

A new Secondary School for Workington



Information pack for potential Academy sponsors

The following information is provided to enable potential sponsors to lodge an expression of interest.

Overview

Local Authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide sufficient school places in their area. Where the need for a new school is identified, Section 6A of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places the authority under a duty to seek proposals to establish that school as an academy or free school, known as 'the Academy Presumption'.

Proposers are expected to demonstrate that they will use their academy freedoms to innovate and drive continued improvement. The county council has a role in assessing the proposals and can make a recommendation on its preferred provider for the new school, but the final decision is made by the Secretary of State, who will also enter into a funding agreement with the chosen sponsor.

Cumbria County Council is currently consulting on a proposal to close both Stainburn School & Science College and Southfield Technology College and open a new single academy in light of the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections. These judged the schools to require 'Special Measures' which means that they are failing to give their pupils an acceptable standard of education, and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement in the school.

Cumbria County Council has identified that a new secondary school would be required in Workington to replace the two community schools, should the decision be made to close these schools. The need for a new school is, of course, dependent on the closure proposal being published and approved following public consultation. Should this proposal be published, we would expect Cumbria County Council's Cabinet to take a final decision in July 2014.

It is believed that the opening of a single new academy would be the best way to improve the education of the children in Workington as well as meeting expected future levels of demand for places. Ideally the academy will initially operate on one site, but potentially on the two existing school sites. This will be dependent on site investigations and further analysis of pupil numbers.

A new school building would be provided through the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). This is a capital funded programme to provide new school facilities launched by the Department for Education (DfE). The programme is intended to address those schools in the worst condition. The county council has previously successfully bid to bring Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School and Science College together into one new school for Workington and this proposal has been accepted into the PSBP programme by the government.

The new school will also operate under one Headteacher and a single governing body.

The children in the existing schools at the time of the opening of the new school would all be guaranteed a place in the replacement secondary school, and every effort would be made to ensure that their education would continue without undue or unnecessary disruption. Applicants for entry to the new Year 7 2015/16 cohort at either of the existing schools would also be admitted to the new academy.

Stainburn School and Science College currently supports resourced provision for children with physical/medical needs and Severe Learning Difficulties, and the new school would also provide such appropriate facilities/resources.

If the decision is made to close Stainburn School & Science College and Southfield Technology College this would mean that both schools would officially close on 31 December 2014, with the new Workington School opening on 1 January 2015. All existing children on either school roll would simply transfer onto the roll of the new secondary school on 1 January 2015.

The closure of these schools has been proposed to afford the opportunity to provide a high quality learning environment within a new school, under new leadership, with a vision and ethos dedicated to raising aspirations and achievement for children and young people across the community.

In addition to this there are a number of other reasons why the schools are being considered for closure and for a new school opening in their place:

- The school age population is changing in Workington and an Energy Coast University Technical College (ECUTC) is being established at Lillyhall. This means that the financial viability of 2 separate community schools in Workington is questionable .
- Efficiency and effective deployment of resources is enhanced by moving to one new school.
- The condition of the existing buildings and facilities is poor and we are seeking to deliver a modern and versatile learning environment to meet the needs, aspirations, interests and aptitudes of our learners. Central government funding has been secured through the PSBP to deliver a new building for the community of Workington.

Pupil Numbers

The October 2013 school census figures report that there were 350 pupils (including sixth form) on the roll of Southfield Technology College and 823 pupils (including sixth form) at Stainburn School & Science College. The new ECUTC is also due to open in September 2014 with provision for pupils aged 14-18. The ECUTC has a funding agreement in place that will enable it to have a capacity of up to 560 pupils. An initial intake in September 2014 of up to 80 x 14 year old students and 60 x 16 year old students is expected to be admitted to the ECUTC. Current projections indicate that a large proportion of pupils in the ECUTC are likely to come from the Workington area. Numbers on roll in Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School & Science College have declined in recent years and are predicted to fluctuate over the coming years as a result of the creation of the new ECUTC, as well as any population change. New housing in the area may also have an impact on pupil numbers.

It is essential that the new school's proposed admission number reflects the projected potential population of pupils but also that a new school provider understands that the pupil numbers could fluctuate. Given this situation it would be advisable for a new school building to be agile and able to provide flexible uses dependent on the pupil numbers requiring school places in the future.



New School Proposal

Consultation on a proposal to close the two existing community schools in Workington is underway. If the decision is taken to close them then a new school will be required. This decision would be made in July 2014 should a formal proposal be published.

If the decision is made to close Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School & Science College and open a new school, the new school would open in January 2015, with the initial intake comprised of the pupils on roll at Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School & Science College. This would minimise disruption and possible detrimental effects to the pupils at the schools. The new school would also continue

to be a resourced provision for Special Educational Needs. It is possible that, initially, the new school would open across both existing school sites. The location of the new school would be one of the existing sites, to be determined following feasibility studies and ground/site investigations which are not yet completed.

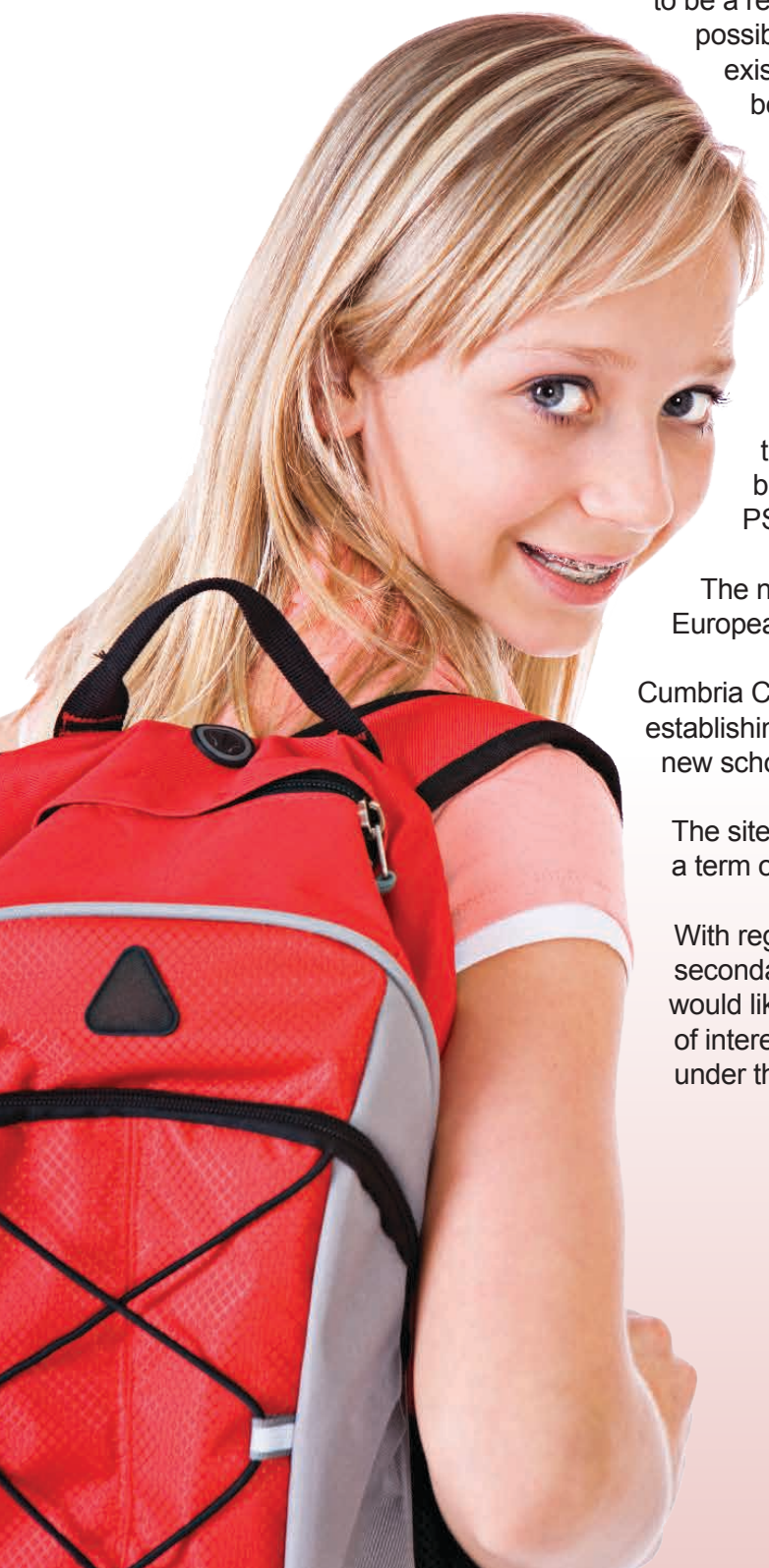
It is planned that the new build school would be procured by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education in accordance with the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). Planning permission and other approvals for the new school building would be secured through PSBP. The new school would be designed and built in accordance with the standards established for PSBP and relevant legislation and guidance.

The new building scheme will be procured in accordance with European legislation.

Cumbria County Council can confirm that the capital needed for establishing the new school will be met through the PSBP and the new school building is expected to cost circa £20m.

The site will be leased to the new school's academy sponsor for a term of 125 years.

With regard to the above and the possible need for a new secondary school in Workington, Cumbria County Council would like to invite interested parties to submit their expression of interest in becoming the academy sponsor of the new school, under the 'Academy Presumption' process.



Programme for selection of a sponsor

Cumbria County Council is now seeking expressions of interest from organisations wishing to be considered as a potential sponsor for the new school.

Key Dates

	Date
Invitation to express an interest is published	w/b 20 January 2014
Deadline for potential sponsors to submit expressions of interest	5.00pm Friday 28 February 2014
Proposals assessed by Cumbria County Council (CCC)	w/b 3 March to w/b 14 April 2014
Proposals forwarded to DfE along with any CCC recommendation	w/b 14 April 2014
DfE to confirm sponsor	By mid July 2014
Successful sponsor works with DfE/CCC to establish new school	July-Dec 2014
New school opens	1 January 2015

It is the county council's aspiration that the successful sponsor will be identified and confirmed prior to the end of July 2014, so that they can begin to work with the existing schools in the Autumn term of 2014 in preparation for the opening of a new academy in January 2015, subject to approval for closure of the existing Workington community schools.

How to apply

Please return your expression of interest by email to school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

Also send a hard copy to:

**Cumbria County Council
School Organisation Team
Parkhouse Building
Kingmoor Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria CA6 4SJ**

Expressions of interest should arrive no later than **5pm on Friday 28 February 2014.**

Additional information on this process can also be obtained from the above email address or by phoning **01228 226013**

Criteria for selection of a sponsor

Once the closing date for expressing an interest in becoming the academy sponsor for the new school has passed, Cumbria County Council will assess those submitted and forward all proposals to the DfE so that a final decision can be made by the Secretary of State.

The county council is committed to commissioning the best possible education provision for school-aged children residing in the county. Potential sponsors, in their expressions of interest, are expected to demonstrate how their organisation is best suited to becoming the new school's academy sponsor. Expressions of interest should focus on the following areas:

- Evidence of a proven track record of school improvement
- The proposer's capability to promote high standards and pupil attainment
- The education plan for the school
- The approach to teaching and any particular education ethos
- Key innovations for the school
- How the above will improve performance, the proposer's aspirations for pupil achievement and how success will be measured
- How the proposer will ensure the financial viability of the school
- The opportunities arising from a new school building
- How the proposer will engage with the local community
- How the proposer will work alongside and as part of Cumbria Association of System Leaders (CASL) - the strategic education improvement partnership across Cumbria.

Please be aware that if your organisation is not a DfE approved sponsor, it will need to be assessed by the Department through their sponsor approval process before it can be considered as a potential academy sponsor for the new Workington school.



If you require this document in another format (eg CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 0845 71257387.

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如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 0845 71257387

Jeigu norétumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,
skambinkite telefonu 0845 71257387

**W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę
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