



4. TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS TO CLOSE CRADLEY HIGH SCHOOL  
(Pages 23 – 43)  
(7.45pm – 9.00pm)

To consider the proposals as detailed in the attached consultation document.

5. QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.8 (IF ANY)
6. SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

As a way of giving additional publicity to meetings of the Council's Select Committees it has been agreed that the dates of future meetings of the committee be included on the agendas of meetings of Area Committees.

Set out below is a list of all future meetings -

| <b><u>Select Committee</u></b>            | <b><u>Dates</u></b>   |
|---|---|
| Regeneration, Culture and Adult Education | 30th October 2006<br>10th January 2007<br>6th March 2007                          |
| Community Safety and Community Services   | 9th November 2006<br>11th January 2007<br>15th March 2007                         |
| Environment                               | 13th November 2006<br>29th January 2007<br>8th March 2007                         |
| Health and Adult Social Care              | 23rd November 2006<br>18th January 2006<br>22nd March 2007                        |
| Children's Services                       | 27th September 2006<br>16th November 2006<br>17th January 2007<br>26th March 2007 |

All these meetings start at 6pm and are held in the Council House, Dudley.

Also, the agendas for meetings of Select Committees include a public participation item at which point members of the public can speak to raise an item relating to the activities of the particular Select Committee. Please see below as to how this is dealt with.

More information about Select Committees can be found on the Council's Committee Management Information System (CMIS), which can be accessed via <http://cmis.dudley.gov.uk/cmiswebpublic>.

Details about speaking at a select committee meeting or about Select Committees can also be obtained by speaking to Joe Jablonski on 01384-815243; e-mail [josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:josef.jablonski@dudley.gov.uk) or the person whose details appear on the cover of this agenda.

7. DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006 – Colley Lane Primary School

24<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 – Olive Hill Primary School

14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 – Lutley Community Centre

Distribution

Councillors Body, Burston, Crumpton, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, Hill, Jackson, James, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Mrs Shakespeare, Taylor, K Turner, Mrs Turner and J Woodall

**Investing in the Future -  
Transforming Secondary Provision**

**Consultation on proposals for  
Cradley High School**



**Consultation Document**

***'Putting Children and Young People First in  
Dudley'***

**6 July 2006**

**John Freeman**

**Director of Children's Services**

**Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council**

**Directorate of Children's Services**

**Westox House**

**1 Trinity Road**

**Dudley**

**West Midlands DY1 1JQ**

## **Directorate of Children's Services Consultation Document**

- Consultation on: **Investing in the Future – Transforming Secondary Provision. Proposals for Cradley High School**
- Summary: This document is intended to support consultation on proposals to close Cradley High School.
- Deadline: All responses must be received by **5.00 p.m. on Thursday 28 September 2006**
- Consultees:
- Children and young people attending Dudley schools
  - Pupils, staff and parents / carers of Cradley High
  - Chairs of Governing Bodies
  - Headteachers
  - Councillors
  - Members of the Select Committee on Children's Services
  - Members of Parliament
  - The Black Country Learning and Skills Council
  - Dudley Lifelong Learning Partnership
  - Directorate of the Urban Environment
  - Further Education Colleges
  - Directorate staff
  - Unions and Professional Associations
  - Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
  - Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education
  - Dudley MBC – Corporate Board
  - Dudley Primary Care Trusts
  - West Midlands Police
  - Worcester Diocesan Education Committee
  - Roman Catholic Diocesan Schools Commission
  - Dudley Association of Governing Bodies
  - Neighbouring LEA Directors including Sandwell
  - Dudley Racial Equality Council
  - Community Forums
  - Community Learning Networks

Halesowen Churches  
Dudley Free Church Liaison Council  
Dudley Parent Partnership  
The Kashmiri Pakistani Professionals Forum  
Dudley Community Partnership  
Dudley Muslim Association  
Black Country Chamber of Commerce  
Black Country Connexions  
Dudley Education Business Group  
Community Representatives Panel  
Sure Start local programmes  
Children's Fund  
Children and Young People's Partnership  
Learning and Skills Council

Public Access

Dudley MBC Public Libraries  
Dudley Website [www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)  
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Trinity Road  
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All responses may be published. **A large print version** is available on request.

If you would like to be consulted in a different language please contact Vicky Cook on 01384 813726

## Bengali

"আপনি যদি বাংলায় আলোচনা করতে চান তবে দয়া করে ভিকি কুক কে 01384 813726 নাম্বারে টেলিফোন করুন।"

## Chinese

當向你徵詢意見時候 你想用的語言是中文 請致電01384 813726與Vicky Cook 聯絡

## Gujarati

જો તમે ગુજરાતીમાં સલાહ વાતચીત કરવા ઇચ્છતાં હો, તો કૃપા કરીને વિડિ કૂકનો 01384 813726 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

## Hindi

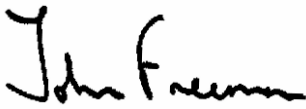
यदि आप चाहते हैं कि आपके साथ हिन्दी में सलाह की जाये तो कृपया विक्की कुक को टैलीफोन नंबर 01384 813726 पर फोन करें

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਕਿ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਲਾਹ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਵਿੱਕੀ ਕੂਕ ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਨੰਬਰ 01384 813726 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰਨ ਦੀ ਕ੍ਰਿਪਾਲਤਾ ਕਰਨੀ।

## Urdu

اگر آپ کو اردو میں مشورہ درکار ہو تو براہ مہربانی وکی کک سے ٹیلیفون نمبر 01384 813726 پر رابطہ کیجئے



John Freeman  
Director of Children's Services  
6 July 2006

**Investing in the Future – Transforming Secondary Provision**

**Consultation on proposals for Cradley High School**

**1. Context**

Dudley has managed numerous changes to the pattern of schooling at several critical points over the last 60 years. Political, educational and demographic changes have led to the building of new schools, amalgamations, changes in size and closures. Dudley is now facing again the need to change and, with the benefit of much better information, can respond with a degree of certainty to meet the needs of children for the next 20 – 30 years.

The annual birth rates (using academic year September – August) in Dudley have reduced from 4,116 in 1990 to 3,344 in 2003. There was a slight increase to 3,514 in 2004 but long-term projections indicate annual births of around 3,300. This is a major problem for all Dudley schools because the amount of money Dudley receives through the Council's revenue grant from government is based on the number of pupils attending schools. As the pupil numbers fall the level of government grant falls and school budgets have less capacity to meet the costs of providing education. Based on the numbers of children already born, the number of primary pupils in Dudley is projected to fall by a further 2,358 by 2010.

Secondary schools have been full for a long time due to the higher birth rates in the 1980s and 1990s. The fall in birth rates is beginning to affect secondary schools across the Borough. The impact on Cradley High has been evident for 3 years (see page 6). The fall in numbers overall and at Cradley High in particular means that the school will receive a smaller budget because there is less to distribute to all schools and because its own numbers are falling. The school can no longer afford to offer the quality of education that has been available so far.

It has become imperative to take action now to ensure that all schools have sufficient resources to continue improving the quality of education and the standards achieved by children and young people. This means the pattern of secondary school provision must be cost effective, with only sufficient surplus places to allow a degree of parental preference and in order to cope with any small variations in demand. It is important to say that these proposals for Cradley High, combined with the other changes, will affect every secondary school in the Borough, by ensuring that money is not wasted on maintaining surplus places but directed to the education of all children and young people.



## 2. Cradley High

The graph below shows how admissions to Year 7 have fallen at Cradley High. The published admission number (PAN) is 150. The number of pupils admitted to Year 7 has fallen every year since September 2002. As the numbers of primary school children in Dudley has fallen the demand for places at Cradley High will continue to fall. There were only 34 first preferences for Cradley High for admission to Year 7 in September 2006. The total number of allocations is 68.

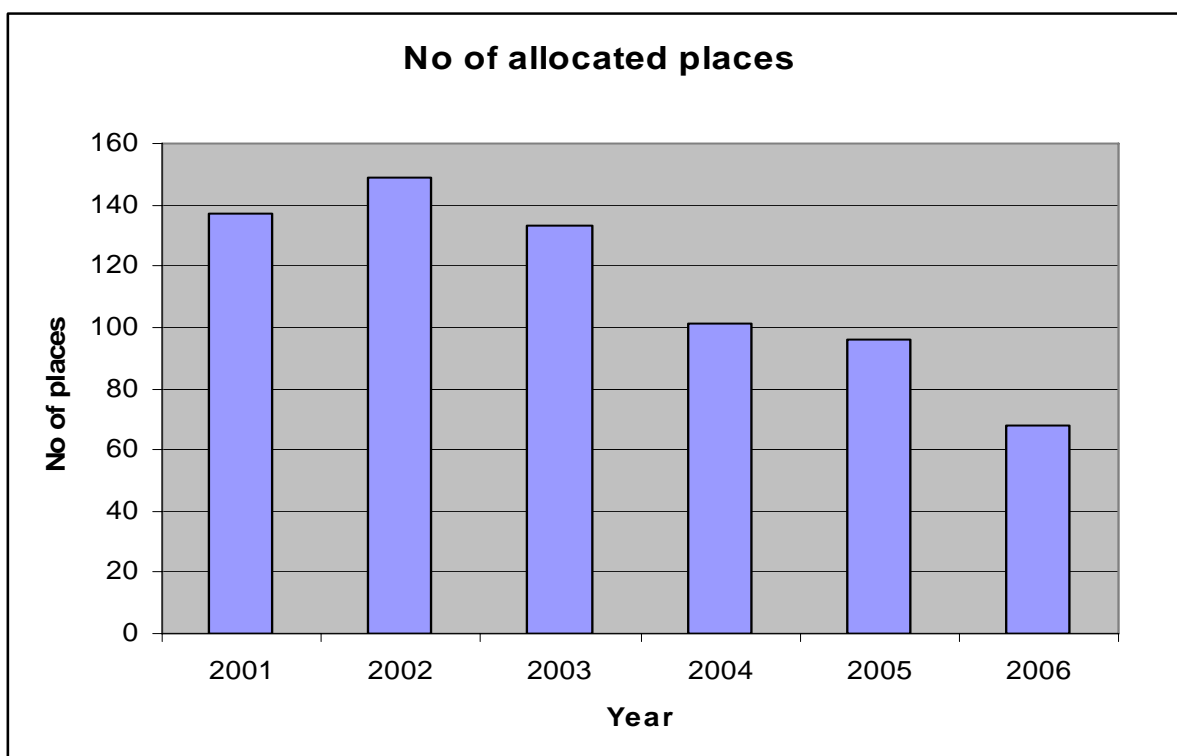


Table 1 shows how the total number of pupils at Cradley High (Year 7 – Year 11) have fallen. The larger numbers in January 2001, 2002 and 2003 reflect the peak annual birth rates around 1990. As the annual birth rate has fallen by almost 20% since 1990 there is no prospect of the demand for places at Cradley High increasing significantly. As the larger year groups move through the school and are replaced with smaller Year 7 intakes, the total number will continue to fall. Without action the number on roll will fall to around 370 by September 2009 (based on continued intakes of around 68 pupils).

Table 1 – Total Cradley High pupil numbers 1997 - 2007

| Year   | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007<br>(provisional) |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Total no. of pupils attending Cradley High                   | 619  | 677  | 687  | 719  | 726  | 769  | 752  | 713  | 665  | 607  | 542                   |
| All figures taken on the third Thursday in January each year |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |                       |

Table 2 shows the number of pupils in each year group at Cradley High in September 2005 compared with September 2006. Estimated numbers for September 2006 are shown in brackets. The pattern illustrates clearly how larger groups of older pupils are being replaced by smaller groups of younger pupils.

Table 2 – Numbers and estimated numbers at Cradley High - September 2005 and 2006

|                  | Y7      | Y8       | Y9       | Y10       | Y11       | Total    |
|------------------|---------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Sept 05 (Sep 06) | 96 (68) | 101 (92) | 129 (98) | 151 (138) | 148 (145) | 625(541) |

Tables 3 – 5 show the numbers of pupils in each year group at Cradley High and the nearest secondary schools for June 2006, September 2006 and September 2007. The Published Admission Number (PAN) is the number of places in each year. The number of surplus places in each year is shown in brackets.

Table 3 – Current pupil numbers and surplus school places - June 2006

| School        | PAN | Yr 7     | Yr 8     | Yr 9        | Yr 10    | Yr 11    | Total**   |
|---------------|-----|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Cradley High  | 150 | 91 (59)  | 98 (52)  | 136<br>(14) | 145 (5)  | 135 (15) | 605 (145) |
| Thorns        | 270 | 274 (0)  | 270 (0)  | 270 (0)     | 269 (1)  | 269 (1)  | 1532(0)   |
| Hillcrest     | 152 | 180 (0)  | 185 (0)  | 187 (0)     | 162 (0)  | 134 (18) | 850 (0)   |
| Pedmore       | 182 | 134 (48) | 145 (37) | 177 (5)     | 169 (13) | 177 (5)  | 802 (108) |
| Windsor       | 260 | 262 (0)  | 263 (0)  | 281 (0)     | 278 (0)  | 279 (0)  | 1363 (0)  |
| Earls         | 230 | 227 (3)  | 229 (1)  | 233 (0)     | 228 (2)  | 233 (0)  | 1150 (6)  |
| Leasowes      | 234 | 232 (2)  | 231 (3)  | 234 (0)     | 260 (0)  | 231 (3)  | 1188 (0)  |
| Ellowes Hall  | 196 | 171 (25) | 189 (7)  | 214 (0)     | 220 (0)  | 192 (4)  | 986 (0)   |
| Pensnett      | 130 | 86 (44)  | 128 (2)  | 122 (8)     | 130 (0)  | 128 (2)  | 594 (56)  |
| Redhill       | 235 | 238 (0)  | 234 (1)  | 235 (0)     | 231 (4)  | 225 (10) | 1163 (12) |
| Ridgewood     | 203 | 182 (21) | 164 (39) | 196 (7)     | 190 (13) | 194 (9)  | 926 (89)  |
| Summerhill    | 201 | 207 (0)  | 202 (0)  | 203 (0)     | 198 (3)  | 199 (2)  | 1009 (0)  |
| Coseley       | 195 | 193 (2)  | 197 (0)  | 189 (6)     | 177 (18) | 167 (28) | 923 (52)  |
| Crestwood     | 150 | 150 (0)  | 149 (1)  | 153 (0)     | 157 (0)  | 156 (0)  | 765 (0)   |
| Dormston      | 224 | 225 (0)  | 226 (0)  | 234 (0)     | 224 (0)  | 225 (0)  | 1134 (0)  |
| Wordsley      | 151 | 146 (5)  | 126 (25) | 150 (1)     | 127 (24) | 131 (20) | 680 (75)  |
| High Arcal*   | 242 | 243 (0)  | 244 (0)  | 248 (0)     | 220 (22) | 215 (27) | 1170 (40) |
| Holly Hall*   | 144 | 144 (0)  | 141 (3)  | 135 (9)     | 129 (15) | 127 (17) | 676 (44)  |
| Kingswinford* | 180 | 188 (0)  | 182 (0)  | 186 (0)     | 187 (0)  | 187 (0)  | 930 (0)   |
| Bishop Milner | 120 | 118 (2)  | 115 (5)  | 119 (1)     | 118 (2)  | 119 (1)  | 589 (11)  |
| Castle        | 210 | 206 (4)  | 210 (0)  | 209 (1)     | 210 (0)  | 210 (0)  | 1045 (5)  |
| Old Swinford  | 113 | 48 (65)  | 57 (56)  | 81 (32)     | 72 (41)  | 79 (34)  | 337 (228) |

\* Data sourced from PLASC – January 2006.

\*\* Whilst surplus places may exist in some year groups others may be over their PAN causing the total of surplus places to be zero even though there may be some in different year groups.

Current Year 10 and Year 11 are not affected by this proposal as Cradley High Year 11 (135) leave as normal in July 2006 and the current Year 10 (145) will start Year 11 in September 2006 and leave as normal in July 2007. The proposal requires current pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 to transfer to alternative schools by September 2007. Table 3 shows that there are not enough places in other schools. Discussions are taking place to ensure that sufficient places are created in other schools to meet preferences of pupils currently attending Cradley High. Places will be created by September 2007. The tables do not include the necessary increases in places at other schools.

Table 4 - Numbers for September 2006

| <b>School</b> | <b>PAN</b> | <b>Yr 7</b> | <b>Yr 8</b> | <b>Yr 9</b> | <b>Yr 10</b> | <b>Yr 11</b> |
|---------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cradley High  | 150        | 68          | 91          | 98          | 136          | 145          |
| Thorns        | 270        | 271         | 274         | 270         | 270          | 269          |
| Hillcrest     | 152*       | 159         | 180         | 185         | 187          | 162          |
| Pedmore       | 182        | 132         | 134         | 145         | 177          | 169          |
| Windsor       | 260**      | 280         | 265         | 263         | 281          | 278          |
| Earls         | 230**      | 240         | 227         | 229         | 233          | 228          |
| Leasowes      | 234        | 180         | 232         | 231         | 234          | 260          |
| Ellowes Hall  | 196        | 193         | 171         | 189         | 214          | 220          |
| Pensnett      | 130        | 90          | 86          | 128         | 122          | 130          |
| Redhill       | 235        | 235         | 238         | 234         | 235          | 231          |
| Ridgewood     | 203        | 168         | 182         | 164         | 196          | 190          |
| Summerhill    | 201        | 202         | 207         | 202         | 203          | 198          |
| Coseley       | 195        | 196         | 193         | 197         | 189          | 177          |
| Crestwood     | 150        | 144         | 150         | 149         | 153          | 157          |
| Dormston      | 224        | 224         | 225         | 226         | 234          | 224          |
| Wordsley      | 151        | 153         | 146         | 126         | 150          | 127          |
| High Arcal    | 242        | 242         | 243         | 244         | 248          | 220          |
| Holly Hall    | 144        | 145         | 144         | 141         | 135          | 129          |
| Kingswinford  | 180        | 186         | 188         | 182         | 186          | 187          |
| Bishop Milner | 120        | 121         | 118         | 115         | 119          | 118          |
| Castle        | 210        | 212         | 206         | 210         | 209          | 210          |
| Old Swinford  | 113        | 19          | 48          | 57          | 81           | 72           |

\* Hillcrest is proposing to increase the PAN to 180 under the Expansion of Popular and Successful Schools Scheme promoted by the DfES. The proposals will be considered shortly by the Dudley School Organisation Committee.

\*\* Windsor and Earls will change their PANs as a consequence of construction work increasing their overall capacity. Windsor's PAN will change to 280 and Earls' PAN will change to 240.

Cradley High, Years 7 (68), 8 (92) and 9 (98), transfer to other schools by August 2007. Year 11 (146) leave as normal in July 2007.

Table 5 – Numbers for September 2007

| School        | PAN | Yr 7 | Yr 8 | Yr 9 | Yr 10 | Yr 11 |
|---------------|-----|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Cradley High  | 150 | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0     | 136   |
| Thorns        | 270 | *    | 271  | 274  | 270   | 270   |
| Hillcrest     | 152 | *    | 159  | 180  | 185   | 187   |
| Pedmore       | 182 | *    | 132  | 134  | 145   | 177   |
| Windsor       | 280 | *    | 280  | 265  | 263   | 281   |
| Earls         | 240 | *    | 240  | 227  | 229   | 233   |
| Leasowes      | 234 | *    | 180  | 232  | 231   | 234   |
| Ellowes Hall  | 196 | *    | 193  | 171  | 189   | 214   |
| Pensnett      | 130 | *    | 90   | 86   | 128   | 122   |
| Redhill       | 235 | *    | 235  | 238  | 234   | 235   |
| Ridgewood     | 203 | *    | 168  | 182  | 164   | 196   |
| Summerhill    | 201 | *    | 202  | 207  | 202   | 203   |
| Coseley       | 195 | *    | 196  | 193  | 197   | 189   |
| Crestwood     | 150 | *    | 144  | 150  | 149   | 153   |
| Dormston      | 224 | *    | 224  | 225  | 226   | 234   |
| Wordsley      | 151 | *    | 153  | 146  | 126   | 150   |
| High Arcal    | 242 | *    | 242  | 243  | 244   | 248   |
| Holly Hall    | 144 | *    | 145  | 144  | 141   | 135   |
| Kingswinford  | 180 | *    | 186  | 188  | 182   | 186   |
| Bishop Milner | 120 | *    | 121  | 118  | 115   | 119   |
| Castle        | 210 | *    | 212  | 206  | 210   | 209   |
| Old Swinford  | 113 | *    | 19   | 48   | 57    | 81    |

\* It is not yet possible to predict admission numbers to individual schools in September 2007 as parents have not yet been asked to express preferences. However, there are fewer pupils in this cohort (current Year 5) than the cohort for admission to Year 7 in September 2006. This suggests the admission numbers will be lower in 2007 than in 2006. Please see note to table 3 regarding Hillcrest PAN.

Cradley High Year 11 (138) leave as normal in July 2008.

During the consultation parents will be asked to give an initial indication of preferences for alternative schools. This will ensure that sufficient places are created in the relevant schools. Parents will be asked to confirm their preferences when a decision is taken about the future of Cradley High.

### 3. Budget and resourcing

Table 6 – Impact of loss of pupils on costs

| <b>Budget Year</b>                   | <b>02/03</b> | <b>03/04</b> | <b>04/05</b> | <b>05/06</b> | <b>06/07</b> | <b>07/08<br/>(est)</b> | <b>08/09<br/>(est)</b> | <b>09/10<br/>(est)</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| No. of pupils (Jan)                  | 769          | 752          | 716          | 666          | 607          | 542                    | 450                    | 370                    |
| Budget (£'000s)                      | 2,107        | 2,215        | 2,272        | 2,346        | 2,468        | 2,457                  | 2,191                  | 1,962                  |
| Other income (£'000s)                | 283          | 504          | 699          | 680          | 412          | 404                    | TBC                    | TBC                    |
| Total funding - all sources (£'000s) | 2,392        | 2,720        | 2,972        | 3,027        | 2,881        | 2,862                  | 2,191                  | 1,962                  |
| Cradley unit cost per pupil (£)      | 2,740        | 2,945        | 3,173        | 3,522        | 4,066        | 4,533                  | 4,869                  | 5,303                  |
| Average secondary cost per pupil (£) | 2,585        | 2,835        | 2,988        | 3,215        | 3,576        | 3,822                  | TBC                    | TBC                    |
| Staffing costs (£'000s)              | 1,863        | 2,134        | 2,393        | 2,453        | 2,395        | 2,341                  | TBC                    | TBC                    |
| Variance Cradley above average %     | 6            | 4            | 6            | 10           | 14           | 19                     | TBC                    | TBC                    |
| Reserves (£'000s)                    | 121          | 96           | 140          | 55           | -            | -                      | TBC                    | TBC                    |

(Some figures are not available yet so are labelled to be confirmed - TBC)

Table 6 shows that from 2002/03 to 2006/07 the number of pupils attending Cradley fell from 769 to 607, a loss of 162 pupils. Although the funding increased over the same period from £2,107,345 to £2,467,077, a rise of £361k, the increase, along with the use of reserves accumulated from previous years, was required to meet increases in the cost of staffing, premises, supplies and services. The unit cost per pupil has risen from £2,740 (6% above the Dudley secondary average) to £4,066 (14% above the Dudley secondary average). As the number of pupils continues to decline there will be less money to meet the costs of staffing, premises, supplies and services. This will have a severe impact on the quality of education. Further evidence of this can be seen in the level of school reserves which have fallen from £120,679 in 2002/03 to £54,611 at the end of March 2006.

Table 7 shows the main areas of expenditure. The proportion of the budget spent on staffing has increased from 78% to 83% in 2006/07, leaving less to spend on supplies and services which includes materials for teaching and learning.

Table 7 - Impact on expenditure

| <u>Year</u>   | <u>Expenditure as % of total budget</u> |                            |                            |                            |   |   |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|
|               | <u>Staffing Costs</u><br>£              | <u>Staffing Costs</u><br>% | <u>Premises Costs</u><br>£ | <u>Premises Costs</u><br>% | <u>Supplies &amp; services costs</u><br>£ | <u>Supplies &amp; services costs</u><br>% |
| 2002/03       | £ 1,862,843                             | 78%                        | £ 175,141                  | 7%                         | £ 348,356                                 | 15%                                       |
| 2003/04       | £ 2,134,454                             | 78%                        | £ 203,504                  | 7%                         | £ 394,434                                 | 15%                                       |
| 2004/05       | £ 2,392,819                             | 81%                        | £ 212,474                  | 7%                         | £ 353,246                                 | 12%                                       |
| 2005/06       | £ 2,452,939                             | 81%                        | £ 204,570                  | 7%                         | £ 377,162                                 | 12%                                       |
| 2006/07       | £ 2,395,306                             | 83%                        | £ 209,225                  | 7%                         | £ 290,168                                 | 10%                                       |
| 2007/08 (est) | £ 2,340,988                             | 82%                        | £ 224,218                  | 8%                         | £ 296,747                                 | 10%                                       |
| 2008/09 (est) | TBC                                     | TBC                        | TBC                        | TBC                        | TBC                                       | TBC                                       |
| 2009/10 (est) | TBC                                     | TBC                        | TBC                        | TBC                        | TBC                                       | TBC                                       |

The majority of every school's budget is used to pay for staffing. In January 2006 Cradley High had 48 (full time equivalent – fte) teachers for 666 pupils giving a pupil: teacher ratio of 13.9 (Dudley average = 15.9). As the pupil numbers fall there is less money to pay for staffing which has a number of major consequences.

- By January 2006 the number of teachers (fte) had fallen to 46 with 607 pupils and the pupil: teacher ratio had reduced to 13.2 which is not affordable. The Dudley average also reduced to 15.6. To be in line with the Dudley average, Cradley High would need to reduce the number of teachers (fte) to around 35 by January 2007 (542 pupils estimated, to around 28 by January 2008 (450 pupils estimated) and to around 23 by January 2009 (370 pupils estimated). Similar reductions would be required in other areas of staffing.
- Staff reductions of this scale have a major impact on governance, leadership and management. There will also be major impact on staff morale and subsequent impact on the quality of education provided.
- Smaller staffing structures have fewer points of responsibility. This means that there are fewer people to perform the same number of tasks required in all secondary schools with further pressure on staff workloads.
- Smaller staffing structures provide more limited opportunities for recruitment, retention, career and professional development of staff.

The proposal to close Cradley High will avoid this major impact on pupils and staff.

#### **4. Standards in alternative local schools**

Dudley knows its schools well. Information comes from school self-evaluations of how well they provide for children and from regular contact with a range of services. Schools are also assessed externally against an inspection framework operated by Ofsted. The most recent Ofsted reports can be viewed on: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports). Further information is also available from individual schools.

Some pupils live closer to Sandwell schools. Ofsted reports for Sandwell can also be viewed on the above website.



Table 8 - KS3 results for Cradley High and other local schools 2002 – 2005 (%L5+)

| Year | School  | English    | Mathematics | Science    | Value Added |
|------|---|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 2002 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       | <b>65%</b> | <b>66%</b>  | <b>67%</b> | <b>100</b>  |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 39%        | 41%         | 38%        | 97.5        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 75%        | 66%         | 63%        | 100.4       |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 50%        | 48%         | 49%        | 99.3        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 57%        | 58%         | 56%        | 98.4        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 83%        | 80%         | 89%        | 101         |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 77%        | 79%         | 78%        | 100.5       |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 49%        | 67%         | 71%        | 98.6        |
| 2003 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       | <b>69%</b> | <b>70%</b>  | <b>69%</b> | <b>100</b>  |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 34%        | 43%         | 31%        | 96.6        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 65%        | 66%         | 67%        | 99.3        |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 49%        | 47%         | 50%        | 98.6        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 65%        | 63%         | 62%        | 99.1        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 84%        | 83%         | 78%        | 101.9       |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 80%        | 79%         | 86%        | 100.2       |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 69%        | 68%         | 70%        | 99.1        |
| 2004 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       | <b>69%</b> | <b>72%</b>  | <b>66%</b> | <b>99.7</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 40%        | 60%         | 46%        | 97.1        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 69%        | 73%         | 65%        | 100.4       |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 54%        | 54%         | 53%        | 98.8        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 57%        | 67%         | 57%        | 98.4        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 85%        | 87%         | 82%        | 99.7        |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 89%        | 83%         | 82%        | 100.6       |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 68%        | 74%         | 68%        | 99.2        |
| 2005 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       | <b>74%</b> | <b>73%</b>  | <b>69%</b> | <b>99.8</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 45%        | 56%         | 45%        | 97          |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 82%        | 75%         | 67%        | 99.8        |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 58%        | 68%         | 55%        | 98.3        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 70%        | 62%         | 61%        | 98.7        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 94%        | 82%         | 86%        | 100.6       |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 79%        | 74%         | 70%        | 99.1        |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 77%        | 73%         | 70%        | 98.8        |

Table 9 - KS4 results for Cradley High and other local schools 2002 – 2005

| Year | School  | Number of students age 15 | % 5+A*-C     | % 5+A*-G     | No passes   | APS         |
|------|---|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2002 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       |                           | <b>51.7%</b> | <b>92.3%</b> | <b>4.2%</b> | <b>34.9</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 167                       | 26%          | 85%          | 1%          | 25.3        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 290                       | 51%          | 96%          | 3%          | 36          |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 117                       | 38%          | 96%          | 0%          | 29.8        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 192                       | 54%          | 94%          | 4%          | 35.8        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 259                       | 65%          | 99%          | 1%          | 40.1        |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 233                       | 63%          | 98%          | 1%          | 39.8        |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 253                       | 51%          | 94%          | 4%          | 34.8        |
| 2003 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       |                           | <b>50.9%</b> | <b>91.5%</b> | <b>3.9%</b> | <b>34.3</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 149                       | 39%          | 83%          | 2%          | 27.1        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 279                       | 63%          | 98%          | 0%          | 37.9        |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 131                       | 42%          | 91%          | 2%          | 31          |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 175                       | 41%          | 90%          | 3%          | 32.4        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 257                       | 61%          | 98%          | 0%          | 38.4        |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 224                       | 61%          | 97%          | 1%          | 38.9        |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 234                       | 53%          | 96%          | 3%          | 35.1        |
| 2004 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       |                           | <b>51.3%</b> | <b>91.0%</b> | <b>3.2%</b> | <b>33.9</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 143                       | 45%          | 86%          | 6%          | 29.8        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 268                       | 51%          | 96%          | 1%          | 36.7        |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 137                       | 43%          | 91%          | 3%          | 30.4        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 173                       | 48%          | 87%          | 4%          | 33.3        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 264                       | 69%          | 98%          | 0%          | 37.9        |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 228                       | 73%          | 98%          | 0%          | 39.4        |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 234                       | 41%          | 91%          | 2%          | 31.4        |
| 2005 | <b>Dudley LEA Average</b>                       |                           | <b>53.5%</b> | <b>92.6%</b> | <b>2.3%</b> | <b>35.1</b> |
|      | Cradley High School                             | 134                       | 58%          | 85%          | 4%          | 31.9        |
|      | Thorns Community College                        | 270                       | 53%          | 98%          | 0%          | 34.2        |
|      | Hillcrest School and Community College          | 126                       | 35%          | 91%          | 7%          | 28.5        |
|      | Pedmore Technology College and Community School | 192                       | 43%          | 95%          | 2%          | 32.7        |
|      | Windsor High School                             | 256                       | 65%          | 98%          | 0%          | 40.5        |
|      | The Earls High School                           | 241                       | 67%          | 98%          | 0%          | 37.7        |
|      | Leasowes Community College                      | 246                       | 45%          | 97%          | 0%          | 34.6        |

## **5. Support for the local community**

It is not in the best interests of children, families or the local community to have a non-viable school. The proposal to close Cradley High provides opportunities to ensure that all children of secondary school age have access to good quality education and improve the range of facilities for the community. The proposals will build on existing strengths by improving facilities for children and their families and ensuring that community activities continue to develop.

### **5.1 Community use**

There is significant community use of the facilities at Cradley High. The school is utilised by nine badminton groups, three football clubs, two martial arts groups, a dancing group, a fitness group and a social club. Discussions will take place over the next year with these and other community groups, other Council services including sports and leisure, adult learning, and FE Colleges. These discussions will include the possible retention of part of the existing school buildings for community use. Agreement will need to be reached on the management of the facilities and how they will be paid for.

## **6. Alternative options considered**

A range of alternative options to closure have been considered.

- Housing developments and population change

There is no solid evidence of sufficient housing developments (planned or potential) that could generate the extra pupils required for Cradley High to become viable. Any future changes to this situation would occur too late as urgent action is required now.

- Federation / Amalgamation

Federation or amalgamation with other schools in Dudley was considered. All of the nearby secondary schools are larger than Cradley High. Very large schools can be more difficult to manage particularly if they also have added challenges from operating on more than one site. As the pupil numbers fall the Cradley High site would still become increasingly expensive to maintain with little evidence that the quality of provision could be maintained or enhanced. There are no clear options for federation or amalgamation.

- Reduction in capacity

This option has been applied to some primary schools with surplus places. In these cases the primary schools have sufficient pupils to remain viable. Reducing the capacity at

Cradley High would have no effect on the school's financial ability to provide the full range of education experiences required for secondary age pupils. Reducing the capacity at other schools would not guarantee transfers to Cradley High.

- Closure of other schools

All of the nearby secondary schools are maintaining their admission numbers. Any reductions in the number of applications are relatively small for September 2006. The closure of any other local school would create a severe shortage of places, more travel for families and resulted in additional costs. There is also no guarantee that pupils from other schools would transfer to Cradley High.

Additional places will be created at other Dudley schools to ensure that Cradley High pupils have access to the quality of education they are entitled to. Full account will be taken of parents' initial induction of rigorous to provide the additional places required in other Dudley schools. Every effort will be made to meet potential preferences.

## 7. Pupils

Table 11 shows how the closure of Cradley High will take place over a two year period.

Table 11 – How closure will work at Cradley High

| Year Group   | No of pupils Sept 05 | Estimated no of pupils Sept 06 | Action                             | No of pupils Sept 07 | No of pupils Sept 08 |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Yr 7         | 96                   | 68                             | Transfer to other schools Sept 07* | 0                    | 0                    |
| Yr 8         | 101                  | 92                             | Transfer to other schools Sept 07* | 0                    | 0                    |
| Yr 9         | 129                  | 98                             | Transfer to other schools Sept 07* | 0                    | 0                    |
| Yr 10        | 151                  | 138                            | Continue                           | 0                    | 0                    |
| Yr 11        | 148                  | 146                            | Leave                              | 134                  | 0                    |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>625</b>           | <b>542</b>                     |                                    | <b>134</b>           | <b>0 - Closed</b>    |

\* Discussions are taking place to create the additional places needed in alternative schools.

## 8. Staffing

There are 108 staff employed at Cradley High School. Each member of staff will receive support in securing new posts in alternative schools or elsewhere. It is not anticipated that there will be any requirement for redundancy. It should be possible during a two year process to ensure that all staff secure new posts.

## 9. Timetable

| Event                            | Date                       |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Start of consultation            | Wednesday 5 July 2006      |
| Consultation ends                | Thursday 28 September 2006 |
| Publication of statutory notices | 2 November – 14 December   |
| Closure of Cradley High          | 31 August 2008             |

## 10. Additional Information

There is a substantial amount of information provided on the following websites that parents, carers, the community and committees may wish to consult.

[www.dudley.gov.uk](http://www.dudley.gov.uk)

[www.dfes.gov.uk](http://www.dfes.gov.uk)

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)

## 11. How do I respond?

The Council would like to hear your comments on the information provided in this document. Views can be submitted in a variety of forms. Views expressed at meetings, letters, e-mails and telephone comments will be recorded. All responses will be retained and be available as a public record.

All responses need to reach the Council by **5.00pm** on **Thursday 28 September 2006**.

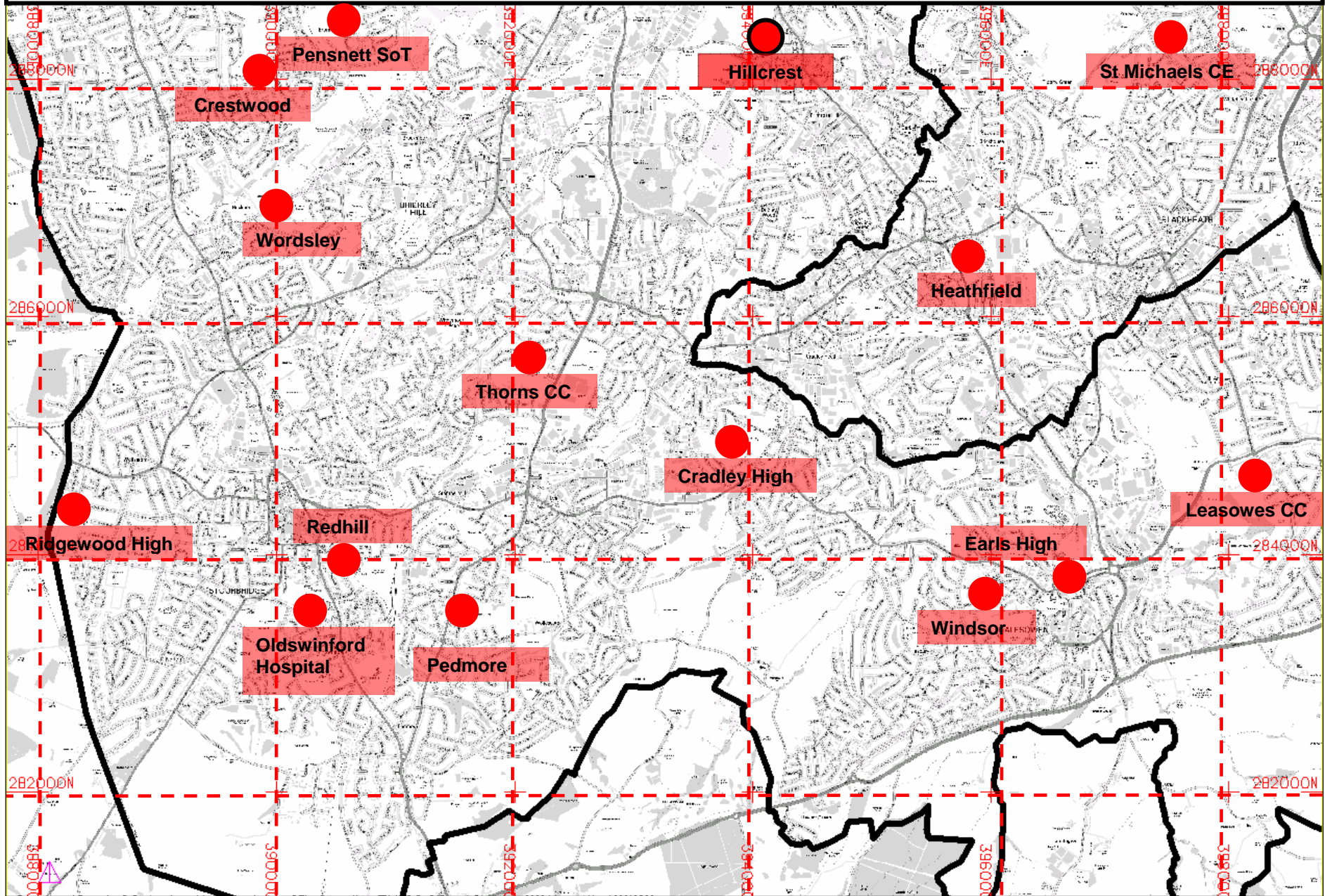
Please send responses to:

Vicky Cook [vicky.cook@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:vicky.cook@dudley.gov.uk)  
Executive Support Team  
Directorate of Children's Services  
Westox House  
Trinity Road  
Dudley  
DY1 1JQ

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# Location of Cradley High School and nearest alternative schools



Map produced by the Education Information Team (HB)  
Using the GMIS system and supported by the GMIS Unit, ICT Services

0 Mile 0.6 Mile 1.2 Mile





**Special Meeting of Halesowen Area Committee Meeting  
26 September 2006**

**Consultation on proposals to close Cradley High School**

**What is the proposal?**

The proposal is to close Cradley High School with effect from 31 August 2008.

- Pupils in Year 11 at Cradley will leave as normal by 31 August 2007
- Pupils in Year 10 will continue at Cradley and leave by 31 August 2008
- All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will transfer to other secondary schools by 1 September 2007.
- Every effort will be made to accommodate parent preferences
- No admission to Year 7 in September 2007
- The leisure facilities will continue subject to confirmation of management and financial arrangements

**Why is Cradley High School proposed for closure?**

The number of babies born in Dudley has fallen by nearly 20% so there are fewer children to go to school. The money to pay for schools is based on the number of children and so Dudley gets less money from central government. 600 fewer children this year means £2million less to allocate to schools. Cradley High School will receive less money because there is less available for all schools.

Cradley High School will also get less money because fewer children want to go there. Only 114 (33%) of the 345 secondary aged pupils living in the immediate area attended Cradley High. Only 56 pupils started in Year 7 and the number has fallen every year for the last five years. Cradley High is the smallest secondary school in Dudley and 30% of the 750 pupil places are unfilled. Money is wasted in paying for empty places.

**What will happen if no action is taken?**

Cradley High spends 83% of the school budget on staff, 7% on premises and 10% on supplies and services. The school budget for 2007/8 will be calculated on about 80 pupils less than 2006/7 reducing the money available by over £200k. Less money means cuts in staffing and other areas which will result in

- Lower standards achieved by pupils
- Increased class sizes and possibly mixed age teaching
- Fewer staff to carry out leadership and management roles
- Fewer opportunities for extended provision
- More limited opportunities for professional development
- Increased workload for staff

The standards of achievement at Cradley High have improved over several years and the 2006 GCSE results were commendable. The school will not be able to sustain these standards as budgets fall and staffing reduces.

**Why are other secondary schools not included?**

Each year there are fewer primary children transferring to secondary schools which is reflected in the number of applications. Cradley is the only school

with admissions below 120 and is no longer sustainable. Consultation on *Investing in the Future – Transforming Secondary Education* involves all secondary schools including Cradley High in shaping a vision for the future. This will not translate into any proposals for other schools for a number of years and any proposals would be subject to securing funding from Building Schools for the Future. Cradley is not sustainable now. We are taking action to ensure that Cradley High pupils have access to higher quality education at schools of sustainable size.

#### **What about alternative secondary schools?**

It is expected that 245 pupils (56 x Y7, 91 x Y8, 98 x Y9) will transfer to alternative schools by 1 September 2007. There are sufficient places to accommodate all pupils in Dudley secondary schools. Discussions are taking place with schools about how the transfer arrangements might work best and further information will be provided for parents over the next few months. Parents have not yet been asked for preferences but support for parents and pupils will be provided at that stage. Standards in Dudley secondary schools have risen steadily over the last few years and parents may be assured that all alternative secondary schools offer a sustainable quality of education. All OFSTED reports are on the website.

#### **What about support for pupils with ethnic minority backgrounds?**

About 20% of Cradley pupils are recorded as learning English as an additional language. Where appropriate some of these pupils are supported by the Council's Ethnic Minority Achievement Service. Every Dudley secondary school has pupils in this category. Cradley pupils would continue to receive additional support as they transfer to alternative secondary schools. It is not in the interests of any community to be served by a school which is not financially viable. Standards of provision for all children and particularly these groups will be improved by attending schools with a higher level of resources.

#### **What about the community?**

Cradley High is used by a range of groups for sport and other leisure activities. Discussions will take place about how community use can continue if the proposal to close the school is approved. Agreement will need to be reached on the management of the facilities and how they will be paid for.

#### **What happens next?**

There are legal processes for making changes to schools that we have to follow. There are five basic stages

1. **Consultation** which is where we are now. We will take note of everything that people say to us at meetings or letter or email. Every response will be carefully considered including any alternative proposals. We will report to the Cabinet Member with recommendations.
2. **Publication** of statutory notices. These are legal documents that set out clearly what the proposals are. The publication stage only lasts for one day which we would aim to publish before the end of October.



3. **Representation** starts immediately after publication. There are 6 weeks for people to make representations against the proposals. This would end in December.
4. **Decision.** If any representations are made against the proposals the decision will be made by School Organisation Committee. A decision would be expected in January 2007. If the matter is referred to the Schools Adjudicator the decision would be delayed until March or April February 2007.
5. **Implementation** cannot until a decision is made but we can start preparing by working with staff, governors and parents on all the things that would need to be done if the decision to close the school is taken.

**How do I need to respond?**

Responses should be made by 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September to the address in the consultation document.

**Contact details**

Ray Watson  
Assistant Director (Resources)  
01384 81 4203  
raymond.watson@dudley.gov.uk

THIS IS A LIST OF PEOPLE FROM THE CRANLEY HIGH ACTION COMMITTEE WHO WISH TO ASK QUESTIONS. AND AN ORDER ROTATION. OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO ASK

|    | NAME:                 | HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT IF YOU WERE SPLIT UP FROM YOUR FRIENDS?   |
|----|-----------------------|---|
| 1  | LOUISE HACKETT.       |   |
| 2  | LEE HACKETT.          | WHY ARE SOME OTHER SCHOOLS GETTING MORE FUNDING IE. GRANTS = HULLCROFT?   |
| 3  | DR. REBECCA WILLETS.  | ADVISE IF THE SCHOOL WAS EVER CONSULTED ON ALTERNATIVE - PRIOR TO THE PROPOSAL FOR CLOSURE BEING MADE   |
| 4  | TANIA PRIEST.         | WHICH SCHOOLS CAN INCREASE CAPACITY AND BY HOW MUCH   |
| 5  | ROB HILL.             | ALMOST 300 CHILDREN WILL NEED TO BE TRANSFERRED IF PROPOSALS ARE APPROVED. HOW MANY ARE PLANNED TO BE ACCOMMODATED AT THE SCHOOL OF HULLCROFT |
| 6  | NATHAN YAFI           | WHICH SCHOOLS CAN INCREASE CAPACITY AND BY HOW MUCH   |
| 7  | KAREN FLETCHER        | WHAT LEVEL OF CLOSURE OF SCHOOL IS EXPECTED?  |
| 8  | KAREN McFLETCHER      | WHAT COSTS ARE INVOLVED IN CREATING EXTRA PLACES IN TERMS OF CAPITAL AND MAINTENANCE & RUNNING COSTS AT SCHOOLS INCREASING CAPACITY           |
| 9  | JANICE DAVIES         | WHY - GEOGRAPHICALLY - CHOOSE CRANLEY HIGH  |
| 10 | LINDA RUDGE.          | WHY CAN'T THE WORST ACHIEVING SCHOOLS BE CONSIDERED FOR CLOSURE?  |
| 11 | SIMON HITCHCOCK.      | WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION AND CAN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS BE GIVEN?   |
| 12 | TRACY LOUISE FLETCHER | WHY HAS CRANLEY HIGH BEEN UNDERFUNDED FOR YEARS?  |

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



## Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Why have you decided to exclude Cradley High School from the secondary schools review when it has achieved outstanding results but allowed all other Dudley borough schools into the review even those with poor results, poor assisted reports and falling numbers.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yoursel  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



## Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

You have spent millions on other high schools, none on Cradley High we have better results  
Do we not represent good value for money?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yoursel  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



Why have you decided to exclude CRTs from the secondary schools review, when it has achieved 9/10 results over the past few years, but ~~is~~ allowed all other dudley borough schools to be considered even those with poor results, poor ofsted & falling numbers?

You have spent millions of pounds on other High schools None on Cradley High and we have better results. Do we not represent good value for money?

• School which consistent O/S results  
not in Sec School prov as same  
basis as other schools in the borough.  
that don't offer the same. value for money.

Explain your thinking:

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

#9 IS IT BETTER FOR ME TO  
GO TO A SCHOOL THAT IS  
FULL AT THE BEST EXAM IN  
THIS AREA.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

What will happen when the  
available places at secondary  
schools in the borough are filled  
to capacity?  
will you just continue to let the  
expand & expand?  
what about the safety of our children.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

*My Name is Rafik Kaban <sup>in Halesowen and Dudley</sup> <sup>you're</sup> <sup>teacher</sup> for the yemen community I come to this country 1991. I couldn't speak a word English and know read and write also I have applied for the police. The last thing I want to say is more houses are going to be build in this area and where in this year kids are going to go when you close Cradley High school*

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question: -  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER *4.*



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

*When did the LEA know that Cradley High was under threat?*

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question: -  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....

Cradley High



**Area Committee**  
**Question Slip**

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**

House prices as they are in Cradley and the housing offer attracts families with children so Cradley will always have children who need to go to school. So does this mean that our children and our children's children will be expected to travel miles to school and for their personal safety.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



**Area Committee**  
**Question Slip**

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**

under our proposals children will be forced to use public transport cars to get to school therefore - reducing exercise. Governments have already sold off playing fields to make children you may have to build more classrooms at new schools, taking more playground away - you are therefore encouraging the future generations to be unfit. Is that beneficial for Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:- our children

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

When the L.E.A. mentions supplies placed at Ludley High School have they not considered the huge housing development in the immediate vicinity of the school will bring in children who will need to be in school locally.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

But with the school being put on the transfer form it does not stop people thinking there children will have to move as it is said that school is closing.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ..... 4



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

- 1) SELECTIVE USE OF STATISTICS EG BIRTH-RATE
- 2) CURRENT/RECENT HOUSING MAJORS STATISTICS OUT OF DATE
- 3) GRADLEY'S EXAM PERFORMANCE CONTRACTS CLOSURE DECISION

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Have pupils & parents of other schools been consulted about the implications for other children's education of creating high classes?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Why is there no mention of special needs arrangements in the consultation proposal are there places/resources available in ~~the~~ other schools as 50% of children at Cradley High are given support in one way or another.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER 4



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

WHAT IS THE COMMERCIAL VALUE OF THE LAND CRADLEY HIGH IS BUILT ON AND WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH IT?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Why aren't you answering our questions when we're the people who count we go there?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

M

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Your saying about the falling birth rate but you asked for smaller class sizes now you got them you want to close it down. When our school has got 72% at grade 1 or above so how can you

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ..... 4



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:  
Should Cradley High close and the ground re-developed. I believe that you would sell as part of any housing development deal. The park area & playing fields. This is only year park to look after (with community charge money) not to sell.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ..... 4



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:  
Will my child be offered a place at another school or left choice? If Cradley Hg should shut.  
Why should she have to suffer because of decision we have made.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



## Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

what you going to do when the birth rate increases again because if you can't afford it how would you re-open it again.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



## Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

I tried to get my child into Windsor + Fairs a couple of years ago only to be told they were filled to capacity and to take anymore children would affect the education due to large class sizes. Why then are there schools going to be forced to take more children and overload classes?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....

CRALEY HIGH.



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

~~When~~ When a child in her GCSE year whose father has been placed in Halesowen by M.D.P. (he is a member of the armed forces) could not get a place in a Halesowen school, because Parls and Windsor are full, how will these schools be able to take the children from Cradley High.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....

CRALEY HIGH.



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

IF Pupil numbers in the boys are falling why are certain sports eg. Hillcrest being allowed to increase their places by 150 with a further 50 placed beyond available in the next year or two. Why are they being allowed to expand?

Yourself

On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

→ + OTHER SCHEDULES

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

WOULD IT BE FAIR TO SAY THAT THE NUMBER OF PUPILS STATIFY AT CHADLEY HIGH IN YEAR 7 THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY YOUR ANSWERING ITS INITIAL QUESTION. THAT THE ORIGINAL FIGURE THAT WE RECEIVED FROM YOU WAS 79 + THAT ABOUT A DOZEN OF THE PUPILS AFFECTED AFTER SCHOOL.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people. NAMES WAS ADDED TO THAT ORIGINAL LIST, NUMBERS AFFECTED INTO P.I.Q.W.A.S. THE PICTURES AFTER SCHOOL.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

I BELIEVE HULLCREST HAS FAILED ITS COSTED REPORT AGAIN, SO WHY IS THIS BEING GIVEN CHANCE AFTER CHANCE, WHEN CHADLEY HIGH HAS PROVED ITSELF WE ARE BEING ASKED TO CONSIDER A FAILING SCHOOL (WHO IS HAVING CASH INJECTED INTO IT) OVER OUR ALREADY PROVEN SCHOOL

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Now we are all aware of the problem why don't you at least give us a year to promote the scheme and get a better intake next year.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ..... 2



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Is there any chance of the consultation period for Croxley High being extended? It is unfair for the meeting to occur 2 days before the end of consultation - I would (and others) would like more time to respond on P.T.O.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ..... 6



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**  
The staff here tonight from Cradley high would like to say how proud they are of hanna Knowles yr 6 teacher at thalesowen - a former pupil of Cradley

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER ...4....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**  
With the Education Index of deprivation for the Lower Layer Super Output Area "0335 Dudley" (Fatherless Sons) at an embarrassing low 474 (out of 32482) what evidence can the authority show that closing a school with one of the best pass rates in the borough is going to have a positive effect on the most educationally deprived areas in the country - in Hayley Green & Cradley South Wakes.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

The Government keeps telling parents that they have a choice. Cradley High was and still is my 1st choice and yet I am now being told that I no longer have a choice.  
The other schools are not suitable for my child's needs, the choice is the choice.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



### Area Committee Question Slip

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

#### MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

You guarantee you will safeguard all staff jobs.  
You have already employed 3 members of Holt farm at Westox House, is this ~~the~~ where you intend to employ them? Are there skills not wanted out of school?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Area Committee**

**Question Slip**

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**  
 moving secondary schools is a big thing, how will the children be able to cope as Y9's will only have 2 yrs before final GCSE's and have to deal with trauma of re-settling along with G.C.S.E's.

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
 Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
 P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

**Area Committee**

**Question Slip**

Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

**MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:**  
 what are you going to do about the children who found it hard to move anyway and your going to move them to ~~the~~ school so bullying will increase?

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-  
 Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.  
 P.T.O.



MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....  
CRADLEY HIGH



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

---relates to teachers concerning the closure.  
(Feeling number / CASE NUMBER AT)  
--- Please let me speak late when the school has made its decision. = it is difficult to be more precise with what has happened

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

MY QUESTION RELATES TO AGENDA ITEM NUMBER .....



Thank you for attending this Area Committee Meeting. If you would like to raise an issue under the "public forum" session of the meeting please write it here and hand the slip to an officer at the start of the meeting.

MY QUESTION FOR TONIGHT IS:

Is Cradley High closing down or not you are us a straight answer tonight

Please indicate if you wish to raise the question:-

Yourself  On Behalf of You

Please note that the Area Committee is a public meeting and any comments you make on this form may be known to other people.

P.T.O.

3 October 2006

Rev Anthony Pettit  
34 Beecher Road  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B63 2DJ

Dear Reverend Pettit

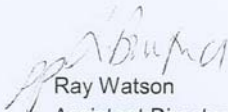
**Halesowen Area Committee 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

Analysis of pupils' home addresses to the nearest alternative school(s) shows that there should be no significant increase in the distance travelled to school. It is not possible to assess the environmental impact until parents have confirmed preferences for alternative schools.

The critical factor is that Cradley High School's budget for 2007/08 will be based on at least 80 pupils less than for 2006/07. This means the school will have around £200,000 less and it is inevitable that there will be significant reductions in staffing. It is not in any community's interest, particularly one with significant challenges to be served by a school that is no longer sustainable.

Yours sincerely

  
Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



Directorate of Children's Services

Westox House, 1 Trinity Road, Dudley, West Midlands. DY1 1JQ

Tel: (01384) 818181 Fax: (01384) 814216

www.dudley.gov.uk

**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for:

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line: **814395**

3 October 2006

Louise Hackett  
20 Colman Hill Avenue  
Halesowen  
West Midlands  
B63 2BA

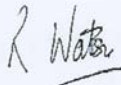
Dear Louise

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

The consultation; Investing for the Future: Transforming Secondary Education is concerned with agreeing a vision for the future of secondary provision in Dudley. It is about principles not individual schools. The vision is a critical stage in preparing for the national Building Schools for the Future programme. It is unlikely that Dudley will be included within the next few years and changes to individual schools could be five or more years away. Cradley has been asked to play a full role in this consultation.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



2004-2008  
Transforming the School Workforce

John Freeman, Director of Children's Services  
*Putting children and young people first in Dudley*



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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for:

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line:

**814395**

3 October 2006

Janice Davies  
22 Netherend Close  
Halesowen  
B63 2PB

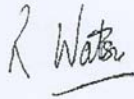
Dear Janice

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

Cradley High has received devolved capital for each of the last few years in addition to other capital investment. It is not true that capital money has not been invested at Cradley. With regard to value for money, the budget share per pupil is 14% higher than the Dudley Secondary school average. In 2007/08 the gap will be higher.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: RW/LB

Please ask for:

Ray Watson

Direct Line:

814395

3 October 2006

S Powell  
63 Highfield Crescent  
Halesowen  
B63 2BE

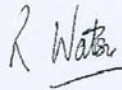
Dear S Powell

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

There are sufficient places in other Dudley secondary schools to accommodate Cradley High pupils in Years 7,8 and 9. Discussions are taking place with other schools regarding the transfer process and meetings will be arranged for parents as soon as practicable. The safety of children will be fully considered as part of the transfer arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Assistant Director  
Resources



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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for:

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line

**814395**

3 October 2006

Rofik Yafai  
179 Highfield Crescent  
Halesowen  
B63 2AZ

Dear Rofik

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

All housing developments have been taken into account in developing these proposals. There are not enough houses in planning or in construction to make any difference to Cradley High admissions.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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John Freeman, Director of Children's Services  
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3 October 2006

Richard Alonzo  
14 Fairmile Road  
Halesowen  
B63 3QJ

Dear Richard

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

No discussion about the future of the site will be undertaken until a decision on the future of Cradley High School is taken. No valuation of this site and buildings has been made.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



Directorate of Children's Services

Westox House, 1 Trinity Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1JQ

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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for:

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line

**814395**

3 October 2006

Mrs Moss  
21 Silverthorne Lane  
Halesowen  
B64 5AZ

Dear Mrs Moss

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

The critical factor is that not enough parents are choosing Cradley high school. This means that the school does not have enough pupils and the money to pay for staffing. There are at least 80 pupils fewer than last year which means that Cradley will have less money to pay for staffing to meet your child's needs.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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3 October 2006

Sharon Hitchcock  
66 Highfield Crescent  
Colley Gate  
Halesowen  
B63 2AY

Dear Sharon

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

It is understandable why people might wish to give more time for Cradley High to be promoted. It should be noted that that admission numbers have dropped every year for 5 years even though GCSE results have improved. There are also fewer pupils in primary schools looking for secondary places. There is no evidence to support the view that admissions to Cradley High will improve.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources

Directorate of Children's Services

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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line

**814395**

3 October 2006

Mrs Ann West  
214 Stourbridge Road  
Halesowen  
B63 3QP

Dear Mrs West

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 will complete their education at Cradley high School. There are sufficient places in Dudley secondary schools to accommodate Cradley High pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. Discussions are taking place with secondary schools about the transfer arrangements. Meetings will be arranged as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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**Dudley**  
Metropolitan Borough Council

Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for:

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line

**814395**

3 October 2006

Janet Owen  
28a Long Innage  
Halesowen  
B63 2UY

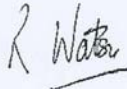
Dear Janet

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

There are sufficient places in Dudley secondary schools to accommodate Cradley High pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. Discussions are taking place with secondary schools about the transfer arrangements. Meetings will be arranged for parents as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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Our ref: **RW/LB**

Please ask for

**Ray Watson**

Direct Line

**814395**

3 October 2006

Clive Stevens-Wood  
41 Two Gates  
Halesowen  
B63 2HY

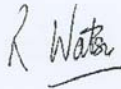
Dear Clive

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

No discussions on the future of the site will be considered until a decision on the future of Cradley High School is taken. There are no plans to change the public park and commitments have been given to retain the leisure facilities subject to agreement on management arrangements and funding.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources



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John Freeman, Director of Children's Services  
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

3 October 2006

Jacky Pritchard-Year 11  
Cradley High School  
Homer Hill  
Halesowen  
B63 2UP

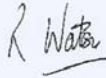
Dear Jacky

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

Cradley high School is funded on the basis of the number of pupils attending. As the number of pupils fall the school receives less money and will not be able to pay for the number of staff. Staff reductions will result in larger class sizes and other issues set out in the consultation document.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources

Our ref: RW/LB

Please ask for

Ray Watson

Direct Line

814395

3 October 2006

A Tobney  
1 Fatherless Barn Close  
Cradley  
West Midlands  
B63 2ET

Dear A Tobney

**Halesowen Area Committee Meeting 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

Parents have not been asked to express preferences for alternative schools so it is not possible to predict increase in use of private or public transport with certainty. Analysis of pupils home addresses and distances to nearest alternative school(s) shows that there may be no significant increase in travel. The Council fully supports appropriate levels of exercise for all children and this includes walking to school where practicable.

The large majority of staff from Highfields, Sycamore Green and Holt Farm have secured posts in alternative schools. It is expected that if the proposals to close are approved all staff will also secure appropriate posts in Dudley schools.

Yours sincerely



Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources





3 October 2006

W B Powell  
66 Banners Street  
Halesowen

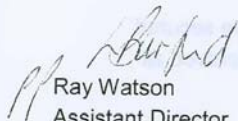
Dear W B Powell

**Halesowen Area Committee 26 September 2006**

I am writing in response to your written question submitted at the above meeting.

There will be no consideration about the site until a decision has been made about the future of the school. There are no plans at this stage because the proposals are still in consultation.

Yours sincerely

  
Ray Watson  
Assistant Director  
Resources

## **SPECIAL MEETING OF HALESOWEN AREA COMMITTEE**

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, at 6.15 p.m.  
at Colley Lane Primary School, Colley Lane, Halesowen

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Jackson (Chairman)  
Councillors Body, Crumpton, Mrs Dunn, Mrs Faulkner, Hill, James, Ms Nicholls, Ms Partridge, Taylor, K Turner and Mrs Turner

### **Also Present**

Cabinet Member for Children's Services – Councillor Mrs Walker

### **Officers**

Area Liaison Officer, Director of Children's Services, Assistant Director for Resources, Senior Engineer, Mr M Farooq (Principal Solicitor) and Mrs M Johal (Directorate of Law and Property)

Approximately 195 members of the public were in attendance.

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41                    **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Burston, Mrs Shakespeare and J Woodall.

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42                    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Body declared a personal interest in respect of any reference made to Pedmore College of Technology in view of his son being a pupil at that College.

Councillor Mrs Turner declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 3 (Consultation Proposals to close Halesowen (Church of England) Primary School) in view of her being a Member on the Electoral Register and regular worshipper at St Margaret's.

Councillor K Turner declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item No 3 (Consultation Proposals to close Halesowen (Church of England) Primary School) in view of him being a Member on the Electoral Register and regular worshipper at St Margaret's.

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43                    **PROPOSALS TO CLOSE HALESOWEN (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) SCHOOL**

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A document regarding the consultation on proposals to close Halesowen (Church of England) Primary School prepared by the Director of Children's Services had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. A summary document was also circulated for the benefit of Members and members of the public together with a translated version in Arabic.

The Area Liaison Officer pointed out that an incorrect version of the report had been distributed with the agenda and that the correct version was now available.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and assured everyone that all comments made and issues that were to be raised would be fully considered as part of the consultation process. It was requested that the question slips should be completed and handed in to enable the question to be raised by, or on behalf of the individual. It was also requested that should a written response be required then the address details should also be completed.

The Director of Children's Services then gave a short presentation and, arising from the presentation, the following main points and queries were raised by members of the public.

- The proposals were considered to be a short-term proposal and the problem with surplus places would not be resolved by closing smaller schools. The proposals would have immense ramifications for other schools, as children would have to be transferred to alternative schools and consequently, these schools would suffer, as they would not be able to cope with extra pupils. This would further impact on the quality of education and expertise would be lost.
- Reference was made to a point about the school not being financially viable and it was commented on that the school's accountants had given an assurance that the school could continue. It was also pointed out that the building costs were paid directly by the Government.
- The published admission number for schools could be increased, however the site could not and there would be implications on space for children. The pupil teacher ratio was also queried.
- Hasbury (Church of England) School were not aware of plans to accept nursery children from Halesowen (Church of England) School, as they were informing parents that they were full and already had a waiting list. It was further pointed out that Hasbury nursery was private and had to be paid for.

- Upheaval and disruption would be caused to pupils with special educational needs, as they would have to get used to a new environment and new teachers and children. Disruption would also be caused to pupils who spoke very little or no English.
- It was queried what would happen to the site following closure.
- The accuracy of statistics was queried and it was questioned why the Council had withdrawn its proposal for a 420 place school when its figures had, until last summer, indicated otherwise.
- It was queried whether a place at a school with equal or a better teaching rate could be offered, as a 100% pass rate had been achieved by pupils in Science.

In response the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Director of Children's Services and the Assistant Director for Resources advised that the number of pupils attending schools was falling and consequently this impacted on the budget and resources for the school, which would further impact on the quality of education and standards would not be met. It was pointed out that the budget share per pupil at Halesowen (Church of England) School was 27% above the average of other schools in the Borough and yet OFSTED had only passed it as "satisfactory value for money". It was further pointed out that the pupil teacher ratio depended on how much money was available and that the Governing Body decided how much money to spend on staffing. In relation to the future plans for the site the Director of Children's Services informed the meeting that the site was owned by the Church and it was up to them to determine the future plans for the site.

The Assistant Director for Resources assured parents that discussions would take place with parents of pupils with special educational needs and appropriate support would be given during transition. The Director of Children's Services further added that all schools in the Borough dealt with varying communities and staff had the expertise to deal with children that spoke little English. Staff would also be redeployed and offered jobs at other schools in the Borough. He further assured members of the public that every pupil attending the Halesowen (Church of England) School, including the nursery, would be offered a place at Hasbury if they so wished. However, plans could not be put into place until the numbers of parental preferences were known for Hasbury (Church of England) Primary or other schools.



Members then commented on the proposals and concern was expressed that the Governors had agreed to the closure four years ago but, at that time, they had been told that they would be getting funding for a new school. It was also pointed out that the vast majority of children attending the Halesowen (Church of England) School walked to school, which reduced congestion and, due to the distances involved, it would be difficult for young children to walk to Hasbury School. Reference was made to conflicting stories and it was requested that an assurance be given in writing that during the transition period, siblings would not be split and that a place would be made available, where parents had expressed a preference, at Hasbury nursery to all children attending Halesowen (Church of England) nursery.

A Member commented that classes at Hasbury School were at bursting point and requested that an assurance be given that the removal of the three mobile classrooms, to create a right of way, be replaced with three permanent classrooms. An assurance was also sought that the removal of the language room would also be replaced. A further Member also referred to the difficulties being experienced by pupils with language problems and acknowledged that staff would be redeployed but queried whether there were plans to keep teams together.

In responding the Cabinet Member for Children's Services acknowledged the frustrations and concerns expressed but informed the meeting that funding had not been granted for the new build. She also gave an assurance that she would endeavour to replace what was removed but it would need to be included in the appropriate building programme.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the document and summary, as circulated, regarding the consultation on proposals to close Halesowen (Church of England) Primary School be noted.
- (2) That all questions raised and comments made by the Committee and members of the public, as indicated above, be referred to the Director of Children's Services for consideration as part of the consultation process and that a written response be submitted to questioners as appropriate.

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## PROPOSALS TO CLOSE CRADLEY HIGH SCHOOL

A document regarding the consultation on proposals to close Cradley High School prepared by the Director of Children's Services had been circulated with the agenda for this meeting. A summary document was also circulated for the benefit of Members and members of the public together with a translated version in Arabic.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this part of the meeting and assured everyone that all comments made and issues that were to be raised would be fully considered as part of the consultation process. It was requested that the question slips should be completed and handed in to enable the question to be raised by, or on behalf of the individual. It was also requested that should a written response be required then the address details should also be completed.

The Director of Children's Services gave a short presentation and, arising from the presentation, the following main points and queries were raised by members of the public.

- Why had Cradley High School been excluded from the secondary schools review when it had achieved outstanding results over the years and all other Dudley Borough schools had been considered, even though some had had poor results, poor OFSTED and falling numbers? Millions of pounds had been spent on other high schools but not on Cradley High even though they had achieved better results.
- Further housing developments were anticipated for the area and the houses on offer attracted families and children. It was commented that the children would have to travel considerable distances to get to another school, risking their personal safety, especially in the darker mornings and nights during the winter.
- Children would be forced to use public transport or cars to get to schools, which would reduce exercise and impact on children's health. Moving children to other schools would also mean having to build extra classrooms, which would take away existing play areas for children, which would further impact on exercise and health.
- Why were other schools, such as the Grange and Hillcrest receiving extra funding and why was Hillcrest being allowed to increase their published admission number if pupil numbers were falling? It was also queried when increasing places, what costs were involved in terms of capital, maintenance and running costs.

- Almost three hundred children would need to be transferred if the proposals were approved and it was queried how many would be accommodated at their preferred choice and what level of choice would be allowed.
- It was queried why parents were being told that they could not have a place at Cradley High School because it was closing when a decision had not been made. It was also commented that pupil numbers at Cradley High in Year 7 had been affected by the announcement of its closure.
- Had pupils and parents of other Halesowen Schools been consulted about the implications for their children's education if Cradley High closed?
- Why was there no mention of arrangements for children with special educational needs in the consultation proposals and were there resources and places available in other schools, particularly as 50% of children at Cradley High were given support in one way or another?
- What would happen if birth rates increased again and there were not sufficient places available as schools had closed down?
- Previously, preferences had been expressed for Windsor and Earls and the answer had been that they could not accommodate further children, as they were full to capacity and that to accept more children would affect the education of current students. Why were these schools now being forced to take extra children resulting in increased and overloaded classes?
- How would children cope with moving schools particularly those in Year 9, as they would only have two years before their final GCSE's and would have to deal with the trauma of resettling along with taking their GCSE's?
- What support would be available to children that were bullied due to "gang wars"?
- Why were documents not translated in other languages, particularly Arabic?
- If schools could not be provided to educate children then discussions on educating children at home should be considered.

A list containing 269 signatures of parents of primary school children in Year 6 expressing preference for their children to attend Cradley High School next year was presented to the Director of Children's Services.

The Assistant Director for Resources responded to comments made and the queries raised and pointed out that the good results that had been achieved were commendable but insufficient numbers of parents still did not express the school as their first choice and so numbers at the school were still falling. The consultation document would not be translated, as there was no guarantee that it could be accurately translated and therefore would remain in English but a meeting at which an interpreter could be present could be arranged as offered at previous meetings. He further commented that it was not envisaged that children would be travelling great distances and consultation would take place with parents over the next few weeks in relation to their preferences. It was further pointed out that consultation also involved other schools. In relation to the increase in the published admission number at Hillcrest, the Assistant Director for Resources informed the meeting that this was due to Hillcrest being the most popular school in Dudley and was oversubscribed several times over.

The Assistant Director for Resources also pointed out that the admissions team had been informing parents that the school was undergoing consultation proposals for closure but continued to accept children on the role. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services pointed out that investment had been made into Cradley High School although precise details were not available at the meeting.

Members then commented on the proposals and comments made and concern was expressed that the issue of parents being told that the school they could not accept pupils because it was closing down had arisen on previous occasions. In responding, the Director of Children's Services confirmed that procedures had been put in place since the matter had first come to light and the admissions team were now provided with a script, which rightfully informed parents of the start of the consultation proposals for closure but still accepted children on role.

A Member expressed concern at the number of questions that had not been asked or answered due to the time limit and requested that consideration be given to the consultation period being extended.

#### RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the document and summary, as circulated, regarding the consultation on proposals to close Cradley High School be noted.
- (2) That all questions raised and comments made by the Committee and members of the public, as indicated above, be referred to the Director of Children's Services for consideration as part of the consultation process and that a written response be submitted to the questioners as appropriate.



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45

DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED

That the dates and venues of future meetings of the Committee be noted as follows:-

22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2006 – Colley Lane Primary School  
24<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 – Olive Hill Primary School  
14<sup>th</sup> March, 2007 – Lutley Community Centre

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SELECT COMMITTEE PUBLICITY

As a way of giving additional publicity to meetings of the Council's Select Committees, details of Select Committee meetings had been included on the agendas of meetings of Area Committees.

The information given in respect of publicity for future meetings of Select Committees was noted.

The meeting ended at 9:20 pm.

CHAIRMAN