



Cumbria County Council
School Organisation
Workington
February 2014

Introduction

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The consultation

- We are consulting on:
 - The possible closure of Stainburn School & Science College and Southfield Technology College
 - The establishment of a single secondary school in Workington to replace them
 - The new secondary school would be an academy, in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, section 6A
- The LA cannot simply decide to make changes without seeking the views of stakeholders
- There is a legal process which must be followed before any changes can be made
- It is important that the county council hears your views before deciding whether or not to proceed

Current situation - Southfield

- Currently judged by Ofsted to require 'Special Measures'
- The school caters for pupils aged between 11 and 18 and there are currently 350 children on roll
- The table below shows pupil numbers at the school taken from the October 2013 census

| School | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 | Total |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Southfield | 40 | 52 | 57 | 61 | 63 | 46 | 31 | 350 |

Current situation - Stainburn

- Currently judged by Ofsted to require 'Special Measures'
- The school caters for pupils aged between 11 and 18 and there are currently 823 on roll
- The table below shows pupil numbers at the school taken from the October 2013 census

| School | Year 7 | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 | Year 11 | Year 12 | Year 13 | Total |
|-----------|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| Stainburn | 117 | 125 | 134 | 161 | 159 | 80 | 47 | 823 |

The Proposals

- Cumbria County Council believes that closing both schools and opening a new single school is the best way of making sure standards of education improve
- Other factors in believing this is the best option:
 - Educational benefits
 - Population change within Workington
 - Development of the Energy Coast University Technical College (ECUTC)
 - Efficiency and effective deployment of resources
 - Building condition
 - Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

Educational benefits

- A new school can assist in raising standards, by bringing the best practices of both schools together and benefit from sharing resources, such as:
 - Teaching and support staff
 - Finances
 - Facilities/equipment
- A single clear consistent vision and values
- Opportunity for a new learning environment better matched to the needs of students
- Professional development opportunities for staff

Financial benefits

- School budgets are largely based on pupil numbers
- The creation of a new single academy would mean the duplication of some roles could be avoided
- This would allow for a greater proportion of available funding to be spent directly on teaching and learning

Building condition

- Both schools would require significant levels of maintenance work over the next 5 years to keep them operational
- Further significant investment would be required to improve the learning environments and so make the schools sustainable
- Cumbria's West Coast has previously been prioritised for education investment, e.g. Building Schools for the Future (BSF)
- The end of the government's BSF programme caused those plans to be cancelled
- New sources of funding were sought, e.g. Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

- The PSBP is a capital funded programme launched by the Department for Education to provide new school facilities
- The amalgamation of Stainburn and Southfield into a single school had been identified as part of the PSBP and is still included in this programme by the government

Next steps

| Event | Date |
|--|--|
| Consultation | 20 January to 3 March 5pm |
| Decision: Cumbria County Council considers the results of the consultation and decides whether to publish Statutory Notice | 3 April 2014 |
| Publication of the Statutory Notice | 2 May 2014 |
| Closing date for responses to the Statutory Notice | 30 May 2014 |
| Final decision by Cumbria County Council | 24 July 2014 |
| Possible implementation of any changes | Closure of both schools – 31 December 2014 Opening of new school – 1 January 2015 |

Open Forum

Any questions?



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