

BOWLEE PARK COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL, MIDDLETON

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED ENLARGEMENT

7th October 2015

INTRODUCTION

1. Rochdale Local Authority is consulting on the enlargement of Bowlee Park CP School to increase the pupil intake to 120 places from 90 places, meaning an increase to 840 places from 630 places in total from September 2016.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE SCHOOL?

2. The current age range of the school is 3-11, and the Admission Number in most year groups is 90, with a capacity of 630 places. The school has 78 children in the nursery class (39 FTE) and 549 children on roll in Reception through to Year 6 based on the May 2015 census data as shown below:

MIDDLETON	Places 2014	Rec NOR	Places Left	Places 2013	Year 1 NOR	Places left	Places 2012	Year 2 NOR	places left	Places 2011	Year 3 NOR	places left	Places 2010	Year 4 NOR	places left	Places 2009	Year 5 NOR	places left	Places 2008	Year 6 NOR	places left	Total NOR
Bowlee Park	90	82	8	90	89	1	90	79	11	90	90	0	90	88	2	60	62	-2	60	59	1	549

WHAT IS PROPOSED AND WHY?

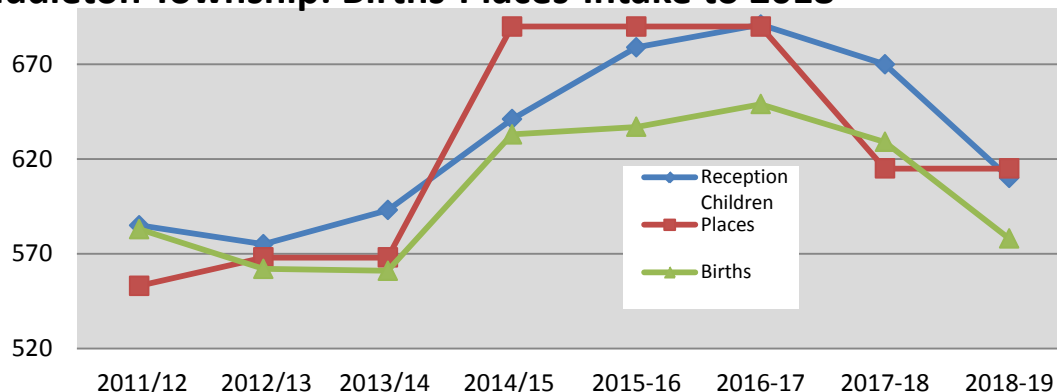
3. Rochdale Borough Council needs to make sure there are enough school places for those who need them, taking account of demographic growth and change, and demand. There has been a high level of increased demand for school places in Middleton Township as a result of both increased births and movement into the Township. The proposal to increase the number of school places at Bowlee Park will make sure there are enough school places available for families within a reasonable distance of this popular and outstanding school.

4. The proposal is to enlarge Bowlee Park CP School by providing an additional 30 places in each new year group. The enlargement of the school would be to increase the admission number for each new successive year group to 120, from the current number of 90 places available.

ARE MORE PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES JUSTIFIED?

5. The Pupil Projections for the Rochdale Borough highlight the need for additional primary school places within the Middleton Township. The current figures tabled below, show that for the 2016/17 admission year, there will need to be additional places, above those already planned to make sure there are enough and provide a margin for flexibility. Additionally, from the 2017/18 admission year, the birth data indicates that there are significantly more children expected to want reception places compared to the places available. Therefore, the need for additional primary school places in the Middleton Township is required with effect from 2016/17 admission year. For 2018/19 some further places will be needed to ensure there are enough, with a margin for flexibility.

Middleton Township: Births-Places-Intake to 2018



	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Middleton								
Projected Reception Children	585	575	593	635	677	690	661	607
Places	553	568	568	690	690	690	615	615
Births	583	562	561	633	637	649	629	578
Extra Places Needed- based on above projection					-13	0	46	-8
Extra Places Needed-projection without housing					-21	-5	46	-8

HOW WILL PARENTAL PREFERENCE AND SCHOOL PLACE DEMAND BE AFFECTED?

6. Bowlee Park is a popular and successful school. There has been a high level of demand for places at the school in each year group. The data above shows there is a need for further reception class places in the Township, maps to show the distribution of births at locality and ward level are attached in Appendix 1. These demonstrate a high level of demand in the wider Langley area. Providing more places at the school will help more parents from the Langley area to access a place at this school.

HOW WILL THE ADDITIONAL PLACES BE ORGANISED?

7. The enlargement of the school would be progressive- beginning in September 2016. In order to accommodate additional children, the school will need extra classrooms. The building work is currently planned to be in 2 phases- a first phase to provide 6 additional classrooms and an additional 2 classrooms in phase 2. These classrooms will be by way of an extension to the existing school building expanding over the ground and first floor.

8. The Reception year group will be organised as 4 classes- each class of 30 children will have one teacher and one classroom assistant. Infant Class Size limits will apply. As the year group moves up the school the class size will continue to be 30 with one teacher.

9. The school will appoint additional teaching and other staff as required. The school management structure will reflect the development of a larger school in terms of curriculum management and leadership.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES OF THE ADDITIONAL PLACES IN A LARGER SCHOOL?

10. The advantages to the school and the children will be:
- Opportunities for young people to interact with a wide range of peers, and to prepare for secondary school;
 - Capacity to develop a strong leadership team which will share the responsibility of knowing children and their families individually, and have direct and empowered links with the Head teacher and governors when necessary;
 - Flexibility of organisation due to multiple year groups and a significant budget;
 - Opportunities for staff to specialise and offer high quality support to colleagues;
 - Capacity to retain high quality staff by offering a wide range of experience and consequent promotion opportunities within one organisation; and
 - Opportunities to offer a very wide range of extra-curricular activities due to the range of talents and interests of the staff.

WILL A BIGGER SCHOOL AFFECT STANDARDS OF ATTAINMENT?

11. There is no clear agreement about the relationship between school size and performance. OfSTED's report in 2009 on twenty outstanding primary schools does not mention school size as a determinant of success, and it looked at outstanding schools at all sizes and concluded that what makes a difference in these outstanding schools is excellent leadership, team work, quality of teaching, assessment, values, aspiration and inclusion. A report published by the University of Cambridge in 2008 (*"The Structure of Primary Education: England and other Countries"- Primary Review Research Survey 9/1*) states in paragraph 7.3 that *"The available evidence suggests that neither.... (school size and starting age)... has a strong impact on children's attainment or progress at school"*.

WILL STANDARDS AND ETHOS OF BOWLEE PARK BE MAINTAINED?

12. The Governing Body of Bowlee Park is committed to upholding the standards and ethos of the School. Through the Leadership and Management Team and alongside the Governing Body, the school aspires to provide an 'outstanding' education to all of the children in its community. It is helpful that the expansion will be on a progressive basis enabling the school to plan ahead, step by step, ensuring that all is in place as each additional class, in each year group, arrives. The school will maintain all staffing ratios: resources for which are provided through the school funding formula, and which will be increased accordingly each year as numbers grow.

WILL THE INCREASE IN PLACES AFFECT CLASS SIZES?

13. By law, class sizes in Infant classes (Reception, Y1 & Y2) cannot exceed 30 children in a class with a single qualified teacher. The enlargement of the school is planned to be progressively from Reception onwards therefore we do not expect there to be an impact on junior class sizes.

WHAT IMPACT WILL THERE BE ON TRAFFIC AND HOW WILL THIS BE MANAGED?

14. A school travel plan will be produced to help reduce the impact of increased pupil numbers over the next few years by encouraging sustainable patterns of travel to school.

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL MANAGE DISRUPTIONS FROM THE BUILDING WORK?

15. By planning well in advance, the school, other users on the site and the contractors can work together to minimise disruption on site. The building contractors will be familiar with working on school sites and will be audited on considerate construction.

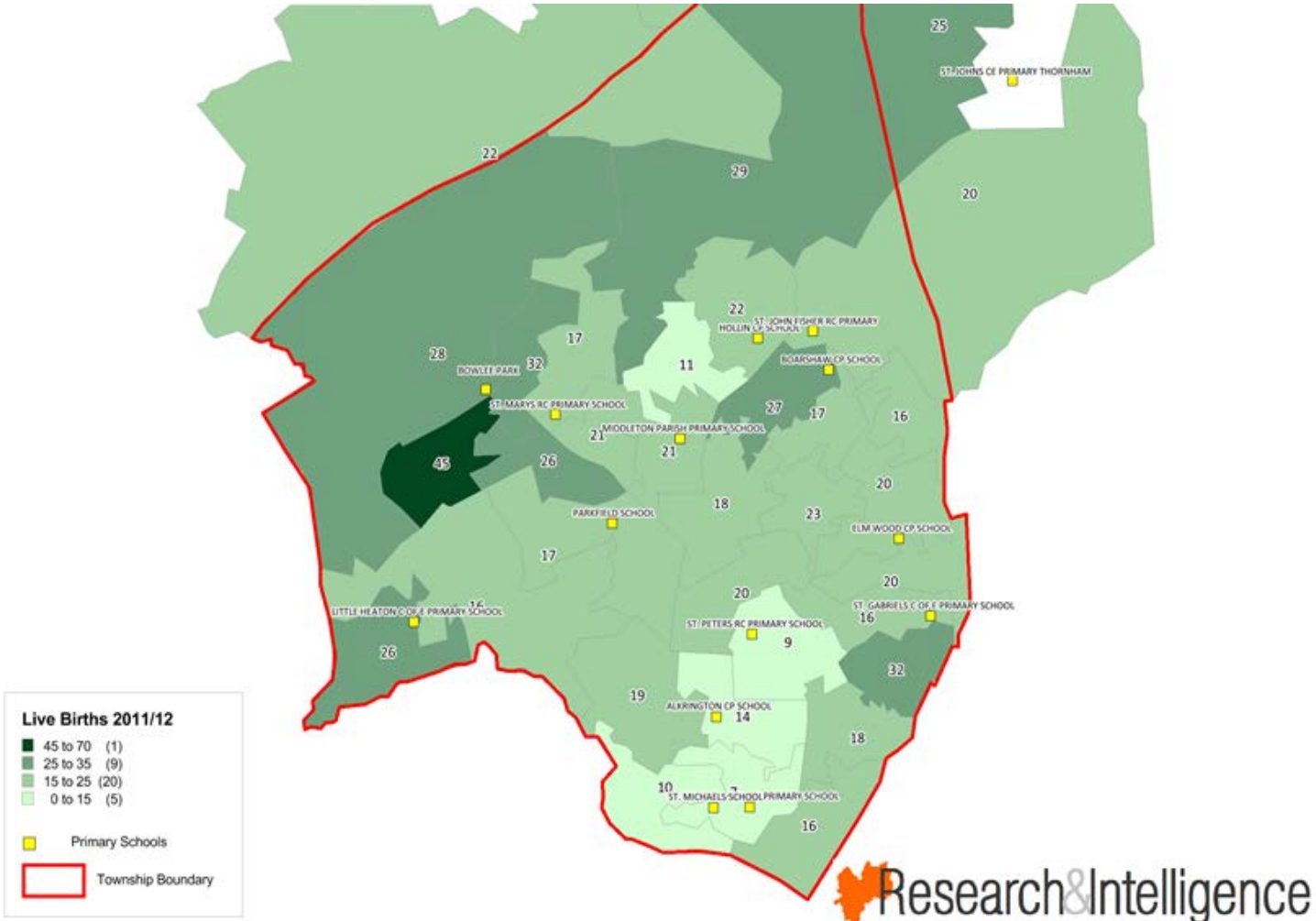
WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

16. Any person can make representations on the proposals by using the following link to the council consultation website at:
<http://consultations.rochdale.gov.uk/council-wide/additional-places-bowlee>
or by writing in to: Robert Aspinall, School Organisation & Development Team, Early Help & Schools, Rochdale Borough Council, Number One Riverside, Smith Street, Rochdale, OL16 1XU, or by e-mail to: robert.aspinall@rochdale.gov.uk.

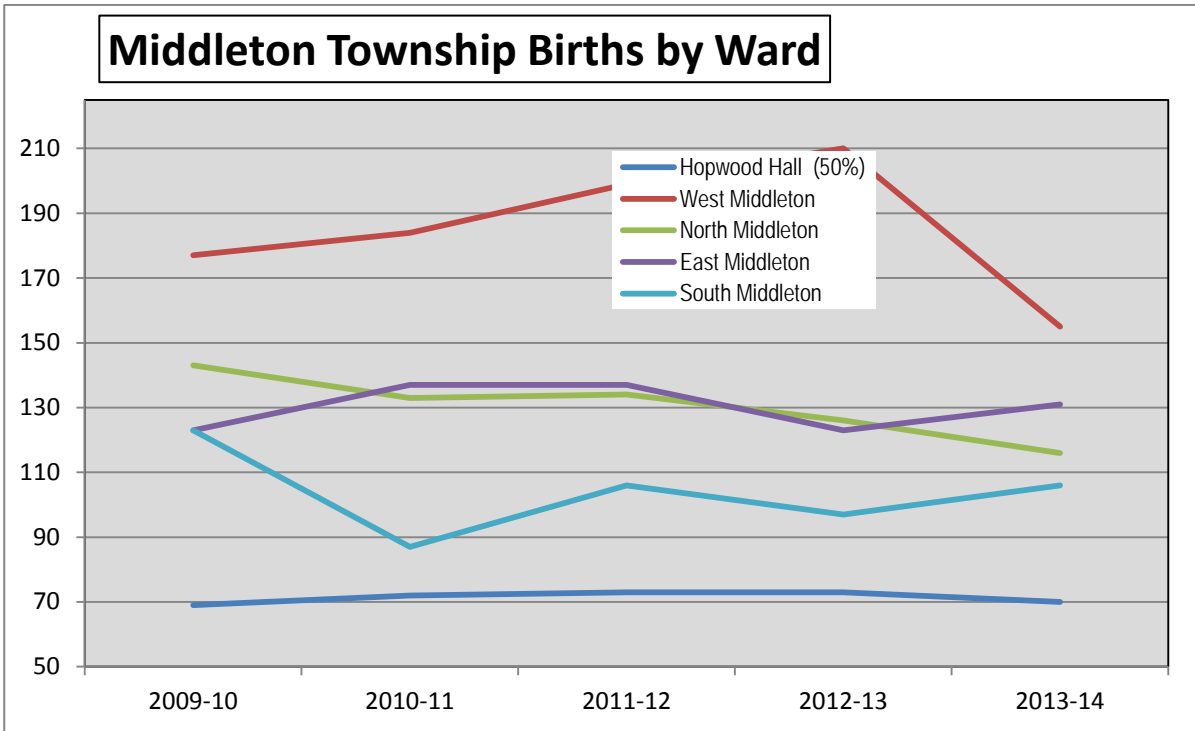
All representations must be submitted by midnight on 3rd November 2015 in order to be considered by the Council's Cabinet.

APPENDIX ONE- Birth Data

APPENDIX 1A: Middleton Birth Distribution Map 2011-12
 (Births in 2011-12 for Admission Year 2016-17)

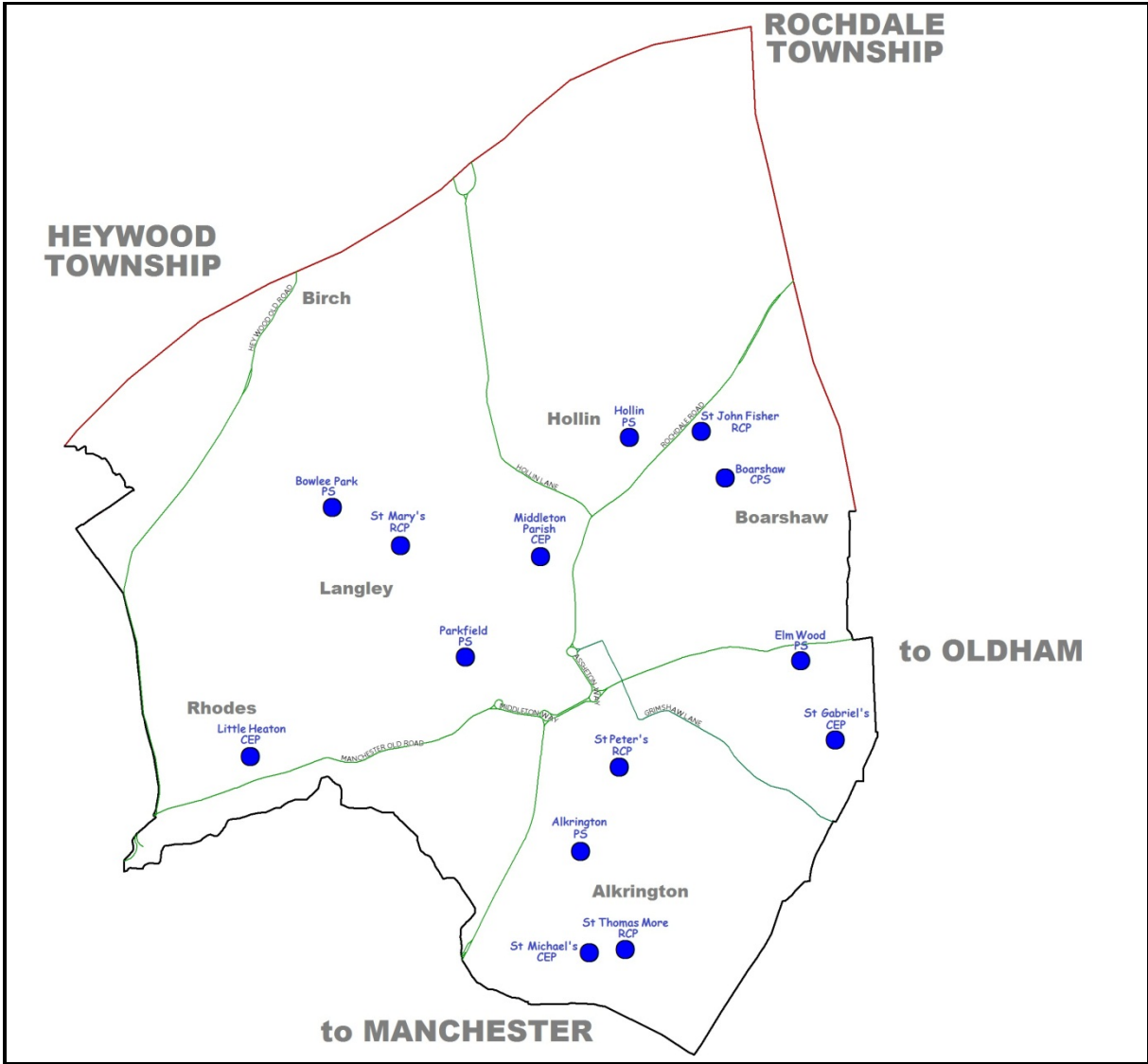


APPENDIX 1B:- Births at Ward Level 2009/10-2013/14



MIDDLETON TOWNSHIP					
Birth Year	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
R Admission Year	Sep-14	Sep-15	Sep-16	Sep-17	Sep-18
Hopwood Hall (50%)	69	72	73	73	70
West Middleton	177	184	199	210	155
North Middleton	143	133	134	126	116
East Middleton	123	137	137	123	131
South Middleton	123	87	106	97	106
<i>Township Total Births</i>	635	613	649	629	578

APPENDIX TWO- Middleton Township – Map of Schools



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