

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER, CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES  
**DATE:** 26 OCTOBER 2010  
**SUBJECT:** SCHOOL CAPACITY COLLECTION 2010  
**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS  
**REPORT OF:** PETER MORGAN  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR – CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** CHRIS DALZIEL (0151 934 3337)  
**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to update the Cabinet Member on the School Capacity Collection (formerly the Surplus Places Return).

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Not applicable as no decision is required.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to note the contents of the report.

**KEY DECISION:** No.

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Member meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Not appropriate.

**IMPLICATIONS:****Budget/Policy Framework:** None.**Financial:** There are no financial implications directly associated with this report. However, schools with a high percentage of surplus places, particularly those in excess of 25%, are more likely to suffer from financial pressures and to offer poorer value for money when compared to schools with few surplus places.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:** Not appropriate.**Risk Assessment:** Not appropriate.**Asset Management:** Not appropriate.**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

Not appropriate.

## CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		✓	
8	Children and Young People		✓	

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

Not appropriate.

## IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

Not appropriate.

## LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

School Capacity Collection Guidance 2010.

## **SCHOOL CAPACITY COLLECTION 2010**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 All local authorities have a statutory duty to submit a School Capacity Collection (formerly the Surplus Places Return), to the Department for Education, on an annual basis. The return details, for each primary and secondary school, the number and percentage of surplus places based on the May School Census and the net capacity for each school. Surplus places for each planning area and for Sefton overall are also given.

### **2. The 2010 School Capacity Collection – Primary Schools**

- 2.1 A summary of the submitted commentary and details of schools with 25% or more surplus places are given below.
- 2.2 The total number of pupils in Sefton primary schools is continuing to decrease, albeit at a slower rate, in spite of a slightly increased birth rate in recent years. Births reached a low of 2,557 in 2002 and have risen again slightly in recent years to reach a more stable position of around 2,700; the latest 2008 figure for births is 2,718. This is however well below the birth rate in the early 1990s of 3,400+.
- 2.3 The total net capacity is 22,323 showing a 13% reduction since 2005. There are 2,733 surplus places (12.24%) compared with 4,084 (15.86%) in 2005. The level of surplus places in individual planning areas is in the range of 4.83% to 22.65% with the highest levels in the south of the borough (Bootle and Litherland).
- 2.4 The number of schools has reduced to 76 (88 in 2005) with 15 schools having no surplus places and 12 schools with 25% or more surplus places (23 schools in 2005). Fourteen schools have pupils in excess of their capacity mainly resulting from appeals granted for pupils who have moved into an area where the school is already full. Table 1 overleaf shows the schools with 25% or more surplus places.

Table 1: Primary Schools with 25% or More Surplus Places

Primary School	NOR May 2010	Number of Surplus Places	Percentage of Surplus Places %
Thornton	24	162	87.10
Litherland Moss	96	114	54.29
Hudson	109	101	48.10
Bishop David Sheppard CE	112	98	46.67
Netherton Moss	150	126	45.65
Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic	93	75	44.64
Springwell Park	249	171	40.71
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic	124	65	34.39
Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic	262	134	33.84
St John's CE	133	58	30.37
Hatton Hill	301	119	28.33
Waterloo	315	105	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>1,328</b>	-

- 2.5 Springwell Park Primary School and Children's Centre (40.71%) was a new build school following the amalgamation of Roberts and Orrell Primary Schools in 2004. Ofsted, in 2007, judged the school to be good in all areas and outstanding in care, guidance and support. KS2 results (level 4) for English were above the national average in 2009 with level 5 in English and Levels 4 and 5 in mathematics below the national and Sefton averages.
- 2.6 The single siting of Thomas Gray Primary School has reduced the surplus places at this school from 38.80% to 9.52%.
- 2.7 Our Lady of Walsingham Catholic Primary School (33.84%) is undergoing a single-siting and resultant reduction in capacity from 396 to 210 as part of the Primary Capital Programme and this will in turn reduce surplus places. In 2010 the school was judged by Ofsted to be good in overall effectiveness and in the school's capacity for sustainable improvement. KS2 English at level 4 was above the national and Sefton averages in 2009 with level 5 above the national average. Results for both levels in maths were below the national average.
- 2.8 Netherton Moss Primary School gained a number of pupils as a result of school closures in 2005 but the increase in surplus places to 45.65% is a matter for concern and the situation continues to be monitored. In 2010 the school was judged by Ofsted to be good in overall effectiveness and in the school's capacity for sustainable improvement. KS2 results in English and maths at level 4 were above the national averages and at level 5 were above the national and Sefton averages in 2009.
- 2.9 The situation at Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School will continue to be kept under review as there is no alternative Catholic provision in the immediate area. Ofsted judged the school to be

satisfactory in 2008 and in 2009 KS2 results were above the national average for both English and maths at levels 4 and 5 and equal to the Sefton average in level 5 English and level 4 in maths whilst exceeding the Sefton average in level 5 maths. Hatton Hill (28.33%), Litherland Moss (54.29%) and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic (34.39%) Primary Schools continue to be a concern. Hatton Hill was judged to be satisfactory, with good for personal development, curriculum and other activities and care, guidance and support. With the exception of level 4 maths, which exceeded both national and Sefton averages, all other indicators at KS2 were below the national and Sefton averages in 2009.

- 2.10 In 2009 Ofsted judged Litherland Moss to be a good school and outstanding in care, guidance and support. At KS2 in 2009 the school's results exceeded the national average at level 4 for English and maths and exceeded both the national and Sefton averages at level 5. Our Lady Star of the Sea was judged to be good in 2010 by Ofsted but all indicators at KS2, in English and maths, were below the national and Sefton averages in 2009. All of the schools mentioned above are in areas of severe deprivation in the south of the borough and provide much needed family and community support. Wherever possible schools are being remodelled and downsized and this will continue as the Primary Capital Programme is implemented if funding continues to be available.
- 2.11 Thornton Primary School (87.10%) in Crosby will close in August 2010 and the surplus places at St William of York Catholic Primary School (8.10%) have halved as a result of this. Waterloo (25.00%) and St John's CE (30.37%) Primary Schools serve the same catchment area and surplus accommodation at Waterloo has been sympathetically converted into a Children's Centre and provision for an independent nursery provider. It is anticipated that with the closure of Thornton Primary School that these two schools, in the same planning area, should benefit from increased pupil numbers. Waterloo Primary School was judged by Ofsted to be good in 2010; with the exception of Level 5 English, which was above the Sefton and national averages, all other indicators at KS2 were below the national and Sefton averages.
- 2.12 In 2007 St John's was judged to be satisfactory but good for personal development and care, guidance and support. The KS2 indicators at levels 4 and 5 for both English and maths were above the national and Sefton averages in 2009.
- 2.13 Formby has no schools with 25% or more surplus places and three schools in this area have excess pupil numbers.
- 2.14 Hudson Primary School (48.10%) in the Maghull & Aintree area has become a phase 3 Children's Centre and again this school serves a deprived area of the borough where closure would have a detrimental effect on families within the local community. Similarly, Bishop David Sheppard CE Primary School (46.67%) is located in the most deprived area of Southport and is geographically isolated with very few places

available at other neighbouring schools. Both Hudson and Bishop David Sheppard Primary Schools were judged by Ofsted to be good schools in 2009 and 2007 respectively. KS2 results at Hudson in 2009 were equal to the national average for English at level 4 and above the national average for level 5. Results were below both national and Sefton averages at both levels for maths. KS2 results at Bishop David CE Primary School were above the Sefton and national averages for levels 4 and 5 in English but below both indicators at levels 4 and 5 for maths.

### **3. The 2010 School Capacity Collection – Secondary Schools**

- 3.1 In the secondary sector, the total number of pupils has again fallen (19,300 in January 2009 to 19,090 in May 2010), as smaller numbers continue to feed through from the primary sector. The total number of surplus places has increased from 2,580 in 2009 to 2,626 in 2010 giving a surplus capacity of 12.17% in the secondary sector. Sixteen of the 20 secondary schools have surplus places ranging from 1.11% to 54.13% whilst at 5 schools the NOR exceeds the net capacity. The newly opened South Sefton Sixth Form College has 54.13% surplus places as there is only a year 12 cohort in this academic year.
- 3.2 Four high schools have surplus places in excess of 25% and St George of England High School (46.67%) is due to close in August 2013. Pupils will transfer to Hillside High or Litherland High School which will be rebuilt as Sefton's One-school Pathfinder school and is due to open in February 2011.
- 3.3 Under the BSF programme Sefton had proposed to amalgamate Savio Salesian College (20.53%) and St Wilfrid's Catholic High School (42.53%) as an Academy. The percentage of pupils attaining 5+ grades A\*-C at GCSE, including English and maths, in 2009 was well below the Sefton and national averages at St Wilfrid's Catholic High School. These plans and those for Crosby and Netherton areas (St Ambrose Barlow Catholic College 26.33% and St Michael's CE High School 43.03%) will be reconsidered in light of the recent government announcement to stop the Sefton BSF programme. Both of these schools were judged good by Ofsted in 2010 but both scored below the national and Sefton averages for the percentage of pupils attaining 5+ grades A\*-C at KS4.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to note the contents of the report.