

## MATTERS TO BE SPECIFIED IN SECTION 15 PROPOSALS TO DISCONTINUE A SCHOOL (Education and Inspections Act 2006)

### **Extract of Schedule 2 to The School Organisation (Establishment and Discontinuance of Schools) (England) Regulations 2013:**

#### **Contact details**

1. The name and contact details of the LA or governing body publishing the proposal, and the name, address and category of the school proposed for closure.

Cumbria County Council. School Organisation Team, Parkhouse Building, Baron Way, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.  
The schools to be discontinued are Southfield (Community) Technology College, Moorclose Road, Workington. CA14 5BH (DfE No 909/4311) and Stainburn (Community) School and Science College, Stainburn Road, Workington, CA14 4EB (DfE No 909/4312).

#### **Implementation**

2. The proposed closure date or, where it is proposed that the closure be implemented in stages, the dates of, and information about, each stage.

Closure of Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School and Science College would be effective on 31 December 2014. It is intended that the two schools will be replaced with the establishment of a new academy in Workington on 1 January 2015. The establishment of an academy is achieved via a separate process, and is conditional upon the signing of a funding agreement between the Secretary of State for Education and their chosen sponsor.

#### **Objectives and reason for closure**

3. The objectives of the proposal and the reason why closure of the school is considered necessary.

The objective of the proposal is to improve the standards of education on offer to the young people of Workington. The two schools proposed for closure have both been deemed by Ofsted to require special measures. Coupled with this, falling numbers have resulted in budget deficits and longer-term concerns about ongoing viability, both financially and educationally. Both buildings are in poor condition and the county council believes that the replacement of the schools with a single, sponsored academy, in a new building funded through the Priority Schools Building Programme, offers the best opportunity for bringing about the required improvement in standards and guaranteeing long-term viability.

#### **Pupil numbers and admissions**

4. Information on the numbers, age range, sex and special educational needs of pupils (distinguishing between boarding and day pupils) for whom provision

is currently made at the schools.

Southfield School is an 11 to 18 co-educational school with 340 pupils on roll, 144 (42.4%) of those pupils were assessed as having Special Education Needs (January 2014 pupil census). Stainburn School is an 11 to 18 co-educational school with 821 pupils on roll, 59 (7.2%) of pupils were assessed as having Special Education Needs (January 2014 pupil census). Stainburn School is strategically resourced for those with physical/medical needs. Neither school are boarding schools.

The new academy will be built to a size to accommodate the current and projected number of pupils for both Southfield and Stainburn schools (1,200 pupils).

### **Displaced Pupils**

5. Details of the schools at which displaced pupils will be offered places, including:

- a) any interim arrangements;
- b) the alternative provision for children recognised by the LA as reserved for children with special needs; and
- c) in the case of special schools, alternative provision made by LAs other than the authority which maintains the school.

a) It is intended that the new academy will initially operate from the existing school sites whilst construction is underway on the new school. Places will be available in the academy for all pupils on roll at the closing schools at the time of their closure. On relocation to the new school free transport will be available to existing students of Southfield and Stainburn who live within the catchment areas of the schools in line with the county council's Home to School Transport policy.

b) The new academy will be expected to continue the strategically resourced special educational needs provision that Stainburn School offered.

c) Not applicable.

### **Impact on the Community**

6. A statement and supporting evidence about the impact on the community and any measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impact, including details of the extended services the school offered and what is proposed for these services once the schools have closed

The catchment areas of Southfield and Stainburn indicate that the schools, at least nominally, serve very distinct areas of Workington and the surrounding area. In practice, for some years now a large proportion (26% as at September 2013) of those from the Southfield catchment have been successful in gaining places at Stainburn, and 34% of Southfield catchment pupils have been gaining a place at St Joseph's. From Stainburn catchment 2% attend Southfield and 33% St Joseph's. Though the site of the new academy is yet to be determined, one of the existing school sites

will be used. Clearly this will mean a change in travel patterns for those affected, though it should be recognised that the sites are only 2 miles apart, and that 219 children already make the journey from the Southfield catchment to the Stainburn site on a daily basis without difficulty.

Whilst the removal of either site from educational use will have some impact on the local community, there will remain accessible, non-denominational secondary provision in the town of Workington, housed in substantially improved buildings, and with the long-term financial stability required to encourage the provision of a broad, balanced curriculum and, essentially, improved standards of education. The county council will expect the new academy sponsor to work with the communities of both existing schools to ensure that any detrimental impact on either community is addressed and mitigated against.

The intention is to continue, and enhance, the strong sports and after school offerings at the existing schools into the new academy. The academy sponsor and leadership will be expected to work with the community to make sure local people are able to access the facilities available in the new build, the provision of which should, in itself, enhance the facilities available.

The new school will be larger than the separate existing schools and larger schools can generally offer a wider curriculum choice to pupils. This is particularly important at Key Stage 4 and post-16 in Workington, where the opening of a UTC from September 2014 will reduce numbers across Years 10-13.

The Energy Coast University Technical College is due to have its first intake of students in September 2014 providing an alternative route to education for 14 to 19 year olds in the west of the county. Eventually it will offer places for up to 560 students.

Workington is also home to a Catholic secondary school, and the provision of a new academy will provide parents and pupils with a diverse choice of providers.

### **Balance of denominational provision**

7. Where the school has a designated religious character, a statement about the impact on parental choice in the area.

Both schools have community status.

### **Rural Primary Schools**

8. Where a proposal relates to a rural primary school a statement (as required by section 15(4) of the EIA 2006) that the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) has considered:

- a) the likely effect of closure of the school on the local community;
- b) the availability, and likely cost to the LA, of transport to other schools;
- c) any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase; and
- d) any alternatives to the closure of the school.

Not applicable.

### **Maintained nursery schools**

9. Where a proposal relates to the closure a maintained nursery school, a statement setting out:

- a) the LA's assessment of the quality and quantity of alternative provision compared to the school proposed to be closed and the proposed arrangements to ensure the expertise and specialism continues to be available; and
- b) the accessibility and convenience of replacement provision for local parents.

Not applicable.

### **Provision for 16-19 year olds**

10. Where the school proposed to for closure provides sixth form education, how the proposals will impact on:

- a) the educational or training achievements;
- b) participation in education or training; and
- c) the range of educational or training opportunities, for 16-19 year olds in the area.

a, b & c

The new academy will have a sixth form and will benefit from the facilities afforded through the new build. Numbers expected to attend the sixth form should allow a comprehensive set of subject choices to prospective students.

The Lakes College also offers further education courses from its base in Workington. It already delivers courses to over 1,500 students in the area and has close working and training relationships with many local businesses.

There is a sixth form provision at St Benedict's Catholic High School in Whitehaven should pupils wish to choose it.

The Energy Coast University Technical College is due to have its first intake of students in September 2014 providing an alternative route to education for 14 to 19 year olds in the west of the county.

### **Special educational needs (SEN) provision**

11. Where existing provision that is recognised by the LA as reserved for pupils with special educational needs is being closed, a statement as to how the LA or the governing body (as the case may be) believes a proposal is likely to lead to improvements in the standard, quality and/or range of the educational provision for these children.

The resourced provision currently in operation at Stainburn School will be continued at the new academy.

## Travel

12. The proposed arrangements for travel of displaced pupils to other schools.

Southfield School to Stainburn School is 2 miles.

Southfield to St Joseph's School is 1.48 miles.

Stainburn to St Joseph's is 0.74 miles.

All three schools lie within Workington town.

It is intended that the potential academy will initially operate from the existing school sites whilst construction is underway on the new school. On relocation to the new school free transport will be available to existing students of Southfield and Stainburn in line with the county council's Home to School Transport policy.

Part of the planning considerations for the new build will be the availability of safe walking and cycle routes for pupils.

## Consultation

13. Decision-makers will need to be assured that consultation has taken place, and that the statutory process has been adhered to. Therefore proposals should include the results of that consultation.

All applicable statutory requirements were complied with. A consultation on the potential closure of Southfield and Stainburn schools was held between 20 January and 3 March 2014;

a) See attached distribution list detailing a list of persons/parties who were consulted

b) Notes of public meetings are included in the appendices to the Cabinet report

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MIId=7296&Ver=4>

c) The analysis of responses to the consultation questionnaire are included in the appendices to the Cabinet report

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MIId=7296&Ver=4>

d) The consultation document is included in the appendices to the Cabinet report. The consultation document was sent out to all those included on the distribution list. The consultation document was sent out to parents through the two secondary schools and copies were also sent to all primary feeder schools. The document was published on the Cumbria County Council School Organisation website and was made available in public places in the locality such as libraries.

<http://councilportal.cumbria.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=117&MIId=7296&Ver=4>