

REPORT TO Executive Board

DATE: 15 December 2011

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children Young People and Families

SUBJECT: Upton Rocks

WARDS: Widnes

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This reports seeks to provide an update on reserved school site at Upton Rocks.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That the reserved school site at Upton Rocks is released.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 For a number of years a piece of land has been reserved at Upton Rocks should the development of a new school be required.

3.2 In Widnes the current Primary Published Admission (PAN) is for 736 pupils per year. As part of the Basic Need capital development the total capacity will increase further to 756 once work has been completed at Lunts Heath Primary School and St Bede's Catholic Infant and Junior schools.

3.3 Based on the overall Widnes birthrates in 2013 there are likely to be 738 primary places required. This figure will increase to 767 in 2014 and reduce back to 727 in 2015. The estimated cohort survival rate (the number of births that translate into the take up a primary place) has been approximately 94% over the last four academic years. There is therefore sufficient capacity within Widnes to address the increases.

3.4 As there is no current need for an additional school to be developed in Widnes it is proposed that the site at Upton Rocks is no longer reserved for the development of a primary school. Should pupil numbers increase significantly after 2015 and there is insufficient local provision further development can be undertaken at All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The site would now transfer to the Council's general land portfolio and be available for future use or disposal as determined.

4.2 Additional primary places will be available in Widnes as a result of the capital investment through the Basic Need funding. This will allow the expansion of both Lunts Heath Primary and St Bedes Catholic Infant and Junior School.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 Children & Young People in Halton

There will be sufficient primary places in Widnes to meet pupil demand.

5.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

N/A

5.3 A Healthy Halton

N/A

5.4 A Safer Halton

N/A.

5.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

6.0 RISK ANALYSIS

6.1 A significant growth in pupil numbers could be accommodated by the development of All Saints Upton CE Voluntary Controlled Primary School. Contact has been made by Liverpool CE Diocese who would support this approach if necessary.

7.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

7.1 This report seeks to permission to release the reserved Primary school site to allow further development and improved access.

8.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

8.1 Consideration was given to retaining the reserved site however Primary pupils numbers are insufficient to justify any new development.

9.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

9.1 The proposed release date is January 2012.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 There are no equality and diversity issues

11.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Site Plan for Upton Rocks	1 st Floor Eccleston Building Grosvenor House Runcorn	Ann McIntyre Operational Director Children's Organisation and Provision