



# Wirral's Children Woodslee Primary

Consultation  
February 2006



## 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



## The Primary Places Review:

### **October 2005**

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

### **December 2005**

Council decides to consult on options for Bromborough and Eastham



## 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?



## 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



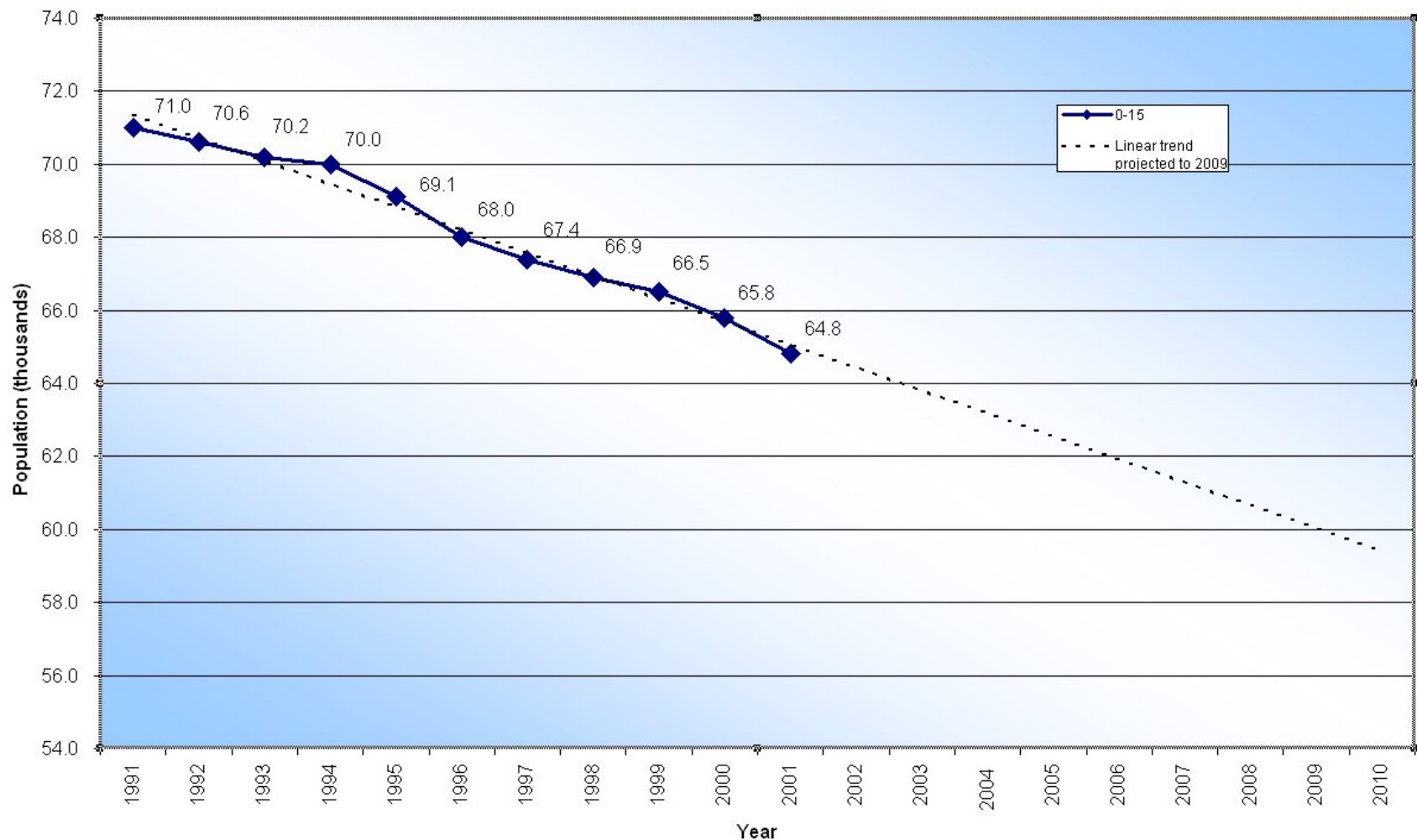
## Outcome of Children's Services Inspection, December 2005

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

# Falling population - Wirral

Actual and estimated resident population for Wirral - Children aged 0-15 in line with 2001 Census

(Source: Office for National Statistics)





## Surplus places in Wirral

In 2005

**12%** empty places

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

By 2010

**20%** surplus places

Spending £7 million on empty spaces

**1 in 3** schools will have more than 25% surplus places



# Creative removal of surplus

LEA 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

# Many complicated factors

- Surplus places
- Small schools
- 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



# Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

Brackenwood Infant  
Brackenwood Junior  
Church Drive Primary  
Grove Street Primary  
Higher Bebington Jr  
Stanton Road Primary  
Town Lane Infant

St Andrew's CE  
St John's Infant  
St John's Junior  
Poulton Lancelyn  
Thornton Hough



# Surplus places in Bebington, Spital and Thornton Hough

In 2005

**8%** surplus places

By 2010

**14%** surplus places

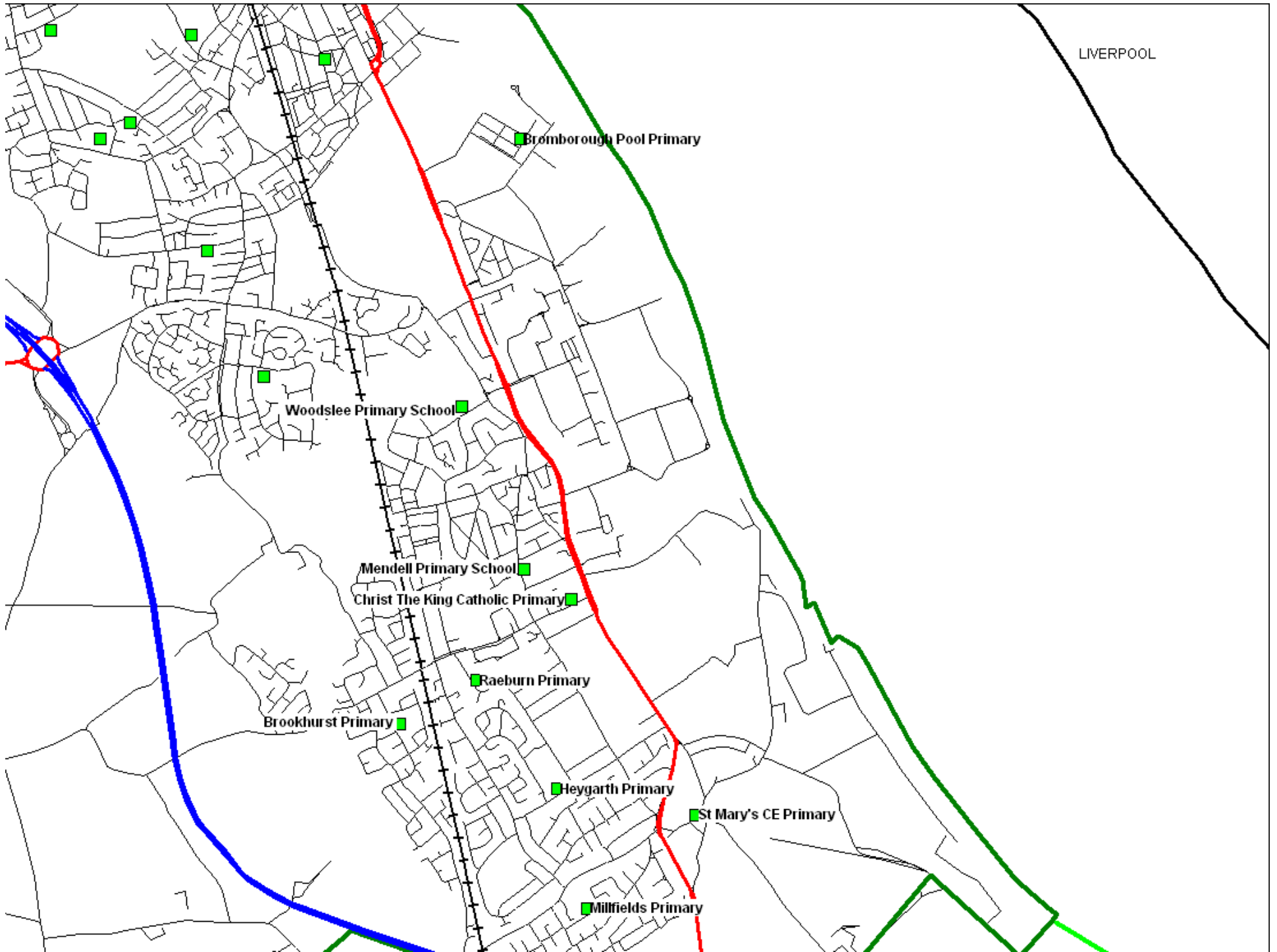
No action at this time – continue to monitor situation

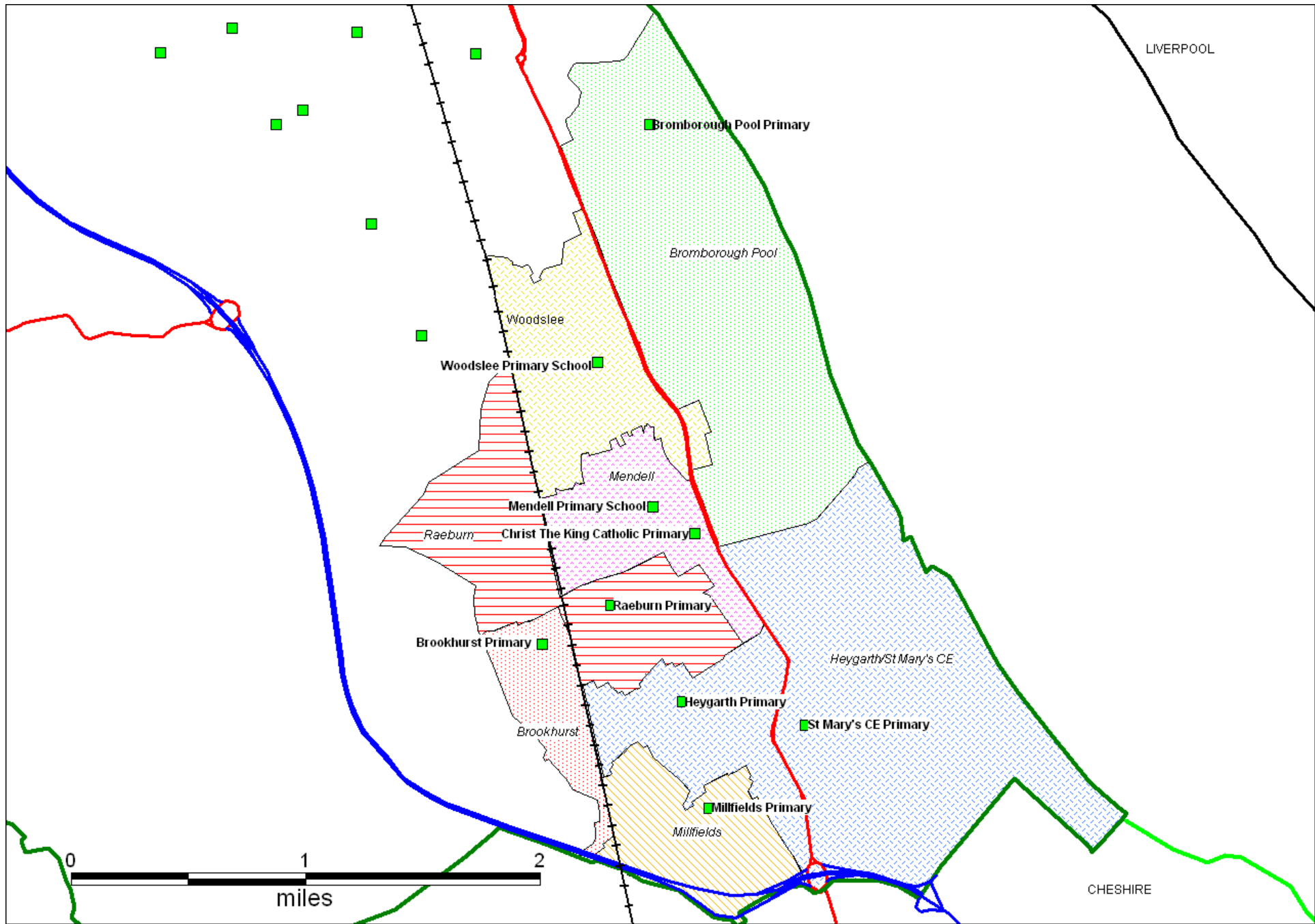


# Bromborough and Eastham

Brookhurst  
Bromborough Pool  
Heygarth  
Mendell  
Millfields  
Raeburn  
Woodslee

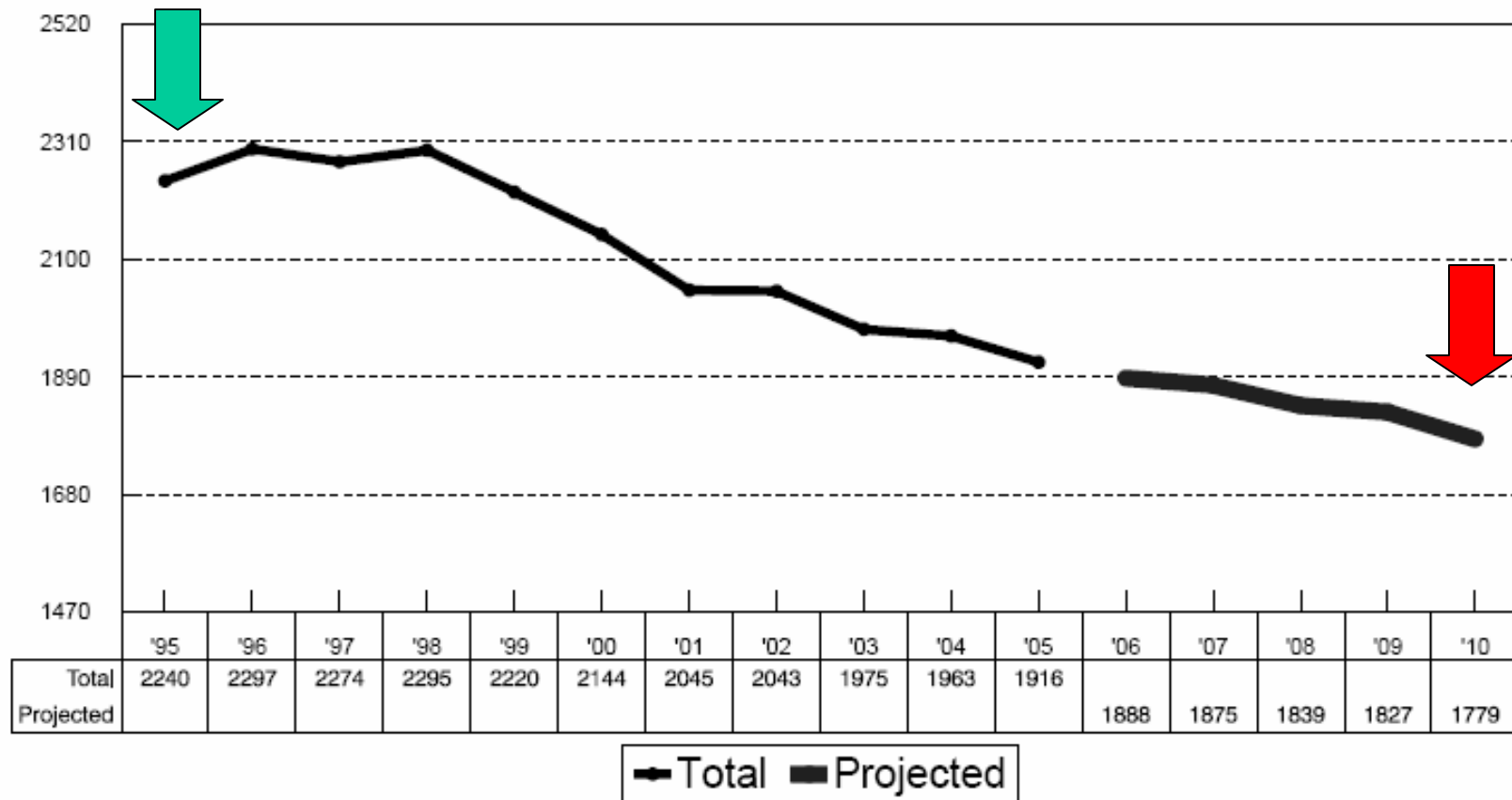
St Mary's CE  
Christ the King Catholic





# Bromborough/Eastham Projections

Bromborough Primary Schools  
Numbers on Roll 1995-2005 and proj to 2010



# Surplus places in Bromborough/Eastham Area

In 2005

**17%** surplus places

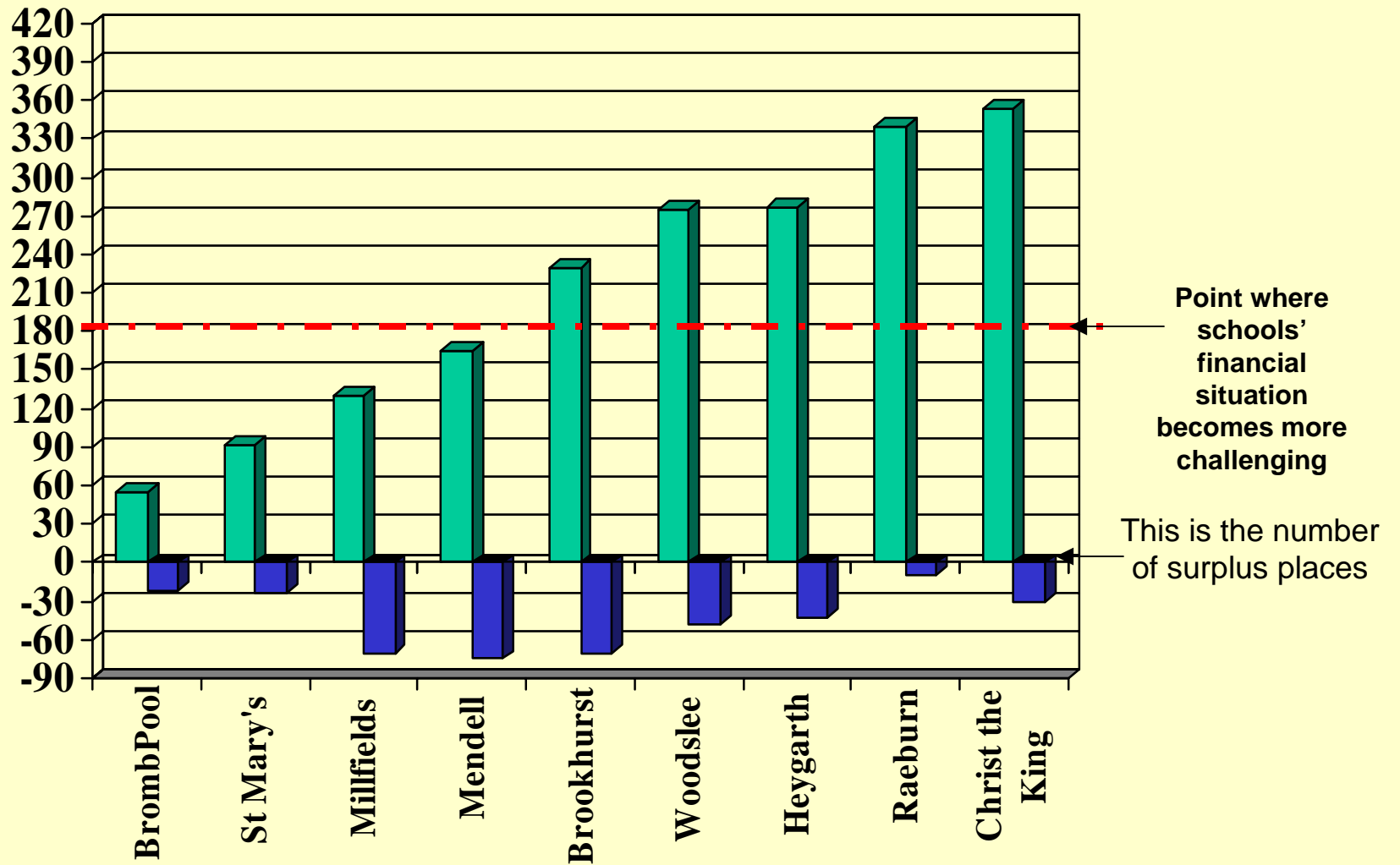
By 2010

**23%** surplus places

**We must act to reduce surplus places**



## School size and surplus places

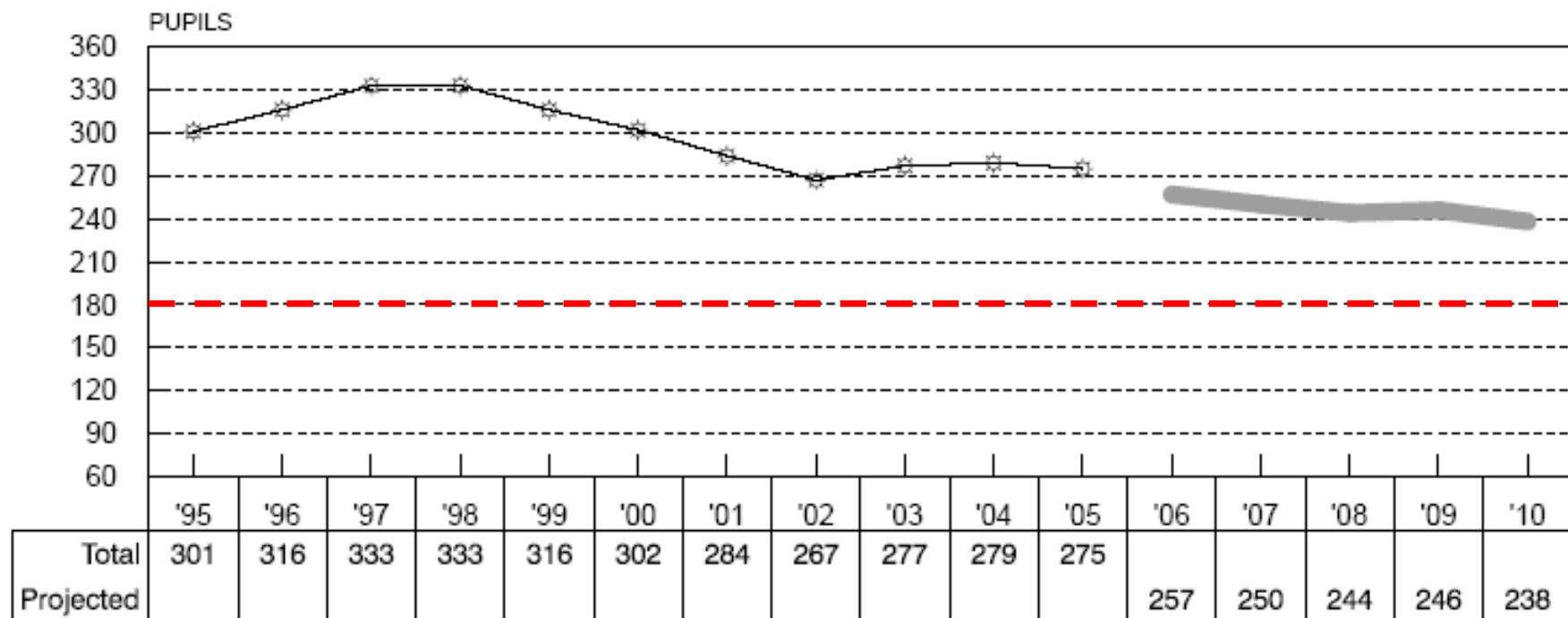




# WOODSLEE PRIMARY

NOR 1995-2005 and Projected to 2010

As at: January

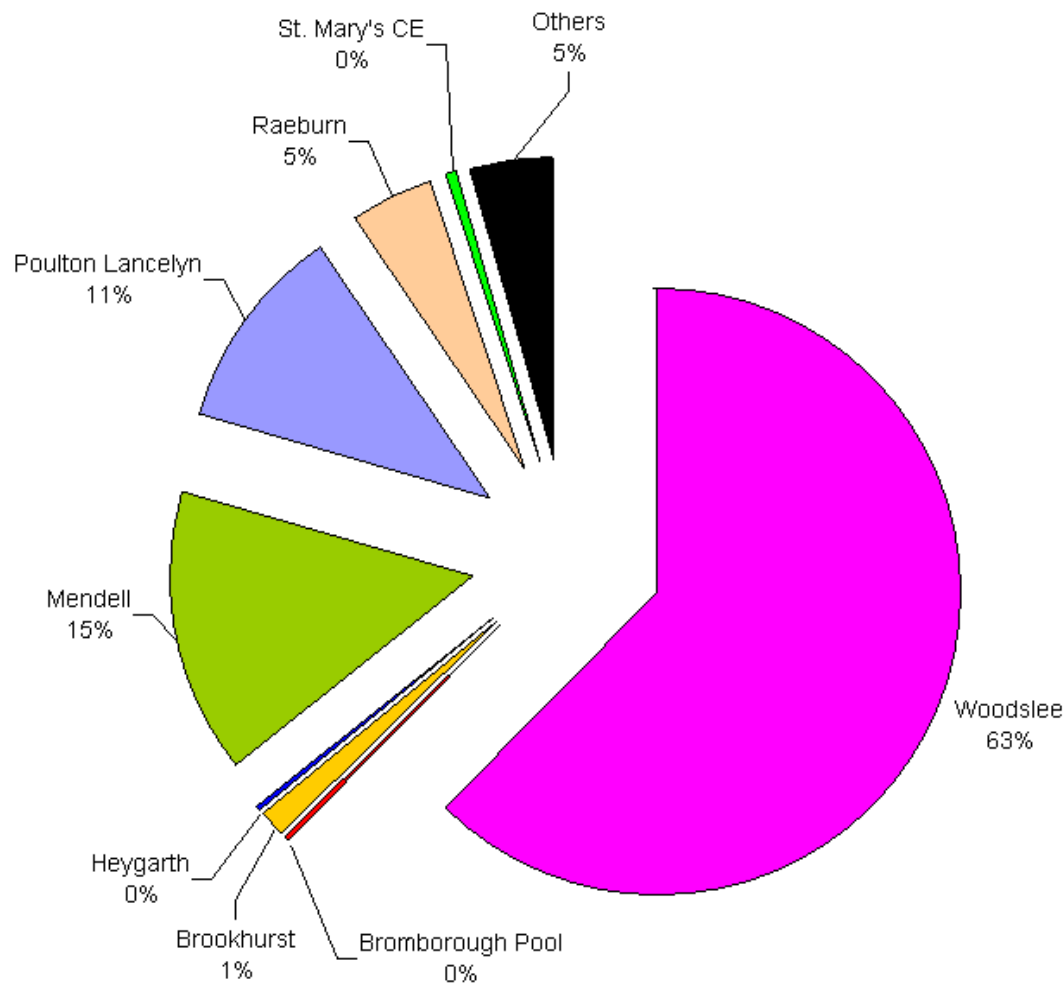


N.O.R.

★ Total ■ Projected



### Woodslee Catchment Area -Actual School attended



Total Community/CE pupils in catchment = 243

School	Number of pupils	(Reflux)
Woodslee	151	
Mendell	37	(38)
Poulton Lancelyn	27	(3)
Raeburn	11	(4)
Brookhurst	3	(1)
Heygarth	1	(6)
Bromborough Pool	1	(54)
St Mary's CE	1	
Millfields		(2)
Others	11	(11)

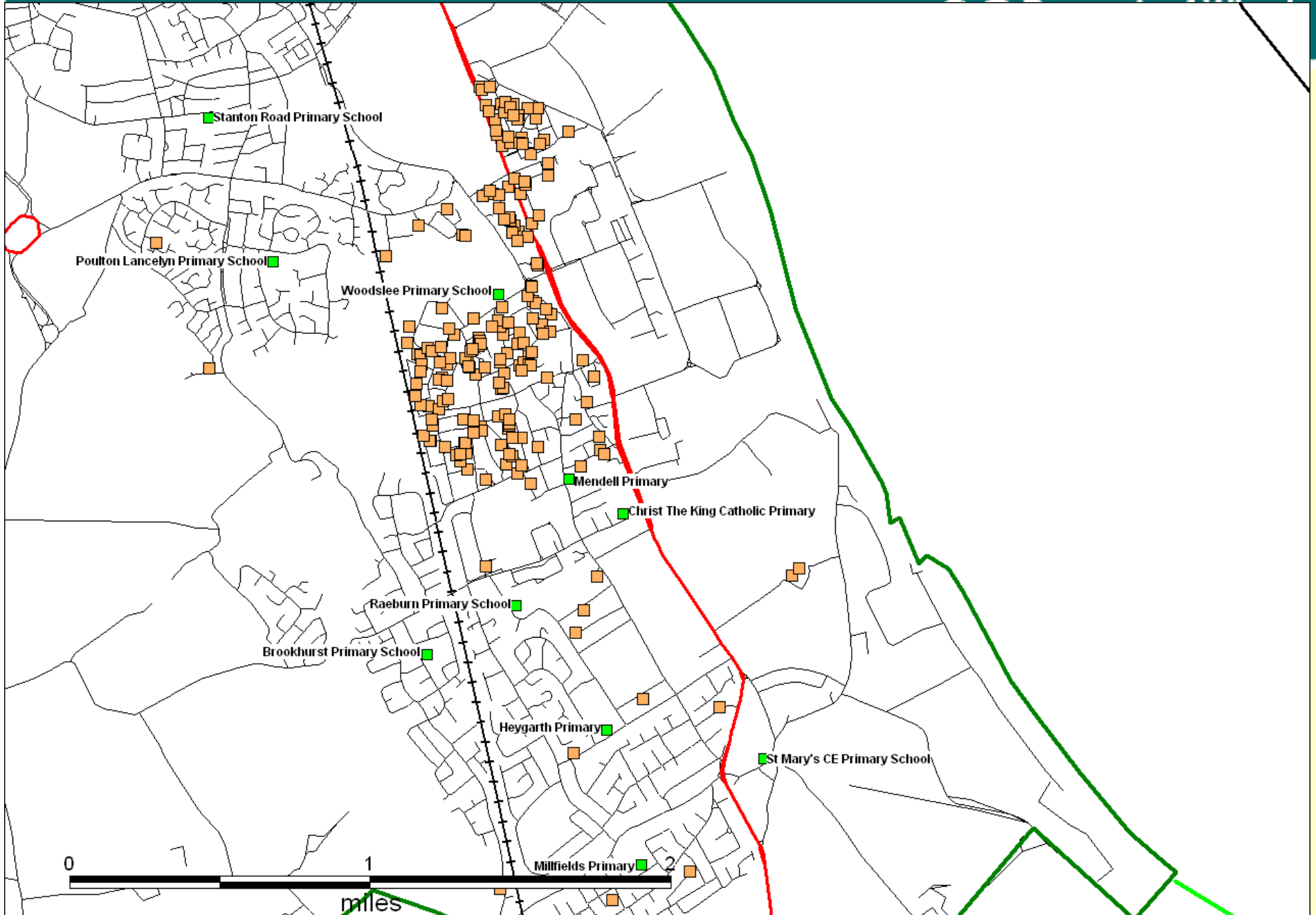


# What Ofsted said (2001)

- The headteacher, deputy headteacher and senior staff lead the school well and have raised standards in English, mathematics and science.
- The pupils' behaviour and attitudes to school are very good and reflect the school's high expectations.
- The school provides a good standard of teaching.

The school could improve:

- The achievement in writing of pupils with the potential for above average levels of attainment.
- The extent to which the school seeks the views of parents and pupils about its work and its plans for the future.
- The outdoor provision for pupils in the nursery and reception classes.





# Possible options for Bromborough and Eastham

- A Brookhurst
- B Bromborough Pool
- C Heygarth, St Mary's and Millfields
- D Mendell



- Options involve all the schools in this area directly, except:
- Christ the King - only Catholic school in this area
- Raeburn – stable school with few surplus places – it may be indirectly affected by some of the options



# Options

The B and D options relate to these schools

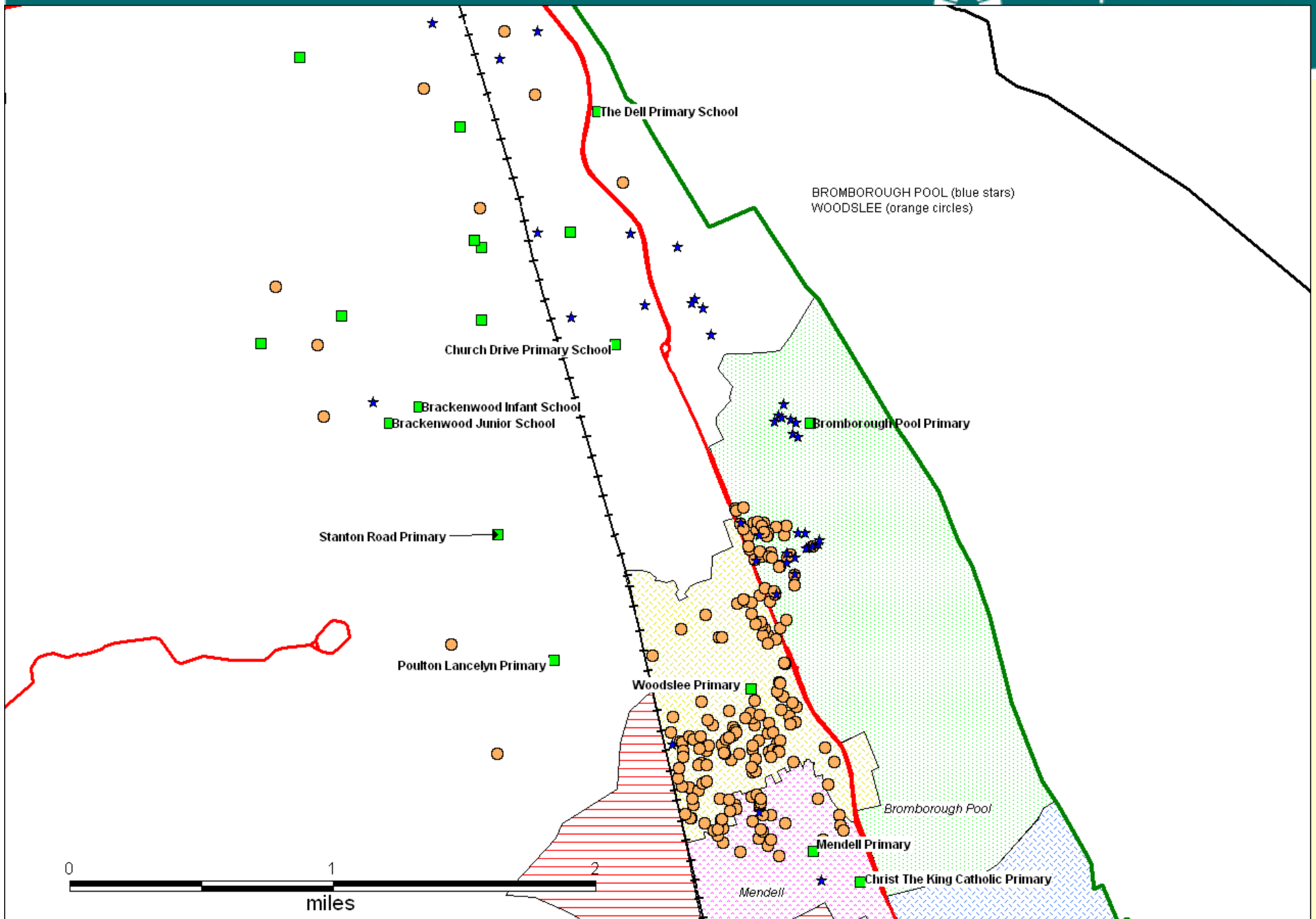
Bromborough Pool, Mendell and Woodslee

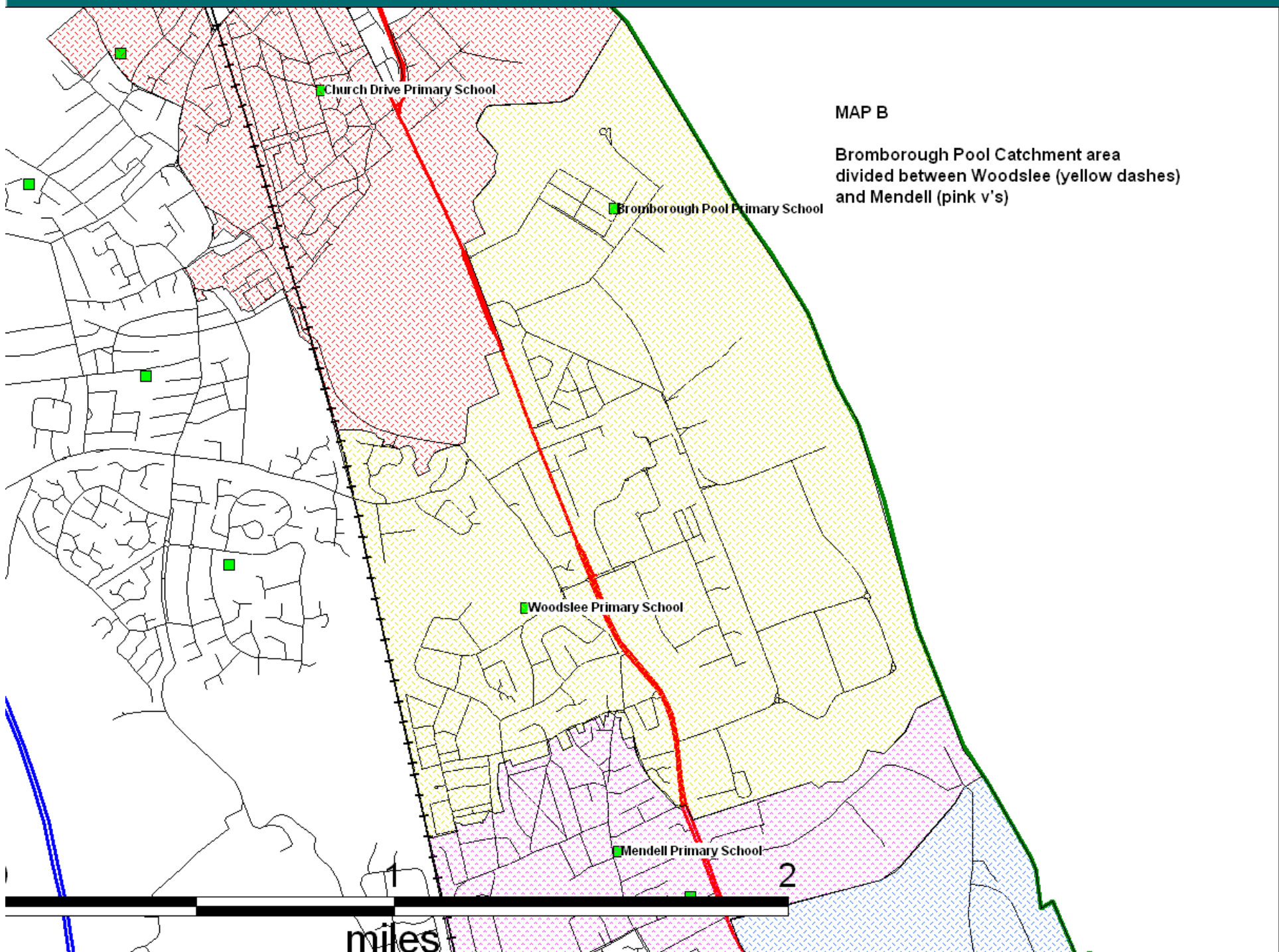
These are the options we will explain in more detail



## **B – Closure of Bromborough Pool**

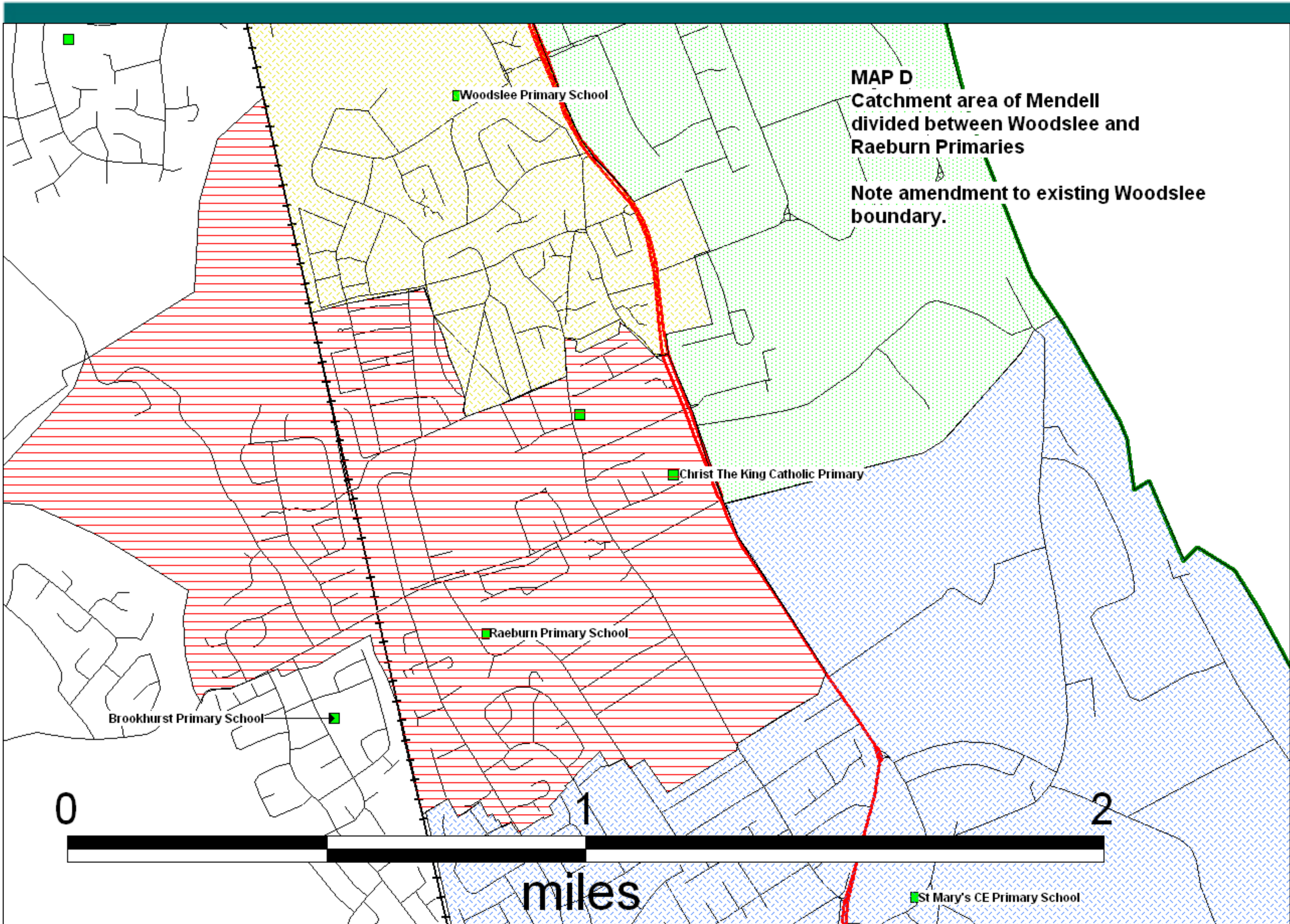
- **73% of children in the catchment already attend other schools, mainly Woodslee Primary**
- **Building improvements would be made to receiving schools**
- **Woodslee and Church Drive just over a mile away**
- **All former Bromborough Pool children can be accommodated at Woodslee**





## D1 Closure of Mendell Primary

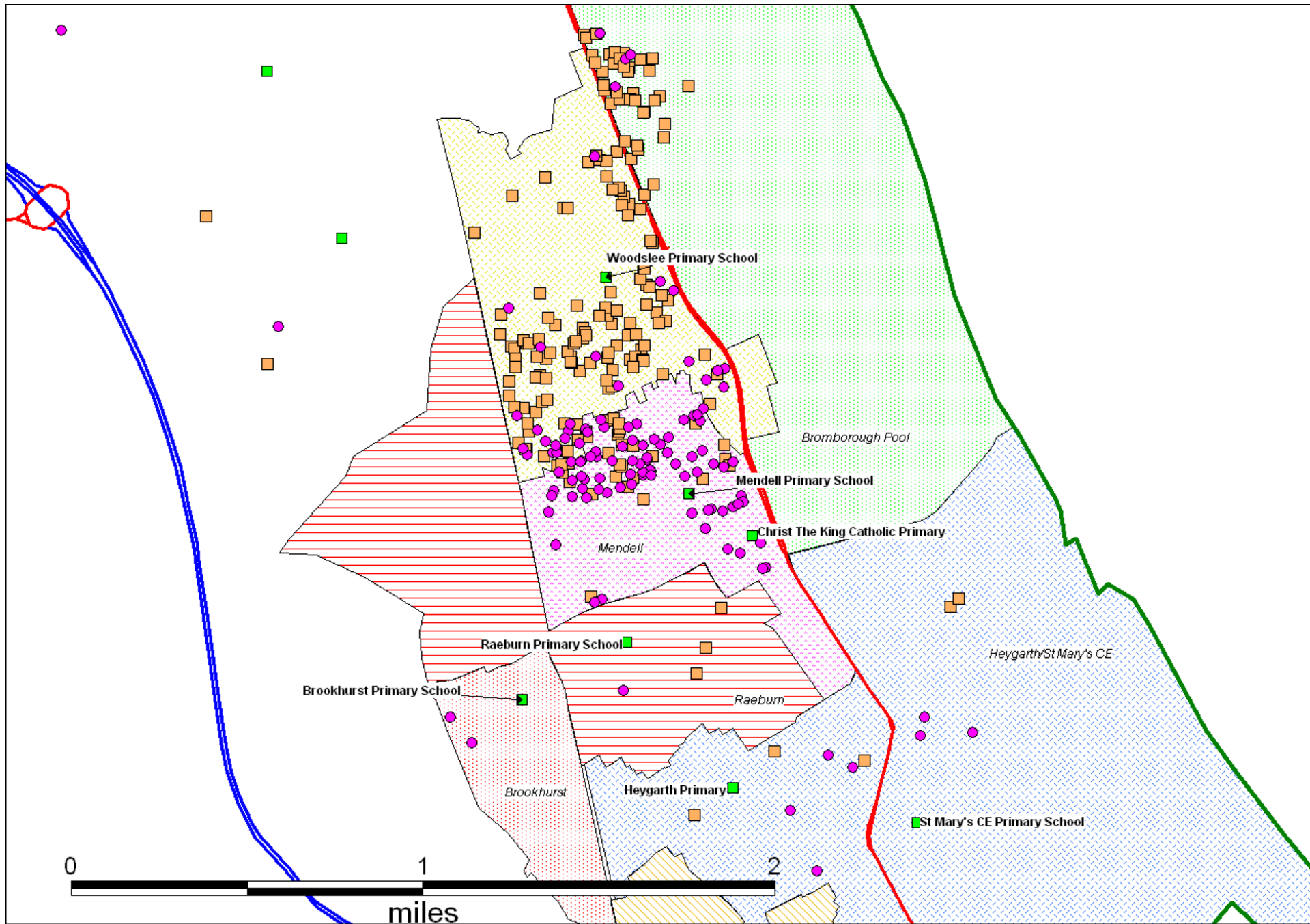
- Places for children at neighbouring schools
- Pupils from the Mendell catchment already attend Raeburn, Woodslee and others
- Building improvements made to receiving schools
- May require two new classrooms at Raeburn





## D2 – Amalgamate Mendell and Woodslee

- Pupil populations overlap
- Less than a mile apart
- Requires 3 new classrooms at Woodslee OR
- 7 new classrooms at Mendell
- If sited at Woodslee, ties in with current improvements





## D3: Reduce admission number at Mendell

- Reduce admission number
- Reduces surplus places “on paper”
- Plan for playgroup on site
- Other possibilities for space
- Monitor situation



## **In any option**

- **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 at same time 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**
- **Riverside Housing own Bromborough Pool site**

Earliest date for any option is September 2007



# What happens next?

## **January/February 2006**

Meetings for directly interested parties – parents, staff, governors

Anyone can write and say what they think

All comments/responses must be made by the beginning of March

## **March/April 2006**

Report goes to Council's cabinet.

Council will decide which (if any) options should become statutory proposals.

If proposals are agreed, notices are published. Six week representation period begins.

Anyone can send written comments or objections.



# What happens next?

## **May/June 2006**

Representation period ends.

Proposals go to multi-representative Wirral School Organisation Committee.

- May approve
- May approve with changes
- May give conditional approval – for example, pending planning permission
- May reject

If the SOC cannot agree, proposals are referred to the Schools Adjudicator

## **September 2007**

Earliest date for implementation of proposals.

It could take longer, if building work is required, for example.



## Remember:

- No change is not an option
- A decision has not yet been made
- Things will be better - and fairer - afterwards
- This is not about saving money for taxpayers
- Funding stays in the overall schools budget
- We must find sensible and effective solutions to high levels of empty places, based on all the factors involved.

