

**Report To:** EXECUTIVE CABINET

**Date:** 3 November 2010

**Executive Member/Reporting Officer:** Councillor Gerald P Cooney – Executive Member, Lifelong Learning Services.  
Jim Taylor – Executive Director - Services For Children and Young People

**Subject:** TAMESIDE NURSERY PLACE REVIEW

**Report Summary:** Previous primary place reviews have highlighted that certain schools in the borough were being funded for empty nursery places. In addition, the number of funded places for some of our maintained nurseries is out of line with the reception class published admission numbers (PAN). This review considers whether the maximum funded places needs to be amended at each individual nursery. Consultation options were identified taking into account a number of factors including total provision in an area including in the PVI sectors, staff / pupil ratios in nursery, current levels of surplus places and future demand. Whilst the consultation officially concluded on 9 July, the consultation period was extended until 23 July due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Recommendations:**

## Ashton under Lyne

- 1 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Holden Clough Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 2 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 3 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Hurst Knoll St James' Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 4 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 5 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Parochial Church of England Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 6 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Christopher's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 7 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Ashton West End Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

- 8 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Broadoak Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

**Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw**

- 9 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Dane Bank Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 10 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Denton to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 11 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Poplar Street Primary School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 13 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Linden Road Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 14 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Fairfield Road School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

**Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley**

- 15 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Yew Tree / Acorn Nursery to a 91 place (45.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 16 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Milton St John's Church of England Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 17 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Micklehurst Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 18 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Millbrook Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 19 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 20 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Wild Bank Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

- 21 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Arlies School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

### **Hyde and Longdendale**

- 22 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Hollingworth Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 23 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Arundale Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 24 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Pinfold Primary School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

**Links to Community Strategy:** A learning community and a prosperous society.

**Policy Implications:** The nursery admissions policy is subject to an annual consultation and any necessary changes will be made through that process.

**Financial Implications:**  
**(Authorised by the Borough Treasurer)**

The Department for Education have allocated additional funding of £1.243m in 2010/2011 to support the introduction of the extended free entitlement to 15 hours per week from 1 September 2010. This is additional to the existing £4.9m of funding which supports the 3 and 4 year old provision in the borough (£3.6m in the maintained sector and £1.3m in the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector). The additional funding is incorporated into delegated school funding allocations and Private, Voluntary and Independent sector funding allocations for the current financial year.

The nursery place review will address inconsistencies in the free entitlement across both sectors. This will assist in ensuring that decisions about funding for maintained and PVI providers are equitable and transparent and are based on the same funding factors. While funding levels and funding methodologies do not have to be exactly the same for all providers, any differences must be justifiable and demonstrable.

Funding for the 3 and 4 year old free entitlement is financed via the Dedicated Schools Grant and Surestart Grant which are confirmed allocations for the 2010/2011 financial year. The Council awaits details of funding allocations from 1 April 2011 which are expected to be received during late Autumn 2010. The proposed formula review calculations will need to be re-evaluated following confirmation of future year funding allocations.

**Legal Implications:**  
**(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient and suitable places for pupils in its area. In addition, the Department for Education places a duty on Local Authorities to specifically consider action in relation to surplus places. Furthermore, Section 6 of the

Childcare Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.

Two years ago the government announced plans to introduce a single funding mechanism for all nurseries, in state and private sectors, for the free 12.5 hours of childcare it promises to provide for every child aged three or four in England. Every local authority must confirm by April how it will meet that pledge for September 2011, when the free entitlement will rise to 15 hours.

State nurseries have historically received far more funding than private ones, but with so much of the promise of free childcare being undertaken in the private sector the government is under pressure to redress the balance.

The changes have been prompted by a government demand in June 2007 that local authorities bring in a single system of funding for all pre-school settings by April 2010. Specifically, schools are to be funded for actual pupils attending rather than per place available. Previously, they were often funded for places before they were filled. The aim is to help ensure that while funding levels are not necessarily equal, they are efficient, equitable and transparent.

The aim of this review, consultation and subsequent recommendations seek to ensure that efficiency, equality and transparency are achieved.

**Risk Management:**

There are several identified risks that the outcomes of the review will help to manage.

There is a risk of not meeting performance indicators relating to surplus places and the outcomes of the review will reduce surplus places in the borough over the coming years.

There is a risk of pupils not achieving their potential in smaller schools that are not full and the breadth of curriculum that can be offered and the outcome of the review will ensure a viable breadth of curriculum.

**Access to Information:**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Michele Roberts – Education Officer:



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## 1 RATIONALE FOR THE REVIEW

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility under the Education Act 1996, to secure sufficient and suitable places for pupils in its area. In addition, the Department for Education places a duty on Local Authorities to specifically consider action in relation to surplus places. Furthermore, Section 6 of the Childcare Act 2006 requires Local Authorities to secure sufficient childcare to enable parents to work, or to undertake education and training leading to work.
- 1.2 In undertaking these duties, Tameside Council is implementing a review of nursery place provision on a borough wide basis.

## 2 REVIEW PROCESS

- 2.1 A consultation document was compiled setting out the detail of nursery education provision in Tameside. The consultation document referred to the number of places within maintained schools and also the level of provision within the private, voluntary and independent sectors. It considered changes in the birth rate, nursery class occupancy rates, the specific geography of the area and the duty to secure sufficient childcare.
- 2.2 The consultation document found that:
- There is a diverse range of private, voluntary, independent and maintained nursery provision in Tameside.
  - Some areas of the borough have historically experienced scarce nursery provision leading to larger community nurseries in some schools.
  - There are surplus places in most areas across the borough.
  - Although there has been an upward turn in the birth rate in Tameside leading to an increase in demand for nursery places, the current level of surplus places is excessive.

## 3 BASIS FOR CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The review document proposed the consultation be undertaken on the basis of:

### 3.2 Ashton-under-Lyne Area

Proposal A - Reduction in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Holden Clough	30	32	0	26	0	26	26
Holy Trinity	30	46	10	29	0	43	26
Hurst Knoll	30	52	0	25	2	25	26
Our Lady of Mount Carmel	30	52	6	29	4	22	26
Parochial	30	40	1	31	0	20	26
St Christopher's	30	46	10	30	1	32	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>156</b>

Proposal A - Increase in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
West End	45	26	0	42	0	41	39
Broad oak	45	26	0	26	0	26	39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>78</b>

### 3.3 Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw Area.

Proposal B – Reduction in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Dane Bank	30	34	4	28	0	41	26
St Marys RC	30	52	0	34	0	31	26
St Annes RC	30	52	5	26	2	32	26
Poplar Street	60	66	8	38	0	45	52
Linden Road	30	52	0	26	0	31	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>156</b>

Proposal B – Increase in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Fairfield Road	60	39	8	28	0	40	52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>52</b>

### 3.4 Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley Area.

Proposal C – Reduction in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Yew Tree / St Marys*	100(70+30)	94	10	84	18	76	91(65+26)
Milton St Johns	30	34	0	33	0	30	26
Micklehurst	30	34	4	19	0	12	26
Millbrook	30	52	8	36	10	38	26
St Peters RC	30	39	4	33	10	26	26
Wild Bank	30	52	14	26	0	37	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>221</b>

Proposal C – Increase in maximum funded part time nursery places:

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Arlies	45	26	10	24	8	18	39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>39</b>

### 3.5 Hyde and Longdendale Area.

Proposal D – Reduction in maximum funded part time nursery places

Primary School	PAN for primary school	Current Maximum funded nursery places (part time)	Nursery occupancy Jan 08 census (part time)		Nursery occupancy Jan 09 census (part time)		Proposed maximum funded nursery places (part time)
			3 year olds	4 year olds	3 year olds	4 year olds	
Hollingworth	30	52	0	20	0	18	26
Arundale	30	52	6	18	0	29	26
Pinfold	60	78	0	38	0	37	52
<b>Totals</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>104</b>

## 4 CONSULTATION PROCESS

4.1 From May until July 2010, consultation was undertaken on the proposals to amend the maximum number of part time nursery places. All schools directly affected by the proposals were invited to hold meetings for staff, parents and governors. Meetings were held with staff, parents and governors at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School and with governors at Linden Road Primary School. Other partners consulted included:

- Diocesan representatives
- Unions and professional associations

- Ward councillors
- Private, voluntary and independent nursery providers in Tameside

4.2 Copies of the Tameside Nursery Place Review document were distributed to all primary schools and the document was available on the Tameside MBC website. All consultees were given the opportunity to respond in writing.

## 5 RESPONSES TO THE CONSULTATION

5.1 The Council received 53 written responses to the consultation and included representations from staff, parents and governors from affected schools, the appropriate unions and ward councillors.

5.2 The responses from each area from each school have been grouped into comments and concerns and alternative suggestions followed by the Council's response.

## 6 PROPOSALS OVERALL

6.1 One of the responses received from a ward councillor supported the rationale behind the proposals for the borough as a whole.

6.2 One of the responses was received from Unison. This said that the union do not wish to see the outcome affect those currently employed within these settings and would work positively to resolve any issues which arise from the Review. The union have worked in a positive way to help and support members previously and would continue to do so

## 7 ASHTON UNDER LYNE AREA

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Holden Clough Community Primary School, Hurst Knoll St James' Church of England Primary School, St Christopher's RC Primary School and increase the maximum funded number of places at Broadoak Primary School and West End Primary School, Ashton.**

7.1 No responses were received in relation to these schools with regard to this proposal.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School.**

7.2 Thirty five responses were received. One response on behalf of 26 parents from Holy Trinity School was received. Four responses were received from staff members, one response from the Headteacher and one from a governor at the school. Three responses were received from ward councillors. All responses argued against the proposal. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
The occupancy figures quoted for Holy Trinity are wrong.	The occupancy figures are taken from the January pupil census in 2008 and 2009. This census counts the number of children on role in the school on one day in January. This figure will change throughout the year because children can be admitted at various times during the year.
Children won't be able to receive all their free entitlement at the same nursery.	Tameside Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school. It is intended that this is accessed in one setting. However, if parents require a nursery place before the child becomes 4, this may have to be accessed at alternative settings. Children can, however, remain in such nurseries until they start full time school.

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
The increase in the birth rate in St Peter's ward will lead to an increase in demand for nursery places.	This area is expected to experience the largest increase in the birth rate in Tameside over the next few years and nursery place numbers will need to accommodate the subsequent increase in demand. There is clearly an increasing demand from 4 year olds for places at Holy Trinity nursery and this is consistently in excess of 26 part time places.
A reduction in places will cause a shortage of available places for 3 year olds.	The proposals have regard to the Tameside aim to provide nursery provision for the year prior to the child starting full time school. However, a lack of demand from 4 year olds in some areas has enabled some nurseries to admit 3 year olds. Although children can access their free entitlement from the term after their 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday, this entitlement does not have to be provided within a mainstream school setting but can be accessed at alternative settings. Tameside actively encourages a mixed economy across the borough of school, private and voluntary settings to provide a sufficiency of places.
Outreach is unlikely to happen at alternative providers in the Ashton area and children will not benefit from early education. A reduction in the number of places at Holy Trinity will mean fewer resources to employ bi-lingual support staff.	It is not a requirement for nursery providers to operate outreach provision to encourage families to access nursery provision or bi-lingual support staff. However, it is accepted that outreach can be effective and other providers in the Ashton area do employ this method. For example, St Peter's Children's Centre currently has 45% ethnic minority children on role. This nursery does liaise with early years workers to support families into the nursery. Other nurseries in Ashton do not use outreach but still tend to get small numbers of Polish, Russian, Portuguese and French speaking children attending. Any potential reduction in funding does not necessarily mean a reduction in staffing but should that be the choice individual schools make, there are processes in place within the local authority to assist schools to do this.
It will be difficult for parents of large families to take their nursery age children to settings around Ashton and they may stop taking their children to nursery.	While this could be a consequence of the proposals in this review, it is an issue that parents of large families deal with throughout their children's school careers. As a voluntary aided school, Holy Trinity can set its own admissions criteria to give higher preference to children with siblings already at the school.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC Primary School.**

7.3 One response was received from the Headteacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. The response was against the proposal. Concerns included:

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
A reduction in the number of places at Our Lady of Mount Carmel will mean less resources and staff hours will be reduced.	The school has experienced up to 57% surplus places in past years. This was supported through block funding for 52 places. In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to participation. All schools have been notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources.

## Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Parochial Church of England Primary School

- 7.4 One response was received from the governing body of Parochial Church of England Primary School against the proposal. Concerns included:

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
The increase in the birth rate in St Michael's ward will lead to an increase in demand for nursery places.	Although the birth rate is increasing, the figures show that the proposed number of nursery places in St Michael's ward will be sufficient for the next 4 years.
The reduction in nursery places will adversely affect the number of applications for the reception class.	A place at nursery does not guarantee a place in any reception class. However, it is accepted that many parents do place their children in the nursery of the primary school they would like their child to attend. Parochial has had a 40 place nursery thus far. 19 Parochial Nursery children will move into the reception class in September 2010. 11 children will enter reception from other settings. Reducing the maximum number of funded nursery places is unlikely to adversely affect the reception class applications as the school do attract significant numbers of children from outside their own nursery class.
Are there any plans for transitional funding to allow schools to manage potential staff reductions?	In April 2011, the Government have directed that nursery funding will move from place led to participation. In December 2009, all schools were notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources.
What procedures are in place to manage reductions of staff on permanent contracts?	Any potential reduction in funding does not necessarily mean a reduction in staffing but should that be the choice individual schools make, there are processes in place within the local authority to assist schools to do this.
Parochial nursery is currently over-subscribed, has this been taken into account?	Occupancy figures for January 2010 show 8 part time surplus places. It is acknowledged that additional children may have been admitted since January. However, many schools are oversubscribed and this has not been taken into account in this review.
Any reduction in nursery places reduces parental choice.	Although the birth rate is increasing, the figures show that the proposed number of nursery places in St Michael's ward will be sufficient for the next 4 years. The range and diversity of providers will not change as a result of this review.
Families belonging to St Michael's Church but who do not live in St Michael's ward could be disadvantaged when applying for a place at the nursery.	Having additional places does not guarantee members of the parish will gain a place in either the nursery or Reception.
The consultation has not taken parents' views into account.	The consultation methods employed have been used in all previous school reviews including primary and secondary and have been found to be thorough. Headteachers were asked to share the consultation document with parents. The Council has received a number of responses from parents with regard to this review.

### Alternative suggestion for Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School:

- 7.5 The Headteacher at Holy Trinity and three ward councillors suggested that the number of part time places in the nursery should be increased from 46 to 52 and not reduced from 46 to 26. The respondents consider the benefits to be:

- The nursery can provide the intensive bi-lingual support that the children need from as early an age as possible.
- More children will access early years education rather than waiting until statutory school age.
- More children will benefit from quality teaching, play and language experiences in an area of high deprivation.
- A 52 place nursery would attract enough funding per head to support a full time teacher, a teaching assistant and 3 bi-lingual support staff.
- Bi-lingual support will continue and standards throughout the school will not be compromised.

**Council’s response to the alternative suggestion:**

7.6 The alternative suggestion that the maximum funded number of places at Holy Trinity should be set at 52 and not reduced to the proposed 26 has been considered. The rationale for reducing nursery numbers is clearly explained in the consultation document including the proposals to have nursery numbers in ratios of 1:13 to comply with staffing legislation. It is noted that the school lies within an area of high deprivation and takes children from families that have English as an additional language. While this can present the school with some challenging circumstances, Holy Trinity is not in a unique position in relation these factors. The January 2010 census confirms that Holy Trinity is currently over number in the nursery having admitted 50 four year olds. Lack of demand in 2008 enabled the nursery to admit 10 three year olds in addition to 29 four year olds although this practice was not necessary in 2009 when the nursery admitted 43 four year olds. There is clearly an increasing demand from 4 year olds for places at Holy Trinity nursery and this is generally in excess of 26 part time places. There is a strong sibling connection at the school which may be contributing to current occupancy levels. Given the number of available places at the nearby Children 4 Most Private Day Nursery and the proposed increase to 39 places at Ashton West End School nursery, 52 places at Holy Trinity seems excessive. The Council notes however, that this area is expected to incur the largest increase in the birth rate in Tameside over the next few years and nursery numbers will need to accommodate this. The Council proposes, therefore to set the maximum funded nursery place number to 39.

**8 DENTON, DROYLSDEN AND AUDENSHAW AREA**

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at St Mary’s RC Primary School, Denton, Poplar Street Primary School, St Annes RC Primary School, Audenshaw and to increase the maximum funded number of places at Fairfield Road Primary School, Droylsden.**

8.1 No responses were received in relation to these schools with regard to this proposal.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Linden Road Primary School, Denton.**

8.2 One response was received on behalf of the governors, the staff and the Headteacher at Linden Road School against the proposal. Concerns included:

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
There will be an increase in future demand for nursery places due to new initiatives and improved facilities at the school and the rise in the birth rate in North East Denton.	While it is difficult to predict the effect of new initiatives on demand the Council notes that the occupancy figures at Linden Road have been steadily rising. However, it is unlikely that they will attain the current number of 52 funded places in the short term.

If numbers are reduced part of the newly refurbished nursery building could not be staffed making the recent investment wasteful. There will not be enough places for children from St Anne's.	The Council notes that this is a community nursery that has recently invested in larger nursery accommodation. Interest in the nursery is increasing. It is accepted that nursery numbers will need to support a satisfactory return on this investment. The Council proposes therefore to set the maximum funded number of nursery places at 39.
Private nurseries restrict the admission of children to those requiring full time places.	Tameside Council actively encourages a mixed economy across the borough of school, private and voluntary settings to provide a sufficiency of places. Settings in receipt of nursery education funding are monitored by the Early Years quality team as a condition of grant. Settings are monitored to ensure the nursery entitlement is free at the point of delivery. Parents should not be obliged to purchase extra hours in addition to the free entitlement hours.
To disrupt children half way through the Foundation Stage goes against the principles of the continuous two year provision.	Tameside Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school. It is intended that this be accessed in one setting. However, if parents require a nursery place before the child becomes 4, this may have to be accessed at alternative settings. Children can, however, remain in such nurseries until they start full time school.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Dane Bank Primary School.**

- 8.3 Five responses were received in relation to Dane Bank School. One from the Headteacher, one from the Chair of Governors at the school, one from the Chair of Governors at Denton West End Primary School, one from the Headteacher at Denton West End Primary School and one from a ward Councillor. All responses argued against the proposal. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
Why are Stockport schools included in the analysis when Manchester schools are not?	Manchester schools were not included in the review because they have full occupancy. Tameside schools were not drawing children across the Manchester / Tameside border to the detriment of the Manchester schools. Some neighbouring Stockport nurseries, have however, experienced surplus places due to Stockport children migrating into Tameside schools.
Birth rate figures for Dane Bank area are used whereas those for Denton West End are not. However both areas have demand in excess of the current places available.	Table 23 of the consultation document shows birth rate figures from the super output areas in which both Dane Bank School and Denton West End School are situated. The figures show that the proposed combined number of places at both schools (78) should be adequate provision for Tameside children living in the Dane Bank / Denton West End area.
Tameside residents in Dane Bank prefer their children to go to Tameside schools and not Stockport schools.	The Tameside Nursery Admissions Policy gives priority to Tameside residents. The range and diversity of providers in the area should not change as a result of this review.
Dane Bank and Denton West End Schools are full and there are no private nurseries in the area.	While there is just one private nursery in the area, the figures show that the proposed combined number of places at both schools (78) should be adequate provision for Tameside children living in the Dane Bank / Denton West End area.
Reducing the number of nursery places at Dane Bank will not alleviate the demand for places in the Denton West End reception class.	The review is not about alleviating demand for reception classes; it is concerned with the supply and demand of nursery places.

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
Dane Bank is a unique area due to geographical barriers and distance to private nurseries. This area should be considered separately in the review.	The Council accepts that Dane Bank is a unique area in terms of geography and distance to private nurseries. However, the figures show that the proposed combined number of places at both schools (78) should be adequate provision for Tameside children living in the Dane Bank / Denton West End area.
Local Stockport schools do not have nurseries and those children attend Dane Bank nursery.	This review is concerned with nursery provision for Tameside children. However, the nearest nursery provider in Reddish just over a mile from Dane Bank Nursery experienced a 56% surplus in 2009.
Limiting the nursery numbers will lead to lower reception class numbers and cause financial problems for the school.	Nursery education is not statutory and therefore attendance at a school nursery does not guarantee a place in a reception class. Super output area data for Dane Bank indicates that there are enough proposed places for Tameside children who should also prefer Tameside primary schools.
There is not sufficient childcare in the Dane Bank area. Provision is limited and mostly located towards the centre of Denton.	The birth rate figures show that the proposed number of nursery places should be adequate provision for Tameside children living in the Dane Bank / Denton West End area. This is not including the places at the private provider on Windmill Lane.
Denton West End School has extended its provision to address the gaps in childcare in the Dane Bank area. This is being funded by the school.	The review has considered the number of places at Denton West End nursery and no changes are proposed. Local funding arrangements are outside the remit of this review.
By exceeding the permitted number, Denton West End school can take nursery children from Manchester who will continue into Reception.	The review has considered the number of places at Denton West End nursery and no changes are proposed.

### Alternative suggestions

8.4 The Headteacher at Linden Road suggested two alternatives. The first, that the maximum funded number of places should be set at 39 and considers the benefits to be:

- This would satisfy the staff / pupil ratio requirement of one adult to thirteen children of nursery age.
- The new nursery facilities and the planned increase in provision on offer outside the school day will attract more parents to the nursery.
- 39 is a realistic number given the rise in the birth rate locally.

8.5 The second alternative to fund the children who take up places at the nursery in order to maximise parental choice. This means that places are provided where demand is greatest.

### Council's response to alternative suggestions

8.6 The alternative suggestion that the maximum funded number of places at Linden Road should be set at 39 and not the proposed 26 has been considered. The assertion that 39 satisfies the 1 adult to 13 children ratio is accepted, however this is also true of the proposed 26 part time places. The Headteacher suggests that the new nursery facilities and the planned introduction of new childcare options in addition to the free entitlement will attract more parents to the nursery thus increasing the demand for places. While it is difficult to predict the effect of new initiatives on demand the occupancy figures have been steadily rising.

- 8.7 In order to accommodate the rising demand for this nursery from St Anne's and Linden Road and to capitalise on recent building investment, it is considered sensible to set the maximum funded number of nursery places at Linden Road to 39 .
- 8.8 The alternative suggestion to fund the children who take up places at the nursery in order to maximise parental choice ensuring that places are provided where demand is greatest has been considered. It is considered that this is not a practical solution as one basis for consultation was to maximise the efficient and effective use of resources by providing places in a staff to pupil ratio of 1:13. Many schools could argue for the same provision and this would not be affordable across the borough.

## 9 DUKINFIELD, STALYBRIDGE AND MOSSLEY AREA

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Yew Tree Primary School Acorn Nursery, Dukinfield, Milton St John's Church of England Primary School, Micklehurst All Saints Primary School, Mossley and increase the maximum funded number of places at Arlies Primary School.**

- 9.1 No responses were received in relation to these schools with regard to this proposal.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Millbrook Primary School, Wild Bank Community School and St Peter's RC Primary School, Stalybridge.**

- 9.2 The Council received 20 responses with regard to Millbrook Primary School. One response from the Headteacher, one response from the Headteacher at Buckton Vale Primary School, 12 responses from staff members, 4 responses from governors and 2 responses from parents. All responses were against the proposals. Concerns included:

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
Millbrook is a community nursery serving Buckton Vale, St Paul's and Stalyhill schools currently without nursery provision.	While the Council actively encourages a mixed economy of providers to meet a range of parental needs, it accepts that the closest alternative nursery to Millbrook is currently full and that other neighbouring nurseries may not be within a reasonable walking distance.
Ofsted reported Millbrook to be an outstanding school. Reducing the numbers does not make sense.	While the Council is aware of the excellent standards at Millbrook nursery, this review is concerned with the level of surplus places across the borough.
Parental choice will be reduced. Parents will not be able to choose a school nursery where children will have access to a full time teacher.	All of the schools listed on Tameside's directory of nursery education providers are inspected by Ofsted and are eligible to deliver nursery education. They are all supported by Tameside's Early Years Quality Team who provides advice, support and training across the authority thus ensuring consistency and promoting inclusive care and quality learning. The range and diversity of providers in the area will not change.
Demand for Millbrook nursery is steadily increasing. It is currently full with 3 and 4 year olds so why reduce numbers?	Tameside Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school. It is intended that this is accessed in one setting. However, if parents require a nursery place before the child becomes 4; this may have to be accessed at alternative settings. Children can, however, remain in such nurseries until they start full time school.
Alternative nurseries are too far away for parents without cars.	The nearest alternative private provider is Bright Futures which is less than 1 mile walking distance away. However, the Council accepts that other neighbouring nurseries may not be within a reasonable walking distance.
PVI nurseries are full. There	The proposed number of places across the Stalybridge North

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
will not be enough places for planned housing developments in the area.	ward should be sufficient for future demand even taking housing developments into account. The range and diversity of providers in the area will not change as a result of this review.
Reduced numbers will affect staffing levels and impact on quality of provision.	In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to participation. All schools have been notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources.
Private nurseries do not offer the same quality of provision as maintained nurseries with a qualified teacher and structured sessions.	The quality of teaching in settings in receipt of nursery education funding is monitored by the Early Years quality team as a condition of grant. Each setting has a designated Early Years Foundation Stage consultant who visits once every six weeks or more if required. The practitioners are required to attend a minimum of 4 days training a year, to track children's progress and to assess their attainment in the same way as schools. The positive impact of this support and challenge is evident in the Ofsted data that shows an increase in good and outstanding Ofsted outcomes in the non maintained sector and a decrease in satisfactory and inadequate outcomes since 2008.
Maintained nursery places should not be reduced in order to make room for private settings to open.	The proposals are intended to address surplus places in the maintained sector as well as ensuring the availability of a sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents. The Council cannot stop new private settings from opening, however, where the Council is of the opinion that there is enough childcare in an area it can refuse to add new nurseries to the directory of providers offering the free entitlement.
Consultation has been limited to just Headteachers.	The consultation methods employed have been used in all previous school reviews including primary and secondary and have been found to be thorough. Headteachers were asked to share the consultation document with parents, staff and governors. The Council has received a number of responses from parents, staff and governors with regard to this review.
Reducing the numbers at Millbrook means that parents of Buckton Vale children will not be able to use a maintained nursery and will have to use PVI providers.	Tameside Council actively encourages a mixed economy across the borough of school, private and voluntary settings to provide a sufficiency of places. All of the schools listed on Tameside's directory of nursery education providers are inspected by Ofsted and are eligible to deliver nursery education.
Private providers are costly.	Currently, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a free nursery education place for up to 38 weeks a year. This may be claimed in a maintained nursery class or from one of the provider's on Tameside's directory of nursery education providers. This entitlement is free at the point of delivery. Parents are under no obligation to purchase hours in addition to the free entitlement hours.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Wild Bank Community School, Stalybridge.**

9.3 The Council received one response from the Headteacher at Wild Bank School on behalf of the staff and governors. The response was against the proposals. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
Wild Bank is a community nursery serving St Paul's and Stalyhill schools currently without nursery provision and	Wild Bank is a community nursery offering provision to St Paul's and Stalyhill areas too. It is noted that the school is located in a deprived area however, while this can present the school with some challenging circumstances, this does not place the school

situated in a deprived area.	in a unique position.
Demand for Wild Bank nursery places is usually higher than the number being proposed.	Tameside Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school. It is intended that this is accessed in one setting. If parents require a nursery place before the child becomes four, this may have to be accessed at alternative settings. Children can remain in such nurseries until they start full time school. However, the Council accepts that recent occupancy figures do exceed the proposed place number of 26.
The school currently has two intakes a year but this may not be possible with reduced numbers as places will be filled before the January intake.	Many schools offer only one intake per school year and this works successfully, however, the school can continue to offer two intakes if it has places available. The Council notes that the school struggles to maintain a viable pupil population. With the exception of the reception class, none of the subsequent year groups have more than 12 pupils per class. The reception class currently has 22 pupils and this is the highest it has been for some time. In order to support sustainability of the school and in response to current local demand it is considered prudent to set the number of places at 39.
The area has a highly mobile population and there may be no places for pupils moving into the area.	This may be true however, people moving out of the area may leave vacant places in the nursery for people moving in.
Private providers are costly.	Currently, all 3 and 4 year olds are entitled to a free nursery education place for up to 38 weeks a year. This may be claimed in a maintained nursery class or from one of the provider's on Tameside's directory of nursery education providers. This entitlement is free at the point of delivery. Parents are under no obligation to purchase hours in addition to the free entitlement hours.

**Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at St Peter's RC Primary School, Stalybridge.**

9.4 The Council received one response from the Headteacher at St Peter's RC enclosing 9 responses from parents. All responses were against the proposals. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
St Peter's is a community nursery.	The Council is aware that pupils travel to St Peter's from a wide geographical area but this is probably due to the Catholic admission criteria which favours children from Catholic families over non-Catholic children living closer.
Parental choice will be reduced particularly for Catholic families. Parents will not be able to choose a school nursery where children will have access to a full time teacher.	There is no statutory obligation for a council to provide faith schools. This is a decision for the local diocese. All of the schools listed on Tameside's directory of nursery education providers are inspected by Ofsted and are eligible to deliver nursery education. They are all supported by Tameside's Early Years Quality Team who provides advice, support and training across the authority thus ensuring consistency and promoting inclusive care and quality learning. The range and diversity of providers in the area will not change.
Demand for St Peter's nursery is high. It is currently full with 3 and 4 year olds so why reduce numbers?	Tameside Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school. It is intended that this is accessed in one setting. However, if parents require a nursery place before the child becomes 4; this may have to be accessed at alternative settings. Children can, however, remain in such nurseries until they start full time school.

Reduced numbers will affect staffing levels and impact on quality of provision.	In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to participation. All schools have been notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources. Limiting the number of funded places in the nursery to 26 should not impact on standards within the nursery.
It will be difficult for parents to take their children to different settings and schools around Stalybridge and they may stop taking their children to nursery.	While this could be a consequence of the proposals in this review, it is an issue that parents deal with throughout their children's school careers. As a voluntary aided school, St Peter's can set its own admissions criteria to give higher preference to children with siblings already at the school.

## 10 HYDE AND LONGDENDALE AREA

### **Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Pinfold Primary School.**

10.1 No responses were received in relation to this school with regard to this proposal

### **Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Hollingworth Primary School, Mottram.**

10.2 The Council received one response to this proposal from the Headteacher of the school against the proposal. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
The increase in birth rate in the Hollingworth area will cause an increase in demand for places. Demand for nursery places is already higher than previous years.	Although the birth rate is increasing, the figures show that the proposed number of nursery places in the Hollingworth area will be sufficient for the next 4 years.
Hollingworth Primary has had 38 requests for places in 2010. This number exceeds the proposed number of maximum funded places by 12. Where would these children go if places were reduced?	The school has experienced up to 65% surplus places in recent years. When super output area data is analysed it can be seen that the super output area in which Hollingworth School is situated and the adjacent super output area had a total of 23 births in 2005 thus equating to 23 four year olds in 2009. This number does increase to 37 four year olds by 2013. However, 37 can easily be accommodated across the sectors at Little Gems (25 places), Longdendale Pre School (21 places), Thorncliffe Day Nursery (9 places) and Hollingworth Primary (26 places) – a total of 81 nursery places for a potential 37 children.

### **Proposal to reduce the maximum funded number of places at Arundale Primary School, Hyde.**

10.3 The Council received one response to this proposal from the Headteacher of the school against the proposal. Concerns included:

<b>Concern</b>	<b>Services for Children and Young People Response</b>
Arundale is the only primary school offering nursery provision on this side of the Hattersley estate.	Although Arundale is the only primary school offering nursery provision on the west side of the estate, the school has experienced up to 65% surplus capacity in recent years.
Planned new housing in	A regeneration project across Hattersley includes a significant

Concern	Services for Children and Young People Response
Hattersley and the proposed new Tesco store will cause an increase in demand for places.	increase in housing stock. However, progress is slow. New build housing at the Hare Hill Road area is underway although this lies to the western side of Hattersley and would not necessarily impact on Arundale nursery. Further developments are unlikely to impact significantly on Arundale's numbers. CTP Limited has submitted a planning application for the construction of a new supermarket on land north of the junction of Stockport Road and Ashworth Lane. Should the application be granted planning permission, any increase in demand from employment opportunities at a new store is, however likely to be across the Hattersley area and not just confined to the Arundale locality.
Arundale admits children as soon as they become 3 not from the term after. This means parents can access work earlier.	The proposals in this review have regard to the Tameside aim to provide nursery provision for the year prior to the child starting full time school. This may not include places for 3 year olds. Children cannot claim the Nursery Education Grant until the term after their third birthday.
Arundale needs 52 places to help fund the PFI building.	The school has experienced significant levels of surplus places in past years. This was supported through block funding for 52 places. In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to participation. All schools have been notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources.
Arundale relies on the nursery to feed the 30 place reception. As there are no other nurseries in this area some children leave to go to other Primary schools.	A place at nursery does not guarantee a place in any reception class. However, it is accepted that many parents do place their children in the nursery of the primary school they would like their child to attend. Arundale has had a 52 place nursery thus far. The reception class however, has still been under-subscribed in recent years. 16 children who attended the nursery in 2009 are moving on to the reception class in 2010. The reception class is not full and reducing the maximum number of funded nursery places is unlikely to adversely affect the reception class further.
Arundale has a high percentage of Free School Meal (FSM) eligible pupils and children begin nursery at lower than expected levels so it is important for the area that we offer provision from a child's third birthday rather than the term later.	Early education is undoubtedly beneficial to children from socially deprived areas. However, Arundale is not in a unique position in respect of the deprived nature of the area and schools are not expected to provide nursery education before children become eligible for the Nursery Education Grant.

## 11 SUMMARY

- 11.1 The provision of nursery class places in Tameside has been subject to review as part of the Council's on going review of primary and nursery provision across Tameside.
- 11.2 The Council's aims in carrying out this review are to:
- Remove surplus places by considering the balance between the supply and the projected demand for nursery places
  - Provide a quality environment to meet the educational needs of pupils
  - Maximise the efficient and effective use of resources
- 11.3 The review, published in May 2010, outlined proposals for provision in 4 geographical areas across Tameside, which the Council believes will reduce surplus places and meet the requirement to ensure sufficient, good quality childcare.

- 11.4 Consultation took place from May until July 2010.
- 11.5 The final report is the result of the consultation process. The Council recognises that schools each have their own unique ethos and part to play in the local community and acknowledges also, the contribution from private, voluntary and independent providers that is necessary to create a sustainable and diverse childcare market that meets the needs of parents.

### **Ashton-under-Lyne Area**

- 11.6 All responses received in relation to the proposed reductions in the maximum funded number of nursery places at Holy Trinity C of E Primary School, Our Lady of Mount Carmel RC Primary School and Parochial Primary School were against the proposals.
- 11.7 The Headteacher, staff and governors at Holy Trinity argued that the school is providing an essential nursery education to over 95% of pupils who have English as an additional language and poor mother tongue skills. They assert that early access to bi-lingual support enables the children to attain accepted language levels by the time they reach the reception class. While this can present the school with some challenging circumstances, Holy Trinity is not in a unique position in relation these factors. The January 2010 census confirms that Holy Trinity is currently over number in the nursery having admitted 50 four year olds. Lack of demand in 2008 enabled the nursery to admit 10 three year olds in addition to 29 four year olds although this practice was not necessary in 2009 when the nursery admitted 43 four year olds. There is clearly an increasing demand for places at Holy Trinity nursery and this is generally in excess of 26 part time places. There is a strong sibling connection at the school which may be contributing to current occupancy levels. An alternative suggestion was proposed to increase the number of part time nursery places to 52. Given the number of available places at the nearby Children 4 Most Private Day Nursery and the proposed increase to 39 places at Ashton West End School nursery, 52 seems excessive. The Council notes however, that this area will experience the largest increase in birth rate in Tameside over the next few years and nursery numbers will need to accommodate the associated level of demand. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery be reduced to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 11.8 The Headteacher at Our Lady of Mount Carmel was concerned that a reduction in the number of places at the nursery would lead to a reduction in resources. The school has experienced up to 57% surplus places in past years and admitted 22 four year olds in 2009. In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to a participation basis calculated on the actual number of children attending the setting. All schools were notified of the move to participation funding in December 2009 and so the school should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.9 The Governors at Parochial Primary School argued that a reduction in the number of nursery places will adversely affect the number of applications for the reception class. The Council accepts that some parents may prefer to send their children to the nursery of their preferred primary school. However this is not always the case and the wide range of thriving private, voluntary and independent nurseries in Tameside is testament to this. Occupancy figures at Parochial in recent years have fluctuated significantly and do not seem to correlate to any particular nursery admission number. The school has experienced up to 50% surplus places in past years and admitted just 20 four year olds in 2009. In 2011, the Government have directed that funding will move to a participation basis calculated on the actual number of children attending the setting. All schools were notified of the move to participation funding in December 2009 and so the school should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.

- 11.10 No responses were received relating to Holden Clough Community Primary School, Hurst Knoll St James' Church of England Primary School and St Christopher's RC Primary School. All schools have experienced surplus capacity in recent years. Holden Clough 18% in 2009, Hurst Knoll 51% in 2009 and St Christopher's 30% in 2009. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery classes at each of these schools be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.11 No responses were received relating to the proposed increase in the maximum funded number of places at West End School, Ashton and Broadoak Primary School. Both schools have reception class Published Admission Numbers (PAN) of 45. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery classes at each of these schools be increased to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.

### **Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw Area.**

- 11.12 All responses received in relation to the proposed reductions in the maximum funded number of nursery places at Dane Bank Primary School and Linden Road Primary School argued against the proposals.
- 11.13 The Headteacher at Linden Road argued that recent investment to improve the nursery facilities and the planned introduction of new childcare options in addition to the free entitlement will attract more parents to the nursery thus increasing the demand for places. An alternative suggestion was proposed to increase the number of part time nursery places to 39. While it is difficult to predict the effect of new initiatives on demand the January 2010 occupancy figures for Linden Road have increased to 35. In order to accommodate the rising demand for this nursery from St Anne's and Linden Road and to capitalise on recent building investment the Council recommends that the nursery class at Linden Road Primary School be reduced to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 11.14 The Headteacher at Dane Bank Primary School argued that Dane Bank is a unique area due to geographical barriers and that there is a lack of sufficient childcare in the area due to the high demand for nursery places from Stockport as well as Tameside residents. The Headteacher says that limiting the nursery numbers will lead to fewer applications for the reception class. While Dane Bank is certainly a distinct area in terms of geography and distance to private nurseries, admitting non-Tameside children into Tameside schools can cause surplus capacity in neighbouring Council. The Tameside Nursery Admission Policy however, gives priority to Tameside children and ensures that Tameside children can all access their free entitlement at a Tameside school. The figures show that the proposed number of places should be adequate provision for Tameside children living in the Dane Bank / Denton West End area. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at Dane Bank Primary School be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.15 No responses were received relating to the proposed reduction in the maximum funded number of places at St Mary's RC Primary School, Denton, Poplar Street Primary School and St Annes RC Primary School, Audenshaw. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at St Mary's RC Primary School, Denton be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011; that the nursery class at Poplar Street Primary School be reduced to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011; that the nursery class at St Anne's RC Primary School, Audenshaw be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.16 No responses were received relating to the proposed increase in the maximum funded number of places at Fairfield Road Primary School, Droylsden. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be increased to a 52 place (26 Full Time

Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.

### **Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley Area**

- 11.17 All responses received in relation to the proposed reductions in the maximum funded number of nursery places at Millbrook Primary School, Wild Bank Community School and St Peter's RC Primary School argued against the proposals.
- 11.18 The Headteacher and governors at Millbrook argue that the school is a community nursery serving Buckton Vale. They say that parental choice will be reduced at a time when demand for nursery places is increasing and alternative nurseries are too far away, often full and of a lesser quality. Occupancy figures for Millbrook show that there has been a steady increase in demand for places. Although the demand has not reached the current funded place number of 52, it has reached 42 in January 2010. While the Council actively encourages a mixed economy of providers to meet a range of parental needs, it accepts that the closest alternative nursery to Millbrook is currently full and that other neighbouring nurseries are not within a reasonable walking distance. Given the particular issues in this area the Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 11.19 The Headteacher and governors at Wild Bank argue that Wild Bank is a community nursery offering provision to St Paul's Primary and Stalyhill Infants. The nursery is situated in a deprived area where the demand for places is usually higher than the number being proposed. They say that the area in which the school is situated has a highly mobile population and a reduced number of available places may result in a shortage of places for pupils moving into the area. Recent occupancy figures for Wild Bank show that while demand does not reach the current funded place number of 52, it does exceed the proposed place number of 26. The reception class currently has 22 pupils and this is the highest it has been for some time. In order to support sustainability of the school and in response to current local demand for the nursery the Council recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 11.20 Respondents from St Peter's RC Primary School argue that the nursery serves a distinct Catholic community and parental choice will be reduced if places are reduced. Demand for places at the school is high and reducing numbers may impact on the quality of provision. There is no statutory obligation for a council to provide faith schools and the range and diversity of providers in the area will not change. The Council aims to provide nursery education for the year prior to the child starting full time school and it is aware that many places in the nursery are filled by 3 year olds. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.21 No responses were received relating to the proposed reduction in the maximum funded number of places at Yew Tree Primary School Acorn Nursery, Dukinfield, Milton St John's Church of England Primary School and Micklehurst All Saints Primary School, Mossley. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at Yew Tree Acorn Nursery be reduced to a 91 place (45.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011, that the nursery class at Milton St John's Church of England Primary School be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 and that the nursery class at Micklehurst All Saints Primary School be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.22 No responses were received relating to the proposed increase in the maximum funded number of places at Arlies Primary School. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be increased to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.

## **Hyde and Longdendale Area.**

- 11.23 All responses received in relation to the proposed reductions in the maximum funded number of nursery places at Hollingworth Primary School and Arundale Primary School argued against the proposals.
- 11.24 The Headteacher from Hollingworth Primary School argued that the increase in the birth rate in the area has resulted in an increase in demand for places both in this and future years. Although the birth rate is expected to increase and occupancy figures at Hollingworth nursery have improved slightly in 2010, the 52% surplus is considered too excessive to sustain the current number of places. The proposed number of places across the Hollingworth area is considered sufficient for the next four years. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.25 The Headteacher of Arundale argued that new housing in the Hattersley area and the school being the only nursery on the west side of the estate would lead to an increase in demand over the next few years. The school has experienced high surplus capacity in recent years and the housing regeneration in the area is unlikely to impact significantly on Arundale's numbers. All schools have been notified of the move to participation funding and should already be planning for this in terms of staffing and resources. Early education is undoubtedly beneficial to children from socially deprived areas. However, Arundale is not in a unique position in respect of the deprived nature of the area and schools are not expected to provide nursery education before children become eligible for the Nursery Education Grant. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.
- 11.26 No responses were received relating to the proposed reduction in the maximum funded number of places at Pinfold Primary School. The Council therefore recommends that the nursery class at this school be reduced to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011 in line with the proposal outlined in the consultation document.

## **12 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Ashton under Lyne**

- 12.1 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Holden Clough Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.2 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.3 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Hurst Knoll St James' Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.4 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.5 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Parochial Church of England Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.6 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Christopher's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

- 12.7 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Ashton West End Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.8 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Broadoak Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

#### **Denton, Droylsden and Audenshaw**

- 12.9 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Dane Bank Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.10 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School, Denton to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.11 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Anne's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.12 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Poplar Street Primary School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.13 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Linden Road Primary School to a 39 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.14 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Fairfield Road School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

#### **Dukinfield, Stalybridge and Mossley**

- 12.15 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Yew Tree / Acorn Nursery to a 91 place (45.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.16 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Milton St John's Church of England Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.17 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Micklehurst Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.18 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Millbrook Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.19 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.20 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Wild Bank Primary School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.21 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to increase the nursery at Arlies School to a 39 place (19.5 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

#### **Hyde and Longdendale**

- 12.22 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Hollingworth Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.

- 12.23 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Arundale Primary School to a 26 place (13 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.
- 12.24 That the Executive Cabinet approve the proposal to reduce the nursery at Pinfold Primary School to a 52 place (26 Full Time Equivalent) nursery from September 2011.