

**Consultation
on the proposed closure
of Southfield Technology
College and Stainburn School
and Science College and
the presumption of a new
academy in Workington**



What this consultation is about

This consultation document is about the possible discontinuance (closure) of Stainburn School & Science College and Southfield Technology College and the establishment of a single secondary school in Workington to replace them. The new secondary school for Workington would be an academy; in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, section 6A, there is a presumption that any new school will be an academy.

Ideally the new academy will be opening on one site, but potentially on the two existing school sites. This will be dependent on site investigation and further analysis of pupil numbers. A new school building would then be constructed using funding secured from the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). The new school will also operate under one Headteacher and a single governing body rather than two.

The children in the existing schools at the time of the opening of the new school would all be guaranteed a place in the new 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 2014/15 cohort at either of the existing schools would also be admitted to the new Academy.

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

In addition to proposing the closure of both Southfield and Stainburn schools and opening one new secondary school for Workington, a new school building would then be constructed using funding secured from the government's Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP).

If these proposals go ahead then the council will also seek a sponsor under the academy presumption process for the new school. We will be looking for a sponsor that has a proven track record of improving schools and getting the best results for young people. We will expect the new sponsor to work closely with the community and work alongside the Local Authority and other schools in Cumbria.

We are considering the following proposal:

Both existing 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 county council cannot simply decide to make changes to schools without first seeking the views of parents and others. There is a legal process which must be followed before any changes can be made, and it is important that the county council hears your views before deciding whether or not to proceed.

Who is this consultation for?

This document is aimed at parents, staff, governors and everyone else with an interest or stake in education in the area.

How you can respond to this consultation

Use the form on the back page of this document to let us know what you think, or you can attend the consultation events on **4 February 2014** at Southfield Technology College or **5 February 2014** at Stainburn School and Science College to talk to us face to face.

If you would like any further information in the meantime, you can visit our website www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation or please contact the School Organisation Team on:
T: 01228 226013 E: school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk

More Information

Southfield Technology College

Southfield Technology College is currently judged by Ofsted to require 'Special Measures'. 'Special Measures' is the legal term used when Ofsted decide that a school is failing to give its 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 improvements. The school caters for pupils aged between 11 and 18 and there are currently 350 on roll. The table below shows the current pupil numbers (October 2013 School 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

Stainburn School & Science College

Stainburn School & Science College is 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 the current pupil numbers (October 2013 School 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

Why close Southfield and Stainburn schools and open a new school?

Cumbria County Council believes that closing both Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School & Science College and opening a new single school is the best way of making sure standards of education improve quickly.

A number of other factors lead the county council to believe that a single school is the best way forward:

- Educational benefits
- Population change within Workington
- The development of the Energy Coast University Technical College (ECUTC) at Lillyhall and its impact on pupil numbers aged 14+ in schools
- Efficiency and effective deployment of resources
- Building condition
- Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

Educational benefits

If the schools are closed and a new school opened in their place, this could provide the following educational benefits:

- Both schools are currently judged by Ofsted as requiring 'Special Measures'. A new school can assist in raising standards, by bringing the best practices of both schools together and benefit from the sharing of resources, including teaching and support staff, finances, and facilities/equipment
- A single clear and consistent vision and values for secondary education in Workington
- Expertise within a single school setting can be better targeted across the full age range and ensure a broader range of provision as necessary
- A new school setting will provide opportunity for a fresh and enhanced learning environment to better match the needs of students
- Combination of roles and services allowing more resources to be spent directly on teaching and learning
- Professional development opportunities for staff

Population change within Workington

The population of secondary aged children within Workington has remained stable and is projected to do so for the next few years. However, the primary and pre-school aged numbers in the area are increasing slightly, these higher numbers will feed into the secondary schools in the local area in the coming years.

The Energy Coast University Technical College at Lillyhall and its impact on pupil numbers in schools

The ECUTC will be opening at Lillyhall in September 2014 with provision for pupils aged 14-18.

UTCs are a new route to education and training which follows through to further study and employment.

The ECUTC will eventually have places for 560 students, with an initial intake of up to 80 x 14 year old students and 60 x 16 year old students expected to be admitted this coming September.

The opening of the ECUTC is in future likely to reduce further the number of pupils on the roll of Workington secondary schools.

Efficiency and effective deployment of resources

School finance

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, allowing for a greater proportion of available funding to be spent directly on teaching and learning. There would, for example, only be one Headteacher and Leadership Team rather than two.

One of the existing schools has a substantial budget deficit creating uncertainty in terms of staffing. Schools in this position are often forced to make teaching and support staff redundant.

Staffing

We know that the process of closing two schools and creating a single academy can be unsettling for the school community. Council officers would through the use of the Transition Handbook work closely with staff. The Transition Handbook and further information is available on the school portal and the school organisation website www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation to help guide the process.

It is expected that all staff would TUPE to the academy should the existing schools close.

Building condition

Cumbria's West Coast has previously been prioritised for education investment, for example, within the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, where a single school was envisaged as a replacement for Southfield and Stainburn schools. The end of the government BSF programme caused those plans to be cancelled. New sources of funding were sought, for example – the Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP). Both schools would require significant levels of maintenance work over the next five years just to keep them operational. Further significant investment would be required to improve the learning environments and so make the schools sustainable.

Priority Schools Building Programme (PSBP)

The PSBP is a capital funded programme launched by the Department for Education to provide new school facilities. The programme is intended to address those schools in the worst condition. An amalgamation of Stainburn and Southfield into a single school had been identified as part of the PSBP; the government have accepted the creation of a combined secondary school for Workington (from the existing Southfield and Stainburn Schools) into this programme.

School transport

The general policy

Under the normal transport policy, free transport is provided for children aged 11 to 16 years to their **nearest** or **catchment** school if the distance between their home and the school exceeds the 'statutory walking distance'. The 'statutory walking distance' is **three** miles for students aged eight and above. The distance is measured by the nearest available walking route. (In some circumstances, families on low income may qualify for assistance with transport if the distance from their **chosen** school is between two and six miles).

The policy in a secondary school reorganisation situation

Under the authority's current school transport policy, children aged 11 to 16 years living in the catchment area who are attending a school at the time of its closure, and who transfer to the new catchment school, receive free transport until the time they would have left that school had it remained open, providing the distance between home and school is more than two miles. This only applies if students have to go to a different site which is further from their home than the site they previously attended. If the distance from their home is more than the statutory walking distance of three miles, then the general policy (set out above) applies.

Next steps

If the county council proposes to close a school, their proposal must be published in a statutory notice.

There are five stages to the process which must be followed:

Consultation

The issue of this document marks the start of a six week period of consultation.

Publication

Taking into account the outcome of this consultation, a decision on whether to publish a statutory notice must be made by Cumbria County Council's Cabinet.

Representation

Following publication of statutory notices 'representations' can be made on the proposals – this is another opportunity for anyone with an interest to submit their views before a final decision is made. In this instance representation would be for a four week period.

Decision

Within two months after the representation period ends, the county council must make a final decision on the proposal.

Implementation

If the proposal is approved then changes would be implemented from 1 January 2015.

Academy presumption process

In order to establish a new school, the county council will first seek expressions of interest from potential academy providers. We will then ask academy providers to come forward with their outline of how they would bring about the improvements in educational standards identified by Ofsted, resulting in the 'Special Measures' judgements. The county council will consider the academy proposals submitted and will recommend the one it feels best meets the needs of young people in Workington to the Secretary of State who ultimately decides the identity of the new school provider.

Timetable

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

Have your say

The council's proposals will be the basis of a period of public consultation for six weeks from 20 January 2014 to 3 March 2014 5pm.

You are invited to a consultation event so that you can find out more about the proposed amalgamation. The events will be held at:

Southfield Technology College 4 February 2014 at 3.30pm-7.30pm

A meeting for **staff** will be held from **3.30pm – 4.15pm**.

A meeting for **governors** will be held from **4.30pm- 5.15pm**

From **6.00pm** there will be opportunity for **parents and members of the public** to attend a presentation from county council officers and an opportunity for questions.

Stainburn School and Science College 5 February 2014 at 3.30pm-7.30pm

A meeting for **staff** will be held from **3.30pm – 4.15pm**.

A meeting for **governors** will be held from **4.30pm- 5.15pm**

From **6.00pm** there will be opportunity for **parents and members of the public** to attend a presentation from county council officers and an opportunity for questions.

The consultation runs until **3 March 2014 5pm** and you can respond by completing the questionnaire in this document, on-line or writing separately to:

**Cumbria County Council - School Organisation,
Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle, Cumbria CA6 4SJ**

By Email to: **school.organisation@cumbria.gov.uk**

You can complete the questionnaire on-line at: **www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council**

Further information available from **www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/school-organisation**

Please note that it is not possible to enter into individual correspondence.

Thank you.



Southfield Technology College and Stainburn School & Science College

Reply slip – please send by **3 March 2014 5pm** to **Cumbria County Council, School Organisation, Parkhouse Building, Kingmoor Business Park, Carlisle CA6 4SJ.**

Responses can also be made online at www.opinionsuite.com/cumbria/cumbria-county-council

- 1. We need to know some basic information so that we can accurately report back to the council's Cabinet.** Please tick those boxes that apply.

Are you a Southfield Technology College Stainburn School & Science College

Parent/carer ☐ ☐

Member of Staff ☐ ☐

Governor ☐ ☐

Other ☐ ☐

Other (please specify)

- 2. Given the information contained in this document, do you agree or disagree with the following proposal?**

Close Stainburn School & Science College and Southfield Technology College and seek an Academy sponsor to establish a new school in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006, section 6A

☐ Agree ☐ Disagree

Supporting and additional comments can be entered overleaf if required.

Name _____
(Please print)

Date _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Please provide any supporting / additional comments below:

If you require this document in another format (e.g. CD, audio cassette, Braille or large type) or in another language, please telephone 0845 712 57387

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如果您希望通过母语了解此信息，
请致电 0845 712 57387

**Jeigu norétumėte gauti šią informaciją savo kalba,
skambinkite telefonu 0845 712 57387**

**W celu uzyskania informacji w Państwa języku proszę
zatelefonować pod numer 0845 712 57387**

**Se quiser aceder a esta informação na sua língua,
telefone para o 0845 712 57387**

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