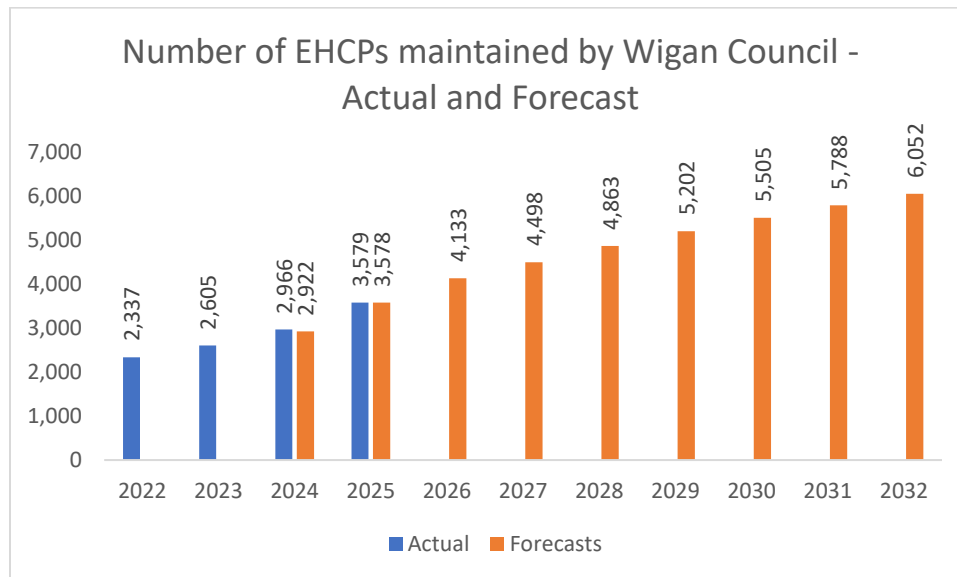




## Annexes for Significant Change Proposal

### Annex A: Local SEND Context and EHC Plan Growth Data

Following the introductions of the SEND reforms in 2014, there has been a steady year-on-year increase in the number of EHC Plans maintained by Wigan Council for children and young people with special educational needs which is reflective of regional and national trends. Our forecasting model shows that the number of children and young people with EHC Plans across Wigan is predicted to increase by 69% by 2032.



Whilst most children and young people's special educational needs can be met in a mainstream school, the increasing number of maintained EHC Plans will result in a higher demand for special school places. Currently 55% of Wigan's EHC Plan pre-16 population are educated in mainstream settings - this means that around 45% of the school aged EHCP population require specialist provision. Taking into consideration, the historical use and future forecasts of both state-funded special and independent special school places, the overall deficit in special sector across Wigan is forecast to be 800 places by 2030/31.

Notwithstanding the financial case, there are clear educational, social and moral imperatives for the Council to place children and young people locally in the borough and to invest in the Wigan state-funded education sector, all of which align with our Progress with Unity missions to:

1. Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents and businesses.
2. Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.



## **Annex B: The site**

Byrchall High School is a modern, fully comprehensive 11–16 school in Ashton-in-Makerfield, serving the wider Makerfield area as outlined in its admissions criteria. The school has recently benefitted from a major DfE-funded rebuild, creating a high-quality campus designed to foster belonging, pride, and community cohesion. This development aligns with the wider community plan and includes new sports facilities as older buildings are removed.

The school hosts an established Learning Base for its own pupils, offering tailored support to access a full curriculum. Provision ranges from full-time base learning to partial or full reintegration into mainstream classes. Lessons are delivered by qualified teachers and teaching assistants, with subject specialists visiting the base.

The Learning Base is located in the Teague Block, which includes four classrooms and an additional intervention room. The block is connected to the school's IT network and has CCTV coverage.

Further improvements were required to accommodate the SEN Units including flooring, furniture, and ActivBoards to match main school standards. The block benefits from a dedicated entrance with coded reception, parking, and a landscaped garden with a pond for pupils and visitors.

### **School site**





### **Compliance with building regulations**

As both SEN Units are located in the existing Teague Building, accommodation renovations to existing classrooms, intervention space and office reception are self-contained within the building. Access to the provision will be via the Gerrard Drive with allocated parking immediately in front of the reception.

The renovation works does not need planning permission.

### **Capital costs**

£56,000 was allocated by the Council to undertake the required works funded via High Needs Capital Programme.



## **Annex C: Consultation Plan**

### **Stakeholders to consult:**

- Parents and carers
- School staff and governors
- Wigan Council SEND team
- Other local schools and academies

### **Methods of consultation:**

- Public meetings and information sessions – There will be one Public consultation session which will take place in School on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 16:00. Additional meetings with Trustees (4<sup>th</sup> December 2025) and the Local Governing Body is also scheduled (16<sup>th</sup> December).
- Email address for responding to the consultation or expressing your wish to attend the consultation sessions: [Dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:Dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk)
- Publication will be on Wigan Council, Byrchall High School and Makerfield Academy Trust websites.

### **Timeline:**

- Week 1: Publish proposal and open consultation
- Weeks 2-3: Hold stakeholder meetings and collect feedback
- Week 4: Close consultation and compile responses
- Week 5: Submit final proposal to DfE for approval

### **Statutory requirements:**

Consultation must run for a minimum of four weeks (close 31 December 2025)

All responses must be considered before final submission.

Evidence of consultation must be included in the proposal annexes.



## **Annex D: Draft Consultation Document:**

### **Proposal to Establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Unit at The Byrchall School**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document sets out our proposal to establish a Special Educational Needs (SEN) Unit at:

The Byrchall School, Warrington Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9PQ.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of parents and carers of pupils attending the school, members of the governing body, school staff, and other stakeholders on the proposed change.

#### **2. Background and Rationale**

We are committed to improving both the quality and availability of education provision for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Being able to attend a local school where the teachers and support staff can meet children and young people's SEND is key to achieving this ambition so that young people thrive in their adult lives.

This aligns directly with Wigan Council's Strategic Plan: Progress with Unity and the following missions to:

- Create fair opportunities for all children, families, residents and businesses.
- Make all our towns and neighbourhoods flourish for those who live and work in them.

The proposed SEN Unit would provide targeted support for children with cognition and learning difficulties, enabling them to access mainstream education with appropriate specialist support.

This proposal responds to:

- The increase in the number of pupils with SEND requiring specialist provision in Wigan, and specifically within the ward of Ashton in Makerfield South.
- Our ethos and commitment to improving outcomes for pupils with SEND.
- Wigan Council's strategic planning for SEND provision.



### **3. Description of the Proposed Change**

The proposal is to:

- Establish an SEN Unit for up to 16 pupils with SEND, specifically Cognition and Learning difficulties.
- Provide specialist teaching and support staff to meet the SEN of these pupils.
- Adapt existing facilities to meet the needs of these pupils.
- Integrate the unit within the wider school community.

### **4. Consultation Process**

The process includes:

- Publication of this proposal – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December
- Representation period (formal consultation) of four weeks (4<sup>th</sup> December – 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026)
- Consideration of responses by the governing body and Wigan Council – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- A final decision – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

### **5. Impact Assessment**

#### **Educational Impact**

The SEN Unit will improve access to tailored support and inclusive education for pupils with SEND.

#### **Staffing**

The SEN Unit will support the recruitment of specialist staff and ongoing professional development for the whole workforce.

#### **Finance**

Funding will be allocated through Wigan Council's high needs block. A contract will be established between the Council and the school to ensure agreed financial arrangements are robust.

#### **Premises**

Minor adaptations to existing buildings will be made to ensure accessibility and suitability. Funding will be allocated by Wigan Council's High Needs Capital Budget to support the establishment of the required works.



## 6. How to Respond

We welcome your views on this proposal. Please send your comments by [date] to:

- **Email:** [dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk)
- **Post:** Byrchall High School, Warrington Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan, WN4 9PQ
- **Consultation event:** You may also attend the consultation meeting at 4:00pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Byrchall High School.

## 7. Next Steps

Following the consultation, the governing body will consider all responses and decide whether to proceed with the proposal. If approved, the SEN Unit would continue its operation.

## 8. Further Information

For further information contact: Danielle Park [dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:dpark@byrchall.wigan.sch.uk)