



## **Area Planning for Post-Primary Education**

**The Education Authority, in association with the  
Board of Governors of North Coast Integrated College**

### **Causeway Area**

**New co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled  
integrated post-primary school**

**Pre-Publication Consultation**

**Consultation: 13 September 2021 – 15 November 2021**

## **Causeway Area: A School for the Future – Executive Summary**

### **The Proposal**

The Education Authority is commencing pre-publication consultation on a proposal to:

**Establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school in Coleraine, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admissions number of 200 and an enrolment number of 1,200.**

This proposal is the result of two years discussion between the Boards of Governors of the three Schools, Education Authority, Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, Controlled Schools' Support Council and the Ulster University to reach consensus on the above proposal.

In proposing the new controlled integrated post primary school, this would result in the discontinuance of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College. The new controlled integrated post primary school will provide for all the pupils attending the three schools which currently have a **combined enrolment of 1,042 pupils** (at present only one of the three schools operates Post 16 provision). The proposed new controlled integrated post primary school will have a Year 8 admission number of 200 pupils, with a Post 16 provision of 200 pupils to enhance the opportunities of pupils from the three schools to progress into Post 16 provision. This will provide a more sustainable school and will allow scope for increased parental preference, community integration in providing for a reasonable balance of pupils from Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities, with a broader curriculum offer and a unique partnership with Ulster University.

### **Ulster University**

If the development proposal is approved, the Education Authority, Board of Governors of the new controlled integrated school and Ulster University will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding which will clearly set out the key aims, objectives and deliverables in providing for implementation of unique partnership working between the new controlled integrated school and Ulster University, in the best interests of children and young people. This partnership will be in addition to collaborative arrangements with other schools and the Northern Regional College.

### **Area Planning Considerations**

This proposal will address current sustainability challenges and adhere to Ministerial priorities in providing for a new controlled integrated post primary school that meets the requirements of the Sustainable Schools Policy. This includes enhancing the quality of education through an improved curriculum offer as part of the Entitlement Framework and provision for Post 16, in fit for purpose accommodation. This will involve collaboration with other schools and the Northern Regional College in providing pathways for children and young people to achieve their potential. The development proposal will also ensure places are located as required through addressing non-selective post primary provision in Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area. This will dovetail with the recent development proposal approvals in the Causeway area including two shared campuses, voluntary grammar amalgamations and increases and the current development proposal to establish Post 16 in Ballymoney High School (see Appendix 1).

## **Day One**

All three schools accept that a newly established school on 1 September 2024 operating across three split sites is not ideal and understand the prolonged process to acquire a new build. If the proposal for a new school is approved, the schools would consider an interim single site solution (which includes consideration of the Lodge Road site), for a defined time period, which should only be until the new school build is ready for occupation. This should also be considered in keeping with the vision and the partnership with Ulster University (see Section 9). Therefore, the Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, subject to Department of Education approvals and funding being required.

## The Vision

The proposed new school provides an opportunity to create a new learning experience for all young people in the Causeway area.

This school for the future will be a learner-focused environment which promotes sustainable development and good personal health and well-being for the whole school community. It will use the specific environs of the Causeway area to support the growth of every learner in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum, the aim of which is to enable young people to fulfil their potential.

The new school will be a school for everyone.

The vision for non-selective controlled and integrated post-primary provision within the Causeway area is for:

A new controlled integrated school, building on the strengths of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College working in partnership with Ulster University (UU) and based on the University Campus, Coleraine, a first for Northern Ireland. This will provide a compelling and pioneering educational offer for the pupils of the Causeway area. The pupils will receive a holistic education as individuals and contributors to the society and environment. This will ensure inclusive academic, technical and vocational opportunities for students to reach their potential, providing accessible pathways for all.

The new school will provide a learning environment in which children from Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities learn together on a daily basis in the one school.

Grounded in the heart of the community, the Coleraine campus of UU lives out its civic mission in the Causeway area. The symbiotic partnership with the three existing schools provides the University not only with the opportunity to pioneer a novel and global educational partnership model, but to play its part in transforming the young minds of future generations in our local society (aligned to the University's *Strategic Plan, 5 and 50*). The UU believes this proposal for an innovative new build controlled integrated school located on the Coleraine campus will provide a geographically neutral learning environment for post-primary pupils with an unrivalled educational experience simply not available anywhere else in Northern Ireland. Beyond the research and teaching benefits outlined in this document, the UU believes the new school will facilitate increased access to the campus by parents/guardians, which will improve local understanding of what the UU does and in turn encourage parents/guardians to consider attending events or using facilities on campus. This partnership also provides unique opportunities for the UU to lead on areas such as outdoor education, leadership education, research in educational policy and teacher education.

There is agreement from the Board of Governors/leadership of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, UU, Education Authority (EA), Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE), and Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC) around the proposed vision for one new school in Coleraine to serve the wider Causeway area, and exist in symbiotic partnership with UU, bringing a widespread range of non-monetary benefits to pupils, staff, families and wider community.

## **New Decade, New Approach**

This vision reflects that of 'New Decade New Approach'. One of the new Priorities of the Restored Executive under 'Transforming other public services particularly in education and justice', is:

*'To help build a shared and integrated society, the Executive will support educating children and young people of different backgrounds together in the classroom.'*

Integrated Education is specifically referenced:

*'The UK Government agrees to financial flexibility to re-profile funding provided as part of the Fresh Start Agreement for shared and integrated education and housing.'*

The 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement sets out the requirement that the Executive will establish an external, Independent Review of Education Provision. The focus of this review will be on securing greater efficiency in delivery costs, raising standards, access to the curriculum for all pupils, and the prospects of moving towards a single education system. The parties agree that the Executive will commission and oversee an independent fundamental review with a focus on quality and sustainability. The educational experience and outcomes for children and young people are the most important factors. The education system has a diversity of school types, each with its own distinctive ethos and values. However it is not sustainable. The parties acknowledge the progress made in developing new models of sharing, cooperation and integration. There is a desire to build on this as a basis for delivering long term improvements in the quality, equity and sustainability of the system, to include the Executive's desire to "support educating children and young people from different backgrounds together." The Review is also an opportunity to agree a vision for what a high quality, innovative and inclusive education system looks like in Northern Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and how relevant partners might work together to realise that vision - making Northern Ireland a truly excellent system internationally. This vision should not be constrained by the existing structure of education and we need to look at different vocational and non-academic routes.

On commitment of the New Decade New Approach and the terms of reference for the Independent Review of Education Provision, the EA is taking forward the proposals not only to establish a new post-primary school for the Causeway area (in effect an amalgamation of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College) but also to seek Department of Education funding for the new build school on the UU Coleraine Campus.

This is further linked to Section 64 of the 1989 Education Order which places a statutory duty on the Department of Education to "encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education" and, by association, the EA.

## What the New School Will Offer

A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU will provide:

- A learning environment in which children from Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities learn together on a daily basis in the one school.
- Opportunities to work in partnership with UU to support their widening participation programme and increase engagement of pupils from all socio-economic backgrounds. This partnership will also bring opportunities for the school in terms of continuous professional development, relevant research expertise, access to first class facilities and unique resources, extended digital learning, real teaching experiences for undergraduate and post graduate students, progression opportunities for students and parents alike encompassing work experience and access to courses.
- A broad and balanced curriculum, designed to cater for all students, within a sustainable framework, in partnership with UU that will provide collaboration opportunities across the Causeway area with other sectors including grammar and further education.
- A high quality, pupil-centred educational experience for all, building on the existing strengths of all three schools.
- A high quality leadership and management that promotes a culture of excellence.
- Specialist Provision for Autism and Learning and Support at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 being taken forward as part of this development proposal in establishing a new school.
- Before and after school provision, ensuring the school is connected to the community, to include supporting the enhancement of the Community Use of Schools Policy, supported by Community Planning.
- The creation of opportunities, within and beyond the curriculum, to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential to the full, thereby creating confident, independent, versatile and successful adults, equipped with the skills and values required to meet the challenges of a changing society and provide for the best possible educational foundation for life.
- Opportunities to develop as a new school, bringing expertise from three schools together and to work in partnership with UU to support their widening participation programme and increase engagement of students from all socio-economic backgrounds.
- Opportunities to enhance interrelationships within the local community.

A capital investment would be required and a business case approved for a site upon which the new school would be built. The EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC will work with the Department of Education to secure a new build school. As the school is a partnership with UU, the vision of the proposers is that a new build would be on the University site, on the Coleraine campus. However, no definitive answer to the question of where the new school will be built can be given at this stage as this would pre-empt any recommendation which a business case for capital funding would make. The commitment of the EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC to drive forward a new build will be relentless to ensure state-of-the-art provision for the non-selective controlled/integrated pupils in the Causeway area.

This partnership will also bring opportunities for continuous professional development, research, access to facilities and resources, extend digital learning, provide real teaching experiences for undergraduates and progression opportunities for students and parents alike such as work experience and access courses.

Although pioneering in Northern Ireland, this collaborative approach between schools and universities has been adopted in other countries across the world, notably in the United Kingdom (Birmingham and Plymouth), United States (Chicago) and Finland (Helsinki) and the proposed model for the Causeway area would seek to build on the effective practice across these jurisdictions. Given that the School of Education is located in the Coleraine campus of

UU there will be access to university infrastructure as well as increased teaching and research opportunities.

### **How We Will Achieve This Vision**

The first step is for the Board of Governors of the three existing schools and the EA to consult with all stakeholders.

All stakeholders (Schools Leadership, EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC) have worked together as part of a preparatory phase to consider the challenges facing non-selective controlled and non-denominational post-primary education in the Causeway area. This included looking at options in order to present a proposed way forward for consideration by the wider school community and those most affected by the proposal, including affected schools.

The next step is to present a preferred option for consultation to the parents, staff and governors of the three schools. The EA, as the managing authority for controlled schools (Coleraine College and Dunluce School), will undertake the consultation in conjunction with the Board of Governors of North Coast Integrated College, as the managing authority for grant maintained integrated. The consultations will be supported by the UU, NICIE and CSSC. The pre-publication consultation will also reach out to the wider community to include parents of primary age children who will be of post-primary school age within the timeframe of the development proposal is approved. This will extend the opportunity to engage parents from different religious backgrounds to promote the opportunities that a sustainable new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU, will offer.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Before arriving at the final recommendation on the post-primary provision at Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, the EA, as managing authority for controlled schools and the Board of Governors of the North Coast Integrated College, as the managing authority for grant maintained integrated (the proposers) are seeking the views of those most directly involved at a local level. The proposers are seeking to engage in consultation with the governors, parents, staff, children and young people of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, local affected schools and other interested parties in the local community.

### 1.1 Aim

The aim of area planning is to facilitate the development of a network of viable and sustainable schools that can deliver the Northern Ireland curriculum effectively and provide access to a range of education provision that is appropriate to the needs of children and young people. Area planning is committed to excellence in the delivery of education so that every pupil can realise their potential and contribute to a caring, inclusive and progressive society.

In striving to realise this aspiration, the proposers, in this case, the EA and Board of Governors of North Coast Integrated College, aim to ensure that every pupil has:

- access to a broad and balanced curriculum with opportunities to realise his or her potential;
- an education in which the learning outcomes are appropriate to their needs;
- access to quality teaching delivered in a caring and supportive environment; and
- education delivered in modern, well-resourced facilities, suitable for the delivery of education in the twenty-first century.

### 1.2 Area Planning Position

On 28 April 2017 the EA published *Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020 with supporting Annual Action Plans for Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools, April 2017–March 2018 and April 2019-March 2021*. Within the actions for the Causeway Coast and Glens Local Government District (LGD), the EA included the following:

Post-Primary School/Area	Key Issue	Action
Coleraine Area:  Coleraine College 14 Carthall Road Coleraine BT51 3LR  Dunluce School 16 Dunluce Road Bushmills BT57 8QQ  North Coast Integrated College 21 Cloyfin Road Coleraine BT52 2NU	Ensure school places are located as required and address school provision where sustainability is an issue	School managing authorities to develop options for future provision at Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College by March 2020

At the June 2021 meeting of the Education Authority's Board and Board of Governors meeting of the North Coast Integrated College on 16 December 2020, it was agreed to initiate consultation with the governors, parents, staff, children and young people of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College, local affected schools and other interested parties in the local community likely to be affected by the proposals that:

**Establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school in Coleraine, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admissions number of 200 and an enrolment number of 1,200.**

**Establish Autism Specific and Learning Support Classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils at a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school in Coleraine for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

**Discontinue Coleraine College with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**Discontinue Dunluce School with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**Discontinue North Coast Integrated College with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**The Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, on the Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, subject to Department of Education approvals and funding being required.**

### **1.3 Nature of the Proposers' Recommendation**

Current legislation requires discontinuation of the three schools and the establishment of a new school. There is no legislative provision to facilitate an amalgamation of the three schools to form a new Controlled Integrated School. Therefore, the proposers are taking forward the proposals under Articles 80 and 92 of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 which describes the process regarding the discontinuance of a grant maintained integrated school and the establishment of a controlled integrated school and Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 which describes the process regarding the discontinuance of a controlled school. These processes require the publication of a number of development proposals.

As part of the pre-publication consultation the proposers are seeking any objections and/or other comments on the above proposals from the governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff, parents of children attending the school, pupils and from other schools that may be affected by this proposal.

## 2 BACKGROUND

This consultation document provides background information and the process being undertaken by the EA and the Board of Governors of North Coast Integrated College (as the managing authorities) on the pre-publication consultation process to take forward the development proposals as outlined.

### 2.1 Coleraine College

Coleraine College is an 11-18 controlled non-selective post primary school located on a large site on the Carthall Road, in close proximity to Loreto College and Coleraine Grammar School. The College has an approved enrolment number of 600 and an approved admissions number of 140. The school was previously an amalgamation of the Coleraine Boys' and Girls' Secondary Schools.

Table 1, below, details the enrolment statistics for Coleraine College over the past eight years.

Table 1: Enrolment Statistics – Coleraine College								
Year	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total
2013/14	38	39	34	55	44	16	18	244
2014/15	33	36	37	34	57	21	14	232
2015/16	40	32	34	37	35	18	16	212
2016/17	58	44	36	40	34	9	15	236
2017/18	45	61	44	37	37	0	6	230
2018/19	84	48	63	44	34	0	0	274
2019/20	82	84	48	66	45	0	0	325
2020/21	86	81	83	49	63	0	0	362

Coleraine College has, over the past three years, experienced significant increase in its admissions at Year 8. Should this trend continue the enrolment number of the school could reach 400 pupils; however, this still falls short of the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum threshold of 500 pupils for Years 8-12.

Coleraine College currently has a Learning Support Class (LSC). This specialist provision would be expanded through the proposal to establish additional ASC/LSC provision in a new school. The enrolment numbers above include pupils in the LSC, with an average of 40 pupils per year. Whilst the College has a post-16 provision, this has not operated for the last 4 years.

### 2.2 Dunluce School

Dunluce School is an 11–16 controlled non–selective post-primary school, located in an area of natural beauty, in Bushmills village, close to the Giant's Causeway and approximately 9 miles from Coleraine. The approved enrolment number of Dunluce School is 550 and the approved admissions number is 110.

Table 2, below, details the enrolment statistics for Dunluce School over the past 8 years.

<b>Table 2: Enrolment Statistics – Dunluce School</b>								
<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Year 14</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2013/14</b>	61	64	95	103	87	0	0	410
<b>2014/15</b>	60	62	64	100	101	0	0	387
<b>2015/16</b>	61	62	64	66	100	0	0	353
<b>2016/17</b>	66	57	64	58	63	0	0	308
<b>2017/18</b>	51	65	55	57	59	0	6	287
<b>2018/19</b>	32	52	61	57	58	0	0	260
<b>2019/20</b>	51	32	50	62	57	0	0	252
<b>2020/21</b>	43	49	34	49	61	0	0	236

Dunluce School has, over the past four years, experienced fluctuating admission numbers in Year 8, showing an overall decline from 287 pupils in 2017/18 to 236 pupils in September 2020. With fewer admissions than leavers, over the next number of years the school will experience a further decline in enrolment numbers.

### **2.3 North Coast Integrated College**

North Coast Integrated College is an 11–18 grant maintained integrated post-primary school, located in an industrial estate on the Cloyfin Road on the edge of Coleraine town. The approved enrolment of North Coast Integrated College is 500 and the approved admissions is 80.

Table 3, below, details the enrolment statistics for North Coast Integrated College over the past eight years.

<b>Table 3: Enrolment Statistics – North Coast Integrated College</b>								
<b>Year</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Year 14</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2013/14</b>	54	55	57	86	89	76	50	467
<b>2014/15</b>	62	54	62	60	84	66	60	448
<b>2015/16</b>	69	61	58	67	60	69	43	427
<b>2016/17</b>	97	70	61	60	67	37	51	443
<b>2017/18</b>	68	88	72	67	61	58	32	446
<b>2018/19</b>	58	67	92	78	63	37	47	442
<b>2019/20</b>	69	58	67	92	78	38	37	439
<b>2020/21</b>	60	71	65	75	87	43	43	444

North Coast Integrated College is also experiencing a downturn in enrolment trends. With the exception of the intake in September 2016, the College has an intake varying from 69 pupils to 54 pupils. The College is the only school out of the three with a post-16 provision, which, in itself, falls below a sustainable post-16 provision of a total enrolment of 100 pupils. In comparison to Coleraine College and Dunluce School, North Coast Integrated College has, in September 2020, 358 pupils in Years 8-12.



### **3 RATIONALE FOR CHANGE**

All three schools have sustainability issues. As a result, in future years, the individual schools will be challenged to meet the minimum requirements of the Schools for the Future: A Policy for Sustainable Schools (Sustainable Schools Policy) which recommends the minimum number to be 500 pupils Years 8-12 and a minimum of 100 pupils in post-16.

In planning to address the sustainability issues within the Coleraine and wider area, there have been a number of development proposals taken forward by individual sectors since 2015, see Appendix 1. These developments are now embedded within the educational provision within the area, however, there now needs to be further area planning actions to continue to address the sustainability challenges.

The aim of the proposals for the three schools is to ensure there is high quality sustainable, non-selective provision within the area that will provide equity of access to a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. The proposed new school will ensure that pupils in the wider area are able to access high-quality education that will lead to a range of progression pathways. By providing academic, vocational and technical courses, pupils will be able to pursue further or higher education, or appropriate employment in and beyond the local area. The new school, while a controlled integrated post-primary school, will be a partnership with UU and will work with further education and other post-primary providers to ensure a broad and balanced curriculum offer that will meet the needs of individual children and the wider social and economic needs within a local context. This will also achieve the objectives of an area planning solution in having a network of viable and sustainable schools that are of the right type, the right size, located in the right place and have a focus on raising standards.

In a progressive and strategic approach for the area, the leadership of the three schools, in recognition that all three schools serve similar catchment areas, began initial discussions on how best to meet the educational needs of the pupils in their respective schools, setting aside their individual institutions. All three schools have sustainability issues, resulting in them experiencing financial pressures and, more importantly, putting pressure on providing the broad and balanced education, which the schools endeavour to provide for their pupils.

The Boards of Governors of the schools realised from an early stage that maintaining the status quo would not be in the best interests of pupils, while recognising that a move away from the current institutions and in particular the sectors is difficult as these are schools well established in the communities they serve. Setting aside institutions and sectoral representation, discussions explored options, which are outlined in the options section. Arising from discussions, a preferred option of a partnership with UU was explored to utilise the resources which already existed in the Causeway area: a centre of education which provides new learning and teaching methodology; research into education for the future; and an untapped resource which the schools could have access to and in which the schools and university could form a working partnership to enhance provision for pupils in the area. UU embraced the working partnership and is excited to collaborate with the schools in enhancing the educational experience of pupils in the new school.

The discussion resulted in this proposal being taken forward and the pre-publication consultation is based on this option.

### **3.1 A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University**

The creation of a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU was the option upon which the draft Case for Change was presented to the EA's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee seeking approval to formally consult from April 2021 with the Board of Governors, staff, parents of the three schools and affected schools. The Board of Governors of North Coast Integrated College gave approval to formally consult on 16 December 2020.

The draft Case for Change is a joint paper, brought forward by the proposers, EA and the governors of North Coast Integrated College, following consultation and agreement with the three schools, the Boards of Governors, UU and the sectoral support bodies, NICIE and CSSC. This proposal would provide a single school for children coming predominantly from the same catchment area as detailed in Map 1, consistent with Department of Education policies, e.g. Every School a Good School, Sustainable Schools Policy and Entitlement Framework and meets the statutory duty to encourage and facilitate sustainable integrated education.

A one-school solution will consolidate non-selective controlled integrated provision on one site which will positively impact on resources by streamlining; timetabling; special needs provision and community use of schools, as well as providing a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular opportunities.

In a school of, 1,200 pupil, it would be reasonable to expect that the range of subjects offered to pupils across every key stage and post-16, will exceed the statutory requirements set out by the Northern Ireland curriculum and the Entitlement Framework, and will provide access to a broad range of specialisms within the teaching staff complement, reflecting academic, technical and vocational pathways.

Working in partnership with UU will provide further educational benefits in terms of teaching and learning, continuous professional development and a wealth of resources and facilities that will benefit the new school, as well as contributing to the development of the workforce through providing real-life placement and engagement opportunities for university students and staff. The partnership with the University also supports the vision of the Learning Leaders Strategy (DE: 2015) for Teacher Professional Learning as it provides opportunities for research-led practice and ongoing learning opportunities for practitioners.

The proposed school presents opportunities for positive and affirming educational experiences that will open new horizons and create innovative approaches to address the educational and societal challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century for all the citizens of the Causeway area.

### **3.2 The pupils of the new school will benefit from:**

- An education system in which children from Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities learn together on a daily basis in the one school.
- A broad and balanced curriculum, within a sustainable framework that will provide collaboration opportunities across the Causeway area with other sectors including grammar and further education/Northern Regional College.
- Equality of access and parity of esteem for all education routes.
- The creation of opportunities within and beyond the curriculum, to enable each pupil to develop their potential to the full.
- An education which prioritises confidence, independence, versatility and resilience to ensure every pupil is equipped with the skills and values required to meet the challenges of a changing society for a successful adult life.

- Before and after schools' provision, as part of ensuring the school is connected to the community, to include enhancing Community Use of Schools provision dovetailing with community planning.
- Opportunities to develop as a new school, bringing together expertise from three schools and to work in partnership with UU to support their widening participation programme and increase engagement of students from all socio-economic backgrounds.
- Strong, high quality leadership and management that promotes a culture of excellence.
- Collaborative working that promotes the development of knowledge, skills and understanding for the benefit of all, with the provision of appropriate developmental learning and teaching experiences.
- Consolidated and sustainable non-selective provision for the whole area.

### **3.3 Benefits for Teacher Professional Learning, both in the school and beyond include:**

- Continuing professional development through links with UU's School of Education, which is ranked joint-first in the UK for research impact.
- Access to facilities and resources, including extended digital learning.
- Close professional links between teaching staff and university education researchers will allow for the free flow of ideas to tackle education challenges and keep up-to-date with developments and thinking.
- Identify and apply the most effective teaching techniques for pupils across all ability levels.
- Access to student teaching resources to support the delivery of curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Access to wider support including professionals with expertise in areas such as occupational therapy.

### **3.4 Learning Support Provision**

It is proposed to establish autism specific and learning support classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 in a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU.

The regional increase of over 175% in the number of school age children identified with Autism and Asperger's in 2018/19 compared to 2008/09 has been broken down by Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) areas, with the Northern area having a consistently higher autism prevalence rate than the Northern Ireland average in each of the last five years.

The increase in the number of children with Autism or Asperger's in compulsory grant-aided education within the Northern HSCT area is significant. In 2008/09, 509 children with a diagnosis were enrolled in schools. This number has now increased by almost 446% to 2,779 children and young people in 2018/19.

Parents of pupils at schools in the Causeway area can avail of the Learning Support Centre and specialist Autism Provision in Coleraine College.

In order to extend parental choice across the wider Causeway area and meet the needs of children with SEN in mainstream settings the EA is seeking to extend the model of specialist provision through the establishment of Autism Specific Classes.

There are growing numbers of children with statements of SEN in the area, particularly younger people with ASD who require an enhanced pupil teacher ratio (PTR) and a modified learning environment in order to access optimal learning opportunities and to alleviate the stress and sensory overload that can happen in a mainstream classroom.

This proposal will allow children with SEN the opportunity to access their education in a mainstream setting in their local area. The Autism Specific Class at Key Stage 3 will complement the existing Learning Support Centres at Key Stages 3 and 4 and will provide a modified learning environment with an enhanced PTR suited to the children’s learning profiles. The children, where appropriate, will also benefit from experiencing some inclusion within mainstream classes, and the opportunity to experience social interaction and leisure activities alongside their peers.

The school will be fully inclusive and actively promote a positive and diverse culture and achieve equality of opportunity for all pupils, parents, staff, governors and visitors, ensuring all are respected, valued and supported to fulfil their potential, irrespective of their protected characteristic. The belief that all people are of equal value and are entitled to equality of opportunity will underpin the ethos of the new school.

The provision of the Autistic Specific Class to complement the existing Learning Support Centre within Coleraine College will fulfil the needs of those children and young people who struggle with their identified special needs in the initial years of post-primary education and who require a placement in such provision. Following this initial placement in the Autism Specific Class, the children and young people can often be successfully placed in a mainstream setting or progress to the Learning Support Centre.

#### **4 SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT**

The main focus of the Area Planning process is embedded in the Sustainable Schools Policy, first published in 2009 and applies to primary and post-primary schools. The policy outlines the criteria that school managing authorities should consider when making decisions affecting the best use of resources in order to deliver an excellent education to children and young people. The policy sets out six sustainability criteria, and associated indicators, which are identified as the key references for assessing existing and future education provision to ensure it adequately meets the needs of pupils.

##### **4.1 Quality of Education**

During 2019/20, the three schools faced challenges to meet the requirements of the Entitlement Framework, both at Key Stage 4 and Post-16. In such cases of a reduced number of pupils it is more difficult to provide the number of courses for compliance.

<b>Table 4: Entitlement Framework Compliance</b>		
<b>Entitlement Framework</b>	<b>Key Stage 4</b>	<b>Post-16</b>
Coleraine College	Not compliant	No Post-16
Dunluce School	Compliant	No Post-16
North Coast Integrated College	Compliant	Not Compliant

In the coming years, Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College will experience pressure to ensure delivery of the entitlement framework and to ensure all the pupils have a broad and balanced curricular offer, even with working within the Area Learning Community. The new school will build on the good learning and teaching practices within each of the three schools and in partnership with UU will provide an environment to enhance curricular offer and implement innovative teaching practices and teacher professional learning at every stage of their career, as outlined above. The quality of education will also be enhanced through an improved curriculum offer as part of the Entitlement Framework and provision for Post 16, through collaboration with other schools and the Northern Regional College in providing pathways for children and young people to achieve their potential.

A new school will therefore be able to provide a broad and balanced curricular provision for its pupils through maximising the potential of the resources within each of the three existing schools, the partnership with UU, and collaborative relationships with further education and other local post-primary providers. The enlarged school population, in particular, the pooling of the expertise across the three existing schools will sustain and promote an increasing number of courses that will provide a range of appropriate pathways. This will promote positive outcomes by ensuring individual pupils can pursue subjects which best suit their aptitudes, interests and plans for their future careers.

#### 4.1.1 Northern Ireland Curriculum

The Northern Ireland curriculum at Key Stage 1-4 has three objectives.

They are to develop the learners: as individuals  
as contributors to the society  
as contributors to the economy and the environment



It aims to meet these objectives through Areas of Learning:

- The Arts
- English (Irish in Irish Medium schools) with Media Education
- Environment and Society
- Learning for Life and Work
- Mathematics with financial Capability
- Modern Languages
- Physical Education
- Science and Technology
- Religious Education



These Areas of Learning will be provided in a way that will ensure that all pathways are valued and all learning is respected.

UU can support the progression of each area of learning in a unique way, contributing intentionally to the explicit development of every learner in the school community in line with each of the three objectives through addressing the key elements identified in the NI curriculum.

KEY ELEMENTS	personal understanding	moral character	citizenship	media awareness	employability	education for
	mutual understanding	spiritual awareness	cultural understanding	ethical awareness	economic awareness	sustainable development
	personal health					

The over-riding purpose of the school is to develop in every pupil the personal attitudes and dispositions detailed in the NI curriculum.

ATTITUDES AND DISPOSITIONS	personal responsibility	concern for others	commitment – determination – resourcefulness		openness to new ideas	self-belief – optimism
	curiosity	community spirit	flexibility	tolerance	integrity	respect
					moral courage	

These attitudes and dispositions will be promoted through the learning and teaching methods adopted throughout the 7 years of education from Year 8 to Year 14 in the new school. The curriculum will be developed in a way that promotes learning, knowledge and skills while encouraging independent thought and developing a curiosity and a life-long interest in learning.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE	investigation and problem solving	links between curriculum areas	relevant and enjoyable	media-rich	skills integrated	active and hands on	offer choice
	challenging and engaging	supportive environment	culturally diverse	positive reinforcement	varied to suit learning style	on-going reflection	enquiry based

The relationship with UU will enhance the school's ability to develop the knowledge and understanding of the pupils through meaningful, active learning experiences which promote thinking skills and personal abilities through challenging and engaging approaches in a supportive and culturally diverse environment that explores real-life issues. The University partnership could create 'additionality' which would enhance the learning of the pupils in the ways the school will approach the statutory curriculum and the Entitlement Framework requirements.

#### 4.1.2 Areas of Learning

The new school at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Post-16 will follow the requirements of the Northern Ireland curriculum; furthermore, the learning experiences may also be enhanced and enriched through the extended opportunities offered through the partnership with UU.

The new school will provide opportunities to study meaningful and engaging options for all pupils, which are based on their interests and aptitudes. This will widen the progression pathways and curricular offer at Key Stage 4 and Post-16, not only for the statutory curriculum, but also for the Entitlement Framework and enrichment opportunities. The greater diversity of the teaching staff and more viable class sizes, particularly in meeting the Entitlement Framework, should allow the new school to broaden the range of subjects on offer for all pupils. The table below shows examples that may be provided through the provision of a range of qualifications and courses at Key Stage 4 and Post-16. The synergy created by bringing together the skills and experience of the teaching and non-teaching staff from the three schools, and the expertise of UU will provide opportunities that do not currently exist, and these opportunities will be available to all children across the current three school populations. The expansion of the curricular offer, the integration of pupils and staff and the enrolment numbers will evolve and progress over time as relationships develop within and across the school and the wider community.

Table 5, below, lists the statutory areas of the Northern Ireland curriculum; all of these areas will be delivered by the new school at Key Stage 3, and through a range of qualification offers at Key Stage 4 and Post-16 in line with the Entitlement Framework, with some examples of how the University can provide additionality to the provision of the school (subject to school and UU formal approval processes). The table demonstrates how the courses the school provides will give pupils opportunities to develop the skills, dispositions and learning strategies inherent in the statutory curriculum.



<b>Curriculum Area</b>	<b>Campus Site Location Benefits</b>	<b>Potential Learning and Teaching Collaboration</b>	<b>Potential University Activity</b>
Science and Technology	The location of the UU campus allows ready access to a wide range of natural and man-made environments that promote opportunities for outdoor learning and encourage curiosity and exploration of real-life application of scientific ideas.	<p>PGCE in Technology and Design is offered in Coleraine.</p> <p>Environmental Science/Technology, Optometry, Human Nutrition, Biomedical Sciences and Pharmacy, including the research facility for Diabetes are situated on the Coleraine campus. This expertise and resource on campus could be used to support key elements within the statutory curriculum eg education for sustainable development, personal health, ethical awareness, economic awareness.</p> <p>UU has a well-established School Engagement team which provides taster sessions for school pupils in a range of scientific areas of research, such as robotics, DNA/biomedical developments and environmental technologies.</p>	
Religious Education	The landscape of the wider campus location could allow pupils to develop an appreciation of the outdoors, creating opportunities to support the key elements of spiritual awareness, personal understanding and mutual understanding.	The integrated nature of the school and the opportunities for engagement with academic work being carried out across the world, could provide opportunities for pupils to explore their own faith and that of others.	

*\*University activity is subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between UU and EA/Board of Governors of the newly established school following robust discussion and agreement with all partners when the new school is established and the Principal Designate appointed*

## 4.2 Stable Enrolment Trends

As detailed in Tables 1, 2 and 3, Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College are experiencing sustainability issues, with enrolments below the Sustainable Schools Policy minimum numbers of 500 pupils in Years 8 -12 and less than 100 pupils in Post-16.

In planning for the admission and enrolment numbers for the new school, consideration was given to the current level of pupils in each of the schools, together with the population trends in the area and the added benefit factor that a new school in partnership with UU would bring, in attracting pupils to the new non-selective controlled integrated post primary school.

Table 6 below shows the current combined enrolment of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College.

<b>Table 6: Combined Current Enrolments: Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College</b>								
<b>2020/21</b>	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total
<b>Coleraine College</b>	86	81	83	49	63	0	0	362
<b>Dunluce School</b>	43	49	34	49	61	0	0	236
<b>North Coast Integrated College</b>	60	71	65	75	87	43	43	444
<b>Totals</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1,042</b>

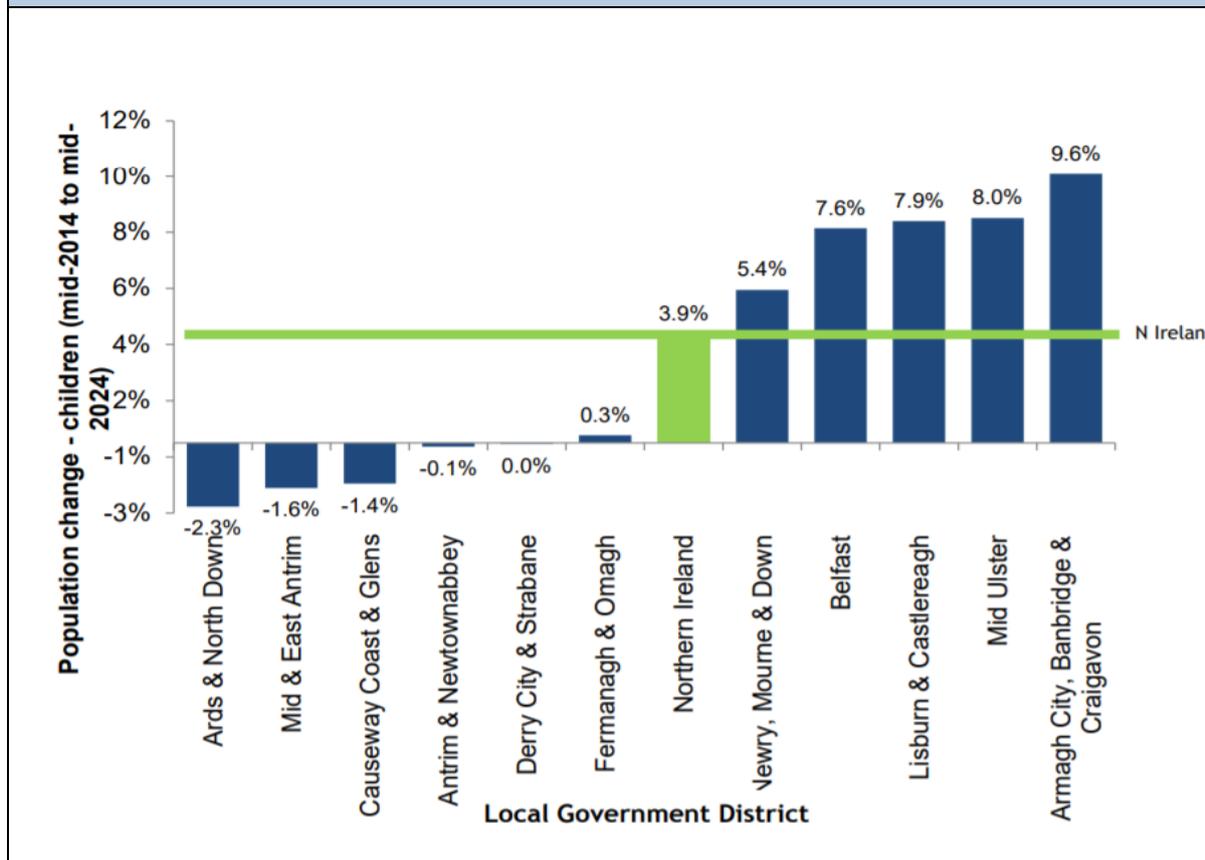
In projecting future enrolments, the EA undertook an analysis of pupils transferring from primary to post primary education. The projections are based on the current enrolment numbers, the current feeder schools, projected increase in Post-16 retention numbers and demographics for the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area, (see Table 7 and Diagram 1 below).

<b>Table 7: Projected Enrolment Statistics - A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU</b>								
<b>Year</b>	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13 (49%)	Year 14 (75%)	Total
<b>2021/22</b>	179	161	202	174	165	46	35	<b>962</b>
<b>2022/23</b>	179	179	161	202	174	81	35	<b>1,011</b>
<b>2023/24</b>	172	179	179	161	202	85	61	<b>1,041</b>
<b>2024/25</b>	176	172	179	179	161	99	64	<b>1,030</b>
<b>2025/26</b>	189	176	172	179	179	79	74	<b>1,048</b>
<b>2026/27</b>	178*	189	176	172	179	88	59	<b>1,041</b>
<b>2027/28</b>	178*	178*	189	176	172	88	66	<b>1,047</b>
<b>2028/29</b>	178*	178*	178*	189	176	84	66	<b>1,049</b>

\*Figures based on a seven year average intake.

The projections that the population in the age range 0-15 within the LGD is projected to decrease by 1.4% by 2024.

Diagram 1: Population Change 0-15 Year Olds – 2014-2024



While the population of the area is not expected to increase, with a decline in numbers more significantly from 2030 (see Appendix 2, live births), a new school in partnership with UU will provide a broad and balanced curriculum provision for pupils who may not previously have been attracted to the schools, individually.

The admissions trend is consistent with the population for the wards covering the Causeway area, which highlights a significant decrease in births in 2015 and 2016 and even more so in 2017, which will impact on Year 8 pupils in 2028/29, 2029/30 and 2030/31.

There is also acknowledgement of a current proposal to establish post-16 provision in Ballymoney High School which will support sustainable education in Ballymoney; and the current Shared Campus developments in Ballycastle High School/Cross and Passion College and Limavady High School and St Mary’s College, which will provide for sustainability in Ballycastle and Limavady.

Consideration has been given to the potential impact of the establishment of the new school on the enrolments for schools across a range of sectors in the locality. The new school, with its links to the UU, will enhance the curricular and extra-curricular offer and encourage parents to support the ethos of a controlled integrated, post-primary school in the Causeway area. Therefore, it is reasonable to project higher enrolments and a more diverse school community than the combined current/projected enrolment of the three individual schools which is why an Admissions Number of 200 is being proposed.

### **4.3 Sound Financial Position**

Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College are experiencing financial pressures with a combined projected deficit of £2.1m at 31 March 2020. The three schools are funded through the Local Management of Schools and as small post-primary schools, in total receive an additional £310,000 approximately as a small school's allowance. None of the three schools operate within their in-year budget.

A school of 1,200 pupils will be funded through the Local Management of Schools and with financial planning should operate within its in-year budget.

### **4.4 Strong Leadership and Management**

Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College have strong leadership and management within the schools which is supported by the school staff and committed and actively involved Board of Governors/Trustees.

The new school will build on the current leadership and management, supported by the Board of Governors who will take forward the implementation of the new school with the direction of a Principal (designate) supported by the EA,UU, NICIE and CSSC.

### **4.5 Accessibility**

Accessibility to the new school will be essential to the development of a new build school. Planners will ensure that the school is fully accessible both internally and externally.

Home to school transport arrangements will be in accordance with transport regulations.

There are also transport considerations for pupils who may choose to travel to other controlled schools in Limavady, Ballymoney and Ballycastle, offset by the number of pupils who are already travelling from Coleraine to Bushmills, Limavady, Ballymoney and Ballycastle who may be attracted back to the new controlled integrated post-primary school.

As indicated in this proposal, the preferred location of the new school is on the Coleraine Campus of UU. The UU has good transport links and services to the Coleraine Campus.

### **4.6 Strong Links with the Community**

Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College have strong links with and are supported by the community.

The three schools are fully engaged within their local communities, working closely with the community, voluntary and business sectors. The schools are part of the extended schools programme delivering a range of before and after school activities, engage in University-led projects including STEM workshops and offer essential skills programmes for parents. The schools are also members of the Area Learning Community, local education forums, engage with the National Trust and work closely with the Northern Regional College. The schools are actively involved in fundraising and contribute significant sums to support local and national charities and good causes.

Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College are part of a shared education partnership with Dominican College, which provides opportunities for young people and staff to come together and share learning, with a focus on raising attainment in GCSE English and Mathematics.

These links and support will continue and be built upon in the new school.

## 5 OPTIONS

In seeking area planning options for the three schools, the EA, NICIE, and CSSC have met with the Boards of Governors of each school, both individually and collectively, to consider options and views. Over the past year this has extended to meetings between EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC and a sub-group from the schools which included the Principal and Chairperson from each school.

The EA is aware of the current accommodation challenges, particularly in Coleraine College, as are the Trustees in relation to the accommodation deficiencies of North Coast Integrated College. There are challenges across all three schools in relation to meeting the Sustainable Schools Policy enrolment numbers of a minimum of 500 pupils in years 8 – 12 and 100 pupils in Post-16.

The following options for future sustainable provision in the area were considered:

<b>Table 8: Options Considered</b>	
Option 1	Status Quo
Option 2	Amalgamate Coleraine College and Dunluce School No change to North Coast Integrated College
Option 3	Amalgamate Coleraine College and Dunluce School and create a shared campus with North Coast Integrated College with shared post-16 provision
Option 4	Amalgamate Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College to create a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University with provision for ASC/LSC

### 5.1 Option 1: Status Quo

This option would provide for the continuation of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College. As outlined above, the rationale for change identifies that change is required. The status quo would not provide for sustainable future non-selective controlled and integrated provision within the Causeway area.

The advantage of Option 1 is:

- The retention of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College.

The disadvantage of Option 1 is:

- The retention of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College as three schools with sustainability issues which impact on the delivery of the Entitlement Framework and a broad and balanced curricular offer for pupils enrolled at each school.

## **5.2 Option 2: Amalgamate Coleraine College and Dunluce School. No change to North Coast Integrated College**

This option would provide for the amalgamation Coleraine College and Dunluce School with no change to North Coast Integrated College.

The advantages of Option 2 are:

- The retention of a controlled non-selective post-primary school in the area, to include post-16 and specialist provisions.
- The retention of North Coast Integrated College.

The disadvantages of Option 2 are:

- An amalgamated controlled non-selective post-primary school would have to attract a sufficient number of pupils to meet the sustainable schools criteria (500 pupils Years 8 – 12).
- Neither of the current sites would be suitable for the enlarged new school, as they are currently configured.
- North Coast Integrated College does not meet the sustainable schools threshold.

## **5.3 Option 3: Amalgamate Coleraine College and Dunluce School and create a shared campus with North Coast Integrated College with shared post-16 provision**

This option would expand on Option 2 with still an amalgamation of Coleraine College and Dunluce School on a shared site with North Coast Integrated College and the provision of a shared post-16 provision.

The advantages of Option 3 are:

- The retention of a controlled non-selective post-primary school in the area.
- The retention of North Coast Integrated College.
- Promote integration and reconciliation in in line with Shared Education legislation and duties to promote, encourage and facilitate Shared Education.
- Sharing of site facilities with both schools.
- Allow pupils from all three schools to access post-16 provision.

The disadvantages of Option 3 are:

- An amalgamated controlled non-selective post-primary school would have to attract a sufficient number of pupils to meet the sustainable schools criteria (500).
- Neither of the current sites would be suitable for the enlarged new school, as they are currently configured.
- North Coast Integrated College does not meet the sustainable schools threshold.
- Capital Investment is linked to sustainability, therefore, limiting future investment.

#### **5.4 Option 4: Amalgamate Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College to create a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University with provision for ASC/LSC**

The advantages of Option 4 are:

- A sustainable school years 8 - 12 (500 + pupils) and sustainable post-16 (100 + pupils) in line with the Sustainable Schools Policy and the Ministerial priorities.
- A school of children and young people drawn mainly from the Protestant and Catholic traditions, with the aim of providing for them an excellent education that gives recognition to, and promotes the expression of, these two main traditions. The school will welcome and respect Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities learn together on a daily basis in the one school.
- Partnership with UU.
- A new build school on the UU site would offer a neutral learning environment for post-primary pupils with an unrivalled educational experience simply not available anywhere else in Northern Ireland.
- Future Investment - new build school with a cost estimate of £35m- £40m.
- Detailed in the Rationale for Change.

The disadvantages of Option 4 are:

- The closure of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College to establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective, controlled integrated post-primary school.
- No existing school site is large enough in size to accommodate the new school.
- Any of the existing sites would not be deemed neutral and may dissuade one or other of the main traditions in attending the new school.
- Future Investment - new build school with a cost estimate of £35m - £40m.
- Day One interim solution is estimated to cost approximately £1.5m – £2m with a timescale of 1-2 years. The need to have in place interim arrangements for the school until capital investment is secured for a new build school.

#### **5.5 Recommendation**

It is the opinion of the proposers (EA and Trustees), Schools' Leadership and sectoral bodies that Option 4 best meets the needs of the non-selective controlled/integrated community in the Causeway area. The partnership with UU will enhance provision and option 4 is the only option that will provide sustainability for current and future generations.

The strategic vision is for a new build school on the Coleraine Campus of UU, as a partner within the new school. The EA will make representation to the Department of Education, as the funding body, for commitment to funding to provide for a modern school in accordance with the Department of Education's Building Handbook. The announcement of the school as part of capital funding and the approval of a development proposal to establish a new school should run in parallel.

A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU will provide:

- A learning environment in which children from Catholic and Protestant faiths, children from other faiths, cultures and communities learn together on a daily basis in the one school.
- An excellent education that gives recognition to, and promotes the expression of, these two main traditions.
- Opportunities to work in partnership with UU to support their widening participation programme and increase engagement of pupils from all socio-economic backgrounds. This partnership will also bring opportunities for the school in terms of continuous professional development, relevant research expertise, access to first class facilities and unique resources, extended digital learning, real teaching experiences for undergraduate and post graduate students, progression opportunities for students and parents alike encompassing work experience and access to courses.
- A broad and balanced curriculum, designed to cater for an all range of students, within a sustainable framework, in partnership with UU that will provide collaboration opportunities across the Causeway area with other sectors including grammar and further education.
- A high quality, pupil-centred educational experience for all, building on the existing strengths of all three schools.
- A high quality leadership and management that promotes a culture of excellence.
- Specialist Provision for Autism and Learning and Support at Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 being taken forward as part of this development proposal in establishing a new school.
- Before and after school provision, ensuring the school is connected to the community, to include supporting the enhancement of the Community Use of Schools Policy, supported by Community Planning.
- The creation of opportunities, within and beyond the curriculum, to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential to the full, thereby creating confident, independent, versatile and successful adults, equipped with the skills and values required to meet the challenges of a changing society and provide for the best possible educational foundation for life.
- Opportunities to develop as a new school, bringing expertise from three schools together and to work in partnership with UU to support their widening participation programme and increase engagement of students from all socio-economic backgrounds.
- Opportunities to enhance interrelationships within the local community.

A capital investment would be required and a business case approved for a site upon which the new school would be built. The EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC will work with the Department of Education to secure a new build school. As the school is a partnership with UU, the vision of the proposers is that a new build would be on the University site, on the Coleraine campus. However, no definitive answer to the question of where the new school will be built can be given at this stage as this would pre-empt any recommendation which a business case for capital funding would make. The commitment of the EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC to drive forward a new build will be relentless to ensure state-of-the-art provision for the non-selective controlled/integrated pupils in the Causeway area.

The proposers believe that a new, one school solution will enhance sustainability, meet the Sustainable Schools criteria and provide pathways for children and young people. Working in an agreed partnership with the UU will bring unique educational benefits for pupils and the wider community as part of the raising aspirations and widening participation priorities of the school.

## 6 CONTROLLED INTEGRATED PROVISION

The creation of a large sustainable controlled integrated non-selective post-primary school in the Causeway area will have a positive impact for those members of the local community from all religions and no faith backgrounds who wish their children to be educated together. The preferred option, as agreed by stakeholders, is to create one new school which would seek to provide controlled integrated education; this work began more than a year ago in developing the controlled integrated option through meetings with the Boards of Governors, EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC across the three schools.

In the context of the proposal it is anticipated that a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU will attract reasonable numbers of Catholic and Protestant pupils. Through a strong integrated ethos and the provision of an outstanding curriculum offer it will provide opportunities for young people to be educated together in a school, which will afford them academic, vocational and technical pathways. Pupil learning opportunities will be enhanced through the partnership with UU. All learners, will access the curriculum in a way that is appropriate for them, providing support through SEN provision, and the wider Area Learning Community, including Northern Regional College. The new school will also provide a neutral and welcoming facility for use by the local community.

EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC will work closely with the three schools (pupils, parents, staff and governors) to develop the controlled integrated ethos of the new school, pending approval.

The proposals for the new school reflect one of the main priorities of the NI Executive as outlined in 'New Decade, New Approach', namely the Executive's intention to 'help build a shared and integrated society' through support for *'educating children and young people of different backgrounds together in the classroom'*.

### 6.1 Religious Balance

Integrated schools aspire to the NICIE Statement of Principles of 40% Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% of other religious backgrounds and no religious beliefs. The Department of Education states that while the legislation refers to reasonable numbers of Catholics and Protestants, the aim for new integrated schools, and those schools wishing to transform to integrated status, has been to attract at least 30% of pupils from the minority tradition within the school's enrolment. The Department recognises, however, that this can present challenges for individual schools, including the demographics of the local area, and the increasing number of pupils designating as 'other' or 'no religion'. As a consequence, the Department will not adopt a one-size-fits-all approach to what defines a reasonable number of Catholic and Protestant pupils. Each proposal shall be considered on its own merits. It is assumed that this thinking will apply equally to the Causeway project and it follows therefore that a period of time will be required for the new school to fully reflect the community demographics of the wider Causeway area.

Examination of the religious balance in the three schools over the last three years shows that the balance of Catholics has declined in the last few years. This may be in part due to the changes that have taken place within the Catholic schools in the Causeway area, see Appendix 1.

Table 9 provides the relevant data for the three schools involved in the proposal. It is worth noting the increase in the proportion of 'Others'; this pattern is replicated across many controlled and integrated schools as parents become more reluctant to designate on the grounds of religion alone.

**Table 9: Religious Balance – Combined Statistics: Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College (source DE Census)**

Year	Total Enrolments- Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College	Protestant Number of Pupils	Protestant %	Catholic Number of Pupils	Catholic %	Other Christian/ non-Christian/ no religion/ unknown Number of Pupils	Other Christian/ non-Christian/ no religion/ unknown %
2015/16	992	744	75%	82	8.3%	122	12.3%
2016/17	987	724	73.4%	74	7.5%	189	19.1%
2017/18	963	711	73.8%	74	7.7%	178	18.5%
2018/19	976	715	73.3%	58	6.5%	163	20.3%
2019/20	1,013	726	71.7%	59	5.8%	183	18.1%
2020/21	1,042	710	68.14	77	7.39	255	24.47

Table 10, below, shows the community balance of both the current Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Area LGD (2014) and the former Coleraine LGD as at the NISRA census of 2011.

**Table 10: Community Balance in the area on Census Day 27 March 2011**

Local Government District	Ethnicity		Religion		Nationality		
	Ethnic Minority %	White %	Catholic %	Protestant and Other Christian %	British %	Irish %	Northern Irish %
Causeway Coast and Glens (2014)	1.00	99.00	40.21	54.79	54.31	21.45	31.29
Coleraine (2011)	1.50	98.50	28.02	65.26	62.39	14.49	31.59

*Respondents could indicate more than one national identity Source NINIS*

Referring to Table 10, whilst both sets of figures are based on the Census of 2011, the current 11 Local Government Districts (LGD) are much bigger in area than the 26 former LGDs. Thus, looking at the balance in the new LGD gives a more accurate indication of whether it would be possible to achieve balance. As the percentage of Catholics is greater in the Causeway LGD than in the old Coleraine LGD, then it is clear the new school will achieve a reasonable balance, if the site for the school is accessible by both of the main traditions.

## 6.2 Developing a Controlled Integrated Ethos – Following Approval to the Proposal

Whilst the factors above are, what could largely be termed, the physical factors associated with the area, there is work to be undertaken with governors, staff, parents and pupils in the school community. In transforming schools, this work is commenced by giving information about integration and discussing the impact with all the stakeholders. In this case, it would be important to formulate an action plan to create a unifying integrated ethos across the stakeholders. This would be supportive of achieving a reasonable balance and it could be achieved using the NICIE Statement of Principles and Toolkit and CSSC Ethos Self-evaluation

Toolkit. In addition, EA (Sectoral Support Team) and NICIE are developing a set of Transformation Indicators, to support the development of an integrated ethos from the outset.

The work on creating a shared ethos across the three schools will have significant benefits not only in the schools' communities but also in the wider catchment area. Along with the development of an enhanced curricular offering it will provide the foundation for the creation of a school which reflects religious and community diversity. During consultation on the development proposal it will be part of the pre-publication consultation to engage with parents in the local primary schools of ALL sectors, which will demonstrate a commitment to one single new controlled integrated post-primary school for the Causeway area.

It should be noted that the three schools have some previous experience of working together in the context of a Shared Education partnership along with Dominican College in Portstewart.

A positive outcome of the development proposal will support achievement of a religious balance in siting the new school in a more neutral venue with reasonable opportunities for achieving a balance of pupils from different backgrounds. This will also support meeting the statutory duty to encourage and facilitate the development of integrated education.

### **6.3 Cross-organisational Support Programme**

Fundamental to any engagement with the minority community will be the clear articulation of the Causeway vision as a new and exciting venture which will benefit all young people in the area. It is essential that the ethos of the new school reflects a vision of integration that has been explored and developed across all of the schools with each one an equal partner in the process. The University of Ulster will have a valuable role to play in this visioning exercise.

The proposed support programme is based in part on the existing EA Sectoral Support/ NICIE programme which is supporting minority enrolments below 10%. The recognised challenges faced by transforming schools in regard to the change in ethos and the growth of religious/community diversity are also comparable.

Experience within transformation to integrated status has shown that the enrolment of 'minority' pupils is a complex issue predicated upon a range of factors including the experience of the integrated ethos by individuals both inside and outside the school, the promotion of the school as an integrated setting within the wider community and parents' willingness or otherwise to designate on the grounds of community background or religion. These factors are likely to apply to the proposed Causeway area project.

It is proposed that a comprehensive, initial three year action plan, constructed around the 4 school improvement pillars of Learner Centred, High Quality Teaching and Learning, Effective Leadership and Community Connections be developed by the three schools to guide the work on ethos development. Within the four pillars the action plan will seek to address those factors previously highlighted which influence minority enrolments:

Practice – how pupils, staff and parents experience (or will experience) the integrated ethos of the school and how the general public perceive the integrated nature of the new school.

Promotion – how the Causeway concept is promoted within the wider community.

Process – how the schools record diversity within their respective enrolments and what approaches are taken to engaging parents in discussions on community balance.

The plan for the new school will also include quantitative targets for achieving reasonable religious/community balance over realistic time periods.

## 7 AREA PLANNING IMPACT

The proposals align with the key themes of Area Planning. The Strategic Area Plan, *'Providing Pathways,'* to ensure that all pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that meets their needs in sustainable schools within a diverse system of education. It sets out the key priorities and objectives in providing access to a network of sustainable schools for the EA, CCMS and other sectoral bodies in the light of Department of Education policy, in particular the need to raise standards and close the attainment gap through a network of sustainable schools. The focus of the plan is on the educational best interests of children and young people.

Since 2011, statutory planning authorities and school managing authorities have been engaged in implementing the objectives of the Sustainable Schools Policy through Area Planning. The first four objectives are:

- ensure that the excellent quality of education available to some young people is made available to all, in both urban and rural settings, in accessible, modern, fit-for-purpose accommodation;
- improve outcomes for all but, in particular, to provide additional support to those who require it, including those children with special educational needs, to realise their full potential;
- encourage schools to co-operate in sharing best practice to support children with special educational needs and those with other barriers to learning; and
- sustain strong, successful and viable schools, well-led by their governors representing local stakeholders, principals and their staff, to be the centre of the education system, supported by effective administrative and strategic direction.

In consideration of the objectives of Providing Pathways Strategic Area Plan for School Provision 2017-2020, the Area Planning Local Group identified the Causeway area to be included within the Annual Action Plan for Primary, Post-Primary and Special Schools April 2019–March 2021. Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College were identified under key issues to 'Ensure school places are located as required and address school provision where sustainability is an issue' and 'ensure school places are located as required,' with the action 'Managing authorities to consult on options for future provision at Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College by March 2020'.

In taking forward the Annual Action Plan for 2019-21, EA officers engaged with the governors, local political representatives and other interested parties to discuss the issues impacting on the schools and put forward a number of options for consideration.

Representatives from the EA, Trustees, NICIE, CSSC and UU met with local political representatives to discuss how best to meet the needs of all post-primary pupils in the Causeway area. UU is a committed partner to work with the new school to ensure maximum educational benefits for pupils, the community by supporting improved pupil outcomes and widening participation in education for the community, and staff leadership development of the school. UU has provided formal commitment and endorsement of the vision (15 February 2021), together with EA, CSSC and NICIE to deliver a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU for the Causeway area.

As set out in the sections below and in consideration of the options, the proposers preferred option is for the establishment of a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU with ASC/LSC provision for the Causeway area.

## 8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

To establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school, in partnership with UU with ASD/LSC provision with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

*Finance* There will be a recurrent cost saving in respect to the running costs of three sites and small school allowances. There may be some increased costs incurred with additional transport costs and based on the projection of an 11% increase in costs of eligible pupils to transport assistance, which would equate to an increase of £ 95,040 per annum. This should also account for pupils who may choose alternative controlled provision. It is important to note that there may also be cost savings for transport for pupils choosing to attend the new controlled integrated post-primary school. Additional capital costs will be required for a Day One plan in advance of a new build school. As indicated above the planning for Day One will be agreed following the appointment of a Principal (designate). However, an estimated capital cost of £1.5 - £2m is proposed to cover the Day One costs to prepare an interim site solution. This will be agreed by the interim Board of Governors. The school will be funded through the Local Management of Schools.

*Staffing* The staffing complement of the new school will be determined through a curriculum audit following the establishment of an Interim Board of Governors and appointment of a Principal (designate). The Day One costs for Principal (designate) and senior management team, totalling approximately £260,000.

Protection arrangements for staff are contained in the relevant Collective Agreement/Reorganisation Agreement: School Reorganisation Agreement (TNC 2013/2) and Collective Agreement for School Reorganisations (Closures, Mergers and Amalgamations): Employee Protections for Support Staff (JNC Circular No 224). There will be no compulsory teaching redundancies in the two years following the amalgamation.

*Transport* Any transport arrangement will be in accordance with transport regulations.

There are also transport considerations for pupils who may choose to travel to other controlled schools in Limavady, Ballymoney and Ballycastle, offset by the number of pupils who are already travelling from Coleraine to Bushmills, Limavady, Ballymoney and Ballycastle who may be attracted back to the new controlled integrated post-primary school (see possible costs above).

*Accommodation* Accommodation refurbishments/additions will be required for any Day One solution with funding estimated between £1.5m - £2m. A new build school is required to meet the needs of the proposed new school. The EA will make representation to the Department of Education, as the funding body, for commitment to funding to provide for a modern school in accordance with the Department of Education's Building Handbook, and that approval of this proposal should run in parallel with capital funding for a new school. The announcement of the school to progress to capital funding and the approval of a development proposal to establish a new school are linked. A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with UU is estimated to cost between £35m - £40m.

## **9 IMPLEMENTATION (if the proposal is approved)**

### **9.1 Day One and Beyond**

Should the proposal receive Ministerial approval, the guidance: DE Circular 2018/15 - Guidance on Implementation of Approved Development Proposals for School Amalgamations will be applied. The first action following the approval of the development proposal is for the establishment of an Interim Board of Governors. The Interim Board of Governors will have equal representation from the Board of Governors of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College. Once established, the first action of the Interim Board of Governors will be the appointment of a Principal (designate) who will, upon appointment, work with the Interim Board of Governors, EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC to take forward the new school.

There will be two capital elements to the establishment of a new school: day one and the new build.

### **9.2 Day One**

In the establishment of the new school the ideal would be to have capital secured for a new build and for the school to begin its first term in a new build school. However, as the major build process takes between 5-10 years from development proposal approval, business case, appointment of consultants, design work/planning permissions and appointment of a contractor to undertake the build, it will not be possible to establish the new school on day one as a new school building.

Therefore, a day one plan is required, as an interim solution, until a new build school is provided. The day one plan is one which best meets the needs of pupils and the school. It is only after the appointment of the Principal (designate) who working with the Interim Board of Governors, EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC will provide the leadership on how they will take forward the school, be that on split site arrangement, decant location or a mixture of both. Regardless of logistics, any day one solution will be interim, the ultimate goal is a new build school.

All three schools accept that a newly established school on 1 September 2024 operating across three split sites is not ideal and understand the prolonged process to acquire a new build. If the proposal for a new school is approved, the schools would consider an interim single site solution (which includes consideration of the Lodge Road site), for a defined time period, which should only be until the new school build is ready for occupation. This should also be considered in keeping with the vision and the partnership with UU.

### **9.3 New Build School**

The strategic approach is for a new school build on the Coleraine Campus of UU as a partner within the new school. The EA will make representation to the Department of Education, as the funding body, for commitment to funding to provide for a modern school in accordance with the Department of Education's Building Handbook. The announcement of the school to progress to capital funding and the approval of a development proposal to establish a new school should run in parallel.

The EA, UU, NICIE and CSSC will work with the Department of Education to secure a new build school. As the school is a partnership with UU, the vision of the proposers is that a new build would be on the University site, on the Coleraine campus. However, no definitive answer to the question of where the new school will be built can be given at this stage as this would pre-empt any recommendation which a business case for capital funding would make.

As with day one, the commitment of the Principal (designate), Board of Governors, EA, NICIE, UU and CSSC to drive forward a new build will be relentless to ensure state-of-the-art provision for the non-selective controlled/integrated pupils in the Causeway area.

## **The Education Authority's Vision for the Causeway Area:**

**A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University**

Education Authority's Mission: To provide a high quality education for every child

For the Causeway area, the Education Authority plans to achieve this mission by:

### **April 2021 - January 2022**

- Development Proposal to establish a new school to be progressed and approved

### **Short Term – 1 - 3 years (2022 – 2024)**

#### **Implementation: Causeway area Controlled Integrated Post-Primary School**

- Establishment of an interim board of governors (representative members from the Boards of Governors of Coleraine College, Dunluce School and North Coast Integrated College)
- Appointment of a Principal (designate)
- Principal designate working with the Interim Board of Governors to prepare an implementation plan for the new school
- Three schools working together to align curricular planning and provision in preparation for the new school
- Three schools working collaboratively with Ulster University

#### **Capital Investment:**

- Business Case and all three schools working collaboratively to plan for the new school build

Supported by EA, NICIE, CSSC, UU

### **Medium Term – 3 - 6 years (2024-2027)**

#### **Implementation: Causeway Area Controlled Integrated Post-Primary School**

- New school established working in partnership with UU
- New Board of Governors
- Implementation/Action plan to be progressed
- Embed controlled integrated ethos/culture within the new school

#### **Capital Investment**

- Business Case and design work completed

Supported by EA, NICIE, CSSC, UU

### **Long Term – 6-9 years - 2027-2030**

Build completed – all pupils start a new term in a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University.

## 9.4 Proposal Timeline

The proposal is being brought forward under Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. The implementation date for the proposal is for 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The timetable, pending approval from the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee, for the consultation process is:

<b>Development Proposal Timeline</b>	
<p><b>A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admission number of 200 and an enrolment number of 1200.</b></p> <p><b>The establishment of Autism Specific and Learning Support Classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils at a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.</b></p> <p><b>Discontinue Coleraine College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)</b></p> <p><b>Discontinue Dunluce School with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)</b></p> <p><b>Discontinue North Coast Integrated College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)</b></p> <p><b>(The Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, on the Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, pending Department of Education approval and funding being obtained.)</b></p>	
<p>Education Authority Consultation with Governors, Staff and Parents of Coleraine College and Dunluce School</p> <p>Trustees Consultation with Governors, Staff and Parents of North Coast Integrated College (NCIC)</p> <p>Responses will be considered and a Case for Change document compiled before submission to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee. A deputation may request to attend the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee or the Board meeting in accordance with the Education Authority's Standing Orders.</p>	<p>13 September 2021 – 15 November 2021</p>
<p>Education Authority Consultation with other affected Schools</p> <p>Consultation Responses to be forwarded to the Education Authority</p> <p>Responses will be considered and a Case for Change document compiled before submission to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee</p>	<p>13 September 2021 – 15 November 2021</p>
<p>Education Authority Consultation with Pupils (facilitated by EA Youth Service)</p>	<p>September 2021/ October 2021</p>
<p>Strategic Planning and Policy Committee to seek Approval to Publish</p> <p>Case for Change to be taken to the January 2022 Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for consideration.</p> <p>If approved to publish, a Development Proposal will be published in the local newspapers which begins the start of a two month statutory objection period</p>	<p>January 2022</p>
<p>Statutory Objection Period (2 months)</p> <p>Objections/Comments to be forwarded to the Department of Education</p>	<p>January 2022 - March 2022</p>
<p>Await Ministerial/Department of Education Decision</p>	<p>May 2022</p>
<p><b>Implementation</b></p> <p>If approved, the Development Proposal would take effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.</p>	

## 10 PRE-PUBLICATION CONSULTATION

*“Effective consultation is a key part of the policy-making process. People’s views can help shape policy developments and set the agenda for better public services.”*  
(Code of Practice on Consultation, 2004)

Article 14 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 describes the process ‘to discontinue a controlled school’. This process requires the publication of development proposals.

Therefore, as part of the pre-publication consultation on the development proposals, the EA is seeking any comments on the proposed establishment of new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter from the Board of Governors, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and parents of children attending the schools, as well as from other schools that may be affected by these proposals.

The Education Authority will observe the principles of the Consultation Charter (Consultation Institute), which are:

Integrity	Honest intention, willing to listen and be prepared to be influenced.
Visibility	Stakeholders should be aware of the consultation exercise.
Accessibility	Methods that meet the needs of the intended audience.
Confidentiality	Ensure all stakeholders are aware as to the level of information that will be made public.
Disclosure	Disclosure of information that can influence the exercise and disclosure on behalf of consultees, for example, if the consultee represents an organisation.
Fair Interpretation	Objective collation and assessment of information and viewpoints.
Publication	Publication of both the output and the outcomes of the exercise.

By observing these principles, the Education Authority is demonstrating its commitment to best practice and to assisting stakeholders to participate fully in the process.

### 10.1 How to Respond

The Education Authority is seeking your views on the proposal to establish a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The Education Authority would encourage you to respond using the online version of the Pre-Publication Consultation questionnaire by following the link below:

[Online Pre-Publication Consultation Questionnaire](#)

Should you be unable to respond online, the Consultation Questionnaire is attached, Annex A.

Alternatively you can e-mail written responses to: [areaplanning1@eani.org.uk](mailto:areaplanning1@eani.org.uk)

Or by post to: Education Authority  
Education Directorate, Area Planning  
17 Lough Road  
Antrim, BT41 4DH

Responses must be received by the Education Authority by midnight on 15 November 2021.

Copies in other formats, including Braille, large print, etc may be made available on request. Please contact us using the link below if you need copies in an alternative format or a language other than English, and Education Authority officers will do their best to assist you:

[areaplanning1@eani.org.uk](mailto:areaplanning1@eani.org.uk) or to the above address.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Area Planning Activity – Causeway Area**

#### **Controlled Sector and Voluntary Non-Denominational Sector**

In planning to address the sustainability issues within the controlled non-selective sector, the former North Eastern Education and Library Board took forward a suite of development proposals which amalgamated controlled and voluntary grammar provision which reduced the number of admission numbers in the selective sector and as a balance increased in the controlled non-selective sector to ensure provision for pupils in the area. The suite of proposals were:

DP 288 – the discontinuance of Coleraine AI with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter to facilitate the establishment of a new co-educational, non-denominational voluntary grammar school in Coleraine;

DP 289 – the discontinuance of Coleraine HS with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter to facilitate the establishment of a new co-educational, non-denominational voluntary grammar school in Coleraine;

DP 290 – the establishment of a new co-educational, non-denominational voluntary grammar school for pupils aged 11-18 with an enrolment of 1,060 pupils (by September 2020) in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter;

DP 291 – an increase in the approved enrolment of Coleraine College from 600 to 900 pupils with effect from 1 September 2015 or as soon as possible thereafter.

While it was expected that by reducing the number of places within the grammar sector this would result in an increase in the enrolment numbers in the non-selective sector, this did not materialise and the enrolment numbers for both Coleraine College and Dunluce School remained below 500 pupils. Table 1 and Table 2 details the enrolment statistics for both schools.

#### **Catholic Maintained/Voluntary Sector**

The Northern Ireland Commission for Catholic Education (NICCE), Post-Primary Review, Strategic Area Report, stated that there should be two 11-19 schools, one in Coleraine and one in Portstewart. To implement this change the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools took forward the Development Proposals, below, following Ministerial approval and modification in February 2016:

DP 400 – phased closure of St Joseph’s College, Coleraine, closing by 31 August 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter.

DP 401 –Dominican College, Portstewart to increase its enrolment number to 675 on a phased basis, with an admissions number of 100 and for a phased and complete transformation away from the use of academic selection for admissions to the school over 4 years (capped at 69), by 1 September 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter

DP 402 – Loreto College, Coleraine to increase its enrolment number to 1080 on a phased basis, with an admissions number of 160 by 1 September 2017, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Appendix 2

Resident Live Births (Source: NISRA)																	
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Ward	Resident Live Births																
Agivey	29	24	16	24	23	27	28	26	22	25	27	20	25	26	26	24	17
Atlantic	26	20	30	21	18	14	24	17	13	25	42	31	19	24	22	24	25
Ballysally	43	42	42	71	44	39	46	52	34	55	53	47	45	51	45	38	38
Bushmills	10	6	10	7	13	6	12	7	7	7	13	12	8	16	9	6	8
Carnmoon	3	15	10	13	16	15	14	10	14	14	15	11	11	9	15	10	15
Castlerock	39	36	42	41	33	39	41	39	29	33	34	28	27	27	25	24	21
Central (Coleraine LGD)	21	26	22	17	14	17	23	27	25	19	29	30	25	38	21	24	25
Churchland	34	26	25	30	22	35	36	28	38	35	46	41	40	34	30	47	30
Dundooan	29	26	24	19	27	31	30	22	34	19	35	20	33	27	25	30	18
Dunluce	16	12	9	12	9	14	11	17	9	16	8	19	12	20	16	11	14
Garvagh	45	41	41	44	38	32	45	40	37	38	31	41	38	43	30	45	28
Hopefield	33	41	36	38	37	45	45	46	38	42	36	26	37	45	34	37	37
Kilrea	26	32	36	37	43	29	42	40	43	43	34	49	57	40	53	41	35
Macosquin	21	13	26	26	23	16	34	25	24	24	19	17	40	23	19	18	19
Mount Sandel	7	27	15	19	17	19	18	28	19	20	29	15	30	21	20	19	19
Newhill	34	34	24	31	43	38	51	42	51	30	54	48	51	42	44	45	48
Portstewart	19	18	9	14	13	23	15	14	16	19	20	15	23	23	14	19	11
Ringsend	22	24	22	29	26	29	25	36	25	33	29	41	26	29	25	34	28

**Resident Live Births (Source: NISRA) - continued**

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
<b>Ward</b>	Resident Live Births																
Royal Portrush	13	24	23	18	20	23	27	28	21	28	27	20	19	19	7	18	14
Strand (Coleraine LGD)	21	19	12	14	10	13	11	10	13	20	14	23	18	20	20	18	26
The Cuts	73	59	51	58	54	59	52	50	48	45	40	47	50	48	41	48	34
University	23	20	23	18	18	22	22	18	29	20	19	30	19	20	20	25	14
Waterside	20	22	32	25	30	26	27	18	33	24	28	19	24	26	25	16	19
	607	607	580	626	591	611	679	640	622	634	682	650	677	671	586	621	543
Year 1 Start	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Year 8 Start	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30

**Education Authority: Consultation Response**

The Education Authority and the Trustees of North Coast Integrated College are proposing:

**A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admission number of 200.**

**The establishment of Autism Specific and Learning Support Classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils at a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

**Discontinue Coleraine College with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**Discontinue Dunluce School with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**Discontinue North Coast Integrated College with effect from 31 August 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)**

**(The Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, on the Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, pending Department of Education approval and funding being obtained.)**

The Education Authority and the Trustees of North Coast Integrated College, in consulting on this important issue, would welcome your comments on these proposals.

It is important to indicate how your response meets the Sustainable Schools Policy requirement *'that all schools are sustainable in terms of the quality of the educational experience of children, enrolment trends, financial position, school leadership and management, accessibility, and the strength of their links to the community.'*

**Agree with the proposal:**

A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admission number of 200.

The establishment of Autism Specific and Learning Support Classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils at a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Discontinue Coleraine College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

Discontinue Dunluce School with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter. (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

Discontinue North Coast Integrated College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter. (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

(The Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, on the Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, pending Department of Education approval and funding being obtained.)

**Disagree with the proposal:**

A new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter. The school will have an admission number of 200.

The establishment of Autism Specific and Learning Support Classes for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils at a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University (being in effect an amalgamation of North Coast Integrated College, Coleraine College and Dunluce School) to be established in Coleraine with effect from 1 September 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Discontinue Coleraine College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

Discontinue Dunluce School with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter. (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

Discontinue North Coast Integrated College with effect from 31 August 2024, or a soon as possible thereafter. (predicated upon the approval of the new school)

(The Education Authority will seek major capital investment for the construction of a new build controlled integrated post-primary school, on the Ulster University, Coleraine Campus, pending Department of Education approval and funding being obtained.)

**Please use the space below to comment further or provide alternative options:**

[It should be noted that this process cannot be used to consider specific issues as they currently relate to any individual pupil or adult associated with the school. If for example as a parent you have concerns relating to your child's present education you are advised to contact the Principal. Every effort will be made to address your concerns.]

## Equality Consideration

Under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 all public bodies are obliged to consider the implications of any decisions on nine different groupings before decisions are implemented. The two duties within this Equality legislation include promoting equality of opportunity and promoting good relations between all communities. The equality of opportunity duty requires that the Education Authority shall, in carrying out all its functions, powers and duties, have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity.

- 1 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 2 Between persons of different political opinion.
- 3 Between persons of different racial groups.
- 4 Between persons of different age.
- 5 Between persons of different marital status.
- 6 Between persons of different sexual orientation.
- 7 Between men and women generally.
- 8 Between persons with a disability and persons without.
- 9 Between persons with dependants and persons without.

The Good Relations Duty requires that the Education Authority shall, without prejudice to their equality obligations, have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations:

- 1 Between persons of different religious belief.
- 2 Between persons of different political opinion.
- 3 Between persons of different racial groups.

In light of these obligations do you consider that the amalgamation of the three schools and the establishment of a new co-educational, 11-18, non-selective controlled integrated post-primary school for 1,200 pupils, in partnership with Ulster University and the establishment of an a Learning Support Centre for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils and an Autism Specific Class for Key Stage 3 pupils will impact positively or negatively on either Equality of Opportunity or the Promotion of Good Relations in any way?

Section 75 Category	Positive	Negative	Don't Know
Religious Belief			
Political Opinion			
Racial Group			
Age			
Marital Status			
Sexual Orientation			
Gender			
Disability			
Dependants			

If you have ticked any of the above boxes, please clarify your reason:

### Arrangements for returning your completed questionnaire

Please return the completed questionnaire no later than 15 November 2021 by post to:

Education Authority  
Education Directorate, Area Planning  
17 Lough Road  
Antrim, BT41 4DH

Or e-mail your comments to: [areaplanning1@eani.org.uk](mailto:areaplanning1@eani.org.uk)

### Source of Response (Please specify)

	Please Tick	Name of School(s) Representing
Board of Governors	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Governor	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Parent	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Teaching Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Non-Teaching Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Pupil	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Union	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

### Data Protection Statement

The information provided by you in this form is required by the Education Authority (EA) to seek the views expressed by those most directly involved in the consultation and a Case for Change document. The Case for Change will be forwarded to the Education Authority's Strategic Planning and Policy Committee for approval to publish a Development Proposal and then to the Department of Education for consideration.

EA is obliged to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018 when processing personal information. Where that the information you provide is your personal information, we will process such personal information on the legal basis that it is part of our public task to do so for the purpose referred to above.

We have published detailed Privacy Notices on our website [here](#) which provide further information on how EA processes your personal information as well as detail on how to contact us if you have any questions in this respect.