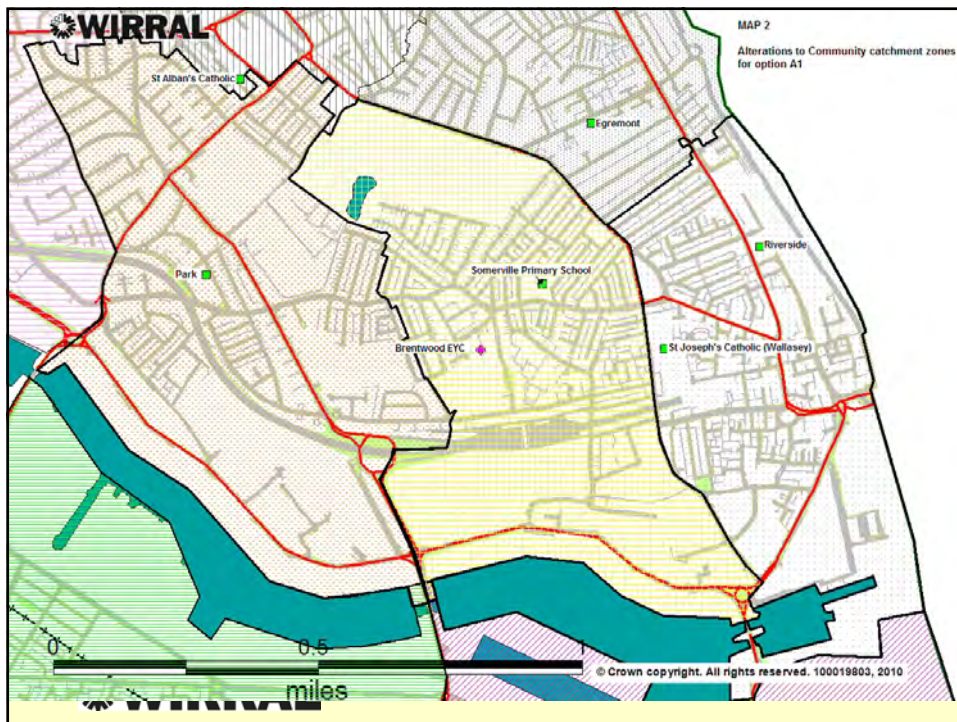
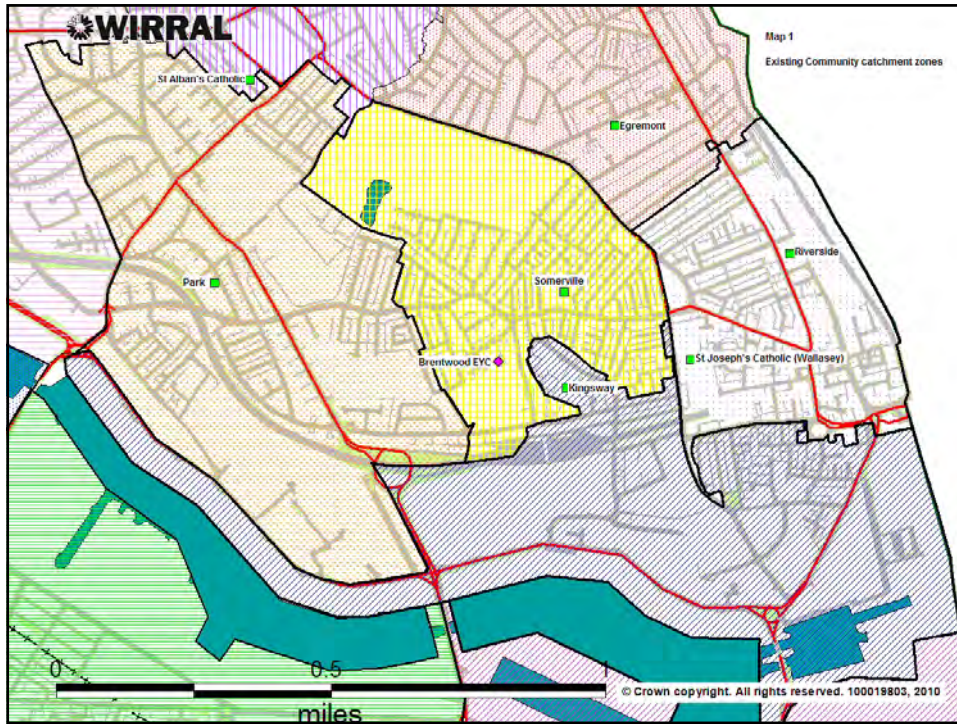
- Small school
- High surplus places
- 64% of children in the catchment already attend other schools, mainly Riverside and Somerville
- 28 other primary schools within 2 miles
- Building improvements would be made to receiving schools
- Catchments rezoned

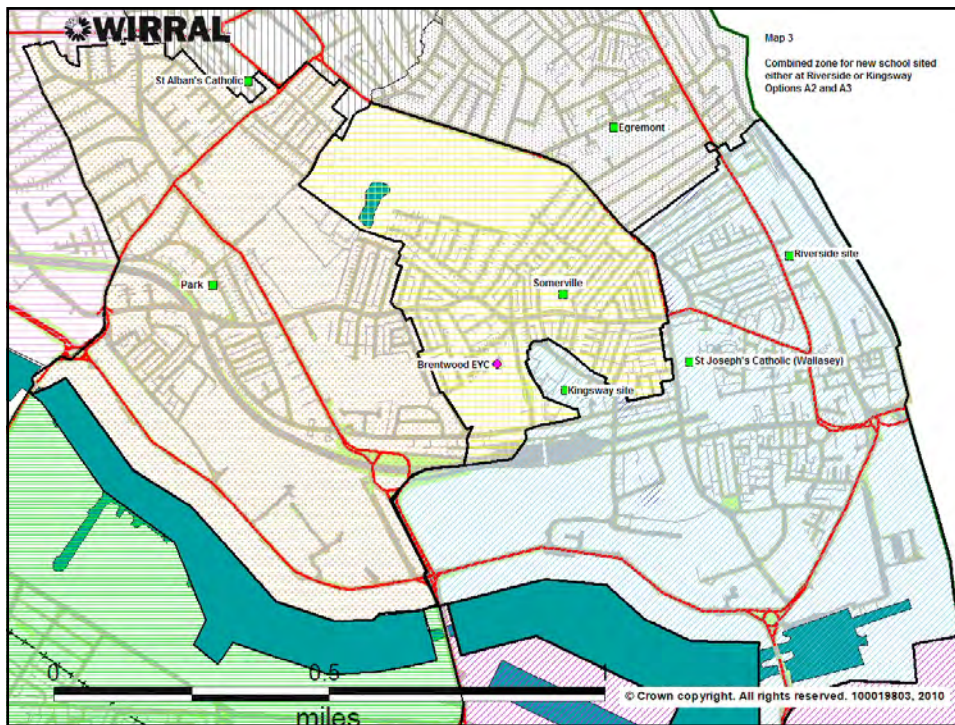


A2/A3– Amalgamation of Kingsway and Riverside

- 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 to receiving schools
- Catchments rezoned







What happens next?

December 3rd 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 on A options is for amalgamation to form a new primary school – this adds approx 6 months to the process as will likely require a statutory competition



If any primary school 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
- Community/controlled catchment areas revised

And if any option for change is approved:

- Enhancements to school buildings
- Staff redeployed
- Council decide future of any closed community site

Earliest date for **any** option (A or B) 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 provision is 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.



