

<b>Report to :</b>	<b>EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD</b>
<b>Date :</b>	28 July 2016
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Bob Berry, Interim Assistant Executive Director, Learning
<b>Subject :</b>	<b>SUCCESSFUL WAVE 11 FREE SCHOOL APPLICATION IN TAMESIDE</b>
<b>Report Summary :</b>	The report outlines the successful free school application in the borough. The report explains the need to locate the school in Ashton where there is the greatest expected demand for secondary school places explains the importance of the Council working with the Education Funding Agency and the Regional Schools Commissioner when decisions are being made on provision in the borough.
<b>Recommendations :</b>	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Members of the EAIB endorse officers to work in partnership with the Education Funding Agency to help identify a site for the new free school in Tameside so that it is located in Ashton which has the greatest need for additional secondary school places.</li> <li>2 Members of the EAIB send a strong message through officers to the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Education Funding Agency of the need to involve Tameside Council in any decisions that affect the borough and utilise the knowledge and expertise within the Council to help them in that process.</li> </ol>
<b>Links to Sustainable Community Strategy :</b>	The subject of this report will support the delivery of the Community Strategy, through the delivery of sufficient and suitable places to meet anticipated increased demand in 2018/2019.
<b>Policy Implications :</b>	There are none arising from this report.
<b>Financial Implications : (Authorised by the Section 151 Officer)</b>	Further evaluation of the financial impact on the Council's medium and longer term financial strategy will be required once a site has been identified. It is unknown at this stage whether there will be a loss on a potential capital receipt for the identified site. In addition, the impact on potential future business rates or council tax revenue will also need to be evaluated once the site has been identified alongside assumptions included within the Council's medium and longer term financial planning.
<b>Legal Implications : (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)</b>	Under the Education Act 2011 Secretary of State can use any land in which a freehold or leasehold interest is held by the local authority and which has been used for any school (including any academy) in the last 8 years for a free school or use the funding from the disposal to create one.
<b>Risk Management :</b>	One of the Council's remaining statutory responsibilities is to deliver sufficient and suitable places to meet projected demand for both primary and secondary pupils. The opening of a secondary free school will assist the Council in delivering its statutory responsibilities in 2018/2019.

**Access to Information :**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Catherine Moseley, Head of Access and Inclusion.



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## **1 BACKGROUND**

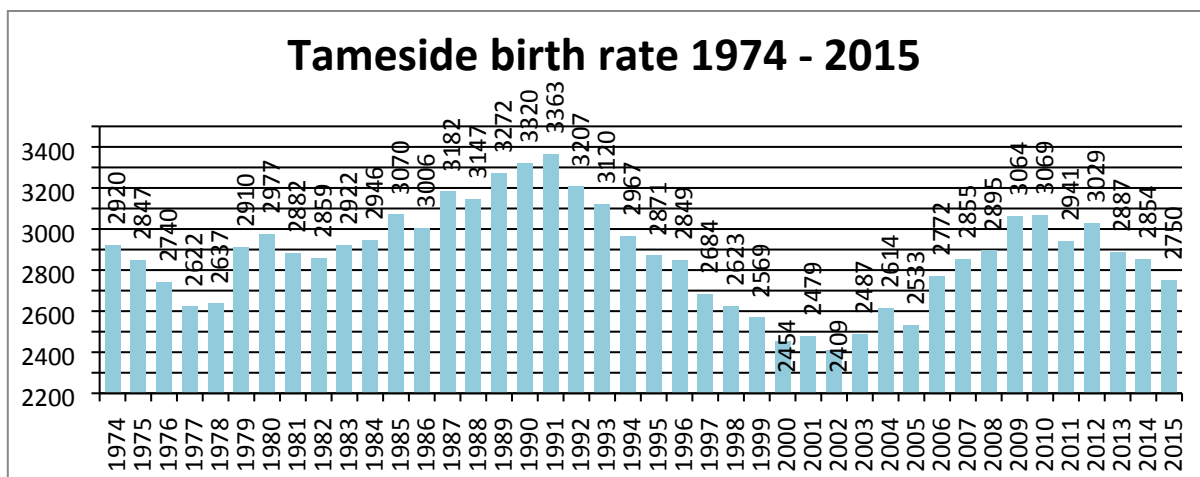
- 1.1 Free schools are funded by the government, but are not run by the local council. They have more control over how they do things and are 'all-ability' schools, so cannot use academic selection processes. There are six main categories of free school:
- Mainstream;
  - Studio schools;
  - 16 to 19;
  - Special;
  - Alternative provision; and
  - Independent converters.
- 1.2 Mainstream free schools are state-funded primary, secondary, middle, 16-19 or all-through schools that are independent of local authorities and are academies in law. They are funded on locally determined funding formulae in line with all other schools in the area. They are funded directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on a per-pupil basis. Mainstream free schools are also able to offer nursery provision and post-16 provision.
- 1.3 The government launched wave 11 of the free school programme in December 2015 and the Laurus Trust submitted a bid to open a 180 place secondary school, the Ryecroft School, in Tameside from September 2018 (although the website refers to Taneside, Lancashire and West Yorkshire).
- 1.4 Council officers have been proactively working with colleagues from the Laurus Trust to identify potential gaps in provision in the borough and possible sites for the new school.

## **2 THE LAURUS TRUST**

- 2.1 The Laurus Trust is a Trust with Cheadle Hulme High School, the founder school, at its centre. The Laurus Trust vision is that every child, regardless of background or circumstance, will be inspired, learn to thrive in all environments and both aspire and work hard to achieve success.
- 2.2 Cheadle Hulme High School is a hugely oversubscribed academy converter with a reputation locally, and further afield, for outstanding teaching and learning through the relentless pursuit of excellence and a determination to ensure that every child succeeds.
- 2.3 It is a Teaching School and has been judged Outstanding in every category by Ofsted in 2011 and 2015. The 2015 results for Cheadle Hulme High School put the school in the top 2% of schools nationally in terms of value added and the top five non-selective schools in the North West region.
- 2.4 The Trust currently has two Free Schools in the pre-opening phase – Cheadle Hulme Primary School which is due to open in September 2017 and the Tameside High School due to open in September 2018.

## **3 THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SECONDARY PLACES IN TAMESIDE**

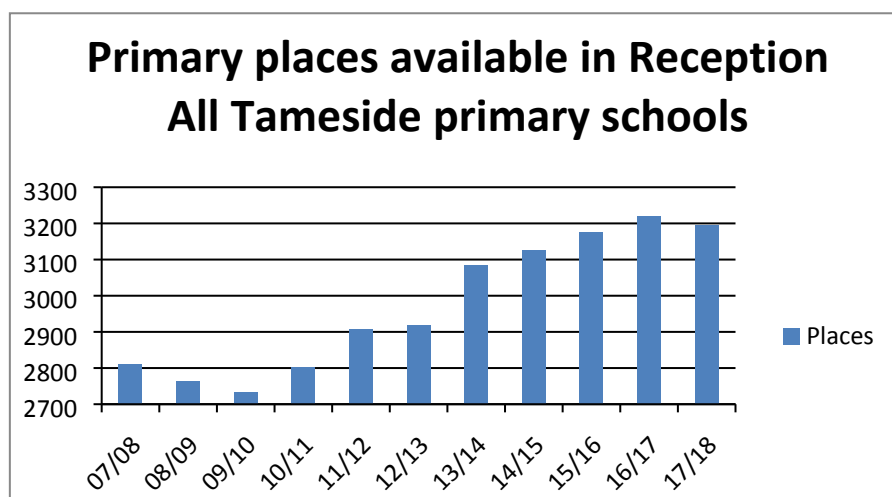
- 3.1 In common with many areas of the country, Tameside has experienced a surge in births over recent years. The birth rate has risen from a low of 2,409 in 2002 to a recent high of 3,069 in 2010, a 27% increase. As can be seen from the graph below, over the last 40 years, the birth rate in the borough has followed a distinct cycle which appears to repeat over a 25 year period. The peak of births in the borough was reached in 1991 when 3,363 babies were born. The most recent peak was in 2010 with 3,069 babies born. In 2015, this had dropped back to 2,750. Birth rates form the basis for any school place planning model.



3.2 The School Admissions Team in the Council deal with approximately 3,000 transfer movements every year. Around 2,000 are primary school movements and 1,000 are secondary. This is in common with most areas of the country where house moves are the commonest reason for moving schools. The table below shows pupil numbers in each primary year group from 2004 onwards. As can be seen the number of children in Tameside primary schools has increased steadily over the years in line with the increase in the birth rate.

All Tameside primary schools								
January census numbers in each year group								
	R	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	TOTAL
2004/05	2460	2562	2593	2618	2712	2712	2745	<b>18402</b>
2005/06	2397	2472	2550	2591	2615	2706	2718	<b>18049</b>
2006/07	2406	2396	2463	2553	2598	2611	2695	<b>17722</b>
2007/08	2453	2384	2429	2457	2535	2619	2617	<b>17494</b>
2008/09	2586	2463	2400	2427	2470	2536	2617	<b>17499</b>
2009/10	2549	2589	2499	2411	2404	2461	2531	<b>17444</b>
2010/11	2681	2549	2600	2453	2414	2397	2473	<b>17567</b>
2011/12	2760	2690	2574	2581	2467	2420	2369	<b>17861</b>
2012/13	2908	2770	2701	2544	2544	2430	2394	<b>18291</b>
2013/14	2926	2953	2773	2699	2567	2581	2465	<b>18964</b>
2014/15	3104	2929	2931	2761	2692	2597	2580	<b>19594</b>
							<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>106%</b>

3.3 To cope with the demand for places, the Council has been proactive in increasing the number of places available in our primary schools over the last few years. The increase in primary numbers has now reached its peak and is beginning to fall back.



3.4 However, the increase in the primary population will inevitably filter through into our secondary schools and the Council has been actively working with secondary heads to look at options to increase places for Year 7 in future years.

3.5 An essential element of planning secondary places is the cohort survival rate. When taken together, a number of factors give a cohort survival rate including birth rate, in year transfers, travel to school areas, net import. The cohort survival is the ratio of the relationship number of pupils from one point in time to another, for example, the birth rate number compared to the number of pupils allocated a place in Reception or the number of pupils in Year 6 in a Tameside school compared to the number of pupils allocated a place in Year 7. A five year rolling average of this ratio is the method used in Tameside to predict the number of places needed in any particular intake year.

3.6 The cohort survival rate for Year 7 is shown in the table below:

YEAR 7 ACTUALS								
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total on time applications	2935	2911	2808	2635	2461	2547	2611	2797
Tameside schools 1st preferences inc SEN	2798	2780	2642	2483	2354	2419	2470	2618
Tameside resident out of borough 1st prefs	137	131	166	152	107	128	141	179
Out of borough 1st prefs for Tameside schools	331	318	239	235	239	253	324	334
Total allocated - Sept	2954	2964	2868	2773	2617	2758	2742	2976
Total allocated for Tameside schools - Sept	2752	2752	2616	2554	2589	2547	2552	2758
Total allocated to out of borough and independent	185	172	220	190	137	166	154	218
Primary school Year 6	2611	2619	2536	2461	2397	2420	2430	2581
Cohort survival rate (Y6 - Y7)	105.4%	105.1%	103.2%	103.8%	108.0%	105.2%	105.0%	106.9%
Birthrate	2684	2,623	2,569	2,454	2,479	2,409	2,487	2,614
Cohort survival rate (birth - Y7)	102.5%	104.9%	101.8%	104.1%	104.4%	105.7%	102.6%	105.5%

3.7 The predictions based on the cohort survival rate described above are shown below. As can be seen, the focus of increasing places now needs to be on the secondary phase.

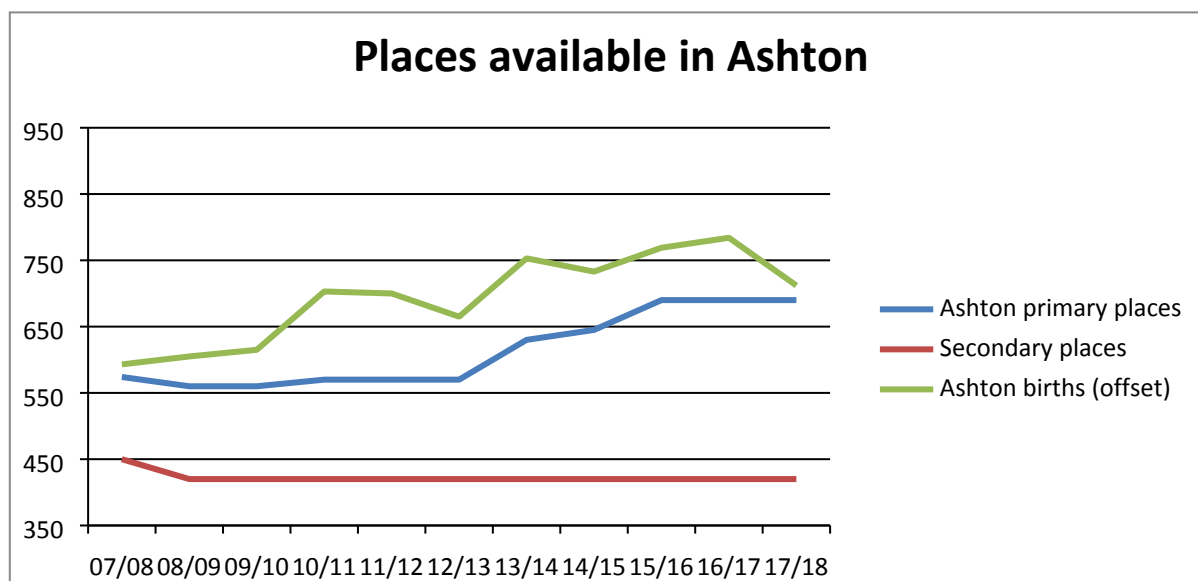
YEAR 7 PREDICTIONS								
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Year 6	2699	2773	2953	2926	2986	2870	3038	2832
Birth rate	2,772	2,835	2,895	3,064	3,069	2,941	3,071	2,887
Cohort survival birth - Y7	2834	2912	3101	3072	3135	3014	3190	2974

3.8 With 2732 places available from September 2017 in each year 7 group, it can be seen that up to 458 new places need to be created over the next few years to ensure that all Tameside pupils have access to a secondary school place in the borough. The opening of the free school will add an additional 180 places per year group taking the number of available places to 2912.

#### 4 SPECIFIC LOCATION OF NEED

4.1 The Council is aware that the successful application names a postcode in the Audenshaw area of the borough and the school has been named as The Ryecroft School. This is close to the area in most need of additional places and the Council is working with the free school sponsor and the Education Funding Agency to identify a site as close to the area of need as possible.

4.2 The town of Ashton has seen the biggest increase in primary places available from 560 in 2008/09 to 690 currently as illustrate in the graph below:



4.3 However, the number of secondary places in the area has remained static at 420 and a substantial way below both the number of primary places available and the birth rate and predicted intake. There are only two secondary schools in Ashton, New Charter Academy which has a Published Admission Number of 270 and St Damian's Roman Catholic High School with a Published Admission Number of 150. St Damian's has 2 designated primary schools for oversubscription criteria purposes that are not in Ashton, one of which is in another borough which potentially further reduces the number of places available for children living in Ashton.

4.4 The data below shows the balance of need for places is in the Ashton area with no less than 54% of the necessary places being in Ashton.

	Sep-17	Sep-18	Sep-19	Sep-20	Sep-21	Sep-22	Sep-23	Sep-24
	<b>ASHTON</b>							
Primary numbers	567	571	597	594	607	644	651	604
Predicted intake	595	600	627	624	637	676	684	634
Places available	420	420	420	420	420	420	420	420
Balance of places	-175	-180	-207	-204	-217	-256	-264	-214
	<b>TAMESIDE</b>							
Primary numbers	2699	2773	2953	2926	2986	2870	3038	2832
Predicted intake	2834	2912	3101	3072	3135	3014	3190	2974
Places available	2732	2732	2732	2732	2732	2732	2732	2732
Balance of places	-102	-180	-369	-340	-403	-282	-458	-242
% of deficit	172%	100%	56%	60%	54%	91%	58%	89%

## 5 PLACE PLANNING IN OTHER AREAS OF TAMESIDE

5.1 Following several years of planning, plans are now well underway to increase secondary places in other areas of the borough and proposals currently being explored can be summarised below:

School	Possible scheme	Potential additional places
St Damian's (Voluntary Aided school)	Remodelling of internal space.	10 per year group
Astley	Revert to former Published Admission Number	30 per year group
Alder	Remodelling of internal space to create additional classrooms	25 per year group
Hyde Community College	Remodelling of 'the shed' and the sixth form space.	30 per year group
Copley (academy)	Some remodelling might be necessary in the longer term but 180 should be possible from September 2017	30 per year group
Free school application		180 per year group
	<b>POTENTIAL TOTAL</b>	<b>305 places</b>

5.2 There is still some way to go before the places above are confirmed but should all the plans above be realised, there will be 3037 places available per year group. As can be seen from the data above, the Council will still need to consider adding some bulge classes for 2020 to 2023 to accommodate the biggest year groups.

## 6 FUTURE NEED FOR SCHOOL PLACES AND THE GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK

6.1 Another core factor in planning school places, is the amount of new housing development being planned in the borough. The council is currently in the process of working with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework which will set the strategic planning framework for housing and employment growth in Greater Manchester over the next 20-years and guide the development of the new Tameside Local Plan.

- 6.2 At present, and whilst the figures are still being finalised, the GMSF will seek to deliver in excess of 225,000 new homes over the next 20-year period and which presently indicates that Tameside would be required to deliver between approximately 13,700 – 16,600 new homes over this period. This number of new homes is likely to yield between 411 and 498 pupils per year group or between 4521 and 5478 places in total. This is a significant increase and represents the equivalent of seven new primary schools and two new secondary schools.
- 6.3 The Council submits an annual school capacity return (SCAP) to the Department for Education (DfE) on places available in schools and school population forecasts. However the SCAP does not allow an increase in the forecast based on new housing. It is therefore crucial that the Council feeds information on the potential for new housing and the impact for school places into the national planning mechanism.

## **7 IDENTIFYING A SCHOOL SITE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL FREE SCHOOL BID AND WORKING WITH THE REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMISSIONER**

- 7.1 The content of this report shows that Tameside will need to identify additional temporary secondary school places from 2020 alongside progressing the current proposals to increase places in order to meet demand.
- 7.2 There is now a need to proactively work with our regional schools commissioner, Vicky Beer. Part of the remit of the regional schools commissioner is advising on proposals for new free schools and advising on whether to cancel, defer or enter into funding agreements with free school projects. It is imperative that we work with the regional schools commissioner to ensure that Tameside can influence decisions being made about where the free school is located in the borough.
- 7.3 Officers from both People and Place Directorates are attending a meeting with the Education Funding Agency on 2 August 2016 to discuss pupil place planning. The agenda includes discussion on potential sites and specifically if there any available sites that the Council is aware of (LA or non LA owned) and any local developments and potential Section 106 / Community Infrastructure Levy contributions for school buildings.
- 7.4 Officers are happy to share potential sites in the Ashton area as shown in the map at **Appendix 1**.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 There is no doubt that demand for secondary places in Ashton will far outstrip supply in the very near future and the Council needs to work with the DfE and EFA to ensure that the new free school is located in the Ashton area to meet expected demand.
- 8.2 The Council is happy to work with the Laurus Trust and the DfE and EFA to locate a suitable site and to explore the possibility of incorporating additional elements into the creation and design that meet other strategic educational and social needs of the borough, for example, alternative provision, community hub style office etc.
- 8.3 The Council will continue to work with existing secondary schools to close the demand gap through expansion of current schools. This will ensure the long term financial viability of all our schools and best use of resources.



## **9 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That members of the EAIB endorse officers to work in partnership with the Education Funding Agency to help identify a site for the new free school in Tameside so that it is located in Ashton which has the greatest need for additional secondary school places.
- 9.2 That members of the EAIB send a strong message through officers to the Regional Schools Commissioner and the Education Funding Agency of the need to involve Tameside Council in any decisions that affect the borough and utilise the knowledge and expertise within the Council to help them in that process.

Map showing all SHLAA housing sites (in red) and employment sites (in yellow) over 5 hectares within Ashton and immediate surrounds

